



## april fools

Mother Nature was playing fast and loose with April Fools' Day this year. With the weather, finally, at a balmy 60 degrees on Monday, by Tuesday the temps were already beginning to fall. It looks like at least another week of cold weather ahead - maybe next week we'll finally see the promise of spring. More foolish behavior on ...

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## Behind the Scenes



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# Workers reject latest proposal from city

by Tim McAllister  
contributing reporter

Both sets of unionizing workers, those with light and power as well as the workers from the department of public works, unanimously rejected proposed union contracts on Monday, March 31.

The two groups of workers voted in separate meetings at the Backwater Cafe. Before the voting at both meetings International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) attorney Ted Iorio and business manager Hank Matulewicz explained the offers to the workers and answered their questions.

The first vote was on the contract for the department of public works.

"Basically all they're trying to do is buy you off with some money," Matulewicz said, referring

to a "signing bonus" the contract included for each public works employee in amounts ranging from \$1,000 to \$6,800. There were no signing bonuses

on the proposed light and power contract.

"What they did is they [threw] some money out there on the basis that you guys would buy it, because

you see money up front and will take it and swallow the rest of this contract," Iorio said. "This has never been about money. This has been

about basic fairness and a fair contract."

The controversial phrase "at will" still appears in the proposed public works contract.

"There is no contract in Michigan, probably the nation, where you agree to 'at will,'" Iorio said. "And we understand, because we pressed him on this at our last meeting, that the city manager [Mark Howe] is adamant there will be no contract without 'at will,' which means that you have no rights at all."

"We made a proposal we felt was fair to employees in keeping with the best interests of the citizens of Lowell," said city



Lowell public works employees voting to reject the latest proposed union contract.

IBEW vote,  
continued, page 16

# Garden club prepares to beautify the community this spring

by Kathryn Atwood  
contributing reporter

Avid local gardeners convened on March 17 for the first meeting of the season for the historic Lowell Showboat Garden Club. A program was presented by club secretary and Michigan State University (MSU) master gardener Carol McGregor.

Founded 65 years ago, the club aims to educate and beautify the community with their love and knowledge of gardening.

"We strive to promote a greater awareness and interest in gardening on a scale larger than within our club" said McGregor. She has been an active member of the club since 2002.

The club accomplishes their mission through their educational meetings and a variety of community service projects completed annually in the area.

McGregor, who spoke about the proper care of orchids during her presentation, says that for her, gardening runs in the family.

"I have been gardening all of my adult life which I attribute to my grandmother who had a great love of plants."

During the club's meeting

explained to fellow group members the simple formula for growing an outstanding orchid saying, "The right light, temperature and humidity are the keys to growing beautiful orchids year after year. I keep mine in an east window above my kitchen sink which provides the humidity. They get sprayed with water on their roots every second day and thoroughly watered once a week."

She added that she fertilizes every second week and keeps a room temperature between 60 to 80 degrees for the best blooms.

McGregor's orchid expertise was apparent during the recent Home and Garden show in Grand Rapids where she entered two of her prized plants in the Michigan Garden Clubs, District IV Standard Flower show and earned both a second-place ribbon and an honorable mention in the competition. She and fellow club member Gwen Hughes also nabbed first-place blue ribbon finishes in a design-related class where club president Rex Byrne also earned an honorable mention.

Planning for the club's upcoming season of

plantings and maintenance of its annual projects in Lowell also took place at the meeting. The group will once again be providing the hanging flower baskets

for the Lowell Showboat, a service the group began providing more than a decade ago with the help of Ivan Blough. They will also focus on the vegetable

and perennial gardens at the Gilda's Club/Senior Center location, a project

Garden club,  
continued, page 8

# River Valley supports 2014 Food Fight



River Valley Credit Union (CU) helped Flat River Outreach Ministries (FROM) kick-off the annual spring training for Food Fight with their annual sponsorship gift to support the South Lowell Team.

"We're really excited to be part of Food Fight and to support FROM," said Cutter Phillips, vice-president of marketing for River Valley

CU. Each year credit union members and staff raise funds through the Holiday Skip-a-Payment program and the funds raised are used to help kick-off Food Fight.

"We appreciate the faithfulness of businesses like River Valley," said Tamela Spicer, executive director at FROM.

Now in its sixth year, Food Fight raises funds and food used by FROM to serve the people of the greater Lowell community. The six-week event officially begins on June 1 and runs through the Riverwalk Parade on July 12. The South side of Lowell leads the series, three wins to two.





# along main street

## MMPA recognizes 2014 Farm Bill champion Senator Stabenow

The Michigan Milk Producers Association (MMPA) recognized Sen. Debbie Stabenow with their "Champion of Dairy" award for her unwavering support and persistence in passing the 2014 Farm Bill at the 98th MMPA State Annual Delegate Meeting held in Lansing on Thursday, March 20.

"We have worked with Senator Debbie Stabenow for many years on agricultural issues from her days in the Michigan House up to her present role as member of the U.S. Senate. She has proven to be a consistent supporter of Michigan agriculture, and in our case dairy policy," MMPA President Ken Nobis said. "I am convinced we would not have the farm bill we do today if it were not for the hard work and commitment of one senator - Senator Debbie Stabenow."

