

At year's end Lowell civic leaders reflect and also look forward to 2014

by Tim McAllister
contributing reporter

As always, when one year ends we look back at the year that was and look forward to the year that is going to be. This year we had a huge flood, never-ending union negotiations and lots of political drama, but we also had the biggest Pink Arrow Pride event ever and tons of special events and successes throughout the year.

Lowell Area Schools had a lot of good news to brag about in 2013.

"This year we were very fortunate," said superintendent Greg Pratt. "We found an enormous amount of success."

Test scores were up, including a record high on one important test.

"We scored the highest they have ever coming out of Lowell Area Schools as far as the ACT is concerned," Pratt said. "We averaged a 22 on the ACT and I feel like that was a tremendous thing for our kids. We continue to see success in all our testing measures across the entire district."

As has become customary in American public schools, money was an issue in 2013.

"We continued to work through a very difficult budget time last year and have found successful ways to move forward with all the changes that have come out of Lansing in regards to curriculum and such," Pratt said.

That aspect of the school system will most likely remain a struggle.

"Next year, 2014, the challenges don't necessarily change all that much," Pratt said. "We'll have some budget challenges as we move forward in the 2014/2015 school year."

Pratt credits all school employees with the district's success.

"Anything we do, any success we find; we do it as an entire group," Pratt said. "That means teachers, support staff, administrators and the board of education. We have to work together to find any success."

The Lowell Chamber of Commerce, 113 Riverwalk

Plaza, is responsible for putting on almost all of the special events that take place in town throughout the year.



Greg Pratt

"For 2013 the chamber did everything about the same," said Liz Baker, the chamber's executive director.

The chamber's first 2013 event was in March.

"We started the year with the Lowell Community Expo," Baker said, "which sold out for vendor space and received excellent participation from our community."

The chamber put on a full year of special events.

"It was chamber business as usual," Baker said. "The farmers' market, summer concerts, Riverwalk Festival, golf outing, 'Girls Night Out' events, harvest celebration and Christmas Through Lowell. All the events this year have been received very well, vendors and attendance both."

The chamber makes sure West Michigan is well aware of Lowell and its businesses.

"The chamber is responsible for all the extra marketing for the community," Baker said. "We apply for grants from the Lowell Area Community Fund and Downtown Development Authority. For 2013 we had \$50,000 to spend. The funds were used on cable, radio, online, digital billboard and print, and we plan on purchasing

new banners for the light poles."

Next year will involve another long list of fun, interesting activities.

during these challenging economic times."

Howe hopes the city will remain a thriving place for families to raise their children and he plans to continue working to improve the city with that goal in mind.

"A friend of our family just brought a baby into the world, although it was a traumatic experience for them," Howe said. "The baby was born inside a vehicle on the way to the hospital, yet they were able to eventually bring him home to Lowell. What we do in 2014 will set the stage for the children of this community, as there are many long-term issues facing the city and the community as a whole. How do we handle economic growth? How do we continue our long-term millage rate reduction plans? How do we continue to invest in and improve streets?"

it become destructive to people, organizations and the community."

Howe said that adults need to start setting a better example for little Lowellians.

"Any lack of civility we show as adults sets a bad example for the children and grandchildren of our community and takes us off-course in making this a better place for them to grow and raise their own families," Howe said.

If you ask Greg Pierce, Lowell Light and Power's contribution to the community in 2013 was simple.

"We were able to provide electricity on a reliable basis at a reasonable cost," said Pierce, light and power's general manager. "In the grand scheme of things we're always working to increase reliability and make sure that we keep the lights on. We're always



According to Howe, a first step could be to have less contentious public meetings.

"My goal for 2014 is to promote civility in our public discussions," Howe said. "We need city residents to engage in the conversation in a constructive manner. My goal is to encourage the dialogue without letting

trying to do a better job at that."

Pierce is optimistic about the coming year.

"I think that 2014 looks like it could be a good year for Lowell," Pierce said. "Our indications are that people are using more

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LaughFest announces expanded performances in Holland and Lowell for 2014

Gilda's LaughFest today announced the talent lineup for shows in Holland and Lowell during the festival's fourth year, which runs from March 6 - 16, 2014. Holland shows will include Christian comic Jeff Allen, Kids Joke Night, Holland Chorale, Klompen Comedy, Laughter Yoga and community showcases. Shows in Lowell include PJ Walsh, Kids Joke Night, Laughter Yoga and community showcases.

"Over the last few years, the programming we've had in Holland and Lowell has grown in popularity," said Joanne Roehm, LaughFest festival director. "As a result, we're excited to bring more great entertainers to these communities and we've diversified the types of performances offered."

Allen will perform at Hope College's Dimnent Chapel on March 15 at 7 pm. He has performed for more than three decades and his standup show combines clean humor with inspiration. Allen centers much of his performance on marriage and living with teenagers. He has been featured on Comedy Central's "Premium Blend" and VH1's "Standup Spotlight." His one-hour special, "Happy Wife, Happy Life," aired on the Odyssey Channel and Family Net and he has performed at the U.S. Comedy Arts Festival in Aspen and the Montreal Just for Laughs International Comedy Festival.

Klompen Comedy, produced by Holland, Mich.

native Alex Ritzema, is a standup comedy showcase in Holland, which will feature comics who each display a uniquely humorous talent. Klompen Comedy performances will take place on March 8 and 15 at 8 pm in Macatawa Bank's Community Room and are free.

Walsh, whose comedic style uses physical humor to get attention of audience members, will perform at Lowell High School Performing Arts Center on March 8 at 7 pm. Walsh, a veteran of the U.S. Navy who spent several years touring with the stars of the Blue Collar Comedy Tour found him performing on celebrated stages including Radio City Music Hall, Universal Amphitheater

and the Ryman Auditorium with legends such as Bill Engvall, Larry the Cable Guy, Ron White, and Jeff Foxworthy.

Additionally, Kids Joke Nights will be held at Lowell's Englehardt Public Library on March 11 at 6 pm and in Holland's Herrick District Library on March 15 at 1 pm. Kids Joke Night allows children 5th grade and younger to take the stage and tell jokes; the shows are free to attend. Children who wish to perform are encouraged to sign up at laughfestgr.org

Other free events being held during LaughFest in Holland and Lowell include Laughter Yoga and amateur and late night standup comedy community

showcases. Locations, times and dates of these events will be announced in the coming weeks and will be posted at laughfestgr.org

Individual tickets for all LaughFest shows will be available on Jan. 10 at ticketmaster.com (search LaughFest), by calling 800-745-3000 or at the Van Andel Arena or DeVos Place box offices. LaughFest's Fast Passes will be available mid-February. This pass ensures holders a guaranteed seat to eligible free shows, which include Laughter Yoga, community showcases and Klompen Comedy. Fast Pass users must arrive 15 minutes before the scheduled start time. A \$5 donation at the door is suggested for Fast

Pass shows; donations will support the "High Five" campaign and all funds go directly to support cancer and grief programs at Gilda's Club Grand Rapids.

The Gilda's Club Lowell Clubhouse, a renovated farmhouse, hosts weekly programs for those affected by cancer or grief. Programming includes support groups for children and adults, educational lectures and workshops for all ages. For more information on the Lowell Clubhouse or to get involved, visit gildasclubgr.org/lowell.html. Proceeds from LaughFest will be used to support all Gilda's Club programming in West Michigan.



along main street

CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING

For an environmentally friendly way to dispose of your Christmas tree bring it out to the Wittenbach/Wege Agriscience and Environmental Education Center before Jan. 12 to be shredded and used for mulch around the center. Please do not bring out any items that contain wire, such as wreaths or garland as we do not have the ability to remove the wire. No trees will be accepted after January 12. For more information, call 616-987-2565.

GILDA'S CLUB LOWELL CLUBHOUSE

Neuropathy Informative Workshop - Tues., Jan. 14, 3-4 pm. If you are living with neuropathy, come and join others who are also. We will learn, share and laugh together. **Woodcarving** - Tues., Jan. 21, 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., Jan. 21, 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

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.

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

The 114th annual Christmas Bird Count with the Grand Rapids Audubon Club will be held at the Wittenbach/Wege Agriscience and Environmental Education Center Sat., Dec. 28 at 7:30 am. The count entices families, students, birders and scientists, with binoculars, bird guides and checklists to leave the comfort of a warm house during the holiday season to venture out in search of birds. Bird enthusiasts will depart from the Wittenbach/Wege Center at 8 am returning around noon for a brown bag lunch. Participants can leave after lunch or continue the census. At 5 pm section findings will be tallied back at the center. For more information, call either Tom Leggett at 616-249-3382 or e-mail: tomleggett@hotmail.com or Ranger Steve (Mueller) at 616-696-1753 or e-mail: odybrook@chartermi.net

LIVESTRONG AT THE YMCA

Cancer Wellness Program, Livestrong will be held at the Lowell YMCA starting Jan. 7, 2014 on Tuesdays and Thursdays 11:30 am to 12:45 pm. It is free of charge, for more information call 855-9570.

SMOKING CESSATION CLASSES

Free smoking cessation classes begin Wednesday, Jan. 8. Tobacco Free For Good class meets for six weeks on Wednesday evenings from 6-8:00 pm at Lowell Family Medical Center, 2550 East Main Street. Each participant receives an individual quit plan designed by a Mayo Clinic trained and certified facilitator. Registration encouraged. Call 616-446-7058.

Thank You

The Alto Lions Club would like to thank the following businesses and individuals for their donations to the 2013 Children's Christmas Party.

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Second Class Postage Paid at Lowell, MI

Published every Wednesday

POSTMASTER: Send address change to:

The Lowell Ledger

P.O. Box 128 • Lowell, MI 49331

www.thelowellledger.com

Break-in at Collector's Korner, items stolen worth \$30,000

by Tony Wittkowski
contributing reporter

After closing for the night, Collector's Korner was broken into and burglarized between 6 and 7:30 pm on Dec. 13, with more than \$30,000 worth of items stolen.

Rodger Ackerson, owner of Collector's Korner located on 218 W. Main St., arrived the next morning to see coins and other materials strewn about the floor.

"He was in here for at least an hour and a half," Ackerson said. "We left here Friday night and everything was normal. I came back Saturday morning and there was stuff all over the place."

On the store's security footage all that could be seen was the suspect's head popping up and down behind counters and walking down aisles with a flashlight, Ackerson said.

Collector's Korner, which is open from 10 am to 6 pm on Tuesday through Saturday, sells coins, stamps, pocket watches and jewelry.

Detective Gordy Lauren of the Lowell Police Department (LPD) confirmed the sign of entry was at the rear of the building with "some sort of prying tool."

Ackerson said the film taken from the camera was in black and white and the only thing that was recognizable was that the suspect was wearing a hooded sweatshirt.



Collector's Korner, located on 218 W. Main St., had more than \$30,000 worth of coins and other collectibles stolen on Dec. 13. Owner Rodger Ackerson looks over what was taken and what was left behind.

Because of the quality of the film, LPD sent it to be touched up by the Kent County Scientific Support Unit (SSU) officials. Since the holidays are coming up, Lauren is unsure of when the video will be available to look at.

"Kent County SSU has that currently and they are going to clean it up for us," Lauren said. "I think we will be able to have a good idea (of what the suspect was wearing) once we get the video back."

The gender of the suspect has not been identified, but Lauren said it appears in the video that there was just one person inside at the time.

LPD is in the process of speaking with all business owners within the same block of Collector's Korner and are checking video footage from those that have systems in the area.

In 2007, Collector's Korner had another incident where some items came up missing.

"We still don't know what happened (in 2007)," Ackerson said. "My best guess is that two of them came in, one distracted me and the other one walked into the safe and picked up two boxes of expensive stuff and out the door they went."

After the incident six years ago, the cameras inside Collector's Korner were installed.

No one was charged or apprehended after the incident that left the store with a loss of \$36,000 in materials.

In the meantime, Ackerson has been mailing letters to more than 600 police departments in the hopes of garnering attention toward the suspect and what he might try and sell.

Ackerson said he has been in touch with FOX 17, WOOD TV News 8 and

WZZM 13 to help spread the word on the items that were stolen in case there were any specific gold or silver exchanges made within pawn shops statewide.

According to Ackerson, there were some unusual coins that were taken that are discernible enough to be spotted if they were to be sold.

"You very seldom see five 10-ounce gold coins in a gold proof set," he said. "Those are unusual. I've still got the packaging for the set, so if you find the set without the packaging that would come off as very odd. They only made 950 of them."

Unfortunately, the materials stolen were not insured, but Ackerson is hoping to change the back door to the building and equip both the door and windows with bars.

What is troubling to Ackerson is he said this mess could have been avoided.

"If the guy had come to me for a loan or asked me to do something for him, I probably would have given him whatever he needed," Ackerson said. "He didn't need to steal it."

business matters

Greenridge Realty announced that Stacey Confer received Sales Associate of the Month in November.

This award recognizes Confer for her outstanding success and achievements.

Stacey Confer



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NOTICE OF ORDINANCE ADOPTION
ORDINANCE NO. 13-01
BOWNE TOWNSHIP

At a regular meeting of the Bowne Township Board held on December 16, 2013 Ordinance No. 13-01 was adopted. The ordinance amended the Bowne Township Zoning Ordinance. A summary of this Ordinance is as follows:

Section 5.08 was amended permit rural recreation amusement enterprises to have permanent signs as regulated by Article 17 Signs and Billboards.

This Ordinance shall become effective seven days after publication.

Ordinances No. 13-01 is available for review at the Bowne Township offices, 8240 Alden Nash Avenue, SE, Alto, Michigan, 49302 during normal office hours on Wednesday & Thursday from 9 AM to Noon and 1 PM to 5 PM and on Friday from 9 AM to Noon or by calling 616-868-6846.

Sandra Kowalczyk, Clerk
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Civic leaders look to 2014, continued



Greg Pierce

kilowatt hours, which is a reasonable way to look at what peoples' spendable income looks like. During the economic recession kilowatt hour usage went down because everybody was trying to cut back. Even with the energy efficiency programs that we have here, usage is on its way back up. In fact in April of 2013 we had an all-time high for the number of kilowatts that were used on a 12-month basis. I think that trend will continue into 2014."

The utility is looking to help Lowell become sustainable.

"I think from an overall perspective Lowell is looking maybe to be a sustainable community," Pierce said. "We have our energy efficiency programs and Lowell customers have done a phenomenal job being able to cut the number of kilowatt hours that they use on an average basis by being energy efficient. If that kind of pattern continues and we now have a renewable energy facility in Lowell and things along that line, I think that Lowell could become a sustainable community.

The proposed biodigester could be the first step down the road to sustainability.

"If the biodigester project goes through that'll be a highlight for Lowell," Pierce said. "I think it'll be a showpiece, where people from around the area will come and see how

a community of our size can generate renewable energy. The state continues to mandate that we have renewable energy and it's one thing to go out and buy it from a large corporation someplace, but to be able to generate it yourself is a pretty neat thing. I think that will have a huge impact on Lowell.

According to Pierce, the biodigester could even improve Lowell's future economic development.

"That will be a great asset and we'll be a draw to the community," Pierce said. "It'll be a marketing tool or a development tool to have people and not only residential but commercial customers want to live here and work here."

Pierce wants light and power to remain a positive influence on the community.

"No matter how well you plan, things don't ever turn out like you expect," Pierce said. "But I hope that we always positively affect change in Lowell."

The annual Pink Arrow



Josh Bernstein

Pride cancer benefit football game is one of the things that Lowell is best known for nationally. The game in 2013 saw an out-of-state team travel here for the first time in the event's history.

"Everyone knows someone that has walked a cancer journey," said Teresa Beachum, one of the organizers of the event. "The way this community supports each other - their neighbors, their coworkers, business associates, friends and family - continues to be the pride of this community."

Lowell's children are a huge part of Pink Arrow Pride.

"Our students continue to learn about giving back to our community," Beachum said. "They continue to show the adults of this community what it is to learn about caring for one another; Gilda's Club of Lowell is [being] a big part of that."

Beachum said the Lowell community is at its best when the town turns pink each autumn.

"Looking at Main Street those weeks of August and early September," Beachum said, "you see the pride that this community shows in supporting a cause that affects all age groups. I just think it continues to be a source of pride for us all. This community realizes the overwhelming changes that families embrace when someone is diagnosed with an illness of any sort."

Organizations in other areas of the country hear about Pink Arrow Pride and ask for help with their own events.

"Throughout the year we have communities nationwide call us and ask how we do it here," Beachum said. "We continue to share with other school districts and communities what we do here so they can fight for the cause."

The teachers and staff at Lowell Area Schools are a big part of Pink Arrow Pride.

"We continue to be thankful for our teaching staff that's willing to adapt their curriculum to teach children, age-appropriately, about caring for each other [and] caring for their community," Beachum said. "They overwhelm us by teaching our youth about how to process grieving and loss, or process change within a family. We're teaching our youth to embrace news that might not be of a positive nature. We're teaching them to embrace those changes in life that are bound to come."

Pink Arrow Pride will continue to get bigger and better in 2014.

"Every year we try to add newness to our event," Beachum said. "Adding pyrotechnics, adding fireworks, adding other sports, and of course the 'Quiver' walk/run. Those are all things we plan to expand on. We would like to include other sports, because it's not just about football."

Beachum said Pink Arrow Pride should be a source of pride for all Lowellians.

"I'm truly proud of living here and seeing what a small idea can become," Beachum said.

Englehardt Public Library, 200 N. Monroe St., had a full year of special events.

"In February we hosted an event called Winterfest at Wittenbach, which was a huge success, with a couple hundred people showing up," said branch manager Josh Bernstein. "It was basically an afternoon of winter-filled fun. It included crafts, stories and refreshments and there was a mushing demonstration with sled dogs."

The library also brought special guests to town.

"In August we hosted an event with an author, Jennifer Pharr Davis," Bernstein said. "She has written a book about her time speed-hiking the Appalachian trail. She holds the record for speed-hiking. The event was in partnership with the North Country Trail Association, the Friends of the Englehardt Library, Lowell



Mark Howe

Community Wellness and the Main Street Inn. It was a big event. It attracted 75 people which is a lot for an adult program.

"From September until just a few weeks ago we had a programming series called 'Learning in the Lobby,'" Bernstein said. "Every Saturday in the lobby from 11 to 1 we had a different member of the community who has some sort of skill or hobby out there showing their skills, teaching people, showing what they do. So there was an origami folder; a wood carver [and] the Boy Scouts came and taught knot-tying; there was a jewelry maker; yoga, painting and a couple other things."

For 2014 Bernstein said the library plans to update its Lowell Ledger archive, which currently goes back to 1870 and to add more online streaming of videos and downloads of audiobooks and other media. There will be even more special events as well.

"Every month we have a ton of events and things going on," Bernstein said. "Summer reading program is always very big at the library. We always hope to bring in a lot of kids and a lot of adults come and participate in summer reading club. We are starting to focus more on adult programming and doing more, not just for the youth in the community, but also adults; so we're doing adult computer classes and a little bit more like that."

So here's to 2013 with hope that next year will be even better.

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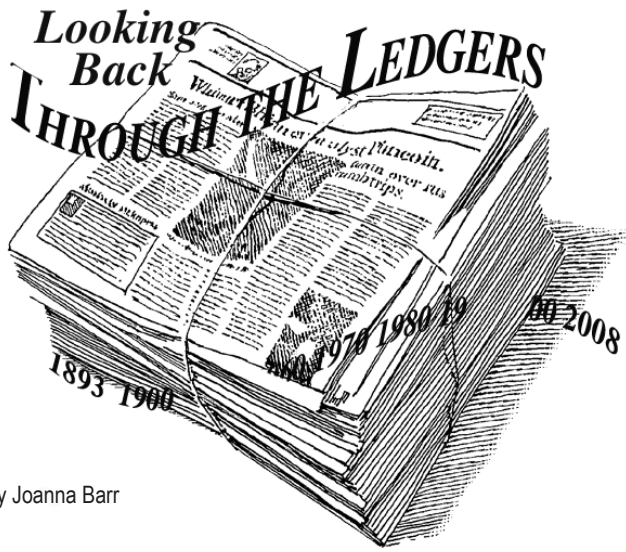
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viewpoint



By Joanna Barr

140 years ago Lowell Journal December 24, 1873

A kind hearted man stopped and talked with a little boy five minutes because that boy shouted to another that it was good skating on the dam ice.

Owing to a painful affection of the eyes, H. M. Clark, Cashier, has not been able to attend to his duties in the Bank for several days. We trust he will soon be at his post again.

Postmaster Elsworth has added much to the general appearance and convenience of the post office by giving new positions to nearly every article of furniture therein.

Mr. S. Wait, of this village, has invented a new method for plastering, which does away with lath entirely. It is simple, cheap and believed to be far ahead of the kind in use. Mr. Wait has applied for a patent and proposes to go ahead for he is sure he is right.

A stranger whose breath was perfumed with liquor called Saturday and wanted twenty-five cents with which to buy flour for his family. He wept and sobbed at least fifty-cents' worth, but the crytearion we had to judge from was not that kind which makes us come down. He was too drunk before night to carry ten-cents worth of flour to his family.

The house of Mr. Knowlton in the township of Irving was destroyed by fire on the 16th inst. Nearly all the contents were also consumed. There was no insurance on the property and Mr. Knowlton and family are left homeless and, we are told, almost penniless.

The Mt. Clemens Reporter sings the news lively to the village authorities because those street crossings are not yet made. And this reminds us that a little more sawdust ought to be put where it would do the most good in this village. There should be two more crossings on Bridge street; one from Avery's meat market to the new block, and one in front of Music Hall block. One or two more on the West side would be in order also. By all means have one that will permit people to cross over to Union Block without sinking to rise no more.

The fire engine will have new winter quarters in the wooden building east of West's drug store.

Judge Philander Tracy of Grand Rapids died on the 18th inst. Judge Tracy was one of the early pioneers of Michigan. He came to Lowell in 1838 (then called Flat River) and lived here about seven years, afterward moving to Grand Rapids. At his death he was seventy-two years of age.

125 years ago Lowell Journal December 28, 1888

The strong wind last Thursday night blew down A. Fisher & Co.'s awning, which in its fall struck one of the plate glass fronts and broke it. Damage about \$65 or \$70. One of John Giles' plate front windows was blown in and broken to atoms by the wind Wednesday night.

The bill boards around the Mack Shaw corner were blown down by the terrific wind Wednesday night.

When the first snow came this fall two hunters started out in search of game and 13 miles north west of Greenville came to a belt of pine and noticed in the distance, shaded by the dense forest, a cabin that resembled an Indian's hut. They were about to psss it, for there appeared no signs of life, when they noticed an old ax leaning against the cabin and as they pushed open the low door, all was cold and dark within, but in one corner, in the gloom, there appeared to be a bundle and upon touching it they were shocked to find it a human body, rigid in death. It proved to be a man, partly clad in a garment made of the skins of small animals, while his arms and legs were covered by a coating of long hair. It is supposed he is the same that appeared to the women and children of Greenville last summer in a nude condition.

S. B. Newland, of Tokonsha, would like to come to Lowell and manufacture a patent road cart, provided he can get the necessary encouragement. Perhaps it would be to the advantage of Lowell capitalists to look after the matter. A road cart is something that can be used from ten to eleven months in the year in this country and is therefore a staple article. The editor of The Journal has a communication from the gentleman.

The married ladies of the town are circulating a petition and getting signers asking the honorable body known as the common council to have the fire bell rung at 9:30 as a notification to their husbands and sons that it is time they were at home in front of their own firesides. If this petition is granted, the attendance at lodges, private gambling and poker rooms will be small after 9:30. — Greenville Call.

A Three River baker ships bread to Jones and was notified by the express agent at Jones that he had better come and get his box as it had sprung a leak. The staff of life apparently sharing its quarters with Three River booze. It is also reported that some people of Jones act strange after partaking of the contents of the bread box. — Marcellus News.

100 years ago The Lowell Ledger December 25, 1913

Headline: Santa Claus' narrow escape from burning to death at Cascade Christmas festivity. C. Fase, playing Santa got clothing afire from Christmas tree candle, School District No. 2 Cascade. From our Ada correspondent. A real live Santa dropped from the skies, into the road, near the Stone school house at Cascade District No. 2, Friday. The children saw him land and all made a rush to meet him, fearing he would get away. They clung to him and led him to the school house, where he was gladly received and invited to remain for the program by the children and their teacher, Miss W. Withey. After the gifts and nuts and candy were passed, the children begged Santa to remain a little longer. To satisfy them, he remained and entertained both young and old, when suddenly in the midst, of their joy, the fur on Santa's coat came in contact with a candle on the Christmas tree. For a moment old Santa wondered why all the ladies presents began to pound him soundly he realized that he was afire. He was stricken with fear of setting fire to the hair and clothing of the children and made his way to the door, intending to roll into a blanket. Naturally the gust of wind favored the fire and all in a flash nothing but one mass of fire could be seen. Beating was of no avail and every one became terror stricken. M. C. King caught the burning Santa, as he was about to run out and tore the belt and burning clothing from him, saving his life. Santa's hands were both terribly burned and his face slightly scorched, the false face protecting it. Miss Withey is in no ways to blame for the accident, as she feared she was. Santa, the dear old man, who happened to be C. Fase, says he is ready to play the

to the editor

is biodigester a gamble

Dear Editor,

The city council voted recently in a special council meeting to approve a ten-year lease of the building at 625 Chatham St. for a biodigester. Why are they pushing to build a biodigester when they haven't presented substantial information proving that biodigesters are cost effective in the United States?

As of now, I see a biodigester as just a gamble. First, there's the challenge to transport a large quantity of product to produce just a small amount of electricity. How do they justify spending millions of dollars on a biodigester that's only going to produce 10 percent of the Lowell Light & Power (LL&P) electricity.

Then there's the longevity of the plant to contend with. Buying the biodigester after five years will only add to the consumer's already high

electricity bill. If the city decides not to buy the biodigester the city would still be under a 20-year power purchase agreement to purchase power, power that possibly could be coming from cheaper alternatives. I don't believe the city council or the board of the LL&P should be signing a 20-year power purchase contract till there's an investigation to see if biodigesters in the United States are cost-effective.

If the LL&P would had done a little investigating before they recently bought two generators they would of found out that they couldn't get an adequate fuel supply to run them. I trust the city will not have to pay dearly for another slip-up.

Sincerely,
Jim Howard
Lowell



We still love to hear from you and so do our readers. Here's to another year of your hometown paper keeping you up-to-date on local issues. - Merry Christmas!

Winners chosen by All-Weather Seal

by Tim McAllister
contributing reporter

All-Weather Seal, 319 E. Main, has given away another houseful of windows as part of their annual "Windows of Warmth" program.