Sen. Stabenow helped bring attention to Michigan's diverse agricultural economy long before her tenure as chair of the Senate Agriculture Committee. She's advocated for agriculture throughout her career in public service, dating back to her time in the Michigan State Legislature

in the 1980s. This lasting commitment has built enduring relationships with state and national agriculture leaders as she continues to strive for policy that's best for farmers.

Stabenow's leadership on the Agriculture Committee has led to a historic new focus on agricultural research, Michigan's specialty crops, the development of renewable fuels and critical land, habitat and water conservation efforts. Her continuous support for the state's dairy industry has not gone unnoticed as the crowd greeted Stabenow's remarks with a standing ovation.

"It was great working with the Michigan Milk Producers to write a dairy policy that gives Michigan farmers the tools they need to provide consumers with an abundant supply of milk products at the grocery store. I look forward to our continued partnership to support one of our state's top commodities," U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow said.

MMPA is a member-owned and controlled milk marketing cooperative serving nearly 2,000 dairy farmers in Michigan, Indiana, Wisconsin and Ohio.

### COFFEE WITH COUNCIL

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

### GILDA'S CLUBHOUSE ACTIVITIES

**Lowell Teen/Tween Retreat** - Tues., April 8, 12:30-8 pm. Looking for something fun to do this Spring Break? Join your friends in Lowell for the teen/tween retreat! It's going to be epic. **Board Games & Fun** - Tues., April 8, 1-3 pm. This will be an open time for members to come in and play board games together. We hope you join us! **Woodcarving** - Tues., April 15, 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., April 15, 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 Memorial Celebration** - Tues., April 15, 6-7:30 pm. Members and their families are invited to a special time of celebration in memory of those who have died. The evening will begin at 5:30 pm with supper. We welcome families to bring a favorite food that your loved

one enjoyed and pictures or items that remind you of your special person. The evening will include readings and an activity, concluding with a special candle lighting to remember and celebrate those who have died. Noogieland will be available- regular support groups will not be meeting. **Medicine Cabinet Workshop** - Tues., April 22, 3:30-5 pm. Join Linda Carrington for this follow-up class to her Green Smoothie workshop. In this workshop, Linda will demonstrate the ways that essential oils may support digestion, help alleviate coughs, colds and ear infections, mood and allergies, assist in first aid and pain relief, help relieve stress and anxiety and aid with a wide variety of health concerns and more. Space is limited, please register in advance. Lowell Clubhouse, 314 S. Hudson St. For more information call 897-8600 or visit [www.gildasclubgr.org/pinkarrow](http://www.gildasclubgr.org/pinkarrow)

### LIVESTRONG AT THE YMCA

LIVESTRONG at the YMCA cancer survivor exercise call held Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11:30 to 12:45. New session starts April 15. Call Lowell YMCA for details, 897-8445.

*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.*

### LPD execute drug search warrant

The City of Lowell police executed a search warrant in the 700 block of East Main Street at approximately 11 am Monday, March 31 Lowell police seized 20 mature marijuana plants, along with an irrigation system and lighting system.

The three adults, 31 year-old male and two females, ages 30 and 25, all from Ohio; were cooperative with the investigators as the search was conducted. The male was a Michigan Medical Marijuana card holder, however, he was not in compliance with the Michigan Medical Marijuana statute.

The case will be reviewed by the Kent County prosecutor's office later this week for charges.

### CORRECTION

In last week's Ledger (March 19, 2014), the article headlined "The Lowell Cable Television money will not be used for street repairs" Jim Salzwedel was incorrectly identified as someone who spoke in favor of using the money to repair streets.

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# Local privately-owned zoo prepares to open for the season

by Kathryn Atwood  
contributing reporter

A host of exotic and rare animals are gearing up, along with owners, Dave and Dawn Hoekstra, for the Boulder Ridge Wild Animal Park's fourth season, scheduled to kick-off on May 1.

Located at 8313 Pratt Lake in Alto, the small, privately-owned zoo opened its doors to the public in 2011 and has experienced consistent attendance growth by welcoming guests from across the street, as well as across the state. "We decided to open the park so people could see and learn about some of the unique exotic animals that we had been raising here in Michigan," said Dawn Hoekstra, who learned her love of animals from her husband Dave. She says that owning a zoo entails a lot of daily work, no matter the season, but that it is also a lot of fun. "The best part of the job is seeing the excitement children and adults have seeing and even touching some of the unique exotic animals," said Dawn Hoekstra.

The well-kept and aesthetically pleasing zoo features a reptile house with everything from alligators to anacondas and a walk-through bird aviary

where guests can feed parakeets. Other animals include African tortoises, peacocks and ring-tailed lemurs, just to name a few. A safari ride, included with the price of admission, tours the property and introduces guests to some of the larger, more exotic animals, spanning from horned beasts like bison and Watusi to zoo staples, such as zebras. According to Hoekstra their diverse roster of animals is not the only thing that makes Boulder Ridge a unique experience. "One thing we feel makes us different from other zoos is the ability to see these animals up-close and also the ability to be able to pet and touch some of them, like baby zebras and antelopes," offered Hoekstra.

This season the park welcomes a pair of Canadian Lynx, as well as a pair of Grey Fox to their eclectic animal lineup. The Canadian Lynx, which roam the northern United States as well, are the only member of the cat family currently residing at the zoo. They are characterized by their unique facial hair and are more than twice the size of a domestic cat. There may be even more animal debuts in the not too distant future. "We are working

on a few other new things that may come out during the summer," according to Hoekstra.