"It's going to be 13 windows worth \$15,000," said director of marketing Megan McGuire. "All of them were moldy aluminum, [with a] pretty bad case of mold."

This year's recipients, Shannon and Brian Worsley, had outdated, inefficient

windows that were jacking up their heat bills.

"They're good people who work hard, but they're single-income and their heating bills are really high," McGuire said. "He works full time at an electric company. She volunteers at the kids' schools."

The Worsleys have five children: two girls and three boys. One of the boys, Nathaniel Worsley, was probably the impetus behind the anonymous nomination.

"They have a son who has a very bad asthma problem," McGuire said. "It just developed in the last few years very badly. It's kept him out of school to the point where he may be [being] held back because he's missed so much school. He coughs so much they ask her to pick him up because the other kids can't hear."

The new windows will definitely help both Nathaniel's asthma and the Worsleys' heating bills.



This year's donation The Worsley's. (l-r) Noah, Christian, Shannon, Nathaniel, Megan from All Weather Seal, Hope, and Faith

HAPPY BIRTHDAY DEB COLLINS

DECEMBER 23, 2013
Let our 60s begin ...

"Keystone" parcel completes multi-year expansion

For the past several years, Kent County Parks has been quietly acquiring parcels of mostly undeveloped land to expand Fallasburg Park on the south side of Covered Bridge Rd. This fall they finished the project by purchasing the final 20 acres of wooded highlands overlooking the Flat River valley. Now, the entire approach to the historic covered bridge is protected parkland, forever preserving the natural scenic character of the area.

The purchase of the final "Keystone" parcel was made possible by a lead matching grant from the Lowell Area Community Fund. This grant was leveraged by generous gifts and grants from the Secchia

family, the Korth Family Foundation, Peter C and Emajean Cook Foundation, and the Kent County Parks Foundation.

Begun in 2003, the total acquisition project added 80 acres of scenic, mostly wooded uplands to Fallasburg Park, which is one of the oldest and most popular parks in the Kent County Parks' system. Plans for the new additions include developing a loop trail exploring the park on both sides of the Flat River, crossing the river on a pedestrian bridge under McPherson bridge and the covered bridge itself. This trail is expected to stretch nearly three miles and will

be completed largely with volunteer assistance. The trail also will be part of the 4,600 mile long North Country National Scenic Trail.

A map of the recent purchases at Fallasburg Park is available online.



- DECEMBER 25**
Scott Shindorf, Chris Woolfenden, Chris Treglia, Jeni Clouser, Peggy Hayes, Star Daverman.
- DECEMBER 26**
Margaret Gasper, Shay Hacker, Stephanie Peel, Butch Landman, Kaitlyn Callihan.
- DECEMBER 27**
Mark Nyp, Jay Clark.
- DECEMBER 28**
Lisa Stormzand, C.J. Sokolowski, Matt Francisco, Randy L. Smith.
- DECEMBER 29**
Amanda Martin, Donna Baker, Lauren Malone.
- DECEMBER 30**
Stacy Thomas, Ben Hodges, Kyle Triplett, Joe Hunt, Stacey Craig, Joshua Gee, Maliree Trierweiler, Matthew Trierweiler.
- DECEMBER 31**
Marcie Page, Bill DeHaan, Charles Boerema.

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Pastor Phil Severn

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Red Tomato brings a taste of Italy to Lowell

by Tony Wittkowski
contributing reporter

From the walls to the napkin dispensers on the tables, the Red Tomato reflects an Italian theme.

Mike Endres, owner and operator of the Red Tomato, opened up shop in the middle of September and has been consistently upping the Italian aspect into his food.

"We've come a long way with our product, especially with our bread," Endres said. "It's a key factor and a key ingredient. When you taste it, it speaks for itself."

Three months in, the Red Tomato has improved on its offerings, which includes subs, sandwiches, grinders, pizza, wings, burritos and pastas, that are made in their large stone ovens. The primary item sold is the "grinder," which is a variety of 20 oven-baked sandwiches, Endres explains.

"This isn't any food that is being brought in from the

trucks," he said. "We tailor make people's sandwiches from scratch."

The Red Tomato in Lowell is the third and newest location for the restaurant chain to open up. The first is located in Portland and the second resides in Ionia.

The original Red Tomato was created by Denny Cunningham in Portland 13 years ago. Over the years Endres, who is originally from Portland and commutes to Lowell everyday, frequently ate at the inceptive Red Tomato. From there he watched the restaurant grow and develop roots within the community.

Now Endres wants to see the same thing happen in Lowell.

In its early stages, Endres had the opportunity to open the Red Tomato in Grand Rapids, but chose to start in Lowell instead.

"It's a wonderful community where a lot of the people embrace new

business," Endres said. "With the cost in materials there's not a big margin of profit, so we work hard to keep a high-quality product at a very affordable price."

There are currently three employees working at the new restaurant. Endres has bigger plans for when the Red Tomato gets its footing.

Five years down the road, Endres sees the Red Tomato turning into a franchise and expanding.

"The Red Tomato has a contract with all the Admirals," Endres said. "There are close to 200 Admiral gas stations that can be used as new locations."

When ordering the food from his restaurant, Endres recommends the customer calls ahead so the food is ready when available.

"We are not a fast-food restaurant," Endres says, "we make everything from the sauce to the bread from scratch. Call ahead for a faster product."



Portland resident Mike Endres owns and operates the Red Tomato located on 2001 W. Main St., which is connected to the Admiral gas station. Inside there is a lounge area equipped with a TV for customers to watch while they sit and eat.

Unlike the other two locations, Lowell's Red Tomato will be branching off into products that are a healthier variety.

"I'm hoping to get into making some wraps that

will be whole wheat and gluten-free," Endres said. "We are wanting to expand into some healthier options that are still quick."

Red Tomato opens at 10:30 am to prepare for the

lunch crowd and all menu items can be found on its Facebook page. Endres said they are currently working on launching the restaurant's domain webpage.

The Christmas Train

This is the first in a series of monthly articles that will work together with the goals of the website FadedFootsteps.com covering all generations of American soldiers. The Lowell Ledger and Buyers Guide are very kind in seeing and understanding the mission of keeping memories and names alive through stories and will be printing them in the Ledger and Buyers Guide. The principal stems from the statement by television golf analyst, professional golfer and Korean War Veteran, Ken Venturi who said, "The greatest gift in life is to be remembered."

by Alan Teelander

A couple of years ago I was told a story that talked about the holiday season of 1863/1864 when the Old 3rd Michigan Infantry came home during the Christmas holiday.

Major Moses Barrett Houghton from Boston Township, located just east of Pratt Lake, was among the troops.

Sergt-Major Daniel Converse of Saranac was also among the troops on the train. His brother Josiah Converse had died of disease on 11/7/1862 just under two months after enlisting in the 1st Michigan Engineers. Josiah is buried in New Albany National Cemetery, New Albany, IN, Gravesite: 1163

Their father Daniel Sr. had served in the 2nd Vermont Militia during the War of 1812.

When the 3rd Infantry left for Michigan they found the weather to be very cooperative as they traveled north.

It was a late December and a revived "Indian

summer" was occurring which was unusual for any December in Michigan.

Temperatures were in the 50 and 60 degree ranges as they headed north.

Then, on the eve of January 1st, one of the strongest cold fronts in history pushed through...

In Wayne County, Indiana, on January 1, 1864, the following news was reported on New Year's Day 1864.

"The temperature dropped 88 degrees in 12 hours! On the 31st day of December 1863 at 7 o'clock in the evening the

thermometer recorded a temperature of 60 degrees above zero and at 7 o'clock on New Year's morning it was 28 degrees below zero."

By the time the train came through Lowell carrying members of the "Old 3rd Michigan Infantry," the Lake Michigan snow machine was gearing up.

The combination of warm great lakes and a bitter cold-front made the perfect environment for a Great Lakes "lake-effect" snowstorm.

The "Old Third" was on its way home to reorganize (furlough) and reenlist

around the Christmas holidays and the beginning of January 1864.

In the book - History of Grand Rapids, Michigan, by Albert Baxter: The weather described at that time helps to tell more of the story;

(1863-64. Winter mild till the remarkable New Year's day of 1864, when at Grand Rapids it was 8 degrees below zero, at Milwaukee 38 degrees below, and at Chicago, St. Louis and to the Ohio River from 20 degrees to 25 degrees below. Sleighting most of the time, though not much more severe weather till late in March.)

Barely visible in the snow was a train riding its rails from the east to Elmdale, Michigan, where it made the switch to turn onto the rails heading north toward Lowell.

It passed on the east side of Pratt Lake as it continued rolling toward Lowell and came down through the valleys and passes toward

the town previously known as Dansville and before that "The Mouth."

The snow kept getting heavier and heavier as the train traveled along.

When the train slowed to cross the Grand River Trail (a little west and near) where McCaul's Auto Shop now stands, it moved onto the curve to turn west toward Grand Rapids.

Having snowed heavily that night, the train stalled in the deep snow and stopped.

On the train when it reached Lowell was Alonzo S. Case, from Lowell, Michigan, who enlisted at 23 years of age and where he would spend his last Christmas at home. Alonzo then departed from the train to walk home to Lowell for Christmas.

Alonzo Steven Case had enlisted on 3/17/1862

at Lowell, Michigan, as a Private and on 3/17/1862 he mustered into "G" Company of the 3rd Michigan Infantry. Alonzo was born in 1838 and was the son of Stephen Case and Rachel Wallace - Alonzo was married in 1863 to Mary E. Misner on the 21st of June 1863 in Lowell, Michigan. After Christmas on 3/18/1864, he reenlisted into the New 3rd Michigan at Camp Bullock, Virginia. Later, on 6/10/1864 he transferred into "F" Company of the 5th Michigan Infantry like many others from the 3rd did. He was killed in action on 10/27/1864 at Boydton Plank Road, Virginia, in the battle known as "First Hatcher's Run" after being promoted to Musician. His Christmas.

The christmas Train, continued, page 9

— LEGAL NOTICE —

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
COUNTY OF KENT

NOTICE TO
CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate

FILE NO. 13-194281-DE

Estate of ELEANOR
M. WILCZYNSKI,
deceased. Date of birth:
09/22/1922.

TO ALL CREDITORS:

NOTICE TO
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11/09/2013.

Creditors of the
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representative, or to
both the probate court
at 1261 Burke, Grand
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personal representative
within 4 months after
the date of publication
of this notice.

December 16, 2013

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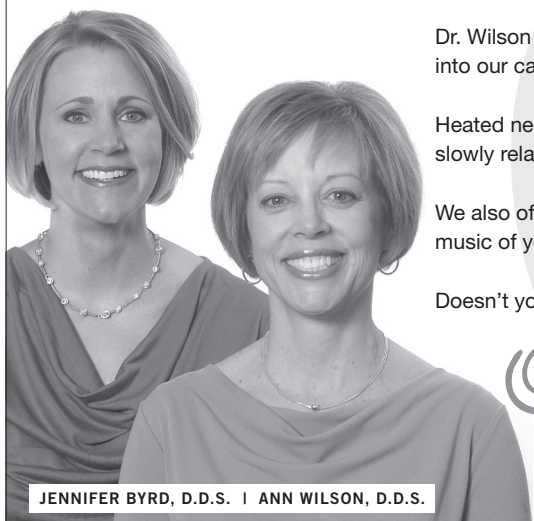
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financial focus



Christopher C. Godbold

When opportunity knocks, open the door

If you've been around long-time investors, you'll probably hear them say, ruefully, "If only I had gotten in on the ground floor of such-and-such computer or social media company, I'd be rich today." That may be true — but is it really relevant to anyone? Do you have to be an early investor of a spectacular company to achieve investment success?

Not really. Those early investors of the "next big thing" couldn't have fully anticipated the tremendous results enjoyed by those companies. But these investors all had one thing in common: They were ready, willing and able to look for *good opportunities*.

And that's what you need to do, too. Of course, you may never snag the next big thing, but that's not the point. If you're going to be a successful investor, you need to be diligent in your search for new opportunities. And these opportunities don't need to be brand-new to the financial markets — they can just be new to *you*.

For example, when you

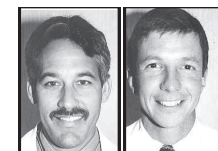
look at your investment portfolio, do you see the same types of investments? If you own mostly aggressive growth stocks, you have the possibility of gains — but, at the same time, you do risk taking losses, from which it may take years to recover. On the other hand, if you're "overloaded" with certificates of deposit (CDs) and Treasury bills, you may enjoy protection of principal but at the cost of growth potential, because these investments rarely offer much in the way of returns. In fact, they may not even keep up with inflation, which means that if you own too many of them, you will face purchasing-power risk. To avoid these problems, look for opportunities to broaden your holdings beyond just one or two asset classes.

Here's another way to take advantage of opportunities: Don't take a "time out" from investing. When markets are down, people's fears drive them to sell investments whose prices have declined — thereby immediately

turning "paper" losses into real ones — rather than holding on to quality investment vehicles and waiting for the market to recover. But successful investors are often rewarded when they not only hold on to investments during declines but also increase their holdings by purchasing investments whose prices have fallen — or adding new shares to existing investments — thereby following the first rule of investing: *Buy low*. When the market rises again, these investors should see the value of their new investments, or the shares of their existing ones, increase in value. (Keep in mind, though, that, when investing in stocks, there are no guarantees; some stocks do lose value and may never recover.)

Instead of looking for that one great "hit" in the form of an early investment in a skyrocketing stock, you're better off by seeking good opportunities in the form of new investments that can broaden your existing portfolio or by adding additional shares, at good prices, to your existing investments. These moves are less glitzy and glamorous than getting in on the ground floor of the next big thing — but, in the long run, they may make you look pretty smart indeed.

health



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

dry skin

Dry, itchy skin is a common condition this time of year. As the weather gets colder, the air gets drier and your skin becomes dry and itchy. Humidifying your home can help to keep your skin moist. You can either get a stand-alone portable

humidifier or have one added on to your furnace.

Excessive hand washing and bathing can also cause your skin to become dry. Limiting the number of times you wash your hands can help. Using a waterless hand sanitizer is just as effective at killing germs, but won't dry your skin as much. Limiting the time you spend in the shower or tub can also help. People with dry skin should consider bathing every other day in the winter. Taking quick, lukewarm showers will

also help to minimize the drying effects of hot water. Mild, hypoallergenic soaps are less drying than scented and colored soaps.

Moisturizers are an important part of treating dry skin. They should be used two to four times daily. A moisturizer should also be hypo-allergenic. They work best when they are applied to the skin right after bathing or hand washing. If a hypo-allergenic cream or lotion moisturizer does not seem to be helping, other over-the-counter treatments can be tried. A one percent Hydrocortisone cream is available over-the-counter and could be used for up to one week. Another option is a 12 percent lactic acid based lotion which may help some severe forms of dry skin. If none of these treatments seem to help, see your health care provider for an evaluation.



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"The main reason Santa is so jolly is because he knows where all the bad girls live."
— George Carlin

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The Christmas Train, continued

body was never identified and there are no records to be found of a headstone application for him. It is most likely that he is buried in a grave marked "unknown" at the National Cemetery nearby.

If anyone reads this and can prove that they are a family member, we could order and place a Memorial headstone provided at no charge at the grave of his parents or widow. Many years after Alonzo's death, Alonzo's wife Mary remarried on May 3, 1882, to George Janes they lived in Ovid, Michigan - She is buried in the cemetery at St. Johns, Michigan.

Private Charles D. Harris, from Lowell, was also on the train. He had enlisted in Company D, 3rd Michigan Infantry when he was 21 years old. After the war, Charles lived in Sheridan, Michigan.

Corporal Webster J. Morris, from Lowell, was on the train. He enlisted in Company D, 3rd Michigan Infantry when he was 20 years old. Webster died in 1931 after living the last years of his life in Mount Clemens, Michigan.

Medal of Honor recipient, Corporal Benjamin Morse was on the train. Benjamin Morse enlisted Company C, 3rd Michigan Infantry when he was 19 years old at Grand Rapids, Michigan, as a Private. He was awarded the Medal of Honor for action on 5/12/1864 at Spotsylvania Court House, Virginia. (Capture of colors of 4th Georgia Light Artillery). After the war he lived in Lowell, Michigan, where he died in 1908; he is buried near the southwest entrance of the Oakwood Cemetery in Lowell.

George Parrot was another Lowell soldier who enlisted at the age of 29 into Company C, 3rd Michigan Infantry on 5/13/1861. George Parrot died 6/23/1892 in Lowell, Michigan and is buried in the Merriman Cemetery in Alto, Michigan.

It is likely that all of the Lowell boys listed above departed the train near Lowell as the train was to head on toward Grand Rapids.

There was a problem when they tried to get the train going however, as the snow was too deep for good traction and the train would not move.

When the officers of the regiment inquired as to why the train had stopped, the engineers said the tracks were closed by snow too deep to push through.

Being motivated men and wanting to get home to their families, the officers offered a challenge to their beloved men of the "old third."

Can we use the power of organization in the 3rd Michigan Infantry and utensils of war to clear a way through Lowell to Ada and then to Plainfield north of Grand Rapids?

The men accepted the

challenge and began to work together on clearing a path as they often did digging the fortifications in war.

And the train slowly moved onward as it set out on its way toward Grand Rapids.

This story doesn't mean to imply that the Old 3rd had to dig all of the way, they dug where they needed to and rode the train where the snow was clear enough to move along.

As a side note: The steam engines of the day used "burnt sand" for traction. A railroad employee called a "Hostler" would typically work on Sunday to move sand into an oven device that would burn all of the moisture out of the sand. This allowed free-flowing sand to be placed in a hopper that would move down tubes (at the directive of the engineer) to the front of the power wheels when the locomotive needed traction.

The train traveled westward on the tracks that ran along the south side of the Grand River stopping once in a while to clear drifted-over tracks.

Slow to be sure, but they were moving toward home.

They passed through Ada near the dam, past the old Ada Covered Bridge and almost to M-21 before turning directly west along the south side of the current M-21 road.

The train continued on near where the Forest Hills Central Woodlands five-six grade school is now located.

Past the Carl Creek Wetlands, crossing Spaulding Avenue and turning northwestward under an old wooden bridge.

This was a previous bridge that was built before the bridge that is currently located at what is now M-21 just north and east of the Forest Hills and Crahan Avenue intersections on M-21.

The train then held a pretty steady route between what is now Michigan Street and I-196 heading westward.

The train crossed Fuller near where Decker & Sons is now located.

The train then followed the tracks on a northwesterly line going past Highland Park east of Belknap.

Passing Belknap Park it slowed as it approached the Leonard Street Depot where the Choo Choo Grill now stands and the soldiers departed from the train at the old depot.

They assembled and marched in formation heading south on the Plainfield/Division Street corridor until they reached downtown Grand Rapids where they met with family.

This march took place on just about the same route that today's current Grand Rapids November Veteran's Day parade moves on (except it wasn't paved for them or cleared of snow).

I had the honor of walking in the footsteps one November and as a member of the Sons of the Union Veterans. It is humbling to walk the path where 150 years before, real Civil War soldiers walked as they came home.

Later in the war and after the war was over, some of the veterans returned home on disability, some disappeared and some were never heard from again.

Below are a few of the names that might be familiar to folks living in our area.

Most of them have a page on the FadedFootsteps.com website if you would like more information on them.

Ransom Howe was from Grand Rapids and enlisted in Company E, 3rd Michigan Infantry at the age of 24. He was Mustered Out on 7/5/1865 at Jeffersonville, Indiana. He lived in Lyons, Michigan and is buried in that cemetery.

Eli W. Brown was from Ionia County, Michigan. Eli worked before the war as a 21-year-old farmer. He enlisted on 6/10/1861 at Grand Rapids, Michigan, as a Corporal.

John J. Cutler was from Gaines, Michigan. He was discharged for wounds received in battle on 3/21/1865 at Detroit, Michigan and returned home to Cutlerville, Michigan.

John Dennis from Lyons, Michigan, was wounded 5/6/1864 at the Battle of the Wilderness, Virginia. He was discharged for disability on 2/9/1865 at Detroit, Michigan.

Newton Derbrow was from Ionia County, Michigan - he was Mustered Out on 6/20/1864 at Detroit, Michigan.

William P. Draper from Courtland, Michigan and a member of Company "A" died of disease on 4/20/1865 at Toledo, Ohio.

John Foulks was from Ionia County, Michigan - he was Mustered Out on 2/14/1864 at Detroit, Michigan.

Dennis Gurnsey was from Ionia County, Michigan - he was wounded 5/3/1863 in Chancellorsville, Virginia and later Mustered Out on 11/1/1864 at Philadelphia, PA.

Charles D. Harris was from Lowell, Michigan - he was listed as missing 6/30/1862 in Richmond, Virginia and returned 8/8/1862 at Harrison's Landing, Virginia.

Thomas Henfry - from Cascade, Michigan, enlisted on 6/10/1861 at Grand Rapids, Michigan, as a Private. He survived the war and is buried in the Cascade Cemetery. Thomas Henfry died on 4/17/1867 and had no headstone until Ron Redmond of Cascade's Historical Society found his burial record and together with Camp 1 of the Sons of the Union Veterans ordered a headstone 146 years after Private Henfry died.

Moses Barrett Houghton a member on this author's family was from Ionia County, Michigan. He was a Brig-General 3/13/1865 by Brevet (for gallant and meritorious service) and died on 6/1/1903 in Tustin, Michigan.

Ransom Howe was from Grand Rapids, Michigan - after the war he lived in Lyons, Michigan.

Abram Ketchum was from Ionia County, Michigan. He had the experience of being listed as missing 5/3/1863 at Chancellorsville, Virginia. Nine months later he returned to his regiment on 2/14/1864. After the war he lived in Soldiers' Home in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Henry H. Magoon of Plainfield, Michigan and Company "F" Co. Michigan

3rd Infantry was listed as Missing in Action and later Wounded in Action on 5/3/1863 at Chancellorsville, Virginia.

Charles A. Miller of Plainfield, Michigan and Company "F" Co. MI 3rd Infantry who was Mustered Out on 6/20/1864 at Detroit, Michigan. After the war he lived in Star, Michigan.

George W. Mills of Muir, Michigan - Reenlisted at Brandy Station, Virginia, into "E" Co. Michigan 5th Infantry. George Mills was wounded on 5/3/1863 at Chancellorsville, Virginia and again wounded on 8/15/1864 at Petersburg, Virginia, where he lost his left forearm due to amputation. He died on 1/19/1886.

Homer C. Munson was from Ionia County, MI. He became a POW on 6/15/1864 at Andersonville Prison where he died a POW on 9/16/1864 at Andersonville, GA in (Grave #8876).

William R. Olds from Ionia County, Michigan, was mustered into "C" Co. Michigan 3rd Infantry on 2/24/1862. He was transferred into "I" Co. Michigan 5th Infantry. It is likely he did not make the trip home this time as he was listed as a POW on 11/30/1863. He was discharged on 6/14/1865 at Detroit, Michigan.

King R. Olmstead was from Ionia County, Michigan and enlisted on 3/8/1862 at Saranac, Michigan, as a Private into "D" Co. Michigan 3rd Infantry. After transferring on 6/10/1864, he transferred into "A" Co. Michigan 5th Infantry; he was Mustered Out on 3/2/1865 at Petersburg, Virginia. After the war he lived in Long Beach, CA.

George Parrot of Lowell, Michigan, was in "C" Co. Michigan 3rd

Infantry - He was Mustered Out on 6/20/1864 at Detroit, Michigan and died on 6/23/1892 in Lowell, Michigan.

Lewis Petit from Ionia County, Michigan, was promoted to Corporal. Lewis was wounded 5/31/1862 in Fair Oaks, Virginia and also wounded 5/3/1863 at Chancellorsville, Virginia.

George W. Phillips was from Saranac, Michigan, with a commission of 2nd Lieutenant into "D" Co. Michigan 3rd Infantry. He Resigned & Discharged disability on 7/29/1861 and after the war he lived in Sumner, Michigan.

Daniel S. Root was from Ionia County, Michigan and enlisted on 5/13/1861 at Grand Rapids, Michigan, as a Sergeant into "K" Co. Michigan 3rd Infantry. He steadily rose to the rank of Lt. Colonel on 12/21/1864 serving in the 5th Michigan Infantry. He was Mustered Out on 7/5/1865 at Jeffersonville, IN.

George H. Wiselogle from Ionia County, Michigan and a member of "E" Co. Michigan 3rd Infantry. He was wounded 5/31/1862 in Fair Oaks, Virginia and Mustered Out on 6/22/1864 at Detroit, Michigan.

Thomas Thompson was from Ionia, Michigan - On 6/10/1861 he mustered into "D" Co. Michigan 3rd Infantry. He was Mustered Out on 6/20/1864 at Detroit, Michigan.

George H. Wiselogle was from Ionia County, Michigan, when on 6/10/1861 he mustered into "E" Co. Michigan 3rd Infantry. George was wounded on 5/31/1862 in Fair Oaks, Virginia and was Mustered Out on 6/22/1864 at Detroit, MI. He is buried at Pulacki Cemetery at Concord, Jackson, Michigan.