Hoekstra says that her favorite animals at the zoo are their giraffes, Isabelle and Tucker. "This is one of those animals that we always wanted to own and that dream became a reality last year," she said of acquiring the tall and friendly mammals. Her husband Dave says the rare and elusive black wildebeest rises to the top for him.

The facility employs 15-20 part- and full-time employees during its open season, including the couple's two children. "Both of our children work at the zoo, so it is a family adventure," said Hoekstra. The duo recently welcomed their first grandchild to the family and say they look forward to her growing up around the zoo, feeding giraffes and petting babychicks, just like all of the visitors of this welcoming hands-on zoo are encouraged to do.

The facility is 100 percent handicap accessible, including the safari ride, picnic facilities and welcomes groups. Hours and admission rates are available on the zoo website, [www.boulderridgewap.com](http://www.boulderridgewap.com)



The park has welcomed a pair of Canadian Lynx this year.

## LEGAL NOTICE

<p><b>STATE OF MICHIGAN PROBATE COURT COUNTY OF KENT</b></p> <p><b>NOTICE TO CREDITORS Decedent's Estate</b></p> <p><b>FILE NO. 14-195282-DE</b></p> <p>Estate of <b>THERESA MARIE FRANCE a/ka/a Mrie France f/k/a T. Marie France</b>. Date of birth: 05/04/1926.</p> <p><b>TO ALL CREDITORS: NOTICE</b></p>	<p><b>CREDITORS:</b> The decedent, <b>Theresa Marie France</b>, died 03/12/2014.</p> <p>Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to <b>Philip M. France and Paul G. France</b>, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 180 Ottawa Avenue NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503 and the personal</p>	<p>representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.</p> <p><b>March 26, 2014</b></p> <p><b>John D. Flynn (P27413)</b> 1275 Hawthorne Hills SE Ada, MI 49301 616-897-6632</p> <p><b>Philip M. France and Paul G. France</b> 6850 Pine Edge Dr. SE Alto, MI 49302 616-446-9621</p>
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## financial focus



Christopher C. Godbold

### "Millennials" must plan for short- and long-term goals

If you're one of the "millennials" — the generation that began in the early 1980s — you are still in the early stages of your career. Retirement must seem like a *long* way off — yet, it's never too soon to start planning for it. At the same time, though, you may also have shorter-term goals. Can you make progress toward your near-term and long-term objectives at the same time?

Yes, you can — but you'll need to match your short- and long-term goals with the appropriate savings and investment vehicles.

For example, one of your most important short-term goals may be purchasing a house, so you'll need to accumulate a certain amount of money by a certain time — perhaps in three to five years. Therefore, you won't want to risk your down payment on an investment whose price will fluctuate — and whose value may be down just when you need the money. Consequently, you may

want to look for a shorter-term investment whose objective is preservation of principal. Typically, with these types of vehicles, the shorter the term, the lower the interest rate — but since your goal is basically to have a certain amount of money available at a certain time, you might be less interested in what return you'll get on this particular investment, as opposed to the return you might hope for from other, longer-term vehicles.

In fact, while you are saving for your down payment on your home, or for other short-term goals, you also need to be thinking long term — that is, you need to save as much as you can for your eventual retirement.

Since you are still in the early stages of your working life, you have an enormous asset going for you: *time*. By starting to save for retirement now, you have more time to save than you would if you waited another decade or so. Plus, since you have so

many years to go until you retire, you can afford to put a reasonable percentage of your investment dollars into growth-oriented instruments, such as stocks or stock-based investments. They may carry more risk, including the risk of losing principal, but they also offer greater reward potential than, say, fixed-income vehicles such as bonds. And holding growth investments for the long term can help you look beyond short-term volatility.

You can start a long-term investment program by investing in your 401(k) or other retirement plan offered by your employer. These plans usually offer a variety of investment options, including several growth-oriented accounts. Plus, any earnings are typically tax-deferred, which means your money could grow faster than if it were placed in an investment on which you paid taxes every year. So try to take full advantage of your employer's plan — at a minimum, contribute enough to earn a match, if one is offered. Then, every time your salary goes up, boost your contributions.

With discipline and perseverance, you can move toward both your distant and imminent goals. And that's the long and the short of it.

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# viewpoint

## to the editor

### proudly serving the city

Dear Editor,

Recently at a city council meeting, our city manager read the "State of the City" address.

We, the employees that work with Mark on a regular basis couldn't be more proud of his accomplishments. Since taking office in July of 2011, Mark has saved more than a million dollars

by refinancing our debt; he has invested in public infrastructure by improving our streets and parks; and he has secured property for future downtown parking; and has lowered the millage rate for the first time in thirty years.

We have found Mark to be personable, family-

oriented, cooperative, extremely honest and genuinely sincere. His leadership has brought many wonderful new ideas to our city and he has implemented them effectively.

We believe that he is undeserving of the way in which he has been portrayed. We want the citizens of Lowell to know that he genuinely has their best interest and our community at heart and we are lucky to have him.

If you have not yet heard the "State of the City" address, please visit our website at <http://www.ci.lowell.mi.us>

We proudly serve the city of Lowell.