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11-12, 13-14, 15-16, 17-18

For more information: www.llmi.com
Any questions: lowelllittleleague@gmail.com

GRATTAN TOWNSHIP

Regular Meeting 7:00 p.m.
Synopsis of Minutes
Dec. 9, 2013

Motions Approved:
Fee Schedule updated
FOIA Policy updated
Committee Appointments
Board Meeting Schedule
2014 Calendar

Our next Township Meeting
will be Jan. 13, 2014

The minutes may be reviewed
on our website at
www.grattantownship.org

THEME: IN THE KITCHEN

ACROSS

- 1. On a day like this, one can see forever
- 6. Barley bristle
- 9. "___ up!"
- 13. Former French currency
- 14. *Poor man's caviar
- 15. Walk through slush
- 16. "He's ___ nowhere man" (The Beatles)
- 17. Mike's sugary partner
- 18. These lips sink ships
- 19. *Cook briefly
- 21. *Cook in oil
- 23. ___ Gabriel
- 24. Greek muse's strings
- 25. Before now
- 28. Le Corbusier's art
- 30. State further
- 35. *Coffee servers
- 37. Clever tactic
- 39. Bristles
- 40. San Quentin, e.g.
- 41. Shocking gun
- 43. Inmate's blade
- 44. Full-length
- 46. Of higher order
- 47. Famous Amos
- 48. Three-dimensional sound
- 50. Tree branch
- 52. *Salt in cocina
- 53. "In the ___, you can sail the seven seas"
- 55. OB-GYN test
- 57. *Firm pasta, not hard
- 61. Not sidesaddle
- 65. Shade of purple
- 66. Bubble maker
- 68. Bushed
- 69. More eccentric
- 70. *___ mode
- 71. ___ Zola
- 72. Astute

CROSSWORD

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- 73. ___ degree
 - 74. Pine product
- DOWN**
- 1. Form of approval
 - 2. Italian money
 - 3. ___ and anon
 - 4. Omani and Yemeni
 - 5. To add another magazine
 - 6. Brown part of apple seed, e.g.
 - 7. *Chinese convex pan
 - 8. Down and out
 - 9. Pig food
 - 10. *Pig part, often served pickled
 - 11. America's WWII ally
 - 12. He plus she
 - 15. Lodging ad: "___ four"
 - 20. Incompetent
 - 22. Pitcher's stat
 - 24. More or less
 - 25. *For dipping
 - 26. Hollywood's legendary Cary
 - 27. *Chilled
 - 29. *Can be hard-shelled or soft-shelled
 - 31. Boll weevil, e.g.
 - 32. Distinctive spirit of a culture
 - 33. Nigerian money
 - 34. *Coat with hot seasoning
 - 36. Result of too many drinks
 - 38. Sasquatch's Asian cousin
 - 42. Stadium walkways
 - 45. Ten dollar bill, slang
 - 49. *Bran source
 - 51. *It's coated on fish of chicken before frying
 - 54. *Strictly vegetarian
 - 56. *Like standing rib roast
 - 57. Crazy
 - 58. *Serve soup, e.g.
 - 59. City slicker on a ranch
 - 60. Balanced
 - 61. Asian nurse
 - 62. Fleur-de-lis
 - 63. *Cured meat and cold cuts
 - 64. Genesis garden
 - 67. Final, abbr.

Puzzle solutions appear on page 12

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Cheer Day	0%
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Watching the ball drop on TV
A Party
Traveling or Sleeping

TO VOTE IN THIS WEEK'S ONLINE POLL

WWW.
thelowellledger.com

...

“In the old days, it was not called the Holiday Season; the Christians called it 'Christmas' and went to church; the Jews called it 'Hanukkah' and went to synagogue; the atheists went to parties and drank. People passing each other on the street would say 'Merry Christmas!' or 'Happy Hanukkah!' or (to the atheists) 'Look out for the wall!'

~ Dave Barry

Red Arrow SPORTS

- BASKETBALL

After tenuous start girls' beat Northview

by Karen Jack

The Lady Arrows faced Northview on Tuesday night and despite a slow start, scoring only five points in the first quarter, turned it on in the second and third quarters to walk away with the win, 50-43.

Northview came charging at the first whistle and Lowell turned the ball over several times, missing several shots, including free throws that would have made the score closer in the first quarter. But when

the whistle blew for the second quarter, a different Lady Arrow team came out on the floor – shots were sinking, defense was forcing turnovers and the girls were successful hitting the boards.

“We made some adjustments at halftime and the girls followed through which made a big difference in the ball game,” said coach Jake Strotheide.

Down 12-5 after the first quarter, the team managed to outscore Northview 11-3 in the second quarter to go into the locker room at halftime with a one-point lead. They came out on the floor in the third quarter and outscored Northview by six points and at one point even having a 12-point lead.

At first it looked like Lowell was going to blow Northview out with an insurmountable lead early in the fourth quarter, but Northview went to the foul-and-hope-they-miss-free-throw action and to some degree it worked. Most

of the fourth quarter was spent at the line for Lowell it seemed, but the Lady Arrows sunk free throws when it counted. They made smart shots when they had possession and passed the ball several times to run some time off the clock.

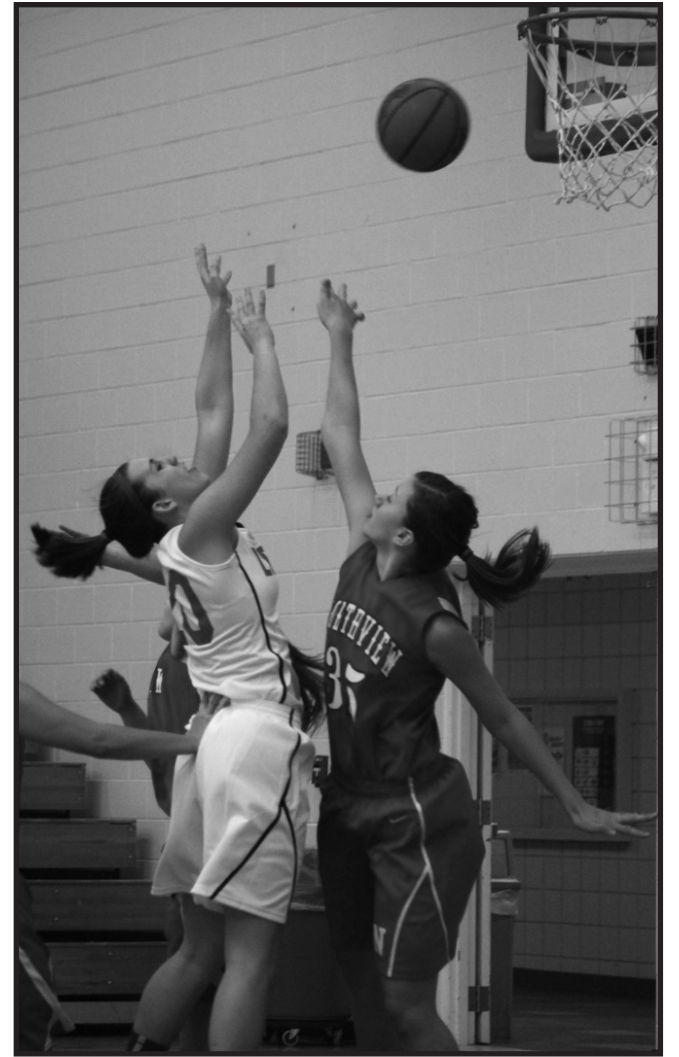
Aubreigh Steed led the team with 14 points and six rebounds. Kate Montgomery and Katie Holzhueter were close behind with 11 points and six rebounds each.

“I’m so proud of the girls’ game-playing tonight,” said Strotheide. “I have six or seven girls with four-to-six rebounds. As a coach, there’s nothing better than that. Tonight is exactly what I’ve looked for – improvement in each game and these girls played as a team. It just gets better every game watching them grow and meld together.”

The girls host Lakewood High School on Friday, Jan. 3. Game time is 7:00 pm.



Katie Holzhueter plays defense.



Aubreigh Steed goes up for the shot.

Boys fall to Northview 75-48

by Karen Jack

Northview boys' basketball has always been a powerhouse and Tuesday

night they showed it, beating Lowell 75-48.

The Wildcats came out

fast and powerful; running fast breaks on almost every play, sinking most of their shots and stealing the ball every chance they got. They outscored Lowell by eight points in the first quarter. And they didn't let up. Lowell sunk shots of their own, but had a tough time against the Wildcats' defense, which anticipated passes and stepped in front of them so it was hard for the Arrows to get a rally going.

At the end of the first half, the Arrows found themselves going into the locker room down by 20. They made some adjustments at halftime, but

still got outscored by ten in the third quarter. They never quit though. The Arrows poured it on in the fourth quarter, outscoring Northview by three points, sinking shots and playing strong defense, but the Wildcats had just too large of a lead to get past.

Leading the offense for the Arrows was Gabe Steed with 16 points; Marcus Mailing and Ryan Stevens each had eight points.

The Arrows travel to Lakewood on Friday, Jan. 3. Game time is 7:00 pm.



Nicholas Geisen passes the ball across the court.

Josh Bearup controls the jump ball.



What's Your Sport?

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

the lowell ledger



obituaries

MILLER

Leon B. Miller age 83, of Lowell, passed away December 17, 2013, in Ionia. He was born July 22, 1930, the son of Chancey and Mable (Goody) Miller. Leon married Francis (Vansyclen) July 6, 1950, in Lake Odessa. He worked at Electrolux and Kelvenator before retiring. He loved to spend time gardening, cutting wood, fishing and hunting. Leon is survived by his loving wife of 63 years Jessie (Francis) Miller of Lowell; son, Leon (Karen) Miller of Ionia, four grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren and one great great-granddaughter. He was preceded in death by his parents; two daughters, Patricia Ripley and Peggy McClain; four brothers; and one sister. Funeral services was held Friday, 11:00 am, December 20, at Lake Funeral Home of Ionia with Pastor Smith officiating. Interment Oakwood Cemetery in Lowell. Visitation was held Thursday at the funeral home. Online condolences may be made at www.lakefuneralhomes.com

Looking Back, continued

part at any time, in spite of his painful experience, but will keep at a safe distance from the Christmas tree, while the candles are lighted.

Buy your ticket here. See the ticket agent. He is waiting for you. Every dollar paid in fares on the train deprives Lowell of just that credit for the passenger business it gives the railroad company and lessens its chances of recognition when occasion calls for improvement in accommodations. Spend your money at the Lowell ticket office, where it will be recorded to the credit of Lowell and help give your home its proper standing as a railroad center. Help boost Lowell and at the same time assist the conductor in getting his destination time by purchasing your ticket before you board the train.

N. V. Warner has bought the Majestic moving picture theater at Belding and will conduct it in connection with his Lowell theatre. Mr. Warner has made a success of his Lowell venture and will give the Belding people a good service.

State Advisory Committee on the Educational Needs of Youth. The committee, appointed two months ago by Dr. Bartlett, will review and consider youth unemployment, cultural-educational deprivation, compulsory age laws, federal work restrictions, and vocational area schools. In reporting results of the survey, Dr. Bartlett said that 554 superintendents received survey forms with questions directed specifically at the impact an extension of the compulsory school attendance age would have on school districts. Sixteen of the 24 largest districts in the state estimated that it would cost approximately \$600 for each pupil retained if the compulsory age limit should be raised to seventeen.

25 years ago The Lowell Ledger December 28, 1988

Resolutions, resolutions, resolutions, often made, seldom followed. With that in mind The Lowell Ledger asked a street full of area residents to forego resolutions and instead share some New Year wishes. I wish... Nancy Roth, Lowell Post Office: For Thad Kraus to leave the Ledger office and to quit bothering me; Bob Doran, Lowell Post Office: To match four, five or six numbers in the Michigan Lottery; Jim Herhlet, Lowell Post Office: To never eat fudge off the floor; Joann Hale, Cousins' Card Shop: I wish Lowell had a civic center; Toby Czarnopis: I wish Lowell High School would get an athletic complex; David Davis, Strawbasket Collections: That people remember and lend a helping hand to shut-ins and those in nursing homes; Linda Vos, Great Lakes Federal Savings: That I win \$500 once a week at bingo; Diane Stockreef, Great Lakes Federal Savings: That Great Lakes Federal Savings builds a new branch and that Thad gets married; Kae Converse, Great Lakes Federal Savings: I want to visit the Bermuda triangle; Micki VanOverbeek: For Lowell to cut back on the number of pizza places in town; Jane Feutz, Village Inn: I'd like to start non-alcoholic dances for teenagers; George Saigeon, Iceman's Outlet: I'm wishing for a two-week trip to St. Martin in Jamaica; Char Wilczewski, Bob and Jim Reagan, D.D.S.: I wish that more people in the community would help support the school system; Mary Jane Kutzt, Bob and Jim Reagan, D.D.S.: Christie Corbeil: I'd like the speed limit in various places in Lowell to be raised; Tony Siciliano, director of Public Works: I hope that in the new year the city gets a new fire bam. an mdwr swimming pool and an activity center for people 40-55; David Pasquale, Lowell city manager: That Lowell continues with its prosperity and that new investment and new people continue to come to the city; Betty Morlock, deputy clerk: I hope the new school millage passes and that the city gets a fire barn; Wendy DeNolf, Lowell City Hall: I want to see new carpeting in Lowell's city hall; Charlene McNab, Lowell City Hall: I hope the new year is as good economically as in the past; Frank Martin, Lowell Fire Chief: I want a new fire station, more sports coverage and for the paper to hire a female reporter; Judy Noonan, Lowell City Hall: I'd like to see less coverage at Lowell City Council meetings; Scott Smith, Waste Water Treatment Plant: I'd like to see the Detroit Pistons win an NBA title. I'd also like to quit smoking; Al Eckman, Lowell Police Sergeant: I'm hoping for a new city hall and a new police complex; Jim Reagan, D.D.S.: I want to see the Showboat float down the river for the 1989 show; Dick Davis: I hope that there is no more evil in the world; Red Bristol, Bristol Body Shop: I hope all my old customers have a happy new year; Karen Hample, Sure Tree Transplanting Inc.: Good health and happiness; Steve Doyle: I hope to get out and exercise (run) more. I also hope that there is an improvement with the flow of traffic on the west end of town; Anne Pasquale, Modern Photography: I'd like our family to be more active, to exercise more as a family; Helen Schaefer, Ye Olde Curiosity Shoppe: Peace among men; Barb Davis, Lowell Ledger/Buyers Guide: To stop saying I don't have time and each month do something I don't have time for; Fritz Esch, Lowell Schools' superintendent: I wish the school had the money to do the work needed to prepare the students for the 21st century; and Lori VanZandbergen, Lowell High School secretary: I'd like to travel to foreign countries (England).

75 years ago The Lowell Ledger December 29, 1938

Many enjoyed the Christmas carols which were played in the M. E. Church tower on Sunday and Monday at frequent intervals, through the cooperation of Russell B. Smith. They were played on phonograph records and amplified through a loud speaker system. Next year the church hopes to have better facilities so the music may be heard at a greater distance, than was the case this year, but this was the first year anything of the sort had been produced here from a church tower.

Miss Audie Post, librarian, announces that the Lowell Public Library has received the first quarterly payment of State Aid Grant for \$43.72 made by the State Board for Libraries. "The money received will be quite a help in providing more needed books," says Miss Post.

Lowell post office reports the largest volume of Christmas mail since 1930. Between Monday and Thursday of last week 26,084 cards and letters went through the cancelling machine, this was all outgoing mail and exceeded last year by 2,000. Substitute help was used on RFD'S No. 1 and 3, and two substitutes were used by city carriers and one substitute in the office. On Saturday evening, December 24 the office was clear of Christmas parcels and all parcels that arrived on Monday were delivered on that day by substitute help. This was definitely a bigger and better Christmas for Uncle Sam.

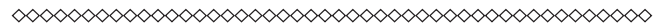
Violation of Michigan's potato law is becoming increasingly expensive, according to the records of the Department of Agriculture. Fines during the present potato season paid by violators are averaging between \$25.00 and \$50.00, compared to between \$10.00 and \$25.00 during the 1987 season. Records disclose that outstate truckers are among the most frequent violators of the law.

50 years ago The Lowell Ledger December 26, 1963

The cold wave that had prevailed over Lowell for the last few weeks, warmed up over the weekend. On Monday morning a fluffy blanket of snow fell, but soon disappeared, due to the warm weather. It's going to be a white Christmas, but area residents are wondering if it will be a safe one.

Ice skating rink opens December 23. The city ice skating rink at Recreation Park will open on Monday, December 24, with special hours during the Christmas and New Year's holidays. The evening hours after January 5 will be supervised by members of the Lowell Lions Club. Ice maintenance is in charge of the city of Lowell. All other hours, including the special holiday schedule will be supervised by the staff of the Lowell Y. M. C. A.

Consider change compulsory school age to 17. Raising the compulsory school attendance age from its present level of 16 to 17 years could mean an additional investment in state school aid of some \$18 million, or about \$600 per pupil involved, according to superintendents replying to a Department of Public Instruction questionnaire. The information was presented at the second meeting last week of the



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THE 2013 ELLIOT AWARDS



THE STRANGER, ALMOST A PHARMACIST, BEWARE AWARD

Goes to Teresa Beachum for her relaxed attitude toward a good samaritan.

THE NEVER SAY DIE AWARD

Goes to Ralph Brecken for his dogged pursuit of discrepancies.

THE LION'S CLUB AWARD

Goes to Greg Canfield for never having his reading glasses with him. He came in second for the **I FORGOT AWARD** that went to Perry Beachum for forgetting exactly when and where things may have occurred...possibly.

THE HOTTIE AWARD

Goes to Evert Bek for re-repairing the Ledger furnace.

THE CLOSED DOOR AWARD

Goes to Mark Howe for his interviewing skills. Howe also qualified for the **JIMMY HOFFA AWARD** and the **DOLLAR DOWN, DOLLAR A WEEK AWARD**.

THE LIFETIME NEGOTIATORS

For the second year running goes to the City and the LL&P workers for the neverending, closed-door contract discussions.

THE PRAY FOR US AWARD

Goes to Betty Morlock and crew.

THE FOOTLOOSE & FANCY FREE AWARD

Goes to Kurt Hieshetter for not being able to keep his knees under him in good working order.

THE WOODWARD & BERNSTEIN AWARD

Goes to Tim McAllister for just reporting what happened at the meetings.

THE WE LIKE CANADIANS BUT DON'T NEED YOU AWARD

Goes to Justin Bieber.

THE CHRIS FARLEY AWARD

Speaking of Canadians - Goes to that continually entertaining Toronto mayor, Rob Ford.

THE OUT OF THE BUBBLE AWARD

Goes to Pope Francis for his compassion and honesty.

GOLDEN POO AWARD

Goes to the newest royal, baby Prince George.

THE COURT CAROUSEL AWARD, aka THE O.J. SIMPSON AWARD or THE

HE'S JUST PLAIN GUILTY AWARD

Goes to George Zimmerman

THE PROGRAMMING FOR DUMMIES AWARD

Goes to The Affordable Care Act website.

THE WE GOT OUR PAYCHECK ANYWAY AWARD

Goes to the members of Congress who shut down the government.

THE S.S. PLUNGER AWARD

Goes to the latest cruiseline disaster from Carnival for breaking down on the ocean with hundreds of weak bladders (and worse) aboard.

ABSOLUTE AWARD

Goes to Edward Snowden for being a stone-cold sober traitor.

THE MISSED THE BULL'S EYE AWARD

Goes to Target for their credit card fiasco.

THE GET SMART SHOE AWARD

Goes to the National Security Agency for their warrantless surveillance.

THE SINGING THE BLUES AWARD

Goes to Motown for their current woes.

THE I'M LOVIN' IT AWARD

Goes to Sierra and Dillon for the nuggets and fries in their future.

THE SHADY ACRES AWARD

Goes to Jim Leland for leaving the Tigers at home.

THE AMAZON AWARD

Goes to Tammy Janowiak for her marathon reading efforts.

THE COUNTRY IS ADDICTED AWARD

Goes to "Breaking Bad" for the episodes that were like eating one potato chip.

THE YOU MEAN SHE DOESN'T LOVE ME AND SHE'S GONNA LIVE? AWARD

Goes to Manti Te'o for his everlasting devotion.

THE COMEBACK WIENER AWARD

Goes to Carlos Danger aka Anthony Weiner for his non-stop texting.

THE WE'RE ALL NOW STUCK WITH THOSE YELLOW BRACELETS AWARD

Goes to Lance Armstrong.

THE TOTALLY QUACKED AWARD

Goes to the Duck Dynasty folks.

THE SLOW LEAK AWARD

Goes to biodigester project for letting out info just a little at a time.

SECRET SANTA AWARD

Goes to Cliff Yankovich for the small surprise gift before Christmas.

THE FAMILY DOLLAR AWARD

Goes to the only dollar store missing in town.

THE OUT OF AFRICA AWARD

Goes to Ellen Mork for getting her stories in on time even when she's on another continent.

THE WHATZIT AWARD

Goes to the troll in the river.

THE GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN AWARD

Goes to Dave Pasquale for initiating the Riverwalk Expansion that has now been completed.

THE JUST-RUN-IT AWARD

Goes to the new, confusing turn light on Main Street and Hudson.

THE DARE TO WEAR RUFFLES AWARD

Goes to the Fairy Gram guy from the chamber dinner.

THE WE WERE FROM LOWELL AWARD

Goes to the Bloughs who now hail from Ohio.

THE GROW UP AND GET OUT AWARD

Goes to Miley Cyrus for her twinky twerking and tongue twisting tacky tactics.

2013



a year in review

2013 2013 2013 2013 2013

JANUARY 2, 2013

A friendly fight for the sake of fitness

The Lowell Community Weight Loss Challenge, a ten-week, friendly competition spearheaded by Lowell Community Wellness (LCW) begins Jan. 9 at the Lowell YMCA.



Students to send a unique message of beauty to Sandy Hook survivors

The December 14 early morning shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School left almost thirty dead. The numbers included children, teachers and administrators. After such an unspeakable tragedy, it is difficult to deal with the aftermath and begin the healing. The National Parent Teacher Association (PTA) is hoping to help bring some joy and beauty back to the devastated city. They have set up a campaign, Snowflakes for Newtown, that allows people around the country to send paper snowflakes to Newtown.

Caring and compassion go into soup bowls for God's Kitchen

In keeping with the school district's December character trait of "Caring/Compassion," Nancy Russell's second graders from Murray Lake Elementary painted bowls for the Soup's On For All event that will take place at the Bob, downtown Grand Rapids, on January 28.



JANUARY 9, 2013

Former police chief Valentine resigns from council

At Monday's city council meeting, longtime resident Jim Valentine announced he is moving out of the city. As a current member of the city council and former police chief he has garnered many friends and great memories. He will be resigning from the council January 31st.

Lowell Light & Power contract negotiations continue as the one year mark approaches

Lowell is one of the few cities left in Michigan that still maintains a local electric company. Their website says they pride themselves on keeping Lowell's best interests in mind and to keep all decisions local. A little over a year ago, several of the workers of Lowell Light & Power (LL&P) joined the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers union. Because this is the first time the electrical workers have been unionized, a new contract had to be drawn up. The city and union have been in the mediation stage since July, but the process began late February of 2012.

Local families share their love through adoption

Just over a week ago, Jason and Heidi Holdridge brought home their two adopted children from Ethiopia. Brandon Mulnix was at the airport to document the homecoming. He cannot wait for the day he too, gets to bring his adopted son back. It had only been a few months prior that Mulnix and his wife Emily traveled

with the Holdridges to document their adoption and Ethiopia. The Mulnixes "didn't go there expecting to adopt." Yet they came back with one little boy on their minds. Three months later, they are now in the process of adopting four-year-old Silas.

JANUARY 16, 2013

Defibrillators placed in various locations around Lowell

Rest assured, the city of Lowell is taking heart attacks as serious, as well... a heart attack. Sergeant Steve Bukala began the process in the summer of 2012 of applying for the Lowell Area Community Fund community-wide grant to cover the cost of 24 automated external defibrillators (AEDs).



Board honored during School Board Recognition Month

January is School Board Recognition Month. To celebrate this, Greg Pratt, superintendent, presented each board member with a certificate and gift bag. Pratt spoke to the board about their dedication, saying, "I want to thank you for your time, your efforts and everything you sacrifice to work for the district."

School district holding election for one-mill to fund several projects

On February 26, Lowell Area Schools is funding an election to pass a one-mill sinking fund proposal. They are asking that this sinking fund proposal be collected for seven years. One mill equates to \$1 on every \$1,000 of assessed property value.

LHS library receives

Library of Michigan Endorsement

The Library of Michigan awarded the Lowell High School (LHS) Library a certificate of completion for meeting the qualified status of the measurement criteria for Michigan school libraries for 21st Century Schools (SL21).

JANUARY 23, 2013

For stores that buy and sell precious metals sales are golden

With gold prices stabilized around an all time high, businesses looking to buy and sell gold are as busy as ever. Prices have fluctuated around \$1,700 per ounce the last month, up nearly \$1,400 from its 2000 price. The quality of gold determines the price. Two stores in Lowell rely on gold as a significant portion of their sales. East Kent Cash Outlet and Collector's Korner deal with gold and other valuable objects.

Brutal brawl outside

Moose Lodge leads to two arrests

Arrests have been made in a fight that took place in the early morning of January 6th outside of the Moose Lodge, 210 E. Main St. One man, from Lowell, 38, was charged with assault and battery and disorderly conduct. A Saranac man, age 42, was arrested on a charge of assault and battery. The details leading up to the arrest were murky and detectives spent nearly two weeks investigating before they were able to make the arrests.

Cause of fire unknown at Advanced Metal Fabrication

A fire broke out at Advanced Metal Fabrication Wednesday, January 9, at approximately 6:47 pm. It is located at 12958 Christopher Drive. Ron VanOverbeek, fire investigator, said his investigation did not find a cause.

JANUARY 30, 2013

East riverbank renovations to begin this summer

The city is planning some major renovations to the East riverbank of the Flat River this summer.

The project has a budget of \$450,000. \$300,000 came from a Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Trust Fund grant. The other funding came from local entities. The Lowell Cable Television (LCTV) Endowment Fund, the Lowell Area Community Fund and the Downtown Development Authority each donated \$50,000. Mark Howe, city manager, will be looking into additional funding sources. They hope the majority of the project will be completed this summer.

Huntington Bank to close Westown location in March

Huntington Bank will be closing one of its two locations in Lowell on March 28. The bank will close its Westown location at 1425 West Main Street. The downtown location on the east side of town will remain open and serve the additional clients.

New councilmember appointed and city works on new strategic plan

Monday night, the city council filled its vacant seat and held a workshop. Reverend Chris Schwab was appointed to fill the vacant seat on the city council. His term will expire November of 2015, at which time he must run in the election to retain his seat.

Mooney opens new art gallery in Lowell

A new adventure begins for Lowell artist Kathleen Mooney as she launches the opening of her new Art Gallery 318 Fine Art at 318 E. Main St. in Lowell. Former owner of Fire and Water Art, launched in 2006, Mooney's art life has been changing. "In essence, this is coming out of great things," said Mooney.

FEBRUARY 6, 2013

LHS football coach

Noel Dean, Person of the Year

The Lowell Chamber of Commerce Annual Winter Gathering of the Membership is Thursday February 21st from 6 pm to 9 pm. It is being held at the Grand Volute Ballrooms at 655 Lincoln Lake Ave SE. The 2013 Person of the Year is Noel Dean.

Winter guard competition went off with flying colors

Right after one of the largest snowfalls of the season, it was only fitting Lowell hosted the "Sights and Sounds of Winter." It is believed this year was larger than last year in both turnout and sales.

FEBRUARY 13, 2013

Winter storms blanket the area with snow



Recent snowy weather has been making up for the, so far, mild winter. Thursday and Friday's winter storm dumped about eight inches of snow around the Lowell area. School kids rejoiced and were able to celebrate with another snow day. The new snowfall was great news for ski hills as well. Overall, we are just over a foot short of average snowfall amounts, but nearly three inches over averages for precipitation for the season.