Suzanne Olin  
Dan DesJarden  
Lori Gerard  
Betty R. Morlock  
Theresa Mundt  
Sue Ullery  
Luanne Wisniewski

### government by the people

To The Editor,

At the city council meeting on March 17, 2014, during discussion about the LCTV Endowment Fund grant applications, a citizen mentioned that the money from the sale of the facility belonged to the subscribers.

Then Greg Canfield, chairman of the Lowell Light and Power board, compared that to someone shopping at Meijer and claiming ownership of the grocery store.

Really Greg? Maybe you should go back to school and take a class in government. It seems the leadership in Lowell has forgotten what they learned about our government when they were young.

Have you heard about Lincoln's Gettysburg Address? It says, "...government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth."

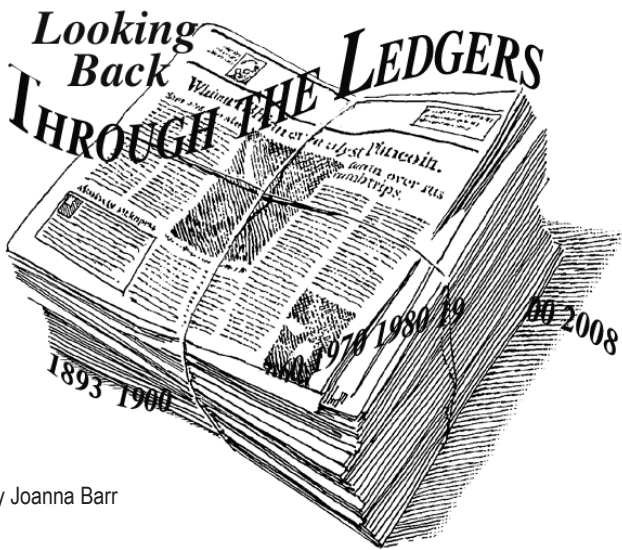
For many years, in the office of Lowell Light and Power, a sign has hung that says, "Owned by the

People of Lowell." One of the founders of Lowell Cable Television told me the same applied to that utility. So what gives the current government and board the right to rewrite history?

The people who subscribed to Lowell Cable Television, supported it for the years that it existed and then defended the way the proceeds from the sale of it should be used, do indeed own every dime of that money. The city council is the caretaker...period.

Just as the city council is supposed to represent the citizens, they have a fiduciary responsibility to make sure the annual available funds from the LCTV Endowment Fund are used for the purposes that were established in 2009. If we weren't spending our tax dollars fighting our city workers, we wouldn't need to highjack LCTV funds to repair our streets.

Sincerely,  
Barb Barber



By Joanna Barr

### 125 years ago Lowell Journal April 3, 1889

No storm in March until the night of the 28th when two inches fell.

We had the typical "town meeting day," the snow and slush arriving just in time. It was voted at town meeting to have an itemized account of last year's receipts and expenditures of the town published in the Journal. It will likely appear next week.

Samuel Thompson was arrested Monday for making an April fool of himself by assaulting and battering his wife. Ann E. Thompson. The lady brought a very black eye into Justice Perry's court yesterday as proof and the pugilistic husband was assessed \$10 and costs and told to behave himself in the future.

Last Wednesday, between 10 and 11 o'clock, the Taft Mill caught fire from a spark from the small pumping engine, it is supposed, and was soon in flames. The terrific wind fanned the flames into such fury that it was but a very short time before the entire mill and the buildings adjoining used for steaming bent work were all burned to the ground, together with the stock and machinery in them. There was a considerable amount of heading and ox bows in the buildings. By almost superhuman exertions the fire was kept from consuming the numerous sheds standing east and the cooper shop. The Michigan Cutter Works were also in great danger and the fire caught in and around them several times and also on the roof of the furniture factory. The loss is nearly \$3,000 and is a heavy blow to the Messrs. Taft. There was no insurance. Most of the lumber and logs in the yard were saved.

### 100 years ago The Lowell Ledger April 2, 1914

Joseph M. Hutchinson of Plainwell has purchased the Lowell Journal of Roy E. Jackson and expects to

move his family here in the near future. Mr. Jackson will remain in charge of the mechanical department of the office.

Headline: Another fine draft stallion for Lowell - F. P. Hakes has purchased another splendid imported Percheron stallion from the famous Burgess Stock farm of Winona, Ill. This horse is as perfect a horse as the best judges could wish to see. He is a beautiful black, seventeen hands high, three years old and weighs 2040. He is a high-styled horse of the finest quality and action and the cleanest bone that is possible to find. In the great show ring of Chicago at the famous International Live Stock Exposition last December, this horse in the two-year-old class beat 143 of the best Percheron stallions in America. His breeding is unsurpassed being a double cross of the great sire Brilliant 1271. In bringing into Kent county such fine draft stallions, Mr. Hakes is doing a great deal to improve the stock interests of the community and every farmer owning good mares in the vicinity of Lowell has now the opportunity to breed and raise good horses that will attract the buyer and sell for big money. It is a recognized fact that it is the last hundred pounds on a horse that brings the high price. The splendid stallion Garage which Mr. Hakes purchased last season from the same farm and with which Mr. Hakes had such wonderful success will continue during the season of 1914 on the same route as he did during the season of 1913...The two stallions will be on exhibition at Hakes' barn every day until the beginning of the season. —adv.

Lee E. Jones has bought the interests of Harry Fashbaugh in the firm of Fashbaugh & Jones and will continue the business, with Will Dawson as assistant. Mr. Fashbaugh has rented the Jones' farm in Keene for three years and has moved to the place.

The following Lowell Woodmen were in Grand Rapids yesterday attending the County Camp: Messrs. H. J. Jones, G.E. Martin, Peter Fineis, H. E. Haysmer, Allen Morse, Roy Layman, and Orrin Sterkins. H. J. Coons was elected delegate to the State Camp, also to be held in Grand Rapids.

Strawberries. The first of the season. We will have them: Saturday. Nice ripe pineapples, each 15 cents; sweet juicy oranges, per doz, 15 cents, oranges are higher, this is last lot at this low price; A good rice per lb., 15 cents; 1 qt. can olives, 25 cents; 3 bottles nice catsup, for 25 cents; shelled pop corn, 2 years old, 5 lbs. for 24 cents; some odd brand smoking tobacco, 2 for 5 cents; 1 lb. pkg. evaporated apples, 15 cents; 2 lb. fancy dried peaches, 25 cents; Van Camp's soups, per can 10 cents, 2 for 15 cents; Ryder calf meal, per sack 25 cents and 50 cents; and oyster shells, per sack 75 cents. We carry Fanchom flour - Glen E. DeNise, The Grocer, McCarty's Old Stand.

Looking Back,  
continued, page 7

## power lines

Greg Pierce

The forecast today is Sunny and 60+ degrees. I know many of us have been wondering if we would see a day like this before summer. It just shows us that the burden of a particularly hard winter does indeed pass and we can rest in the hope that the snow and ice will ultimately melt away for another year.

Many of our customers have experienced higher than normal heating bills and electric bills over this past winter and are looking forward to some financial relief as we return to milder temperatures. It was difficult to plan for the "deep freeze" we experienced this winter and there were several instances where the energy available to consumers barely met the demand. Fortunately at Lowell Light and Power, we had sufficient supply and our customers were not significantly impacted.

Several years ago we initiated the process of strategic planning at Lowell Light and Power

and I believe that process has helped us develop a proactive, long-range plan to mitigate or hedge against the potential impacts of severe conditions. This month the board began its annual review of our strategic plan, functionally confirmed our direction and reviewed possibilities for enhancing our ability to serve the needs of our customers in the future. I thought this might be an opportune time to remind our customers of the Vision and Mission established for Lowell Light and Power.

Vision: *Lowell Light and Power will be a premier utility for its size in the country.*

Mission: *Lowell Light and Power is a local municipal utility whose mission is to provide safe, reliable, cost-effective electricity and energy services in a culture of efficiency, compliance and sustainability.*

Power Lines,  
continued, page 16



# engagements area births

## Altoft/Stuart



**James Daniel Stuart and Megan Ann Altoft**

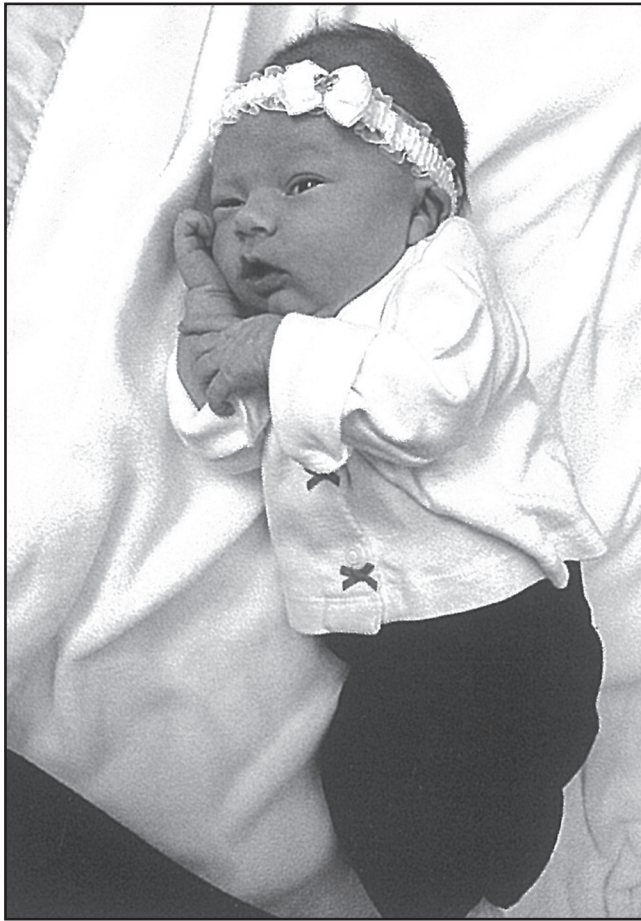
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Altoft of Lake Odessa would like to announce the engagement of their daughter, Megan Ann to James Daniel Stuart, son of Dan and Sandra Stuart of Lowell.

The bride-to-be is a 2005 graduate of Lakewood High School and a 2006 graduate of Michigan State University AgTech program for equine management. She is now working for Stuart Dairy Farm in Lowell.

The future groom is a 2002 graduate of Saranac High School and a 2012 graduate of Michigan State University Ag Tech program for dairy management. He has also served as sergeant in the United States Marine Corps. He now works with his family at Stuart Dairy Farm.

An April 2014 wedding is being planned.