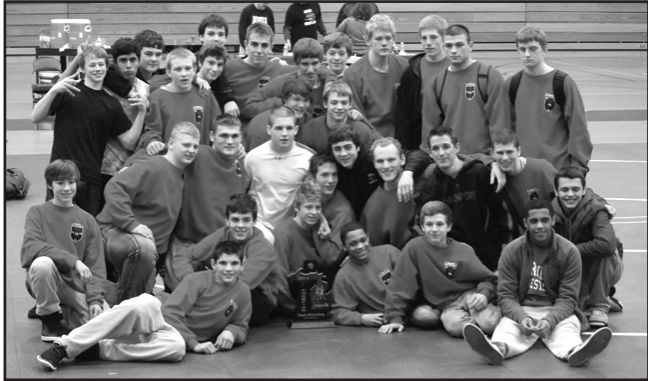
Second year in a row for one Brick Award winner

"We are truly delighted and honored to be receiving a Brick Award this year! The success of our Green Acres community is due wholeheartedly to our supportive families, dedicated and caring staff and a truly wonderful community."

2013 2013 2013 2013 2013

Red Arrows claim district championship

The wrestling team started off the week by beating DeWitt in the district finals on Wednesday 51-18 to earn a berth for the regional championship on Wednesday, Feb. 13.



FEBRUARY 20, 2013

Dr. Bob Reagan to discuss memoir "Lucky Breaks and Lots of Grace"

Pat Allchin, director of the Lowell Area Historical Museum, said "if you've lived in Lowell a while, you probably know Dr. Bob Reagan and the contributions he's made to the city." Even if you don't know Reagan, you have a chance to learn about him by reading his recently published memoir "Lucky Breaks and Lots of Grace," which was self-published in October of last year.

King Milling wins

Brick Award for expansion project

King Milling started out as one of hundreds of mills in Michigan in 1890. Today, it is one of six. Brian Doyle, president of King Milling, is proud of this and appreciates the chamber of commerce for recognizing the commitment King Milling has made and continues to make, not only to Lowell, but also to Michigan and the U.S.

Be Nice Week held at LHS

Lowell High School participated in *Be Nice Week*. This event, now in its third year, is organized through the high school leadership class, made up of students seeking to create a better community.

Dean and Boudro named regional coaches of the year

At the individual regional wrestling meet, all the regional coaches of 16 teams voted who they thought should be named the coaches of the year. The award goes to one head coach and one assistant coach. Lowell's head coach, Dave Dean and one of the assistant coaches, RJ Boudro, were the top vote-getters.

Wrestlers win Division 2 regional championship

The Red Arrow wrestlers won the regional championship on Wednesday against Middleville-Thornapple Kellogg in the finals, after first beating Northview in the regional semifinals, to earn a berth to Battle Creek for the state championship. They then turned around on Saturday and crowned six champions, sending nine to the Palace for the individual state championships.

FEBRUARY 27, 2013

Lowell chamber honors Person of the Year

Often, boring is a word used to describe award banquets. However, this was not the case Thursday night at the Lowell Chamber of Commerce dinner held at Grand Volute Ballrooms. Noel Dean was named Person of the Year. Josh Bruwer shared several stories about Dean. He highlighted Dean's commitment to the community and his contributions to the Pink Arrow Pride.



River Valley Credit Union raises funds for FROM

The credit union donated \$2,620 to Flat River Outreach Ministries (FROM). The money was raised through the credit union's Skip-A-Payment program during November and December. "We are very proud to help our members and a great organization," said Phillips.



MARCH 6, 2013

LAS one-mill sinking fund fails by 91 votes

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

City amends its constitution, adopts new strategic plan

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

Individual championships net nine placers, one champion

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

MARCH 13, 2013

17th annual Lowell expo set for March 23

This year marks the 17th annual Lowell Community Expo. The event will be held at the Lowell High School. There are over 150 booths this year.

DeHaan named coach of the year

Head coach Michele DeHaan was named coach of the year by the Michigan High School Gymnastics Coaches and Judges Association (MHSGCJA).



Lowell Granite to celebrates 140th

Lowell Granite Company has been a great part of the Lowell community for longer than any living person. This year marks their 140th anniversary. It is the oldest monument company in the West Michigan area.

Four Red Arrow gymnasts headed to state meet

Four Lowell gymnasts qualified for individual states this year, making history with the most Lowell has ever qualified and made the trip to Canton High School.



MARCH 20, 2013

Gary Valentine brings laughs to Lowell, ends weekend full of comedy and art

This past weekend was busy and full of grins. LaughFest was coming to a close and Lowell hosted a number of events. LaughFest is a "festival of laughter." In it's third year, it is an event that brings comedians to the Grand Rapids area and raises money for programs that are offered at Gilda's Club.

Disabled Lowell resident featured in upcoming film Our Beautiful Secret

Jonathan Peavey is a Lowell success story. He competes in marathons, has mingled with many of his favorite NASCAR racers and he's the star of an upcoming film titled *Our Beautiful Secret*.

Starbard Farms Feed opened in November

Starbard Farms Feed started as a family business selling vegetables out of a wagon on their property. They are now selling livestock, cat, dog and bird feed, their vegetables and a variety of other products. They opened their full store in November of 2012, but had been selling produce for ten years. Simon and Kara Kelley own the family-run business. It is located at 11931 Riverside Drive.

MARCH 27, 2013

Party designed to restock food pantry

The groundhog may not have seen his shadow on Saturday, Feb. 2, but he did see a crowd of people gathering for a fun time at a birthday party for Peggy Covert. All attending came with donations for Flat River Outreach Ministries' Food Pantry. The gathering, dubbed a "Let's Restock the Food Pantry" party, collected over 300 items for 272 pounds of nonperishable foods and other items as well as over \$400 for the food pantry.

Steel Magnolias to be presented in April

Lowell actors Laurie Kuna and Charlotte Hayden will soon appear on stage in a dinner theatre production of the comedy/drama *Steel Magnolias*. LowellArts! and Thebes Players will present the play at Larkin's Other Place the weekends of April 26– May 11.

Youth wrestlers bring home four state championships

Lowell youth wrestlers represented this past weekend at Kellogg Arena for the Michigan Youth Wrestling Association state championships.

Many enjoyed 17th annual Lowell Expo

Over 5,000 people came to see what businesses in Lowell and the surrounding areas had to offer last Saturday at the 17th annual Expo held at Lowell High School.



APRIL 3, 2013

Artist cooperative settles in familiar space

Deidre Wingelaar was an artist at Fire and Water but today she is the president of the cooperatively owned Flat River Gallery and Framing which took over the space on Jan. 11, 2013. As a result, the community of 20 artists can claim ownership of their gallery.



What is your favorite family holiday tradition?

Once again The Ledger asked area fifth-grade students two holiday questions. What follows, in their own words, (and spellings) are their answers. Some kids also added illustrations. We've included as many as possible.

A BIG THANK YOU to the kids who filled out the forms. You all did a very nice job.

Our family tradition is we hang a pickle on our Christmas tree on Christmas morning and whoever finds it gets 5 dollars. Another family tradition that we do is we switch houses every Christmas Eve. We visit Grandmas, Aunts, then our house. That is our family's holiday tradition.

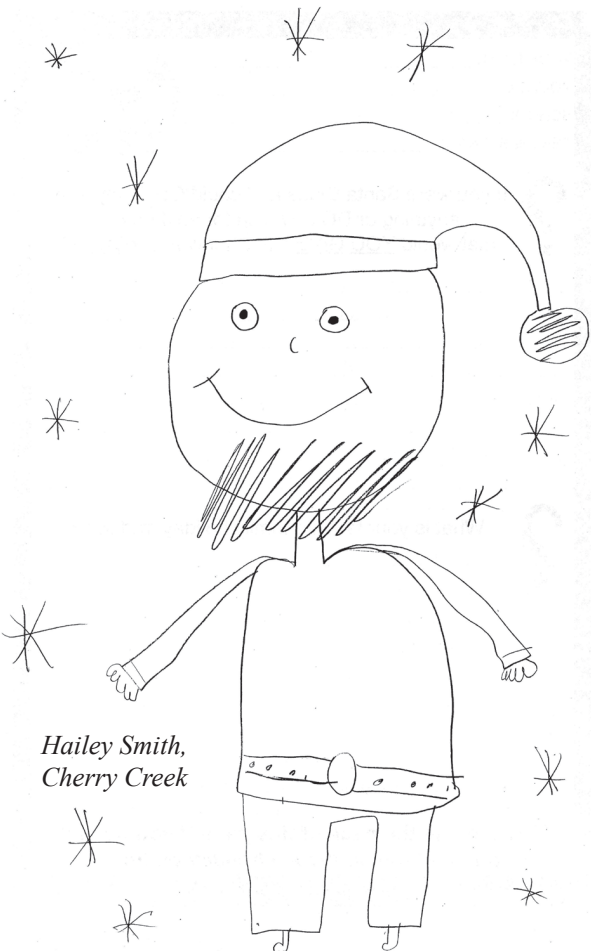
-Ethan
Alto Elementary

A favorite holiday tradition in my family is eating cinnamon rolls on Christmas morning. My mom works all of Christmas eve day making them and they bake overnight. The first thing we smell in the morning is the wonderful aroma of cinnamon rolls. Mom removes them from the oven to let them cool and then we eat! Eating Cinnamon rolls is a favorite holiday tradition we enjoy as a family!

-Sierra
Cherry Creek Elementary

My favorite, family tradition is when I get to pick out the tree every two years.

-Henry
St. Patrick's



Hailey Smith,
Cherry Creek

My favorite family tradition is a christmas eve tradition after we go to mass on christmas eve. We go to my uncle daves house and play games like catchprasje and basketball for fun. We always have a big meal. After that we have some dissert there are tons of people that come it is a great time before christmas morning!

-Doak
Murray Lake Elementary

My family has a lot of Christmas traditions. My family tradition that is my favorite, is being able to spend time with my family. All the time I am quite busy, but on Christmas we all can spend time together. My brother has many things to do, but on Christmas I am able to hang out with him. So I'm that is a family tradition.

-Tali
Alto Elementary

My favorits family tridition we do is on my moms side of the family we all gather in my aunts bacement and every one brings gag gifts and they have to be covered in paper but we play bingo if you get a bingo you pick a gift but some one else can steal yours if they get a bingo and want it.

-Cameron
Murray Lake Elementary

My favorite holiday tradition is when me and my brother wake up at 3:00 am and stare at our presents until our parents wake up.

-Jack
St. Patrick's

My favorite holiday tradition would be christmas. I like christmas because you get a lot of gifts and also meet up with your family. You can also have fun putting on ornaments. But kids like me like to smile and give he/she a big great hug and say thank you. Lots of people love spending time with their family including me! christmas is a wonderful family holiday tradition. I also love praying before we eat. Its a blessing to have all this food!

-Johnny
Cherry Creek Elementary

My favorite family holiday tradition is sitting around the Christmas tree opening our presents, but afterward my most favorite part is saying thank you to all my family and friends!

-Lauren
Alto Elementary

Christmas because it is not about presants it is about Jesuses birthday.

-Verne
Murray Lake Elementary

My favorite family holiday tradition is that on Christmas Morning my mom makes her mouthwatering cinnimon rolls and then gather around the Christmas tree and rip open the presents.

-Dillon
Cherry Creek Elementary

My favorite holiday tradition is finding the pickle on the Christmas tree. The winner is determined by who has the fastest find. The reward is usually 20-25 dollars.

-William
Alto Elementary

My favorite family holiday tradion is when everybody goes to my aunt Terrys house. We give presents, and we party a lot. This year we are having the most ugliest christmas sweater contest. Every year everybody there has a ball.

-Sam
Murray Lake Elementary

My familys tradition is to stay home and have cinnamon rolls.

-Max
St. Patrick's

My favorite family tradition is hard to choose but, I have to go with writing letters to Santa every year. We write them on Christmas eve. We then put them next to the cookies, milk, and carrots for the reindeer. I the morning we have a note back and the cookies and carrots are gone!

-Hannah
Alto Elementary

Setting up the christmas tree and putting christmas mucic and drinking egg nog.

-Logan
Murray Lake Elementary

My favorite holiday tradition is going to my grandma's house for chirstmas. The drive is three hours long. When we get there we get tight hugs and kisses from family. After that my sister and I played with our cousins. All I heard from them was Bam, come with me and them screaming. After we had played with the twins my Uncle, Aunt, my dad and I watched the Ohio state and MSU game. Mean while my sister kept playing with the twins. I could hear the twins screaming. It was hard to hear the game. So after the game my Uncle ordered pizza. So my sister went with him. In the time they were gone I played with the twins. My parents were talking to my Aunt. When they came back I helped set the table. Then we all started eating. After we ate it was time for gifts. My cousins went first. They got a mickey mouse house. then it was my turn. I got a MSU pillow. That is my favorite holiday tradition.

-Aaron
Cherry Creek Elementary

My favorite family holiday tradition is on Christmas everybody comes and eats dinner together and opens presents at my Grandma and Grandpa's house.

-Hudson
St. Patrick's

My favorite holiday tradition is decorate the tree with my family and after is eat cookies and candy canes and thats my family tradition.

-Bridget
Alto Elementary

My family holiday tradition is the elf on the shelf. My elf's name is Sparkle. She is a funny elf every night she go's to the north pole to give Santa a message to nice. She comes back before we get up and she finds a new place to hide. This morning she found a candle and rosted a marshmellow.

-Kayla
Murray Lake Elementary

My favorite family holiday tradition is going to my Uncle's one year for Christmas, the next year is Grandma's, then my house.

-Elliott
Alto Elementary

We would have five bowls of ice cream then we would put one alman in one and we would geuss which one has it.

-Benjamin
Cherry Creek Elementary

My favorite family tradition is when my mom, dad, brother Tony and I listen to Christmas music around the house and make cinnamon rolls on Christmas morning.

-Isabella
St. Patrick's

My favorite family Holiday tradtion is... puttin gup Christms decorations and the tree with my family while eating cookies next to the sizzling fire with a big freezing cold glass of milk and listent o some christmas carols on the television. I love christmas eve because I go to my bed all cozy and warm and then we wake up with presents under the big tree.

-Brady
Cherry Creek Elementary

My favorite family tradition is getting a tree. The reason its my favorite is because I love going and picking a tree.

-Nikola
Alto Elementary

What is your holiday tradition my family and I get a tree and decorate it. Then we have the biggest dinner of the year we have ham, turkey, green peans, yams, potato's, cramberry's, and pie. We always watch the football game. The we open the presents.

-Dillon
Cherry Creek Elementary

My favorite family tradition is to watch The Muppets Christmas Carol because my whole family is snuggled up on my couch while eating popcorn and hot cocoa.

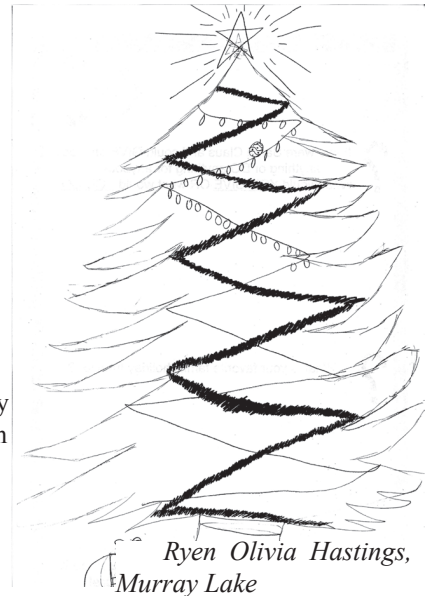
-Ryen
Murray Lake Elementary

Our traditions are to have a Christmas tree. We put ornaments with our names on them. We call it the Raab tree.

-Skylie
Alto Elementary

My holiday tradition is at 5:00 am. I get up and open one small present or look in my stolcking. AT 8:00 A.M. we open every large present then my dad/mom will bring a secret present that is cool/speceal. The next morning we go to setp grandmas to open lots of cool presents. Then for the rest of those days we sleep, well we eat breakfast, dinner, and supper.

-Nicholas
Cherry Creek Elementary



Ryen Olivia Hastings,
Murray Lake

What is your favorite family holiday tradition?

My favorite tradition is when my whole family goes to my aunts house and we make candy.

-Katy
Murray Lake Elementary

My family holiday tradition, is getting new pajamas, and opening one gift on Christmas Eve.

-Kara
Alto Elementary

My favorite Christmas tradition is to eat soft gooie war Christmas cookies that smell yummy and fresh. While we drink hot cocco and eat the cookies we watch Christmas movies. We ushily do this on Christmas eve so after watching the movies me and my sister unwrap one Christmas present. Then me and my sister get tuck in and after Santa comes we look at what we got. Thats my favorite Christmas tradition.

-Max
Cherry Creek Elementary

My favorite Christmas holiday tradition is decorateing the Christmas tree with my Mom.

-Jacob
Murray Lake Elementary

My favorite family tradition is waking up smelling the fire and having some nice warm french toast.

-Mason
Alto Elementary

My favorite holiday tradition is went we leave our christmas tree up tell January 9th. Firstly we don't even get our christmas tree tell December 20th. Plus we don't put on the ornments tell December 22. Then on christmas eve we eat alot of food it's kind of like thanksgiving. Lastly we don't take down the christmas tree tell January 9th. It's a really fun tradition. That's my favorite family hoilday tradition.

-Logan
Cherry Creek Elementary

My favorite tradition is Christmas dinner. Every year, we have green-bean cassarole, meatballs, turkey, dressing, cranberry sauce, and macaroni. There is probably a lot more, too.

-Josiah
Alto Elementary

I like Crismas Because I like giving presints to pepole to mack them smile. And I like reseving presints Because it mack's me smile to. And I like the litse on the tree. And I like to help put up the tree with my mom and step dad. And rele dad.

-Joseph
Cherry Creek Elementary

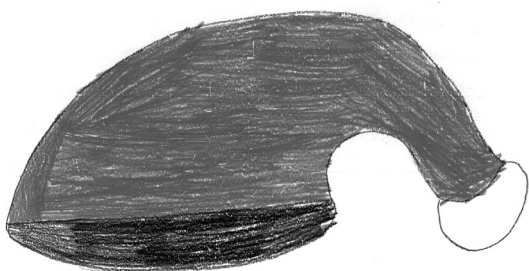
My favorite holiday tradition is the Christmas dinner. We go to my Grandma's house and she cooks almost everything under the sun! She even makes stuffing and turkey! My mouth is watering just thinking about it.

-Zach
Alto Elementary

One of my favorite family holiday traditions is to always go to my grandmas house for a christmas party. It is always vary fun. And that was my favoret holiday tradition.

-Brayton
Murray Lake Elementary

My favorate Christmas tradition is to pick out our Christmas tree, at my moms best friend tree farm. Where she has a million trees, and we get to bring one home, even though it's hard agree with my family of six, but some how we make it through with a beautiful tree every time. It's really hard because you have to agree on the size of the tree, how pointy the branches are because who wants to decorate a tree that hurts you. Mine as well find a porcupine



Bailey Wolters,
Cherry Creek

and try decorating it, and then you see the perfect tree that everyone loves so we chop it down and tote it on home. I love picking out our Christmas tree it's my favorate time of the year.

-Olivia
Cherry Creek Elementary

My favorite holiday tradition is probble going to my grandma and grandpa's house on christmas eve and have christmas dinner and present's. Another christmas tradition is on christmas morning we make christmas tree's pancakes and decorate them with candy and wiped cream.

So I have a coaple of christmas tradition making christmas pancakes with the family and christmas dinner. But the most importan thing was being with the family.

-Kendal
Alto Elementary

My favorite family holiday tradition is puting up my christmas tree. My family puts up a fake tree. An me and my brother put the ornaments on the tree. I like to spend time with my family. I also like to see their faces when they open the presents I got them it fills my heart with joy. I like to bake cookies for Sant with my dad cause if it wasn't for the



Emma Seddon,
Cherry Creek

pink arrow project my dad wouldn't be here. An thats why I like that tradition.

-Delaney
Cherry Creek Elementary

My favorite holiday tridition is christmas have a christmas dinner, put up decoration and put up the tree, put up lights. My best one is though is be with family.

-Ryan
Alto Elementary

My holiday traditions are puting up are christmas tree. We always make hard candy. and we put up are stocking's and me and my brothers snow globes collections.

-Justin
Murray Lake Elementary

Out of all of my family traditions my favorite would have to be on Christmas. I chose Christmas because everyone gathers at my Grandma Karens including my grandma my grandpa my mom and dad my brother my four cousins my uncle and of course me! The things we don on Christmas starts with a giant pool tournament with everybody. Oance we've completed two or three rounds we go upstairs and open gifts thats why Christmas is my favorite holiday tradition.

-Alex
Cherry Creek Elementary

Whats your favorite holiday tradition mine is... always always always open one present on christmas eve. Then open the rest with my cousins after our feast. Our feast we usually have mashed potatoes and biscuits and somtimes eat turkey. We always 100% leave cookies and milk out. Also we have a tree and decorate it. When it cold no worrys my dad makes a fire. Those were some of my favorite traditions.

-Casper
Alto Elementary

My favorite family tradition is going to my grandma Anstetts house because we get to eat dinner and play games with family members. One more reason is that we get to spend the night.

-Aurora
Murray Lake Elementary

My favorite family traditions are setting up the christmas tree after dads birthday. Also eating christmas breakfast. Trying out the new presents. Of course giving presents and receiving them. Those are my favorite family traditions.

-Andrew
Alto Elementary

My favorite tradition is the elf on the shelf. It is where an elf watches you and can tell if you are good or not.

-Chris
Murray Lake Elementary

My favorite holiday tradition is decorating the tree and spending time with family. On Christmas Day waking up my mom, dad, and grandma we all open are presents with joy.

-Hailee
Alto Elementary

I like Christmas morning because you get to exchange and open gifts! I get get cookies and look at the tree! You also get to choose which ones you open in order, and have people open certain gifts. If your lucky you wont get clothes!

-Ethan
Cherry Creek Elementary

My favorite Christmas tradition is when I go to my Aunt Angie's house because I get breakfast, presents, and I can spend quality time with my aunt's and uncle's.

-Aiden
Murray Lake Elementary

My faveorite holiday tradition is making cookies on Cristmas eve. We always make a mess, so to help I lick the spoons and spachulas. Am I helpful or what? Then we eat the cookie all night long.

-Kacey
Alto Elementary

My favorit holiday tradition is spending time with family!!

-Cassidy
Murray Lake Elementary

My favorite holiday tradition is where my mom hides our stockings. Then when we wake up, we find clues around the house that lead us to our Christmas sock. Once I find a clue, I read it and the clue leads me to my next clue or my presents. After everyone finds theirs, we all open our stockings and get in the car to go to my Grandmas. That is our Christmas tridition.

-Mira
Alto Elementary

My favorite family tradition is going to my grandma's house to see my family and to have are x-mas dinner. We have done it every year since I can remember. We also get these amazing little candy canes from are grandmother. When we are done eating are cosins and I always go outside and play. Even if their is no snow.

-Russell
Murray Lake Elementary

My favorite family tridition is haveing an Elf on the shelf. An Elf on the shelf is just a regular Elf but not an ordinary Elf its an Elf that can fly. So every night it flies to the north pole and reports if you have been bad or good, but there is one rule and it is that a kid can't touch him or her! or else he or she can't fly any more.

-Isabelle
Cherry Creek Elementary

My favorite family holiday tradition is to give people in the world something to make them smile.

-Brady
Alto Elementary

My favorite family tradition is to go on vacations and shovel my driveway.

-Theresa
Alto Elementary

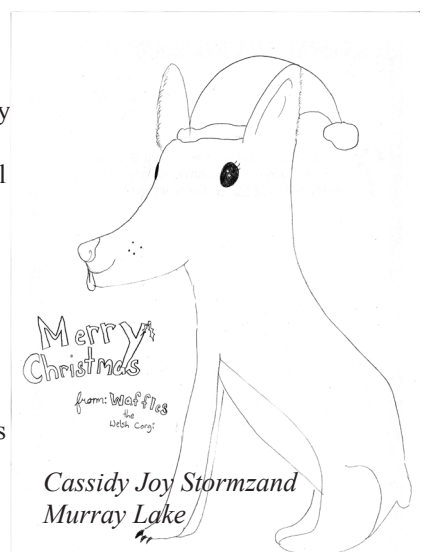
My favret family tradition is evry year when we finish opening our presents and done with our brekfest we all turn on the wether and see if its warm onof

to go sleiding. Then we get on our snow gear and sled down the big hill out side. Then when we get cold we go in side for peperment hot coco.

-Lauren
Murray Lake Elementary

One of my favorite holiday traditions is baking fresh homemade, caramel covered french toast for morning!

-Emma
Alto Elementary



2013 2013 2013 2013 2013

Lowell High School receives \$10,000 grant

Tuesday afternoon, Lowell High School received a \$10,000 Good Neighbor Citizenship Grant presented by Deborah Wilks, Lowell's State Farm representative. Tenth and Eleventh graders watched as several student leaders received the check on stage.



Three new coaches on board for spring

Girls' lacrosse, softball, and tennis all have new coaches this spring. Mackenzie Vanderwarf, Kim Griffith and Chris Phillips have all taken on the job of leading the teams. Vanderwarf is the new coach for girls' lacrosse. The new softball coach is Kim Griffith. Chris Phillips is the new tennis coach.

APRIL 10, 2013

City sued in unfair labor practice charge

The unionization of several city employees has caused issues within the city government recently. Currently, the city is being sued by the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 876 (IBEW). An employee at the water department passed an F-4 drinking water operator state water licensing test. Per a city policy signed by former city manager, David Pasquale in 2008, any employee passing this state test is entitled to one dollar an hour raise. The IBEW states that since January 28, when the employee passed the test, the city has refused to give the employee the raise. The union sent a letter to city manager Mark Howe asking the pay increase be implemented retroactively for the employee. The union never received a response in the allotted time, so they took further action. In a recent meeting of the IBEW, they stated Howe told the employee that he could not give the raise because the union would not allow it.

New bed and breakfast to open in summer

Bill and Brenda Schreur will be opening a bed and breakfast later this summer. Bill Schreur is the owner of Schreur Builders. This new bed and breakfast will be located at 786 Flat River Drive, along the Flat River. It will be located next to the property the Schreurs live on currently.

Local pastor and church in spotlight after same-sex marriage debates

The topic of gay and lesbian marriage is a hotly contested issue for many people. With the recent hearings heard by the Supreme Court on Proposition 8, from California, and the federal Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA), the issue has reemerged onto the social platform. One local pastor has taken both heat and praise for his stance and willingness to publicly discuss his beliefs. Pastor Chris Schwab, a pastor at the First Congregational United Church of Christ in Lowell, is a supporter of gay and lesbian marriage and believes all people are created in God's image. He says, "I think that God had an integral part of creating life and as such, we have a diverse group of people and included in that is people with different experiences and sexual preferences."

APRIL 17, 2013

King Milling cements its presence in Lowell while working on new structure

King Milling has poured a lot of time, money and concrete into their new flourmill and loadout structure. The new structure is 93 feet tall and pouring its concrete took five days and 16 hours to complete. Concrete poured continuously during the construction, drastically reducing the length of construction.

Prominent local dentist Bob Reagan dies

The community of Lowell lost a wonderful and important man Sunday. Robert "Bob" Reagan, a prominent local dentist for a large portion of the twentieth century, passed away from a long battle with cancer at the age of 87.

Lowell City Council endorses preliminary community vision report

The Greater Lowell Community Vision Project has been in the works for quite some time. Mayor Jim Hodges, city manager Mark Howe and mayor pro tem Sharon Ellison represented the city in the process of creating the vision. They worked alongside representatives from Lowell and Vergennes Townships, the Lowell area school district and several community groups.

Red Arrow robotics FIRST team 3234 prepares for next year

After a great second place finish at Grand Valley State University (GVSU), the Lowell Red Arrow robotics FIRST team 3234 attended the state competition last weekend ranked 23rd out of 207 teams in the state. Ending the competition ranked 38th in the state ending the season and ready to prepare for next year.



Kissinger receives top county award

Cherry Creek Elementary administrative assistant Maureen Kissinger has received the top support staff award from the Kent County Education Association (KCEA).



APRIL 24, 2013

Record flooding swamps Lowell area

Torrential rainfall the previous weeks started the flooding. The Lowell area received ten inches of water in the previous two and a half weeks, making it the wettest April on record. By last Wednesday, city officials knew the Grand River had hit the 15-foot flood level. The National Weather Service predicted Grand River to peak at 20 to 21 feet Thursday, but estimates were later reduced to 19 feet. Sunday morning at 6:35 am, the river crested at 19.02 feet and slowly began to recede. The previous record for river crest was 19 feet in March of 1948.



Several businesses affected by flooding

City manager Mark Howe estimated that up to 30 businesses were affected by the flooding over the weekend. Fortunately, the river did not crest as high as anticipated, saving many businesses from catastrophe.

Kids celebrate Earth Day with art at WWC

The Wittenbach/Wege Center (WWC) celebrated Earth Day early Saturday with arts and crafts. WCC director Meggan Johnson and LowellArts! project director Kacey Cornwell collaborated to create fun crafts that were environmentally conscious.



High School Radio Day unites radio stations nationwide

High School Radio Day (HSRD) will be held Wednesday, April 24. High school radio stations in the United States will come together for one day of celebration that organizers hope will raise a greater awareness of those high schools that are presently broadcasting.

MAY 1, 2013

Students take sides to help feed the hungry Flood recovery efforts kick into overdrive

On Mon., April 22, when the floodwaters first began to lower, Flat River Outreach Ministries (FROM) executive director Tamela Spicer was asked to coordinate the relief effort. FROM has agreed to serve as a single point of contact for all relief efforts, a commitment that has kept the staff busy on phones, in meetings and in the community.

Builder's Fireplace opens new showroom

Peter Klaver, owner of Builder's Fireplace Company, has provided quality fireplace and heating products for Lowell since 1999. Last month he relocated his office and showroom from his personal property to 521 West Main Street in the heart of Lowell.

MAY 8, 2013

19th annual Crop Walk raises funds to help the hungry

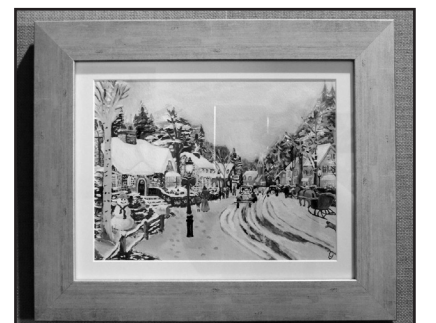
Lowell area churches took a stand against hunger Sunday afternoon by participating in the Crop Walk. The 5.5-mile walk through downtown Lowell raised funds and awareness for local and international hunger relief programs.

City council continues discussion of 2013-2014 budget

The city council heard from a five-person compensation commission (the Commission) Monday night to determine whether wages should be increased for the mayor and city council officials. Based on the average wages of other cities' councilmembers, the large wage differentiation between mayor and councilmembers and the cost of living increase, the Commission recommended an increase in wages for the mayor and city councilmembers.

Junior regional art competition opens at LowellArts!

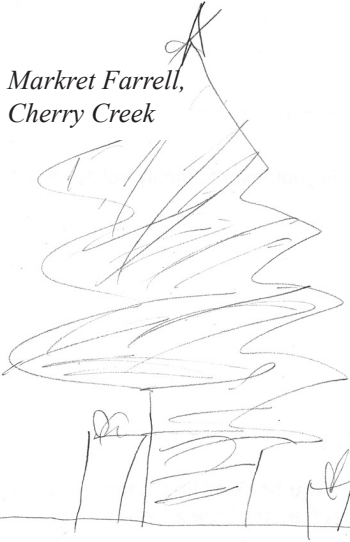
The second annual LowellArts! Junior Regional Art Competition opened May 1 in the gallery at LowellArts!. This exhibit features work from artists ages 13-18 living in Kent, Barry, Ionia and Montcalm counties.



What is your favorite family holiday tradition?

White Elephant is my moms family tradition. White Elephant is a simple fun game. We have lots of fun, and I don't think we will ever stop this tradition. First, we buy lots of presents and then we put them in a pile in the family room. Then we have a small box of dice, (Example 6=b) then we pick a present. When the timer goes off in (20 mins) later we open the presents. If there is still more presents, we do another game. So we open all the presents this time around, If we have a match, we steal the other persons presents. See how fun this game can be? Thats my holiday tradition.

-Lauren
Cherry Creek Elementary



Markret Farrell,
Cherry Creek

My favorite part of Christmas is when my mom & dad wait for all of us to come down to the Christmas tree.

-Cole
Alto Elementary

My favorite holiday tradition is when we pretend were on the polar express. We all get into our car and drive around to see all

the different Christmas lights. We have cinnamon rolls, hot chocolate, and popcorn while were going around in the car. It's a fun way to spend time with your family and have a good time!!

-Addison
Murray Lake Elementary

My family tradition is we make ornaments for Grandma's, Grandpa's, Aunts, Uncle's, and older, cousins. I think its fun to see what we make each year.

-Kailyn
Alto Elementary

One of my favorite holiday tradions is my birthday. My birthday is December 12, which is only 13 days' before Christmas. Some of the things we always do is open my presents. We also party with my family, and eat cake with ice cream. The reason why I like my birthday to be close to Christmas is because I get to open my birthday presents close to my Christmas presents. By the end of the month, I have a lot of new stuff to play with for the rest of the year.

-Joshua
Cherry Creek Elementary

My favorite holiday tradition is spending Christmas eve dinner with my favorite cousins, and getting and giving gifts. My favorite part is sledding down a big hill in our backyard.

-Corbin
Alto Elementary

Christmas because we open gifts and my whole family comes down and we wait for them to all wake up the next morning then we start opening gifts. Also I love christmas because for christmas we have a dog so my dog gets something two and she usually gets a bone but at first she doesn't like and she will bark at it forever and then she will get used to it.

-Taylor
Cherry Creek Elementary

Going to my grandmas concert! On Christmas eve and in the morning we have my grandmas famous breakfast.

-Kendal
Murray Lake Elementary

My favorite family tradition is, that my mom alway's buys new Christmas pajamas and at dinner we have fondue.

-Emma
Alto Elementary

My favorite Christmas tradition is hanging up the ornaments on the Christmas tree. Every year, my mom and dad buy a new ornament for my brother and me. Also, I like decorating Christmas cookies. I always do that with just my brother. My mom puts the frosting on, and my brother and me decorate.

-Ryan
Cherry Creek Elementary

My favorite holiday tradition is to get a tree with my mom, dad, and sisters because it a fun holiday tradition.

-Tyler
Murray Lake Elementary

My favorite Christmas holiday tradition is that my family sits by the Christmas tree in our pjs. Then we all open our Christmas presents.

-Madi
Alto Elementary

My favorite family tradition is our gag gifts. It is literally competative. My favorite gag gift that I have received is a piggy bank that could only hold about a dollar. It was hilarious!

-Ethan
Alto Elementary

For thanksgiving at my nanas' (Grandma in Polish) we would sit at a big table and we all have a egg and the person sitting next to each other hit the tips of the egg's together (boiled egg's) and the last one to not get there egg broke wins.

-Matthew
Cherry Creek Elementary

My favorit family Christmas tradition is getting our Christmas tree. I like when I smell the fresh pine in our living room. This has been a tradition for our family this will be the third year. Another one of my favorite traditions is making cookies.

-Gavin
Alto Elementary

My favret family holaday tradition is to play with cosions Im not going to tell his name. We aolwase have a snow ball fight. Not jest a snow ball fight, a huge snow ball fight, with all my cosins. The snowball fight ends when someone is hit with ice.

-Bryce
Murray Lake Elementary

My favorite holiday is Christmas because we play bingo and if you win you get a dollar coin. Also we go sledding and have a snow ball fit with my cousins and we make a snow mans, also snow forts.

-Terrick
Alto Elementary

Hiding the pickle in the Christmas tree and who ever found it got a peice of candy from the angle on the christmas tree. The funny thing is no one knows how to open the angle but me. Also no one knows it opens.

-Rachel
Cherry Creek Elementary

My favorite holiday tradition is that every year we drive out to find the perfect Christmas tree, and while we are out we get all the Christmas decor.

-Michael
Alto Elementary

My favorite holiday tradition is when me and my sister take turns sleeping in the other ones room. My sister and I started that holiday tradition last year. Also when me and my sister wake up we wake up our parents and open our presents.

-Melissa
Cherry Creek Elementary

My favorite family Christmas tradition is that we always make homemade cookies for the whole neighborhood. Every house gets at least four cookies.

-Dawsen
Alto Elementary

Going to church with my grandma, and praying Santa Claus will come. Also giving food to the homeless on thanksgiving to make shure we are doing good deeds. (for Santa Claus). do you people have any thing to share?

-Michael
Cherry Creek Elementary

My favorite family holiday tradition is putting up our Christmas tree and other Christmas things while listening Christmas music.

-Sam
Alto Elementary

My favorit holaday tradition is when all my cosins aunts and uncles go to my grampas for crismas eve go to church

together after hang out have fun eat dinner with each other then we all go by the tree in the living room and we all get a present from someone.

-Troy
Cherry Creek Elementary

My favorite family tradition is on Christmas Day we go to my Grandma Vanweelden's house and do gag gifts with everyone in my extended family.

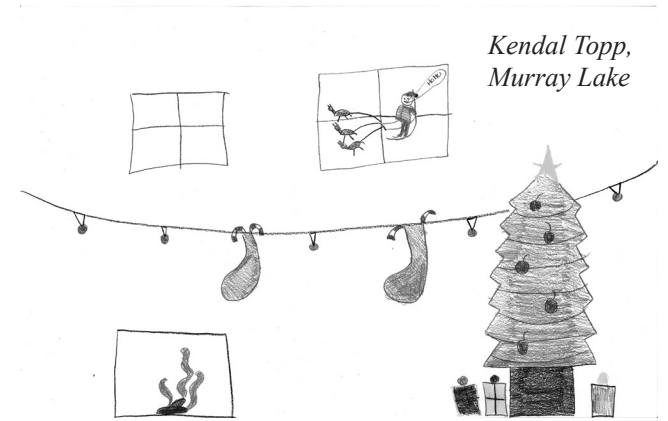
-Riley
Alto Elementary

My favorite family tradition is buying a real christmas tree. We go to this christmas tree farm in rockford. We get to ride a tractor out to the place where we get the tree. Our family gets the nicest tree we can find. And my dad always calls "timber." While we wait to pay we sometimes have snowball fights. We have alot of fun getting a tree.

-Kira
Murray Lake Elementary

My favorite holiday tradition is when my family gets together and has a family dinner.

-Ruthie
Alto Elementary



Kendal Topp,
Murray Lake

Mine is christmas because I get to open lots of presents. Another one is easter i like easter because when you get up in the morning you get to find all the fake eggs that someone hided.

-Amber
Cherry Creek Elementary

My favorite family tradition is going to my Grandma Ambrose's house on Christmas Eve because my Grandma makes alot of food, and I mean A LOT!!! We can eat whatever and whenever. One of the best parts isss... We get presents!

-Ryan
Alto Elementary

My favorite family tradition is... Deak the hall's! That's my family tradition. It might be a family tradition but I call it fun! fun!

-Adam
Murray Lake Elementary

My favorite holiday tradition is hide the pickle my whole family goes and tryies to find it.

-Rohan
Alto Elementary

My favorite family holiday tradition is on christmas eve at my dad's house when we open are presents early because my brother and I are not with him Christmas morning and we get to see my grandma wilson to, she also brings food and presents.

-Kaitlyn
Murray Lake Elementary

My favorite holiday tradition is when we wake up early and wake up are parents to open gifts.

-Keegan
Alto Elementary

My favorite holiday tardition is when on new years eve, our family goes bowling with our family friends, Michelle and Jim and their kids.

-Joshua
Murray Lake Elementary

My favorite holiday tradition with my family is to get up early, have our tree lights on while taking pictures, and smiling while opening presents together.

-Kelci
Alto Elementary

2013 2013 2013 2013 2013

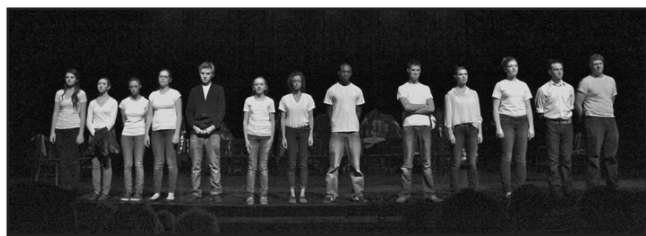
Lowell Light & Power honored with national award for safety

Lowell Light & Power has earned the American Public Power Association's Safety Award of Excellence for safe operating practices in 2012. "At Lowell Light & Power, we are proud of our safety record," said Greg Pierce, general manager of Lowell Light & Power. "We have a staff of top-class professionals who strive to ensure safe operations in every facet of their work."

MAY 15, 2013

Students exhibit talent and depth during performance last week

The Lowell High School students showed maturity, talent and depth during their performance of The Laramie Project. The Laramie Project was a series of snippets from interviews taken over a year-and-a-half, detailing the death of Matthew Shepard, a gay college student and the subsequent arrest and trials for the two men accused for the hate crime of beating Shepard.



Kolp named Teacher of the Year by KCEA

Teacher of the Year, Heidi Kolp, is married to Kurt Kolp and has three children.

Local mother's son, officer Eric Zapata, honored

Eric Zapata, a 10-year-veteran of the Kalamazoo Department of Public Safety (KDPS), was shot and killed April 18, 2011, after responding to a report of shots being fired. He was the first officer to be killed on duty in the KDPS. A stretch of highway on I-94, between Charleston and Texas townships in Kalamazoo County, will be renamed the Officer Eric Zapata Memorial Highway. His mother, Connie Bernal, lives in Saranac.



Local farm challenges people to get to know their farmers

Deane and Linda Brengle didn't always grow vegetables for a living despite owning a farm for nearly 30 years. But when they started Chimney Creek Farm they certainly found their niche.

MAY 22, 2013

Lowell students and staff once again drive their tractors to school

Drive your tractor to school day originally began as something seniors did on the last day of school to cause havoc in the parking lot. It was not until eight years ago that it became an organized event when a group of seniors decided to drive their tractors to Keiser's Kitchen for breakfast.



Local businesses agree with taxing online purchases

The U.S. Senate recently passed a bill that would allow states to require internet retailers to collect sales taxes on behalf of local governments.

Longtime Ledger columnist passes away at her home in Washington

At 80, Priscilla Lussmyer claimed her eyesight was what caused her to stop writing her much-loved Ledger Entries column. She started the column in the Ledger

in 1987. Always a history buff, Lussmyer came up with the Ledger Entries idea to keep history alive. She moved to Washington State in 2002 where she continued to write Ledger Entries. 2012 was the date Lussmyer had planned to end the column but, because of her sight, she stopped writing in February 2007 saying, "There is a time to say goodbye to everything."

Kent County fairground suffers major damage during flood

With the Kent County Youth Fair nearly insight, many have been scrambling to help fix what was damaged from the flooding that swept through Lowell last April. Bruce Doll, VP of the Kent County Youth Fair, said the property damage caused by the flooding has been tiresome for workers and volunteers. "We had quite a bit of damage, starting with the horse arena where almost all the surfacing in the arena is gone," Doll said.

MAY 29, 2013

Citizens show support and respect for veterans in Memorial Day parade

Despite the chilly temperatures on Memorial Day, hundreds of citizens lined the streets Monday morning to give thanks to Lowell veterans for their service to this country and its people.

Red and White teams lineup for Food Fight 2013

Rick Seese came up with the idea for the Food Fight in 2009. His intention was to help stock the Flat River Outreach Ministries (FROM) food pantry, provide hunger awareness education and to get the community acquainted with the philanthropic aim of FROM. The competition in the Food Fight is created by drawing a line - in this instance, Main Street - and placing the businesses and residents to the North on one team and the businesses and residents on the South on another.

Lowell Farmers' Market: changes in the making

Liz Baker, the director of the chamber of commerce, who has helped jump-start the weekly event, revealed a few changes to the market this year. "We actually shortened the season up this year," Baker said. "The farmers' market has been kind of a rough haul for us; we haven't found our niche yet." By shortening, Baker meant the market will begin June 13 and run through Sept. 12, cutting nearly two months farmers had to sell portions of their crops.

JUNE 5, 2013

Lowell High School's Class of 2013 is 274 strong



The overcast sky did not dampen spirits at graduation Sunday, June 2nd at the Red Arrow Memorial Stadium. LHS principal Amy Pallo gave the opening remarks, congratulating the students on their achievements

Relay For Life enters its eighth year in Lowell

The Red Arrow Football Stadium will see a rise in population when the fight against cancer comes back to Lowell in full swing. With 26 teams currently signed up, Jerry Holmes anticipates over 30 by the time Relay For Life begins at noon on Friday, June 21 to noon on Saturday, June 22.

City council discusses renewed sidewalks

When the Lowell City Council met at city hall Monday night, it only took the councilmembers a half an hour to discuss the remaining issues. The topics ranged from sidewalk inspection to compromised sewer lines and the well-being of the showboat. The insurance company hired David Weaver to inspect the boat's structure, who noticed some of the bracing and blocking needed to be put in place. Several volunteers were pulled together last Saturday morning to the showboat to help with maintenance. The city should know more later in the week on what else needs to be done.

Poll breaks high school golf record as Arrows advance to regionals

Brandon Poll had a good day on Friday in the state district tournament. Not only did he help the team advance to the regionals, but he also broke the long-held school record of 72 by two strokes.

JUNE 12, 2013

Interact Club students donate \$500 to Early Act Club

During May's Lowell Rotary meeting, the high school's "Interact Club" donated \$500 to Cherry Creek Elementary's "Early Act Club" to support their endeavor with microfinancing. Both groups are aligned with the Lowell Rotary Club's goals of helping the community and world.



Number of traffic citations down compared to last year

The number of traffic stops from January through April this year has decreased significantly from last year's totals of the first four months. Lowell Police Chief Barry Getzen said the main cause for the sudden decline can be attributed to the increased activity in other areas that is taking up time of officers.

Beverly Hall named the 2012-2013 Lowell Women Club's "Woman of the Year"

JUNE 19, 2013

A good turnout for first Sizzlin' Summer Concert

As part of the first installment of the Lowell Showboat Sizzlin' Summer Concerts, the Steve Hilger Band played music on the program's stage to a huge crowd Thursday, June 13. Hundreds of spectators brought their lawn chairs to the grassy portion at the edge of the Riverwalk plaza in downtown Lowell. It marked the first of 10 shows to be presented this summer, running from June 13 through August 22 every Thursday.



City council accepts bid for Riverwalk extension

Lowell's City Council picked Katerberg VerHage to head the construction of the Riverwalk extension during a meeting Monday night at city hall.

Alto Elementary and DDA want new parking lot by August

The Alto Elementary School will see a change in its parking lot, which has been a pain to many parents and drivers in the community, this summer. The Alto Downtown Development Authority (DDA) is expected to pay for the costs of the new parking lot, instead of the school district, because of the problem the old one gives the school's community.

Lowell will host Chicago's Hubbard Greyhounds in the 2013 Pink Arrow Game

Hubbard High School's football team, which also conducts a similar pink-jersey program for breast cancer awareness, will play the Lowell Red Arrows in a game Hubbard's players are calling the "Pink Bowl." Hubbard, located in Chicago's south side, has around 1,600 students.

JUNE 26, 2013

Relay For Life 2013 successfully takes the field once again

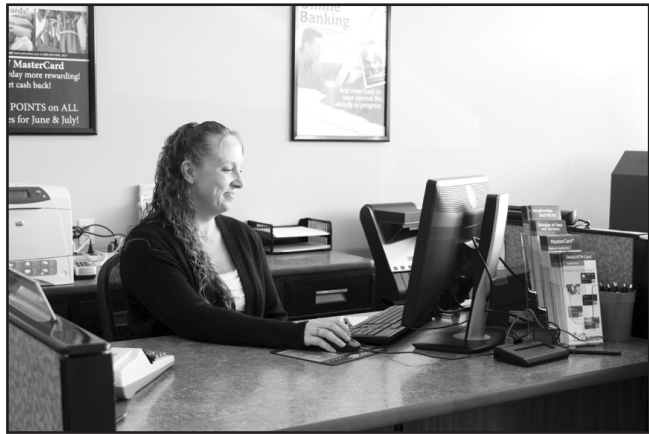
Stepping into the Bob Perry Field at Lowell High School, surrounded by Pink Arrow Pride banners, it is clear the community of Lowell doesn't look at the

2013 2013 2013 2013 2013

battle against cancer as an afterthought or a one-day-a-year concern. By the end of the festival, 28 teams and 212 participants had raised \$59,564.72 for the fight against cancer. The bronze medal for fundraising went to River Valley Credit Union, who raised \$5,487.30. The silver medal went to Team Addorio, with \$5,728.50 in donations. Team A1 Laser won the gold with a grand total of \$12,271.20, more than any other two teams combined.

Portland Federal Credit Union finds its niche in Lowell

As of late, many have begun to dislike the usual corporate bank that never seems to be interested in helping its members - only themselves. However, the Portland Federal Credit Union (PFCU) has turned heads for doing the opposite as one of the smaller branches that focuses on members from a different perspective. "We have been looking at building another branch by looking at the Saranac area and Lowell as well as Barry County," Linda Carroll, who is in charge of marketing, said. "But we made a definite decision for Lowell a little over a year ago by the process of elimination."



JULY 3, 2013

Council approves a new auditor

Three of the five councilmembers were at city hall Monday evening to discuss the replacement of damaged sidewalks and choosing a new auditor for the city. After 133 letters were sent out to property owners who would be affected by the street and sidewalk construction areas, only four people appeared at the impromptu town hall meeting last month, said councilmember Andrew Schrauben. The city also approved a new audit proposal from Vredevelde Haefner LLC for a new three-year extension for Lowell Light and Power for \$7,500 a year. A pre-construction meeting was held for the Riverwalk Extension project and it is now scheduled to begin construction on July 15.

Yarn-Bombing date announced

On July 9, the LowellArts! Adopt-a-Tree to Yarn-Bomb project culminates. Beginning at 7 pm, participants will gather at their adopted tree on Main Street, east of Hudson Street in downtown Lowell, to add their embellishments. Expect everything from knitted bands to crocheted pods and more. The sky's the limit when it comes to "yarn bombing."

JULY 10, 2013

Arson suspected in White's Bridge burning

It's a sad week for Ionia and surrounding counties after the historic White's Covered Bridge burned down Sunday morning. The bridge, built in 1869 and the oldest covered bridge in the state, appears to have been burnt down intentionally. Ionia sheriff Dale Miller said early investigations indicate an accelerant was used to start the fire.



2013 Riverwalk Festival starts tomorrow

The annual Lowell Riverwalk Festival promises to be three days of fun beginning Thursday, July 11 through Saturday. The Riverwalk Festival enters its 19th year. Riverwalk will take place in the historic portion of Lowell on July 11, 12 and 13, open from 6 pm to 9 pm on the first two days and 10 am into the night on the third and final day. Fireworks from Stoney Lakeside will begin at 10:15 pm sharp after the 5 pm duck race on the river.

126 Army Band concert draws biggest crowd

With impeccable timing the 126 Army Band brought their talents to Lowell Thursday evening to celebrate Independence Day in military fashion. Under the current direction of Chief Warrant Officer Jon Montgomery, the group of musicians has performed throughout the United States, London, Italy, Australia and Latvia for all branches of the Armed Forces. This marked their third time in Lowell under Montgomery's command, which wielded the biggest turnout in the Sizzlin' Summer Concert Series so far.



New postmaster wants

public to know that the door is always open

Michelle Roe took office as the new Postmaster at the end of May and has been working to connect with the community, as well as to encourage community and business relations with the post office.

Church members

picket sign's double meaning

About a half a dozen members of the Bible Believers Church were spotted picketing along M21 on July 3, hoping to raise awareness about a sign outside of Pauly's liquor store. "We are out here trying to stand against it," said Joshua Langdon. The sign that the church and its members had a problem with was the portion that read, "Sofa King."

Bike tour supports

historical preservation in Lowell

Alan Rumbaugh is the treasurer at the Fallasburg Historical Society. Normally, Rumbaugh deals with the financial commitments of maintaining the historical village, but on July 7 he had the pleasure of mingling with bikers at the 19th annual Covered Bridge Bike Tour.



JULY 17, 2013

With good weather and high attendance, Riverwalk Festival proves successful

Dozens of tents and kiosks were pushed together to sell items as Lowell came alive again for the 2013 Riverwalk Festival. Things kicked off after a strange week weather-wise, turning into a pleasant day for anyone in West Michigan.

European tradition comes to Lowell with yarn bombing

Last Wednesday morning Lowell's Main Street



woke up to find it had been yarn bombed by local artists and knitting enthusiasts. The project, headed by LowellArts!, involved designers adopting a tree and decorating it with yarn-based creations.

Season's Greetings!