## Schneider

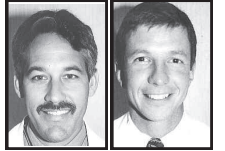


**Lilly Grace Schneider**

Brittany Essich of Lowell and Nick Schneider of Hopkins are happy to announce the arrival of their daughter, Lilly Grace Schneider, born at Metro Hospital on March 11, 2014 at 4:12 am. She weighed 6 lbs. 12 oz. and measured 19 inches. Lilly was welcomed home by big sister Violet. Proud grandparents are

Mark and Bonnie Essich of Lowell, Brian and Tammy Baker and Scott Schneider and Tammy Marshall, all of Hopkins. Great-grandparents are Ron and Joyce Essich and the late Harold Carigon of Lowell, Shirley Carigon and Don Grummet of Saranac, and Joyce Mead of Hopkins.

## health



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

### Pelvis inflammatory disease

Pelvis inflammatory disease (PID) is a common infection that women get in their pelvic organs. It usually starts in the vagina and cervix and spreads into the uterus (womb), fallopian tubes, or ovaries. Most women with PID are 15-29 years of age.

PID is usually caused by bacteria such as chlamydia or gonorrhea. Most women get PID by having sex with a man who is infected, although he may not know that he is infected. Having multiple sex partners can increase your risk of getting PID.

Symptoms can range from mild to severe.

They may include lower abdominal or pelvic pain, pain during sex, fever, low back pain, or abdominal vaginal discharge. You should see your doctor if you have any of these symptoms.

If your doctor examines you and confirms PID, the treatment is antibiotics. Most people do not need to be in the hospital unless they are pregnant or very sick.

Prevention of PID is key. Always take precautions (condoms) when having sex. Not having sex or making sure you and your partner only have sex with each other also can help prevent PID.



## happy birthday!

- APRIL 2**  
Kyle Geldersma, Ron Metternick, Alec Newhouse, Blake Rittersdorf, Nicole Wilcox, Alex Hazard.
- APRIL 3**  
Hayleigh Borton, Jamie Barnes, Darwin Lambert.
- APRIL 4**  
Troy Pethers, Nick Corbeil, Janet Kelley.
- APRIL 5**  
Doug Klahn.
- APRIL 6**  
Brad Yonker, Connie Vaughn, Pearl Peckham, Malley Cahoon, Carol Hovinga, Fran Clouser, Cheryl Foster, Taylor Milstead, Jonathon Hoag.
- APRIL 7**  
Corey Vollink, Rick Sauber, Lindsey Thaler, Mary Kimble, Kenneth Dalga, John Henderson, Brad Shoen.
- APRIL 8**  
Jay Vezino, Sandy Converse.

# area churches

**SNOW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
3189 Snow Ave. SE, Lowell  
Pastor Tony Shumaker  
9:45 A.M. .... Sunday School  
10:30 A.M. .... Fellowship  
11:00 A.M. .... Worship  
**897-9863**  
Nursery & Children  
Worship Programs Provided  
**A friend...a family...a mission!**



**CHRISTIAN LIFE CENTER (Assembly of God)**  
3050 Alden Nash S.E. • 897-1100 • Staffed Nursery  
Robert Holmes, Pastor  
**SUNDAYS:**  
Worship: 10 a.m.  
**WEDNESDAYS:**  
Family Night (for all ages): 7:00 p.m.  
"The Source" Youth: 7:00 p.m.  
**Loving God ... Loving People!**

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF LOWELL**  
2275 West Main Street • 897-7168  
Internet: <http://www.fbclowell.org>  
Rev. Jon Pickens  
Pastor Phil Severn  
Sun. Worship Service.....9:30 A.M. & 6:00 P.M.  
Sunday School Hour/ABFs.....11:00 A.M.  
AWANA 6-8/Youth Ministry.....Wed. 6:15 P.M.  
Contact Church Office For Prayer Meeting Times  
Nursery Provided • Barrier Free

**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF LOWELL**  
621 E. Main Street  
897-5936  
[www.lowellumc.com](http://www.lowellumc.com)  
Barrier-free entrance  
WORSHIP.....8:30 & 10:30 a.m.  
SUNDAY SCHOOL.....9:30 a.m.  
YOUTH GROUPS (JR. & SR. HIGH).....6:00 p.m.  
Wednesday After-School Kids' Club until 5:30 p.m.  
Rev. Rick Blunt

**ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
402 Amity St. • 897-9820  
[www.stmary-lowell.com](http://www.stmary-lowell.com)  
Weekend Masses: SAT. 5 PM; SUN. 10:30 AM  
Saturday confessions: 3-4:30 PM  
Prayer & adoration each Wed. 8:00 AM - 8 PM  
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION, CHILDREN TO ADULTS - CALL PETE WIGGINS 897-7915  
SEE LOWELL CABLE CH. 393, EWTN FOR 24 HR. CATHOLIC BROADCASTING

**GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
10305 Bluewater Highway (Missouri Synod)  
Halfway between Lowell & Saranac on M-21  
[www.goodshepherdlowell.org](http://www.goodshepherdlowell.org)  
Worship Service.....Sunday -10:30 A.M.  
(Nursery available)  
Sunday School.....9:15 A.M.  
Joseph Fremer, Pastor **897-8307**  
All facilities are wheelchair accessible

**CALVARY CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH OF LOWELL**  
897-7060  
Pastor Rod Galindo  
1151 West Main Street, Lowell, MI  
Morning Worship.....10:00 A. M.  
Sunday School.....11:20 A.M.  
Evening Worship.....6:00 P.M.  
Nursery available at both services  
Barrier-Free