Hope your holiday season is filled with lots of magic, merriment and mirth.



Lowell Family Medical Center

Paul R. Gauthier, D.O. • James C. Lang, D.O. • John G. Meier, D.O.
Wayne A. Christenson, D.O. • Tracey L. Lixie, D.O. • Olivia M. Cain, P.A.-C. • Kalli M. Walker, P.A.-C.
2550 West Main • 616.252.5600

With Our Thanks For Your Trust & Goodwill

For the time you've invested with us this past year, we are sincerely grateful and we wish all of you a most joyous holiday season with many happy returns.



11915 East Fulton
Lowell
897-1800



What is your favorite family holiday tradition?

My favorite holiday tradition is to make & decorate cookies, and then on Christmas, I would go to my Dad's Mom's house and get more presents to add on to my collection. Then I finally go down to my Mom's Grandmother's house and have ham, rolls, and other food and get even more presents (though not as many as I do at the other houses). Then after a long, long day, I ride back home.

-Alexander
Alto Elementary

My favorite holiday tradition to do is opening one gift on Christmas Eve.

-Amber
Cherry Creek Elementary

My favorite tradition is to decorate the Christmas tree.

-Zach
Alto Elementary

My favorite family tradition is to go the other side of the state to see my family.

-Ashlyn
Alto Elementary

To find the pickle in the tree on christmas morning.

-Brooke
Murray Lake Elementary

My family's Holiday tradition is wearing a ugly sweater all christmas day with my dad, mom, sister, Aunt, Uncle, grandma, and grandpa. When we wake up and open presents we get ready to put on are ugly sweaters and head out to my grandmas house. We go do this because my family is all about jokes, rick's and being funny thats how the Frazer's got this family tradition started. My dad came up with the ugly sweater idea.

Paige
Cherry Creek Elementary

My family has many holiday traditions including baking cookies, sitting around the Christmas tree opening presents, and going to my grandma's house on Christmas day.

Although those are super fun, there is one tradition that sticks out to me... When we go to church on Christmas Eve. Church on that night has some of my favorite readings and the church feels extra special! We go to 8:00 PM church so when we come out at 9:00 PM it's dark and the stars feel magical. We drive home and then have a snack. We go to bed wondering what will be under the tree in the morning.

-Sophia
Alto Elementary

My favorite holiday is New Year's. It's New Year's because on New Year's my family and I watch the ball drop while eating freshly cooked popcorn. While eating we share laughs to get past away. Although New Year's really isn't anything we appreciate the joy.

-Braiden
Cherry Creek Elementary

One of our favorite holiday traditions is called the "pickle" ornament which our mom hides on the Christmas tree on Christmas Eve. The "pickle" blends in with the tree and whoever finds it gets an extra present.

-Will
Alto Elementary

My fave tradtion is puting on the star on top of the tree. This year I kept askng, "can I do it?" It is kind of like every one put the paint job and I put the cars engine to make it go.

-Ayden
Cherry Creek Elementary

My favorite holiday tradition is seeing my cousins, aunts, uncles, and grandparents. I don't get to see them very often. I love having a bunch of time to just talk.

-Hailey
Alto Elementary

Every Christmas my family and I decorated the whole house, even my nephew (Bryson) helps me decorate the house it's very fun! We decorated the house in fake paper snow flakes and other papper stuff.

-Jessica
Cherry Creek Elementary

My favorite family holiday tradition is opening presents and spending time with my family and playing in the snow and playing with my toys.

-Miya
Alto Elementary

My families favorite tradition is when we all gather around the Christmas tree open our gifts and hopefully we get what we wanted.

-Reid
Cherry Creek Elementary

Our family tradition is giveing people presents around the Christmas tree and open them. And eat at the table. And go shelding in snow with my cousins and my brother.

-Eryn
Alto Elementary

Every year my whole family goes to my grandma Pam's. Our family sits in a circle. Everyone brings a gift. And we take turns picking out gifts.

-Josiah
Cherry Creek Elementary

My favorite family holiday tradition is putting up a Christmas tree. I like it because we get to decorate the tree as a whole family and we goof around and laugh. We like to try and get the biggest tree as possible, so we can decorate it more.

-Damian
Alto Elementary



Bryce Shelley,
Murray Lake

Wearing my p.j.'s when we open our gift's in our living room christmas morning. Plus when I just spend time with my family all day. That's my favorite family tradition on holiday to do if it is around christmas.

-Sarah
Cherry Creek Elementary

My favorite holiday tradition is everybody in my family coming to my house for Christmas.

-Julia
Alto Elementary

Getting pj's on Christmas Eve.

-Edy
Cherry Creek Elementary

One of our biggest family traditions is putting our Christmas decorations up after thanksgiving.

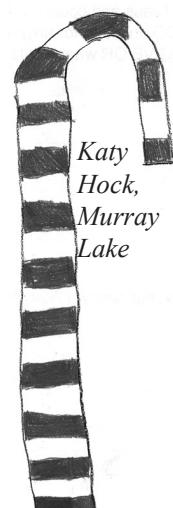
-Drew
Alto Elementary

One of my favorite holiday traditions is puting up my christmas tree. I like it because im with with my family. And somtimes my cats will nock down our tree. And we will have to put all the ordiments back up. It is realy fun to do.

-Brielle
Cherry Creek Elementary

One of my favorite family holiday traditions is going to Uncle Tim's house with my Mom and Jeremiah. This year (2013) my brothers are coming with us.

-Tyler
Alto Elementary



Katy Hock,
Murray Lake

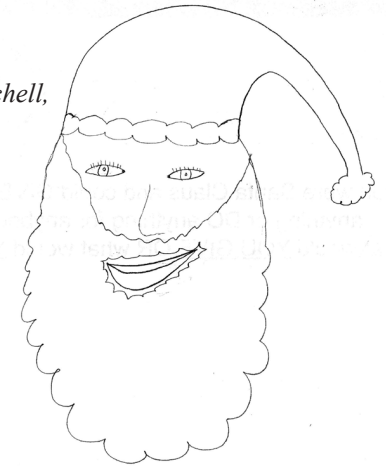
My fammily all gathers christmas morning we kids would look at all the gifts under my gradmas tree we would imagine what is in the raped boxes we would do the same to the stockings we would also lie on the ground and play with my baby cousin the we would eat it was the most delitful meal then everyone got rilly exsited finaly the presints we would all run in the room get spred out and we would rip throw every gift. And that is my christmas tradition.

-Faith
Cherry Creek Elementary

My favorite holiday tradition is ripping open my presents on Christmas morning with my 3 sisters and parents. Every Christmas morning as I run down the stairs, I'm excited to see how full my stocking is! My 3 sisters and I usually always wear the same pajamas too. I'm very thankful that I always have a marvelous Christmas!

-Sydney
Alto Elementary

Carissa Mitchell,
St. Pats



I like christmas because we all have smiles on are faces. Everybody is happy and that is awesome.

-Maci
Cherry Creek Elementary

My favorite family tradition is at Thanksgiving. Saying our prayers and what were thankful for. Because not many are able to do that anymore.

-Nate
Alto Elementary

Do you have a favorite holiday tradition? You might not have one but I do and this is it. My favorite tradition happens at Christmas. We go to a day care building in Durand. It belongs to my mom's cousin but there's no kids there when we are. We have fun with relatives and get each other gifts. We play a white elephant gift game where we grab a random present and open it. Other people can steal our gift so we have to choose another one. It's crazy! The best of all is a whole table full of cake, pie and cupcakes. My other favorite thing to do is open my present because then I can maybe get a new football or lacrosse stick. So now you know what my favorite holiday tradition is.

-Carter
Cherry Creek Elementary

My favorite family tradition is we get money soap. When we get it it's in our stockings. Whoever uses it up first gets all the money inside. It can be up to \$100.00, but my family sticks to getting \$1.00. That is our money soap tradition we do it every year.

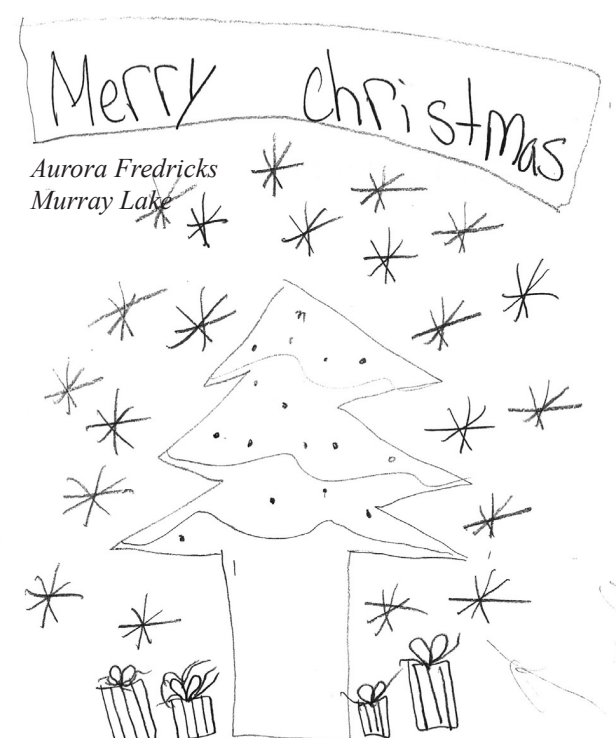
-Elsie
Alto Elementary

My favorite holiday tradition is eating breakfast on Chrstmas morning. I like it because, well my mom makes it while my dad helps us depack and asbull or presents aslo. Then we have a breakfast of eggs, pancakes, bacon, suasage, and waffles, of course theres left offers!

-Kobie
Cherry Creek Elementary

My favorite holiday tradition is going to my grandmas house because we get double the presents. Also she has food every christmas. And last but not least we like to visit her christmas or not. That is my favorite holiday tradition.

-Eric
Alto Elementary



If you were Santa Claus and could give anybody anything or do anything for anybody... What would you give or what would you do?

If I were Santa Clause and could do anything for anyone I would make my uncle happy again. Ever since he got divorced he always seems so down and sad. Mabye if he was a bit more happy he might stop worrying about how to make ends meet and have a little fun once in a while. That is why if I were Santa and could do anything for anyone I would give my uncle the gift of happiness!

-Sierra
Cherry Creek Elementary

If I were Santa Claus, I would give 1 million presents to a ware house!! What i would give is nice and warm clothes and something to entertain the kids. So it would be like a board game.

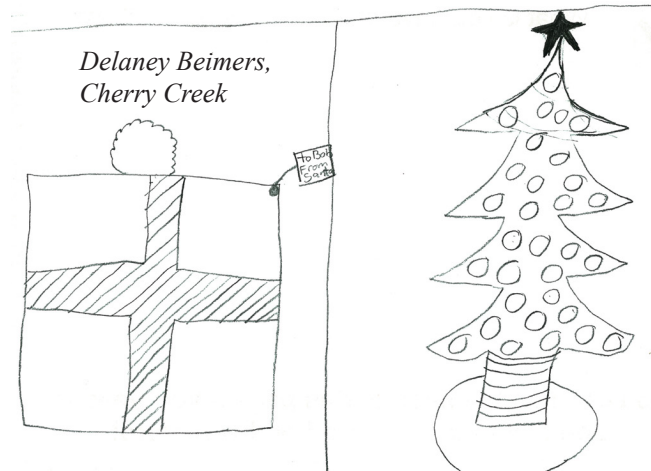
-Olivia
Murray Lake Elementary

If I was Santa Claus, and I could give anybody anything I would give every homeless person money so they could buy things that they need for Christmas. Also I would give them food so that they could eat. I would also give homeless people money so that they can rent an apartment.

-Gavin
Alto Elementary

I would give a gift from the heart. I would give anybody anything that would make them truly happy.

-Tyler
Murray Lake Elementary



Delaney Beimers,
Cherry Creek

If I were Santa, I would go every country and tell people about God and our Religion. Another thing I would do if I Santa I would give all my toy's to the needy and the people that are fighting cancer what ever they need I'll GIVE.

-Grace
St. Patrick's

If I was Santa Claus, I would give the homeless something they want or something they need. If someone needed help I would do anything they need help with. When it comes to take there dog out, push there wheelchair, help them walk, anything.

-Aubri
Murray Lake Elementary

What would you give or do if you were Santa Claus. I know what I would do. I would give someone in need of a service dog a service dog. Some people are just give me, give me just for the dog. They dont realize that there like that and the people the need one can't get one. I saw a service dog in a store and I was like why is there a dog in the store. Do you know what you would do now.

-Dillon
Cherry Creek Elementary

If I was Santa Claus and I could do anything for anybody I would cure every single illness in the world. If I was Santa Claus and I could give anybody anything I would give enough money to cure cancer In every country and in the whole world.

-Teagan
Alto Elementary

If I was Santa and I could do anything I wanted, I would make the world a better place. I would clean the whole earth. And I would stop all of the vilonce and bullying. Also I would get rid of world dezezies and allergy's so that no one is sick. And also I would stop world hunger. So this is who I would help... (EVERYONE!)

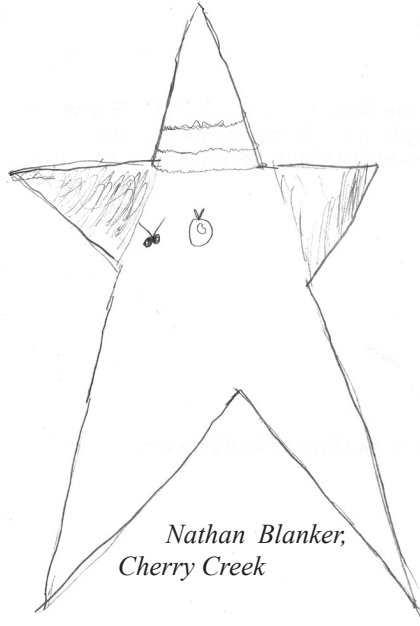
-Nicholas
Cherry Creek Elementary

I wolud give everbody a home to live in. and a huge crismess tree in ever room.

-Steven
Murray Lake Elementary

If I was Santa Claus and if I do anything in the world I would get a cure for every type of cancer. When you have cancer you sometimes have to do Keimo when you have cancer and when you do Keimo you lose your hair. Then if I get cure for cancer people they will not be so weak. Also you don't have to go to the hospital so much but, when your in the hospital so much you feel sad or sometimes you have to stay at the hospital for the holidays. Thats what I will do if I was Santa Claus.

-Aleiha
Cherry Creek Elementary



Nathan Blanker,
Cherry Creek

If I was Santa Claus I would give kids any presents they want because they can have fun with it.

-Tyler
St. Patrick's

If I were Santa I would round up my 400 elves and Goard the S.S. Santa AKA, the hovercarrier. My other 200 elves would stay back at the clause Christmas center to supervise the mission. But before that I would have sent out elves all across the world too see what kids want.

-James
Alto Elementary

If I where Santa Claus I would give 1 or 2 big presents to each relative or freind and give what they wanted. Because when they recieve it I bet they would love it. But I only give it to those that been good over the year. Thats what I would do if I were Santa Claus.

-Joey
Cherry Creek Elementary

If I were Santa and could give or do anything, I would give or do anything that that person wanted. For example, I would give medicine for cancer research. I could help save the world!!

-Kara
Alto Elementary

If I were Santa Claus and could give anybody anything I would give my brother a billion so he could build a church. If I were Santa Claus and could do anything for anybody I would bring all homeless and poor people water.

-Kolbe
St. Patrick's

If I was Santa Claus and could give anyone anything I would give every family in Lowell, MI. that are pore familys 1 hundred dollars or more to spend on food or other things like taxes. Ho! Ho! Ho!

-Grace
Cherry Creek Elementary

If I was Santa Claus and could give anything I would give everybody a job - because a lot of people are unemployed.

-Mason
Alto Elementary

Have you ever wanted to give the world something? Anything? I thought you did. If I could I would get rid of Barney and Dora forever and replace it with Sailor moon and Powerpuff Girls Z. Don't worry, Powerpuff girls Z (also known as PPGZ) is WAY better than it's AmERICAN conterpart. As for Sailor moon, if you like winx club you'll love this. And I'm pretty sure everywon will be happy about Dora and Barney, right?

-Amanda
Cherry Creek Elementary

If I were Santa Claus, I would try and cure diseases like cancer and leukemia. I would also do a food drive for

people who don't get Christmas dinner every year. Plus, I would give a shelter to those who need a place to go during winter.

-Josiah
Alto Elementary

If I was Santa Clause and I could give enything to anyone. I would give my grandma some help to get well. I would give her all she needs like streghth, love, medison and enything. But that is if I was Santa Clause. And if could I would because I love my grandma.

-Emily
Cherry Creek Elementary

If I were Santa I would bring everyone what they want. Like a pony for the pony lovers. I would also take the soldiers from war.

-Zach
Alto Elementary

If I was Santa Clause I would give Erin a brand new minecraft baby pig plush. I would because Erin likes minecraft greatly, and give asher a giant Ender man plush wich is 3 ft. tall, and give Kriston a baby mooshroom from mincraft. I will because they love minecraft.

-Ian
Cherry Creek Elementary

If I was Santa and I could do something for someone or give anyone something. I realy don't now what I would do. Maybe I would donate toy's to the toy drive so kid's who don't have present's can have something to be happy about. Another thing I may would do is make sure loney people aren't loney make sure they have a smile on their face maybe make cookies for them. So if I was Santa and I could do anything I would do a lot of things for people because I want people to be happy this year.

-Kendal
Alto Elementary

If I was santa I would do helpful things for my grandma beause she has a trach.

-Isaac
Cherry Creek Elementary

If I were Santa Clause I would give boys and girls toys, and hats, skarfs and close to every body.

-Ryan
Alto Elementary

If I was Santa Claus I would give my dad a new car because his car has been breaking down a lot. My dad has my moms old red shiny van. His car window won't role up his heat won't work. If my dad was on a busy road and his car broke down he could get serously hurt. This is why I would get my dad a new car.

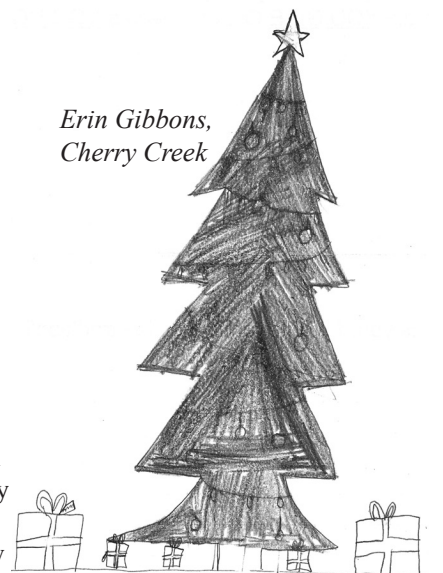
-Ashley
Cherry Creek Elementary

If I was Santa I for one would work out (alot). Also I would not eat bad and drink milk. I would also give nice kids happness and peace. I would also like to help the pour with nice homes. To make my reindeer Happy I would save the reindeer in the world. I would be 10 times more joly then Santa. Those are all the things I would do if I was Santa.

-Casper
Alto Elementary

If I were Santa Claus and I were able to give anyone anything or do anything for anyone I would give some thing that is a need, not a want. If I could do so I would give the entire world vaccines and other medicine. I would stop cancer, malaria, and any other disese that is affecting people. This would decrease the possibility of dying and would make the world a better place to live. I would give as much as the world will ever need. That is if I were Santa Claus. I hope that he gives this gift. I would.

-Jacob
Cherry Creek Elementary



Erin Gibbons,
Cherry Creek

If you were Santa Claus and could give anybody anything or do anything for anybody... What would you give or what would you do?

If I was Santa Claus. I'd give everyone friendship. Nothing can top it! Your friend will play catch with you toys won't. Your friend will watch your back and help you stand up to bullies. Heck toys can't even make you laugh or smile. Friends will respect you. Also they will play tag or catch, and all those fun games. Friend ships are very important. Every one needs one. So now you know what having a friend is like.

-Andrew
Alto Elementary

If I were Santa Claus, I would give some of the needy children one rubber band fishtail bracelet each. The reason why is because they are fun to wear, you can have a variety of colors and that they are easy to make. That's what I would do if I were Santa Claus.

-Jenna
Murray Lake Elementary

If I were Santa Claus I would give a friend in Mexico a beautiful picture to hang on his wall, because all he gets on the holidays are shoes. Also I would give that to him to have some color in his house. To let him have a good day when he looks at it. And make him think "Wow, it's a great day to be alive." It would make me feel good inside to know he was having a good day. That is what I would give to anyone and why if I were Santa Claus.

-Emalie
Cherry Creek Elementary

I would give somebody or someone a house to live in so they wouldn't be cold.

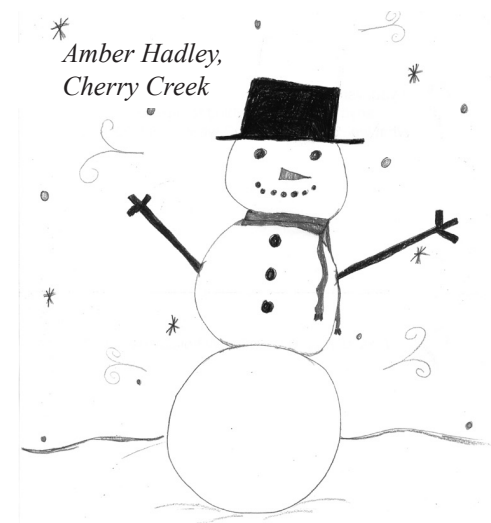
-Teryn
Cherry Creek Elementary

If I was Santa Claus I would give everybody a camera so they can record a special moment in their life so they will always have it, and a popeye (popeye is a old TV show that is not on TV) special to watch.

-Summer
Murray Lake Elementary

If I was Santa and I could choose any person or animal to give a present it would be my dogs. What I would give them is a dog collar, dog bones, rope toys, treats, and squeaky toys. I chose my dogs because if no one cared for them they would die. I also chose my dogs because they can give you good exercise. The most important thing is the collar because if they get lost the people who find them can return them to the right owner.

-Heather
Cherry Creek Elementary



If I were Santa and I could give anything to anyone I would stop all Bullies. That's right bullies. Bullies take there anger out on other people. I have been bullied and all I though was "what did I do for this to happen?" Trust me You will never, ever want to be bullied!

-Kacey
Alto Elementary

If I were Santa I would give presents for a week. Not a day. Kids would like that. If I wer Santa I would give the elvs a vacation because they work hard.

-Gavin
Murray Lake Elementary

I would give my mom a star a wish star like up in the sky one of those stars but im not santa claus. It's not about geting It's about giving.

-Travis
Cherry Creek Elementary

What I would do is help my mom carry luggage when we go to hotels. I would be courteous and let others go first. Also, just helping (isn't it what your supposed to do?)

-Mira
Alto Elementary

I will give people stuff animales for chrismase and other stuff two give away like toy cars and r.c cars or a game for cristmase.

-Nathan
Cherry Creek Elementary

If I was Santa Claus I would give all the orphan's new toys to replace the old and broken toys. I also would give everyone a good christmas. I think most people really deserve it.

-Averi
Murray Lake Elementary

I would give the children all the toys they would want. I would give the children a happy New Year and a Merry Christmas. I would do a great job, and make all the children happy.

-Brady
Alto Elementary

If I was Santa Claus and I could give anyone anything for christmas, I would give my family stuff they wanted. I would come in the night with my three reindeer, Candycane, Snowglobe, and Stars. I would give my brother Luke, a motor bike and Ean a remote controle monster truck. Josh, my littlest brother, would get Mario Smash Brothers. My dog, Jack would get a bag of treats. I would give my mom and dad ornemets. Why I would give them those presents is because my family is nice and caring. Also, they would give me gifts, and I think they would love those gifts. If I was Santa Claus and I could give anyone anything I would give gifts to my family. If you were Santa, what would you give to someone and who would you give it to?

-Bailey
Cherry Creek Elementary

If I were Santa I would have my elves make me a private jet. Then they will make me a lot of toys so I can sell them to buy a whole continent. Then I would use them as body guards to keep people on my continent safe. After that I would form an army of elves to protect everyone in America.

-Sam
Alto Elementary

If I were to be Santa I'd give all the toys that I don't play with any more to an orphanage, because I wouldn't want the orphans to be sad on such a joyful day.

-Carolina
Murray Lake Elementary

If I was Santa and could give anybody anything I would give to F.R.O.M. I would give a million dollars to them. I would give them that present because they will help many other people that are poor and in need. It was hard to choose who I would give to because I wanted to help a lot of people and places. So I chose F.R.O.M. because they will help a lot of people.

-Jonathan
Cherry Creek Elementary

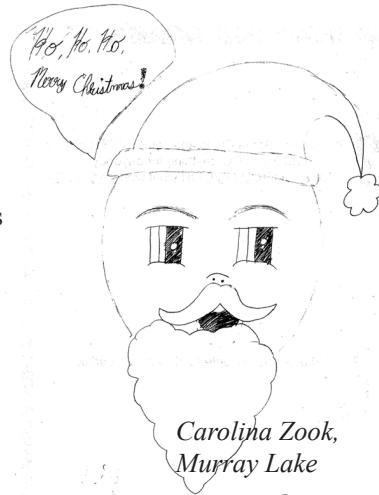
If I was Santa Claus I would give the homeless people what they wanted like food & clothes. I would also try to give people what they wanted.

-Cole
Alto Elementary

I would give animals to people who need them, books, and clothes to others. For a family with nothing I would give them something that they need.

-Alyssa
Cherry Creek Elementary

If I were Santa Claus I would give all the good girls and boys what they want and two extra gifts. But if they were



bad I would only give them just one or two gifts. Also I would give people that struggle with bills, the money to make life easier.

-Dawsen
Alto Elementary

If I were Santa Claus, I would donate toys to Toys for Tots, orpahns, and other charities. I would also donate money to hospitals, and soup kitchens. I would also give toys and money to charities, homeless people, and orphanages. If I were Santa and I could do anything, I would end global warming, pollution, and I would make sure that we had world peace. I would also make sure that homeless people got homes, along with orphans. I would make sure that everyone got toys and a wonderful Christmas dinner. They would also get Christmas trees and decorations, along with stockings. I would do all of this because all of these people and places don't usually get gifts, meals, and money.

-Hannah
Murray Lake Elementary

If I was Santa I would give presents to charity and I would help all the people in the retirement homes and made sure that every single person on the entire earth would have a very merry Christmas.

-Drew
Alto Elementary

if they need a Hot gloves or scarve I would if it to them if I had extra. give them there give for chrimatams. give a tree. give food.

-Markret
Cherry Creek Elementary

If I were Santa Claus I would give to charity, and, help people on Christmas eve as their present to help them with illness and cure them.