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**For life insurance, call a good neighbor.**

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Lowell, MI 49331  
Bus: 616-897-9237  
[dwilks@deborahwilks.com](mailto:dwilks@deborahwilks.com)  
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State Farm Life Insurance Company (Not licensed in MA, NY or WI),  
State Farm Life and Accident Assurance Company (Licensed in NY and WI),  
P092014.1  
Bloomington, IL



# Looking Back, continued

## 75 years ago The Lowell Ledger April 6, 1939

W. A. Large, D. C. and Mrs. Large have moved from Grand Rapids to Lowell and are occupying the F. M. Johnson residence. The reception room and office for those desiring the services of the chiropractor are located in the front of the residence, separate from the living rooms.

Application has been filed with WPA authorities for the construction of an additional cattle barn on the Kent County 4-H fair grounds here. It is expected that the project will be approved and the new building completed for this year's fair in August. County agent K. K. Vining was here Saturday securing the necessary signatures to the application.

The Arkansas Publisher has broken down the contents of an average weekly newspaper for a year to show how many column inches are devoted to various interests. The breakdown shows that 11,660 inches out of 58,240 total inches are devoted to community service. Out of this, 3,600 inches are school news, 2,660 inches are devoted to church news, 980 to Chamber of Commerce, etc.

The striped pole has been used by barbers for generations to advertise their location - so long in fact that the barber pole has become a part of Main streets everywhere. Now a bill has been introduced in the Michigan legislature which if passes will make their use illegal. Every line of business and profession is being regulated so much these days that it makes one wonder if they're trying to Hitler-ize Main street.

The great national pastime for the 1939 season will be started about the middle of this month by the big leagues, an event always of national importance but there is one man on our Main street who will doubtless have more interest in the great American game than other ardent local fans and he is Jay Zimmerman, registered pharmacist at Christiansen's, as the president of the National League, Ford Frick, is his full blood uncle.

What came very near being a fatal accident occurred last Friday afternoon when the car driven by Mrs. Gerald Fineis of Lowell and the car driven by J. R. Field of Grand Rapids collided at the intersection of Hudson and Elm streets. Mr. Field sustained bad injuries about the head and face, Mrs. Fineis and her little daughter, Sally, being unhurt. Mr. Field's car was a total wreck. Mrs. Fineis' car was brought to a stop at the front porch of the George Arehart residence, missing a parked car, shade trees and water hydrant by a hair.

## 50 years ago The Lowell Ledger April 2, 1964

Firemen were called to Bernie's Barber shop shortly after noon on Monday when Bruce Walter, owner of the building, discovered the floor near the stoker smoldering. The fire had already been extinguished by the owner, but firemen checked the building for further danger. The patrons at Betty Ruth's Beauty Shop, located next to Bernie's, were a little confused when the fire whistle started blowing, smoke came seeping into the room and the radio began playing "Smoke Gets In Your Eyes."

Showboat interlocutor Forrest L. Buck who resides in Saranac, was hit from behind by a car driving 65 miles per hour on the I-96 freeway last Friday morning. Out Showboat middleman not only missed injury, but did not even realize that he had been hit, Michigan State Police reported, following the accident. The Detroit man who struck Buck's truck, was treated and released from the Ionia hospital.

In the April edition of the national Moose Magazine, Lowell Lodge No. 809 made the headlines with a picture of their annually sponsored fishing derby. The caption under the picture read "small fry fishermen catch big'uns."

The National Rifle Association (NRA) announces that Mrs. Gertrude P. Schlernitzauer, of Lowell, established a national record with the pistol on January

11 and 12, 1964, in the difficult 20 shots, Time Fire, 50 feet, course with a score of 198 out of a possible 200. Competing in an NRA sanctioned tournament at Detroit, Mrs. Schlernitzauer broke the previous record of 197 and, in recognition of the outstanding marksmanship necessary to establish a national record, had been awarded a certificate of accomplishment by the NRA.

## 25 years ago The Lowell Ledger April 5, 1989

Roth Towing of Lowell is donating \$1 for each wrecker call they receive in the month of April to the King Memorial Pool Repair fund.

Headline: Henry holds Town Meeting at city hall - Fifth district Congressman Paul Henry spoke to a crowd of 30 concerned Lowell residents at a town meeting at the Lowell city offices on Wednesday, March 29 prior to his speaking engagement at the Lowell Rotary Club. The fiscal conservative holds roughly 30-40 town meetings statewide, on a yearly basis, in an effort to keep a pulse on the thoughts and ideas of his constituents. "It's beneficial to me because I get to hear firsthand what troubles the people I represent," he said. The town meeting lasted nearly one-and-a-half hours with Henry spending the first 15-20 minutes speaking on such timely issues such as the Exxon oil spill, Gorbachev and the deficit. The last hour was spent on answering questions from the people in attendance.

Headline: Lowell City Council denies traffic study. Quicker than a Michigan Wolverine fastbreak, or the traffic on M-21, the Lowell City Council scooted through its April 3 meeting. In a March meeting the council heard from Mike Jones of the Michigan Department of Transportation, that it's to begin some planning for some type of traffic signal in that area and that Lowell doesn't need one right now. The Lowell city councilmen balked at paying a maximum of \$6,200 on a traffic study.