-Kailyn
Alto Elementary

HoHoHo and Merry Christmas are a few things you've heard Santa say. What if you could be Santa for one Christmas. I would go to every kid in the world! I would not skip one person on my way around the world. Everyone would get something they REALLY want.

-Sydney
St. Patrick's

If I was Santa I would give love to each family. If I was Santa I would go around the world and give the homeless money.

-Theresa
Alto Elementary

If I was Santa, and could give someone anything, I would give my brother new hockey gear, and an ice arena. He could practice wth his new gear. He could get really good from practicing each day. Soon he will be the best hockey player ever!

-Ethan
Cherry Creek Elementary

If I was Santa Claus I would give everybody what they would want for Christmas.

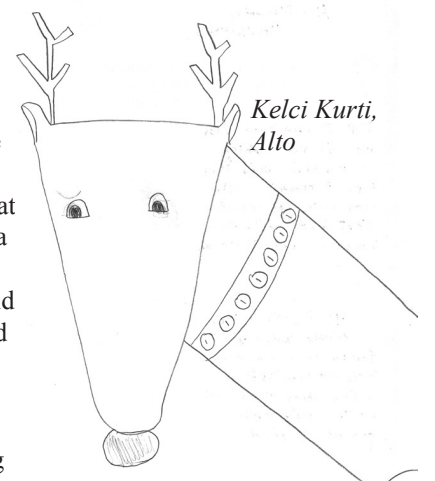
-Elliott
Alto Elementary

If I were Santa Claus. I would give all the homeless kids in the world presents, or a chance to be happy. Also to have a chance to feel loved by someone. That's a nice feeling to feel.

-Aubrey
Murray Lake Elementary

I would give money to the poor. I would give a smile. I would give them joy. I would give them toys. I would give them 2nd chances. I would give food to the poor. I would give a house to the poor. I would give Sprits for x-mas. If they were sick I would pray for them. I would give them respect. I would give them courage.

-Kylie
Cherry Creek Elementary



2013 2013 2013 2013 2013

Airport will receive funding, Englehardt Library presents report

Representatives from the Kent District Library (KDL) were on hand Monday night at city hall to present their annual report to the council on attendance and programs they are now running. Director Lance Werner was present, along with KDL Englehardt branch manager Kristin Meyer. "We're not ever going to get to a point where we are going to rest," Werner said. "We are always going to try to make it better for our patrons and our tax payers because that's what they deserve."

Mural commemorates

Lowell as an official Trail Town

On Thursday last week the ribbon cutting for the North Country Trail Association's new mural came in conjunction with Lowell becoming an official Trail Town. The three piece mural, painted by LowellArts! student-artists, is on the East wall of the NCTA building along Monroe Street and depicts scenes from the North Country Trail.

Riverwalk duck race kicked into high gear

The Riverwalk Festival's main event came with a couple hiccups, but overall the annual Duck Race was a success. Around 5,700 ducks were purchased for the race along the river which started on the Division Street bridge where the ducks were dumped into the Flat River and finished at the fairgrounds.

A shocking conclusion to a highly rewarding Food Fight

The Riverwalk Festival marked the end of the city-wide Food Fight benefiting the Food Pantry, located at Flat River Outreach Ministries (FROM). Rick Seese is a broker and manager at Greenridge Realty, but during this time of year he is better known as the Food Fight referee. Team North maintained a steady lead throughout the first three quarters of the 2013 Food Fight, where they rallied at the last minute, collecting the most donations during the parade. However, the story does not end there. Earlier in the week, Seese leaked to the Lowell Ledger that an unnamed benefactor on the South side had made a considerable donation. The South team's winning score was 22,462 donations, but even the 19,818 donations from the North will go far to feed the hungry in Lowell. The grand total of 42,280 donations is larger than all previous years.

Protesters and Pauly's both exercise freedom of speech

The first amendment got a workout as members of the Bible Believers Church picketed along M21 in front of Pauly's liquor store. The church members were upset by Pauly's sign, which had used wordplay that implied profanity. The church members have been outside of Pauly's since last week holding signs with various Bible verses that mention alcohol. Bible Believers Pastor Joshua Langdon

said the church was originally contacted by a woman who found Pauly's sign offensive. The church has preached in public before, but this was the first time they have come out against liquor stores or a specific issue. Since last week, Pauly's has put up similar signs for other products and Langdon said the church members will likely continue to picket.

JULY 24, 2013

White's Bridge in early stages of rebuilding

Paul Phenix, a disabled veteran, has been trying to form a non-profit organization to handle the money that would be coming in as bridge funds. "I started it the Monday after the bridge burned," Phenix said. "More than 750 people belong to the main group."

Burger King building razed

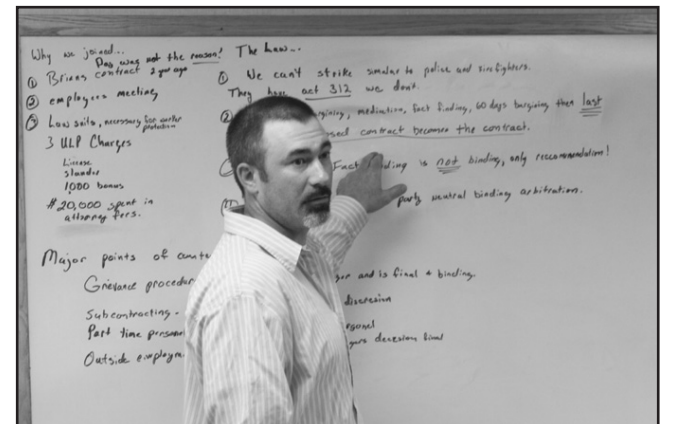
Dollar Tree's plans for construction began early Tuesday morning with the demolition of the Burger King located at 1120 West Main Street. The new building to take its place in the vacant parking lot will be approximately 8,260 square feet. The building will be 30-35 feet at its highest point, with the parking lot soon to be given 62 parking spaces.

JULY 31, 2013

Citizens meet with union workers in public meeting

Over a dozen Lowell residents were present at Englehardt library Monday evening to ask union members about the legal action that has been occurring between the union and city for the past two years. A handful of supporters were there to ask a few questions, with Ralph Brecken, a member of the union, answering them and explaining the mediation process to those

wanting to listen. "Our ultimate goal is to have the residents of this city know the truth," Brecken said after the meeting was adjourned. "We want them to know what this is all about, what the workers are truly asking for." "Our intent is not to slander anybody or manipulate the truth. Now after several meetings with a state provided mediator, the legal issues between both parties will be taken to court on Aug. 7 in Lansing. The union and the city have already gone through mediation and are now set for fact-finding."



Red Tomato hopes business will bloom in Lowell

Business owners and managers in Lowell are excited to have a new restaurant as the Red Tomato continues to grow in West Michigan. The large Admiral gas station on Main Street will now share space with the Red Tomato, a pizza, grinders and Mexican food restaurant. This will be the third Red Tomato opened with the first two located in Portland and Ionia.

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AUGUST 7, 2013

The Kent County fair is officially open for fun

The Kent County Youth Fair (KCYF) is finally here as exhibitors are competing for ribbons and fairgoers come for fun. The fair started off Sunday evening with the official opening ceremony, royal court coronation and dedication of the memorial play structure.

Crowley named new athletic director



Although she'll be a new face at all Lowell athletic events, her face isn't new to Lowell Area Schools. But Dee Crowley is going to be playing a dual role this year and many years to come – both as high school assistant principal and the new Lowell Area Schools' athletic director.

Council discusses BP station expansion, chief Getzen announces fall retirement

Monday night's city council meeting saw two major developments with another checklist item for the BP gas station's expansion project crossed off and an announcement from chief of police Barry Getzen of his plan to retire.

Raceway hosts

Grattan Twilight Cancer Walk

Grattan Raceway was the host of the Grattan Twilight Cancer Walk, a fundraiser for Gilda's Club of Lowell's ongoing effort to fight cancer. With the inclusion of funds from local sponsors, the event raised over \$12,000 for a total of \$55,000 in the last five years. Approximately 230 people showed up to walk.

AUGUST 14, 2013

An outing for area businesses, the 12th annual golf scramble also raises funds for Blough scholarship

Over 100 golfers convened for the 12th annual Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce Golf Scramble. The charity outing was held at Tyler Creek Golf Course to support the Ivan K Blough Scholarship Fund as well as the Lowell chamber. This is the Blough scholarship's third year, which began in 2010 in memory of Ivan K Blough and his contributions to the town of Lowell. The money goes to high school students and local businesses to promote local growth, Baker said.

Sunshine brings out the crowds for the 2013 Kent County Youth Fair

Last week's Kent County Youth Fair (KCYF) roared through Lowell and the fairgrounds much the same way the flood waters had months before. However, last week the weather stayed sunny, dry and comfortable throughout and the fair flourished because of it.

Volunteers remove remains of White's Bridge

White's Bridge was destroyed by fire on July 7. It was ruled an arson by the Ionia County Sheriff's office. An all-volunteer group demolished and removed the last remnants of the historic bridge. Led by the group "Rebuild White's Bridge," they commissioned Eco Demolition out of Holland to conduct the clean-up effort.

LHS Class of 1940 celebrates at LAHM

The Lowell Class of 1940 celebrated its 73rd reunion on August 8, 2013, at the Lowell Area Historical Museum. The class had 77 graduates and 10 are still living. This class had more casualties in WWII than any other class.



City council proclaims

September 6 Pink Arrow Pride Day

Pink Arrow Pride Day, a chili cook-off and a costly building project were among the topics discussed at last night's Lowell city council meeting. September 6 was unanimously proclaimed "Pink Arrow Pride Day" in Lowell. "Hats off to the entire Lowell community, as well as the football team, for initiating this and making our town a very strong supporter of many great causes," mayor Jim Hodges said. "This particularly is one that affects all of us."

AUGUST 28, 2013

Final concert sizzles and museum intros new exhibit

As the sun set on the final Sizzlin' Summer Concert of the 2013 season last Thursday, the Lowell Area Historical Museum introduced the first installment of their Interpretive Board project along the Riverwalk Plaza.

Public forum gives citizens a peek at utility contract negotiations

On Tuesday, August 20, local advocacy group VOICE (Voters Organized in Civic Excellence) of Lowell organized a public forum at Englehardt Library whereby concerns regarding the ongoing utility contract negotiations could be shared and questions regarding the process could be answered. Current VOICE leader Barbara Barber served as the moderator for the forum.

Cement truck exceeds

Fallasburg Bridge weight limit tenfold

Historic Fallasburg Covered Bridge was closed Wednesday morning after a 31-ton cement truck caused damage to its interior structure. The cement truck, owned by High Grade Materials, was on its way to a nearby job site. An inspection Thursday showed the bridge only suffered superficial damage to its interior cross-bracing and it was re-opened to traffic that morning.

Flat River Outreach Ministries (FROM) holds block party

On August 24, with the help of First Baptist Church and the Valley Vista community, Tamela Spicer and FROM renewed their love to get down at the Valley Vista Block Party. For Tamela Spicer of FROM, the block party marks the unofficial kickoff of Neighbor 2 Neighbor, where FROM partners with the Lowell Ledger in order to match those in need in Lowell with those who wish to help.

SEPTEMBER 4, 2013

Time to get in line for the new school year

Almost four thousand students and a fleet of yellow buses hit the road under sunny skies Tuesday morning for the first day of classes at Lowell Area Schools.

From beginning to end the annual Pink Arrow Pride game is a labor of love

Everything is coming together for the sixth annual Pink Arrow Pride game this Friday, Sept. 6. The amount of manpower and hours it takes to pull it all together boggles the mind. "Local businesses underwrite a lot of what we do," Perry Beachum said. "Now companies come to us. They want to be a part of it. Even manufacturing firms. "It's a 12-month job for some of us," Teresa Beachum said. "Since March or April, we probably work eight hours a day on this." The Beachums estimate the number of volunteers involved in making Pink Arrow Pride run smoothly at between 100 and 200 people.

SEPTEMBER 11, 2013

A banner year as the Lowell community shows its support for Pink Arrow Pride

The Pink Arrow Pride football game against Chicago's Hubbard High School was the biggest and most successful in the event's history. Lowell beat Hubbard 49 - 12, but when you're talking about Pink Arrow Pride, there are no winners or losers. Bob Perry stadium was draped in pink. Almost every single person was wearing a bright, neon pink "Arrow Force VI" t-shirt.

Fallasburg Fall Festival for the Arts this weekend

Plans are underway for the 45th annual Fallasburg Fall Festival for the Arts. Presented by LowellArts!, the festival will be held Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 14 and 15, from 10 am to 5 pm at Fallasburg Park four miles north of Lowell.

Hat's Off To A New Year!

—And to all of you who have given us much cause for celebration this year!

Happy New Year. See you next year!

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Local photographer travels to Ethiopia



Lowell Ledger now archived and online

If it happened in or near Lowell, it probably was noted in the Lowell Ledger or its predecessor newspapers. Now more than 100 years of news archives are online. Kent District Library's (KDL's) Friends of the Englehardt Library received a \$6,000 grant from the Lowell Area Community Fund to digitize the Ledger's 88-reel microfilm collection which spans from 1870 to December 2012. The collection is available through KDL's website – www.kdl.org – and through the Lowell Area Historical Museum website – www.lowellmuseum.org

SEPTEMBER 18, 2013

Heated discussions at LL&P meeting

On Thursday, September 12, the Lowell Light & Power (LL&P) board held their monthly meeting upstairs at the light & power office. Doug Vredeveld of Vredeveld Haefner LLC presented the 2013 Light & Power audit. Much to the satisfaction of the board, Vredeveld explained that the utility is making money, increasing net assets each year and paying off debts at good rates. General manager Greg Pierce summarized recent performance data. During the month of July, power spiked up to 15.67 megawatts, which Pierce described as the highest peak in light & power history.

Light & power also experienced a spike in delinquent account payments, which Pierce tied to the higher energy bills resulting from more power usage. VOICE spokesperson Barbara Barber questioned the utility's reasoning for the expensive purchases of two gas generators and a biodigester with public money. Pierce explained that offers had been made on two generators at different times and when both offers were accepted light & power chose to purchase both. He also said that the biodigester was not purchased by the utility, but that they will have the option to buy it later.

SEPTEMBER 25, 2013

Annual festival filled the fairgrounds with bluegrass music

What this year's FallFest, the West Michigan Bluegrass Music Association's (WMBMA's) fall music festival, may have lacked in attendance, it more than made up for in good, old-fashioned music. The audience of about 70 was mostly older people with a few in their 20s and 30s. Band members ranged in age from teenagers to retirees.

Alto Harvest Festival was packed with fun

Small-town charm, perfect fall air and a celebration of the changing season came together on Saturday, September 21 when the 33rd annual Alto Harvest Festival & Car Show took to the streets of downtown Alto for a day packed with activity and entertainment for the whole family.

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OCTOBER 2, 2013

Low-cost early education program prepares youngsters for school in a fun supportive environment

Lowell's early education programming is fully under way for the 2013-2014 school year as Tots on Track for School (TOTS) hits full stride with a flurry of activities scheduled in the month of October.

VOICE members communicate their point of view at public meeting

All is not well in Lowell's government, according to a meeting of local citizens' group VOICE Thursday night at Englehardt library. During a public meeting, VOICE members discussed what they feel to be mistreatment of city workers, threats against residents and "sneaking in" a change to the city charter, all by the current Lowell city council and city manager Mark Howe. The city council unanimously approved adding the ballot proposal at their meeting on Aug. 5. The proposal was introduced by city manager Mark Howe, moved by councilor Sharon Hall and seconded by councilor Jim Hall. "They don't have the right to vote on property sales right now," city manager Mark Howe said, "so I don't know how we could take away something they don't have. They do have the right to vote on property sales for park land, if there's land that's designated as a city park or part of a park plan and that will not change."

OCTOBER 9, 2013

Elementary students

participate in Champs on the Run

Students from Bushnell and Cherry Creek Elementary schools strapped on their running shoes and hit their feet this past Friday to raise funds for their schools by participating in the second annual Champs On the Run event which took place in the green space located behind the middle school and capped off the two schools' Health Week activities.

season's greetings

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2013 2013 2013 2013 2013

Fact finding meeting held between IBEW and the city

What began as a public fact finding meeting turned into a closed-door stalemate Wednesday, Oct. 2. According to people on both sides, almost no progress was made during the seven-hour fact finding meeting at city hall between the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) and the city of Lowell.

City manager explains ballot proposal at Monday's council meeting

The highlight of the Monday, Oct. 7 Lowell City Council meeting was city manager Mark Howe's explanation and defense of a controversial ballot proposal. "There have been some concerns, rightly so, with regard to a proposal on the ballot, which is a charter amendment," Howe said. The ballot proposal in question would change section 13.3(a) of the city charter. That section currently requires voter approval for any land the city would purchase, sell or lease, "with a term exceeding ten years." The new ballot proposal, "would delete the requirement for voter approval of these real estate contracts with terms up to and including ninety-nine years." Howe offered as an example a proposed project downtown. The city purchased a parcel of land behind the Moose building with the intention of building a public parking lot.



Students inspired

by ArtPrize create their own sculpture

Inspired by the nationally recognized ArtPrize competition and the activities of Cherry Creek's Health Week, students got "unplugged" from technology. They went out into nature and collected items for a creation of their own large-scale sculpture which is now on display outside of the school's main entrance.

Arrows beat EGR in fourth overtime

In one of the best high school games that will surely be talked about for years to come, the Red Arrows walked away with the win on Friday, beating East Grand Rapids Pioneers 42-39 in the fourth overtime.

OCTOBER 16, 2013

MERC comes to decision regarding city workers

City manager Howe says he plans to appeal

In a scathing decision Oct. 11, Administrative Law Judge Doyle O'Connor of the Michigan Employment Relations Commission (MERC) portrayed city manager Mark Howe as having broken the law by denying raises and other rights to unionized workers. The 13-page decision drew three conclusions. First, that Howe unlawfully denied a \$1-an-hour pay increase and a \$1,000 bonus to union members "in retaliation for union activity." Second, that Howe unlawfully denied union members their constitutional right to free speech. Third, that Howe "bargained in bad faith" with the union by "engaging in unlawful conduct."

Warm October weather greets Harvest Celebration crowds

Last weekend under unseasonably sunny skies, residents of Lowell were invited to celebrate the fall season at the 2013 Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce Harvest Celebration held at the Kent County Fairgrounds.

Fifth Third Bank robbed/suspect still at large

The Kent County Sheriff Department (KCSO) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) are investigating a bank robbery. The incident occurred at the Fifth Third Bank branch located at 11915 East Fulton on Wednesday, Oct. 9 at 12:55 pm.



Game to honor team's Doc Gerard

Dr. Don Gerard, the team physician for Lowell football, a part of the team since 1963, is being honored for his 50 years of service to the team. Affectionately known as "Doc Gerard," he's had a long career of giving back to not only Lowell, but also to others throughout the world.



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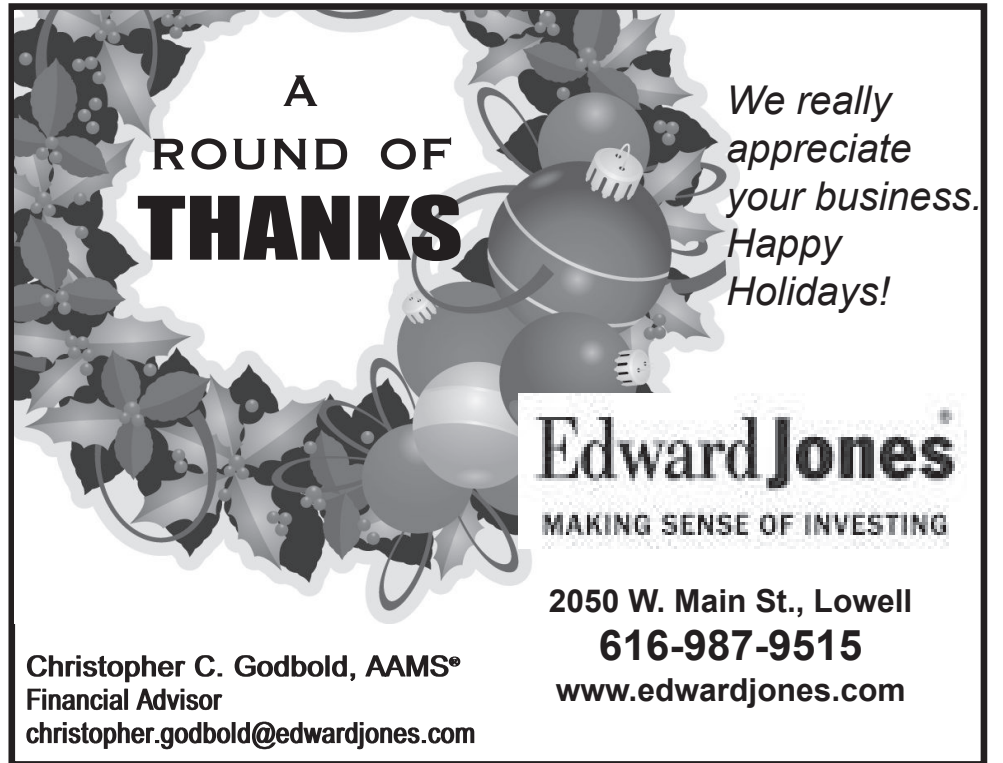
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If you were Santa Claus and could give anybody anything or do anything for anybody... What would you give or what would you do?

If I was Santa, I would give the kids presents. They would get toys to play with on Christmas day. They would get to have new clothes if they want some. They can get games like board games. Also, I would give the best Christmas ever!

-Chase
Alto Elementary

I would cure cancer. I would give all the kids new clothes who don't have any. Also I hope that all the kids who don't have homes are going to get one. I also want to be safe this holiday. I want every group's to come home. I want every one to be healthy. I want every one to be warm. I want every one to be awesome. I would give toys to all of the kids who don't have any. I would make sure the reindeer have a nice relaxing day at the spa dec. 26. I really hope people have nice warm blankets if not I hope people get some. I want all the wars to stop. I want every family safe. I wish that all of the world to be happy. I want every one to be loved. I wish for every one to get along.

-Kristen
Cherry Creek Elementary

If I were Santa and I could give anybody anything I would give them what they want for Christmas. I would also try to give them love, joy, and happiness because everyone deserves a good Christmas. And everyone wants to be around family and just have a good Christmas. Also I would give them what they want because if they were good they would deserve it. And that is what I would do if I were Santa.

-Helena
Murray Lake Elementary

If I were Santa Claus I would give them anything they want. If they had no snow I would give them snow!

-Raven
Alto Elementary

I would give a pet of any kind that I could give as long as that pet is safe. Another thing that I would give is a present that no store in the world has made that would be very special.

-Aaron
Murray Lake Elementary

If I was Santa and could give anybody anything I would give gifts to orphanages around the world. I would do that because some orphanages do not have enough money for presents, I also would hope that the orphan's all find homes one day and I hope they all have a happy life.

-Emma
Alto Elementary

If I was Santa Claus and I could give anyone anything. I'd give my grandma her life back. She died of cancer when she was 68 years old. It happened on 10-12-13. She was very nice to people and she loved me so much. That was the last thing she said to me. I will do anything to get her back. Her name was Connie Ceserz-Gilgallon. I'm not the only one who misses her, she also has 11 grandchildren. She was the best grandma I ever could have.

-Mallory
Cherry Creek Elementary

If I were Santa Claus and I could give anything to anyone I would give food, water, clothes, and medicine to the poor, homeless, and the needy. I also want to help the Philippines, that just went through a typhoon. It might help them. That is what I would do if I were Santa Claus and I could give anything to anyone.

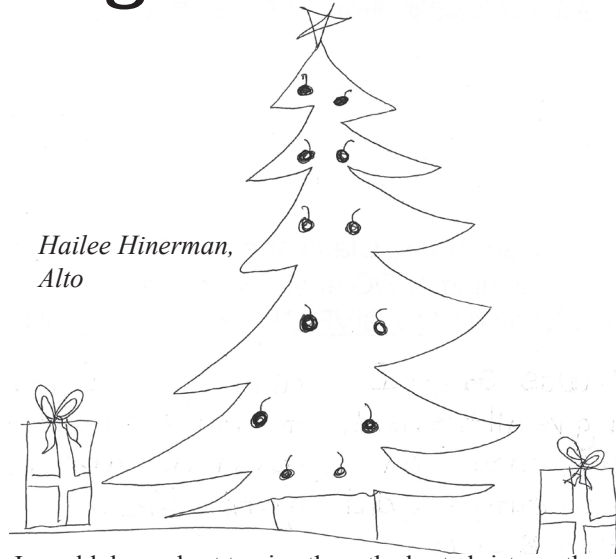
-Madi
Alto Elementary

If I was Santa, I would give Dog, Cat, and other animal food to the Humane Society. I also would give them 500,000\$! They could buy lots of food, medical care and many more! When all the animals are sleeping, I'd give all the animals a treat, dogs get bones, cats get fish, and mice get cheese!!

-Bradey
Cherry Creek Elementary

If I were Santa I would heal the sick and wounded. I would also give warmth and presents to the poor, and I would give cures to the people with diseases like autism and diabetes.

-Corbin
Alto Elementary



I would do my best to give them the best Christmas they could have, because some people don't have money to buy a tree or gifts.

-Kari
Murray Lake Elementary

If I were Santa, I would give anybody things they need and some toys.

-Julia
Alto Elementary

If I was Santa Claus I would give somebody a nice house. I would give it to someone who does not have a nice home. I would have my elf's make at least two bedrooms. I would have my elf's put decorations, living room, kitchen, and a bathroom. I would want them to feel at home. And a nice tree with candy canes and ornaments.

-Samantha
Cherry Creek Elementary

If I was Santa I would give them a dog. I would buy them everything for the dog. The dog would be named Merry. It would be a Yorkie. I would put it in a Christmas box and go down the chimney and put it by the tree. Then I would eat all the cookies and go to the next house.

-Hannah
Cherry Creek Elementary

If I were Santa and I had to give anything to people, it would be shelter. Because if I was homeless and got a house for Christmas, I would be forever grateful!

-Ryan
Alto Elementary

If I was Santa I would have two days of Christmas. But one would be called #2 Christmas. That would be on June 13th so it's a few days after school is out. And everyone would get a big stuffed animal of their choice. They would make a note and mail it to the north pole. (Where I would be living.)

-Isabelle
Murray Lake Elementary

If I were Santa Claus would give the blind the power to see and the deaf the power to hear. I would also give the homeless a place to stay.

-Ashlyn
Alto Elementary

I would first go to the mall and buy everything I see so I could give every child a present for Christmas. When a child would put a cookie on the table I would eat it so when they wake up they are going to say Mommy Daddy Santa ate the cookies I left on the table for them. Also they are going to have the best Christmas ever.

-Joelle
Cherry Creek Elementary

If I was Santa and if I could give or do anything I would give them what they want on their Christmas list and make sure they get it. And when they come to see you, you should really make eye contact so they think you mean it. And when they take the picture make the kid smile.

-Terrick
Alto Elementary

If I was Santa I would give present to the families that can not do much and go help spread the Christmas spirit with carolers. The thing I would do number one thing I would make sure happened is everybody had what they need to have a good holiday and life.

-Kendra
Cherry Creek Elementary

If I were Santa I would make sure the children had a great Christmas by giving the child what they wished for. I would give them clothes, shoes, toys, and ect.

-Caroline
Murray Lake Elementary

If I were Santa Claus I would give all the poor people in the world all the toys that they really want and can not afford by themselves. I would also help them by giving them all the things that they really need like food and clothing.

-Michael
Alto Elementary

I will give them a shelter or money or at least a blanket or clothes. And if I was Santa I would do some nice things or maybe give them something. Also I don't believe in bad people all people are good people.

-Morgan
Cherry Creek Elementary

If I was Santa Claus I would give toys to charity. Because they have no parents to give them presents, so why couldn't Santa Claus do the delivering to them.

-Ruthie
Alto Elementary

If I was Santa I would help the vets and shelters. The one thing that I would give them is food and water, and other materials. I would also give them tanks. The reason why I would do that is that they would like to add more animals to their places.

-Elle
Cherry Creek Elementary

If I were Santa and could give anything to anyone or could do anything, I would make sure that everyone on Earth was happy. I would also make sure that we all had enough to eat and drink. A wonderful Christmas is what I would make sure everybody had.

-Sydney
Alto Elementary

If I were Santa Claus I would make sure that every kid had the best Christmas ever so they won't be sad on Christmas. If I gave gifts, I would try to give them really good gifts so they won't break that easily.

-Kailyn
Murray Lake Elementary

If I were Santa Claus, and could give anyone anything, I would give my mom and dad one more day with their dads and my dad one more day with his mom. I would also give my mom one more day with her grandparents and Fred Meijer. I would give them this because they deserve it. Also because I know them enough to know that they were very close to those people. I would give my mom one more day with her dad because she misses him very much.

-Madison
Cherry Creek Elementary

If I were Santa I would make 1,800 of my elves go to other countries to look at the good and bad kids. I would give the good kids anything if they were bad I would give him coal.

-Rohan
Alto Elementary

I would give them respect. I would be nice. I would give gifts to the people that do not have homes or a family. I would give people the Christmas spirit. I would let all the people in the world see me and then they would know I was real.

-Luke
Cherry Creek Elementary

If I were Santa Claus I would open a reindeer petting zoo for 50¢ the profit would be sent to charity.

-Zach
Alto Elementary

If I were Santa Claus I would give a cute puppy to my older half brother because his mother died of cancer. How would you feel if your mom or dad died.

-Lexi
Murray Lake Elementary

I would give a cancer cure because my dad had cancer.

-Jake
Cherry Creek Elementary

2013 2013 2013 2013 2013

Riverwalk expansion to be completed by November

Over the past few weeks, Lowell citizens strolling past the showboat have noticed that the Riverwalk Extension project is starting to take shape. Originally planned to conclude in October, the project is expected to be substantially completed by mid-November.

OCTOBER 23, 2013 Citizens crowd city hall for contentious city council meeting

A standing-room-only crowd attended a contentious city council meeting Monday, Oct 21, that ended in a mass walk-out when the council refused to respond directly to comments or questions.

Community encouraged to participate in Celebrate My Drive campaign

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

A fun night for GNO in spite of rainy weather

Ladies were invited to bring out their wild side and hit Main Street in historic downtown Lowell for shopping and fun at the fall edition of Girls' Night Out (GNO) sponsored by the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce. More than thirty businesses opened their doors to crowds of shoppers, most keeping extended hours for the special event.

OCTOBER 30, 2013 City council positions, school millage and three proposals on November 5 ballot

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.

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.



Candlelight vigil in memory of Lowell grad

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. 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.

NOVEMBER 6, 2013

New chief announced at city council meeting
Lowell has a new police chief. At the city council

meeting on Monday, Nov. 4, city manager Mark Howe announced his choice of Lowell Police Sgt. Steve Bukala for the job. Bukala will replace Barry Getzen, who is retiring on Nov. 10. Bukala was the second choice after the original finalist could not meet the residency requirement.

New community Christmas tree in place for the holidays

This Christmas season, Lowell is delighted to be the home of a brand new Christmas tree. Liz Baker at the chamber of commerce noted that the previous tree was getting overgrown. The 30-foot-high evergreen was too big for its space and looking pretty shabby. This year the old tree retires after over 15 years of service.



A hearty turnout at the polls

Voters headed to the polls early Tuesday morning to vote on several matters concerning Lowell citizens. Four city councilmember seats and three proposals as well as a school millage were all on the November 5 ballot.

NOVEMBER 13, 2013

Annual Christmas Through Lowell this weekend

This weekend is the 22nd annual Christmas Through Lowell event. Local artists in homes and businesses throughout the area will have their creations on display and for sale Friday, Saturday and Sunday. This year's featured artist is Jay Tee Products, owned by artists John and Theresa Umlauf.



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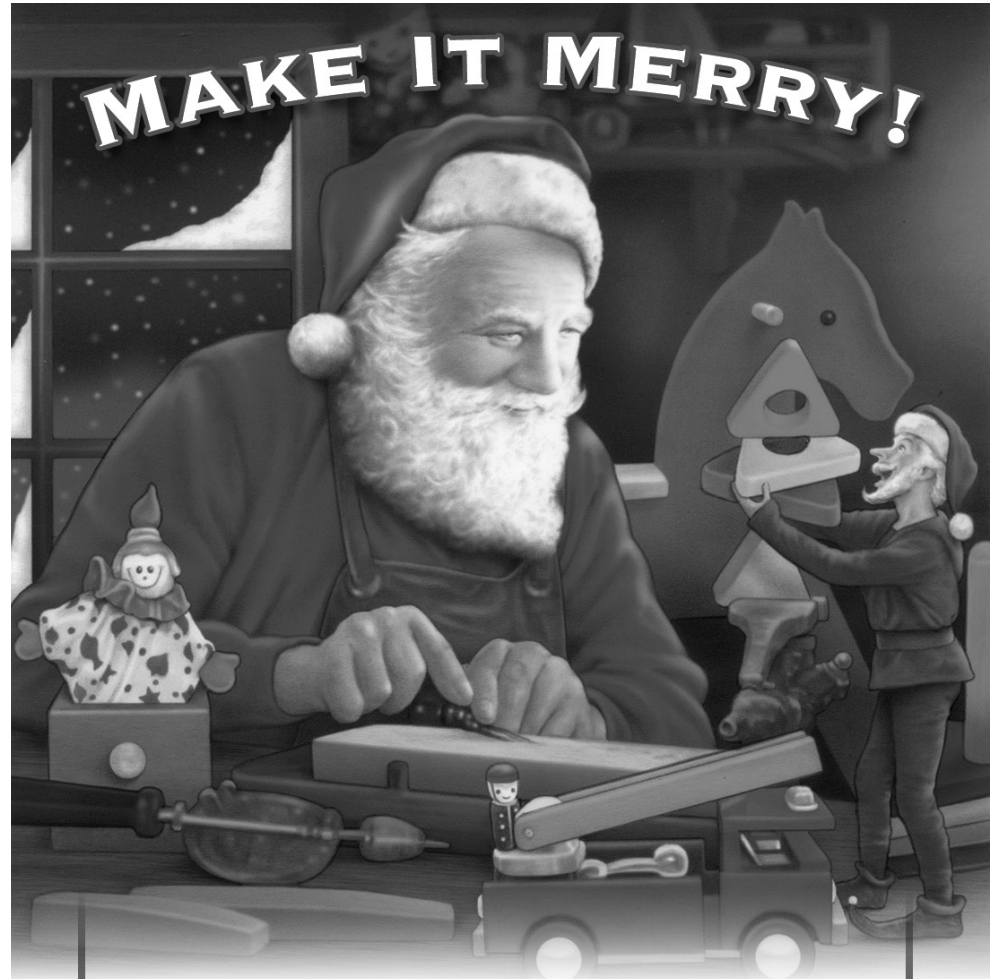
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2013 2013 2013 2013 2013

Opinions vary on last week's election results

All four candidates whose names were printed on the ballot won seats on the city council. Jeff Altoft, the Voters Organized In Civic Excellence (VOICE) candidate, got the highest number of votes out of all candidates. "We are very proud of write-in candidate Matt Mayer for receiving 242 votes and Jeff Altoft for his landslide numbers of 476 votes," said VOICE's Peggy Covert. "We hope this sends a message and will continue to support them both in their involvement within the community." Only one of the three ballot proposals, Proposal 1, passed. This law will delay future newly-elected councilmembers' terms of office until the January after they are elected. The controversial Proposal 3 was soundly defeated, only receiving 31 percent of the vote. The school millage passed with 59 percent of the vote. The money will be used for security upgrades and to improve buildings. "I would like to thank the community for the support of our students as we work to maintain our buildings and increase the level of security at our entrances," said superintendent Greg Pratt.

Senior Neighbors host luncheon to honor area Veterans

Volunteers at the Lowell Senior Neighbors Center (LSNC) held their first veterans luncheon on Monday the eleventh in honor of Veterans Day. Military members past and present were invited to attend the event, which LSNC coordinator Pam Krause says she plans to make an annual affair, to honor the veterans for their service with a community meal and a show of sincere gratitude.



NOVEMBER 20, 2013 New and familiar Lowell City Council members sworn in at Monday's meeting

New councilperson Jeff Altoft, along with returning councilpersons Jim Hodges, Chris Schwab and Jim Hall were sworn in at the start of the meeting. The new mayor will be selected in January.



Lowell students take the stage with The Nutcracker

Four Lowell students will join West Michigan Youth Ballet's 2013 holiday performance of The Nutcracker at the Forest Hills Fine Arts Center on Saturday, December 7.

Lowell High School wins a \$25,000 Celebrate My Drive grant

Lowell has something to celebrate this season thanks to thousands of safe driver commitments made in support of Lowell High School through the Celebrate My Drive® program created by State Farm. One hundred schools are eligible to receive a grant ranging from \$25,000 to 100,000. Lowell High School was in the top 100 and will be awarded a \$25,000 grant from State Farm.

NOVEMBER 27, 2013

Lowell's Christmas Lane prepares for various upcoming holiday events

There will be a lot of holiday events in Lowell throughout December. The annual nighttime Santa Parade will be held on Saturday, Dec. 7. "It takes place on historic Main Street at 6 pm sharp," said Liz Baker of the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce. "Sharp meaning 'no delays.' We start right at 6 o'clock."

Neighbor to Neighbor once again aids those in need of a helping hand

In the weeks prior to winter, Flat River Outreach Ministries (FROM) partnered with the Lowell Ledger in order to match people in need of home repair and upkeep. While there are still people in the field working, FROM board member Roger LaWarre estimated that the Lowell community was able to respond to 2/3 of the requests put in from community members in need, helping a total of 20 different families.

All-Weather Seal to donate windows to needy family

All-Weather Seal will be donating a houseful of windows worth \$15,000 to a needy family this holiday season.

Lowell High School presents LHS Idol tonight

In the spirit of the ever popular, groundbreaking television talent competition, American Idol, Lowell High School will once again be hosting their hometown version. LHS Idol will be held at the Lowell Performing Arts Center on the evening of Wednesday, Dec. 4.

DECEMBER 4, 2013

FROM receives \$35,000 grant from Michigan Public Service Commission

Lowell Light & Power subscribers may have noticed that they have been paying an extra 99 cents to the Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC). Their goal is to make life better for people in Michigan and as of last week the people of Lowell are among the many who will benefit from a Michigan Energy Assistance Program (MEAP) grant from MPSC. FROM qualified for a \$35,000 grant that will allow them to help their clients in ways they've never been able to afford.



Greetings, Friends!

Just a note of thanks for your loyal patronage this past year!



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If you were Santa Claus and could give anybody anything or do anything for anybody...

What would you give or what would you do?

If I were Santa Claus. I would give people what they want. If they were bad, I would give them the opposite of what they want.

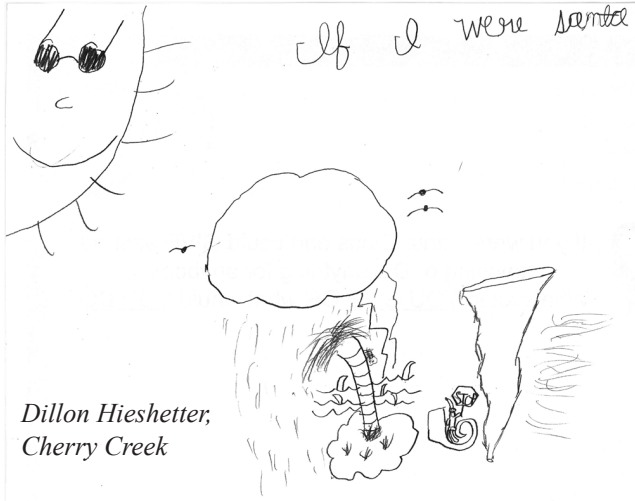
-Keegan
Alto Elementary

Junior \$1,000,000. Myself \$10,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000.

-Blake
Cherry Creek Elementary

If I was Santa I would help out kids who would not get presents at all. I would give children clothes, and food.

-Elise
Alto Elementary



Dillon Hieshetter,
Cherry Creek

If I were Santa Clause I would give the poor people and people living on the streets give them a house, money and food for them. And for all the other kids I would make my elfs make them what ever they wanted.

-Hailey
Cherry Creek Elementary

If I were Santa I would give homeless people homes and hot meals to eat and clean clothes to wear. And if children didn't believe in me I wouldn't bring them gifts that year.

-Will
Alto Elementary

If I was Santa Claus and could give or do something for anyone. I would pick give. What would you pick? I would help my mom, dad, and dog. Because they mean alot to me. I will tell you what I would give! First of all, I would help my dad with working on a roof. I have helped him many times before. Sometimes I get payed, but that is not why I work with him. My dad sometimes works alone and I would get lonely. Also he works all day. I would get so exhausted if I had to. I love my dad! I would help my dog by paying extra attention to her and playing with her more. Also making sure she always has enough food and water. I love all my animals! I would help my mom with things like laundry, dishes, folding, moping, and picking up things around the house. Also when I get older and get a car I would go get stuff from the store. It would help her a lot. So what would you do if you were Santa Claus and could give or do anything for someone you know. I wish I was Santa Claus!

-Abigail
Cherry Creek Elementary

If I were Santa Claus, I would give people things they need and don't have like food, water, and coats/jackets.

-Alexander
Alto Elementary

If I were Santa Claus and could give anything to anyone, I would bring tons of presents to kids who don't get presents, like I do, to make them have a great Christmas!!

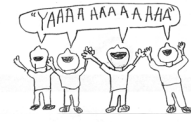
-Kelci
Alto Elementary

If I was Santa Claus I would make sure that everyone had a home and enough to eat. Kids would have parents insted of living in orphaniges. Everyone would be safe in a home. There would never be a hungry person. That is why if I was Santa I would make sure that everyone had a home and something to eat.

-Alana
Cherry Creek Elementary



Luke R. Skinner,
Cherry Creek



If I was Santa I would give my brother a replica of a dalek. I would give my older sister the perfume of her choice. Also I would give my best friend a slenderman action figure. If I was santa and I could do anything for anybody. I would work for any body who needed help working. Whether its for a company or working for money.

-Eric
Alto Elementary

If I was santa, I would give my dad some new shoes. Reason one, is that he loves to meet people plus my dad works five days a week! Reason two, is that if I could, I would give him some brown shoes for him. Reason three, I would give him some hugs and more. So, that is why I would give it to my dad.

-Ethan
Cherry Creek Elementary

If I were Santa Claus and could GIVE anybody or DO anything for anybody I would give to the poor and throw a Christmas party for them. I would throw a Christmas party so everyone could celebrate Christmas with their friends and family.

-Sophia
Alto Elementary

If I was Santa Clause I would litterally give everyone anything they want. Even if they asked for the world's largest computer! Well, if they ask to become the evil overlord of the world I won't give them it. If I was Santa and I wanted to do something for the world I would create cures for every bad thing in the world. Such as cancer. That would be such a huge help!

-Erin
Cherry Creek Elementary

If I was Santa Claus I would help a family that is really sick and help a family get better. I would give them toy's and medicine.

-Miya
Alto Elementary

If I were Santa Claus. I would give gifts to everyone! Exept the naughty people. I would give half of my gifts to Nic and Noah Miller. I would give them a picture of me and them. I would do that because I miss them very much. The reason I can't see them is because both of their parents died from cancer. Their mom died in 2012. Their dad died this past summer. I wish them the best.

-Toby
Cherry Creek Elementary

If I were to do something for somebody. I would do something that would help more than one person. Since their are so many people out there that are fighting for their life and need help. I would help raise money for heart disease. Since there is no cure, I want to raise money cure it.

-Nate
Alto Elementary

If I were Santa Claus, and I could give anybody anything... I would give an orphan a nice loving family. I would give the poor children a really nice present.

-Brett
St. Patrick's

If I could be Santa Claus I would give peace so no one would have to go to war. I would also give the homeless a home and food and make shure every child never got bullied.

-Riley
Alto Elementary

If I were Santa Claus I would give anybody everything they wanted and I would let people see me so they believed in me. Also I wouldn't wait to December to deliver gifts I would give people gifts whenever they wanted.

-Damian
Alto Elementary

If I was Santa Claus and I could give anything to any one, I would give a new car to my mom. I know that my mommy will like lots of things, but a new car would be great. I picked mommy because she is so special to me and because I love her. I would get mommy a new car because the seat belts don't work right and in the spot that I sit it's moldy on the ceiling. I know if I was Santa I would so bring mom a new car.

-Rachel
Cherry Creek Elementary

If I was Santa I will make people feel better who are ill and sick. I will give medince to them and they will feel better.

-Evyn
Alto Elementary

I would give food to people that do not have food to eat.

-Jake
Murray Lake Elementary

If I could GIVE someone anything, I would go to a poor community and donate food and supplies to everybody! (I would also leave a few toys...) If I could DO anything for anyone I would help poor communities build new and improved shelters.

-Emma
Alto Elementary

If I were Santa and could give anyone anything what would it be? Well I would give it to animal shelters. I would give them dog food and other pet toys. I would also donate money so they could adopt out most of the animals to a good home. Also I would give a week. And by that I mean give them a week to taked break. Just relax. So I guess thats what I would do. I hope you help an animal shelter someday!

-Isis
Cherry Creek Elementary

If I were Santa Claus and could give or do anything for anyone I'd raise enough money so people could find a cure for Cancer. Not just that, I would also throw a gift exchange Christmas party. People with Cancer don't always get things like this.

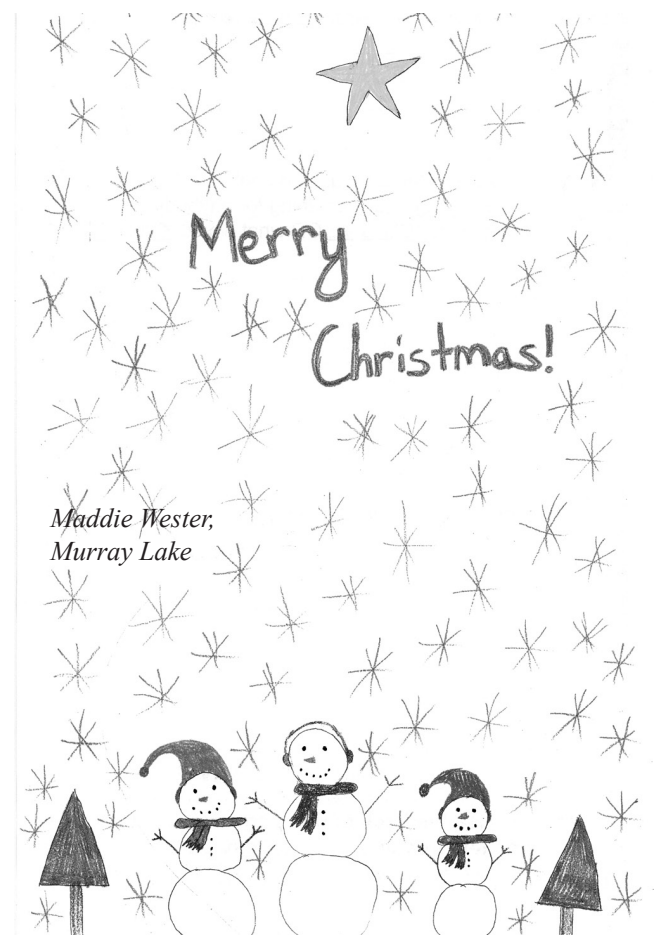
-Hailey
Alto Elementary

If I where Santa I would give my grandma instant healing. The healing would make the effects of the stroke go away. Also it would make her feel young so she would be active. That is why I would heal my grandma.

-Bradley
Cherry Creek Elementary

If I could do anything I would give everybody their most favorite toy they never got.

-Carissa
St. Patrick's



Maddie Wester,
Murray Lake

2013 2013 2013 2013 2013

Judge rules Detroit eligible for bankruptcy

U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Steven Rhodes has ruled that the city of Detroit has met the legal criteria required to receive protection from its creditors. With that the city of Detroit has become the largest municipality in the United States to enter into Chapter 9 bankruptcy. The verbal ruling will be followed by a 140-page written opinion.

Community Thanksgiving table welcomes over 100 guests

More than 150 community members enjoyed a free, hearty meal on their day of thanks at The Lowell Community Thanksgiving Dinner which was held at the First Congregational United Church of Christ.



Michigan retailers applaud U.S. Supreme Court action on Main Street Fairness

The Michigan Retailers Association (MRA) today cheered the U.S. Supreme Court's refusal to hear two major online merchants' challenge to New York state legislation forcing them to collect state sales tax and said the action gives a "green light" to current efforts to enact similar Michigan Main Street Fairness legislation.

Deposit for recycle bins to increase 150 percent

The deposit citizens pay for recycle bins will be increasing from \$10 to \$25 according to a motion passed at the city council meeting Monday, Dec. 2. "We ask for a \$10 deposit on the bins and they're really pretty nice bins and you probably can't go out and buy one for \$10," said city manager Mark Howe. Howe said the city does not expect a decrease in the number of residents who recycle.

Company helps to shed more light on biodigester project

More details are now available about a proposed biodigester that will take over the building at 625 Chatham in Lowell. "These are the two options that are being proposed," said Greg Northrup, 'principal' of Spart, a.k.a. Sustainable Partners, LLC., "A 20-year power purchase agreement. If you want to stick with that and you choose not to purchase [the biodigester] after five years then it's 6.3 cents [per kilowatt hour]. If you do want to buy the facility at the end of five years, then 4.1 [cents per kilowatt hour] is your price over 20 years." There is no fixed time line for the project at this point, only a goal of spending some money on it before the end of the year.

Riverwalk Extension project ribbon cutting celebration set for December 13

It started with a conversation about taking advantage of the Flat River that runs through the middle of town and finding new uses for older properties. On Friday, Dec. 13, at 5:15 pm, a ribbon cutting ceremony will officially open the Riverwalk Extension project. The public is welcome to join the ceremony and then stay downtown to enjoy "A Nite of Christmas Cheer" presented by the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce and funded by the city of Lowell DDA.

DECEMBER 11, 2013

Chilly weather fails to dissuade those in the holiday spirit for annual nighttime parade

Despite the frigidly cold weather, holiday lights twinkled in the eyes of attendees and set Main Street aglow during the annual nighttime Santa parade last Saturday. The parade wrapped up a day-long schedule packed with holiday activities and celebrations throughout Lowell.

Wilks presents check to LHS for Celebrate My Drive campaign

Thanks to hard work and intense dedication from Lowell High School's Youth Advisory Council (YAC) and members of the leadership class, local State Farm agent Deborah Wilks presented the school with a check for \$25,000 on behalf of her company for their top notch finish in the State Farm "Celebrate My Drive" campaign.



City council votes to sell, lease land at special meeting

Approximately 20 citizens attended a "special meeting" of the Lowell city council Monday, Dec. 9. The council held the special session to accomplish two goals. First was a resolution "approving sale of a city-owned strip of property." Second on the agenda was another resolution "approving lease and approving execution of biogas facility option agreement." The resolution passed 4-1 with councilperson Altoft the only "no" vote.



DECEMBER 18, 2013 Completion of Riverwalk Extension project celebrated

Lowell enjoyed another evening of holiday festivities last Friday during A Nite of Christmas Cheer presented by the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce. The events were highlighted by the ribbon cutting ceremony and dedication of the brand new Riverwalk Extension project.

The Riverwalk expansion, which replaced an unused concrete amphitheatre, includes a canoe/kayak launch, a fishing pier, new lighting and seating in the form of benches throughout.



Council intros new library manager

The city council meeting on Monday, Dec. 16 was an uneventful affair that only lasted 19 minutes. About 12 citizens were in attendance.

The main items on the agenda involved the collection of taxes for Grand Rapids Community College and Kent Intermediate School District, as well as park use agreements with three community organizations.

Participants in Lowell Little League, Lowell YMCA and Backyard Dreams will now pay a \$10 fee instead of \$7.50.

City manager Mark Howe then introduced Josh Bernstein, the new manager of the Englehardt branch of the Kent District Library.

Less crime in Lowell

Crime was slightly down in Lowell this year. "Our number of complaints are sitting at 2,437 through November," said Lowell police chief Steve Bukula. "Last year to date, we had 2,709. It's a little bit less."

Fewer people were arrested in Lowell in 2013 than in previous years.

"Our arrests are down too," Bukala said. "We had a total of 353 arrests. Last year we had 383. So we're down about 30 arrests this time last year."

Compositech to add 50 jobs in Vergennes Township

Compositech, a manufacturing company in Vergennes Township, will be adding 50 new jobs to the local workforce.

According to a press release the new jobs will be full-time and range from managerial and technical positions to skilled and entry-level production opportunities.



Happy New Year & Many Thanks!

Before the festivities begin, we'd like to wish all of you, all the best – because you're the best!

Thank you for making it a great year for us!
Hope to see you soon in 2014!!

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2013 2013 2013 2013 2013

Merry Christmas

from everyone at
the lowell
ledger



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