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## college news

Alexis Foster of Lowell has been named to the president's list for fall semester at Northwood University. To achieve president's list recognition,

students must earn a 3.85 grade point on a 4.0 scale.

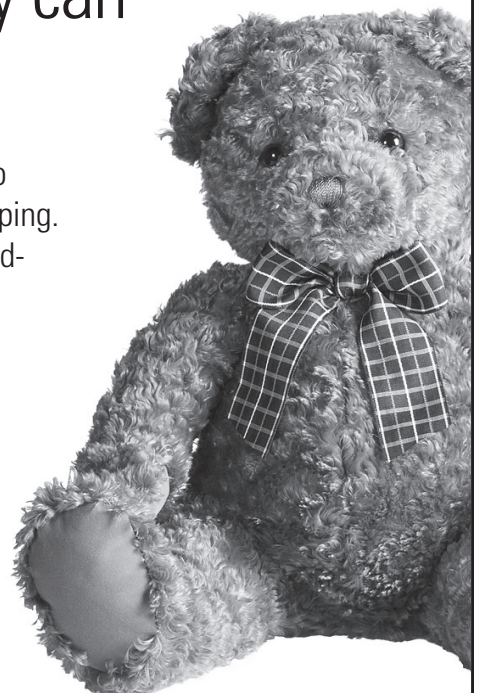

Megan A. Montgomery of Ada; Nathaniel L. Spencer of Alto; Austin T.

Graham, Austin Tackmann, and Isaac S. Tawney, all of Lowell are local students who have been named to the dean's list for fall semester at Northwood University. To achieve dean's list recognition, students must earn a 3.25 grade point on a 4.0 scale.

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# “Toes in the Sand and a Book in Their Hand” Bushnell readers enjoy March reading Month

Students and staff at Bushnell Elementary took a break from snowy Michigan during March and spent time at the beach with “Toes in the Sand and a Book in Their Hand.”

Students celebrated March is Reading Month at the beach with many activities to encourage their reading and to remind them that summer really is just around the corner.

Jason Hudy entertained with his DIVE into Reading Magic Show, Beachy Baseball Players (LHS baseball team) visited and read Dr. Seuss books to the classes, while every Friday students and staff took time to drop everything and read, sometimes with flip flops and sunglasses or even a beach towel.

Students enjoyed getting away to the ocean (teacher’s lounge) for a snack and to observe sea creatures in their “habitat.” Many classrooms welcomed parents, grandparents and the principal as guest readers. Also a make-it and take-it family night had Bushnell students creating their own bookmarks, a book, a sea creature and enjoying a yummy beach treat.

Students and staff at Bushnell were helped out by local merchants: Ada-Lowell 5, Jet’s Pizza, Lowell Lanes, McDonald’s, Roll Away and Taco Bell who contributed donations to support literacy.



Coming April 13

# SPRING HOME IMPROVEMENT

If you offer a home improvement service & would like to advertise - our deadline is 5 p.m. Thurs., April 10

### Advertising Prices

1/8 page - \$72.24 • 1/4 page - \$139.68  
1/2 page - \$267.36 • Full page - \$510.72  
Other sizes available.

Color Available 1 color \$50 • 4 color \$90

Along with your advertisement, please feel free to send us a press release for consideration in this section.

To reserve ad space in this section phone



# 897-9555

Email: [displayads@lowellbuyersguide.com](mailto:displayads@lowellbuyersguide.com)



## Garden club, continued,

that the club has helped to implement, finance and maintain in combination with the center’s own volunteers.

New on the group’s list of beautifying projects this year is the recently expanded Riverwalk.

“We are hoping to be of as much help with advice or help that we can. We are excited about the project,” said McGregor.

Plans for a small standard flower show and the group’s annual fundraiser selling dried flowers at the Fallasburg Fall Festival For the Arts in September are also in the works.

The group’s next meeting will be at 6:30 pm on April 21 at the Lowell Church of the Nazarene located at 201 N. Washington. Guest speaker Wendy Batchelder will appear in Victorian costume and discuss the meaning of flowers while guests create a simple “mussie tussie,”



Carol McGregor

- a small round bouquet of herbs and flowers. Refreshments will be served at the event and registration is recommended. A \$2 fee will be asked of attendees to defray costs.

The public is welcome to all events held by the group.

Anyone interested in learning and sharing or volunteering should contact club vice president Babette Maylone at (616) 897-6184 or come to a meeting on the third Monday of the month.”





**Position:** General manager  
**Education:** Graduate of Hope College  
**Experience:** Family-run business since 1989, been out there full time since 2004  
**Family:** Wife Kristen and two daughters who attend Murray Lake Elementary  
**Interests:** Boating, golfing, and working.  
**Residence:** Lowell



## Arrowhead manager took a leap of faith and enjoys being part of the steady improvements to the course

by Tim McAllister  
 contributing reporter

Arrowhead Golf Course has been one of Lowell's most popular courses since 1963. On their website they claim that their 11 and 18 holes are, "two of the toughest in all of Grand Rapids." The pristine course at 2170 Alden Nash NE boasts 6,188 yards of grass, trees, sand, water, balls and clubs.

Josh Bruwer, 38, has been Arrowhead's general manager for the last ten years.

"Arrowhead has been around for a while," Bruwer said. "My wife and I took it over about ten years ago and it's been a real turnaround project. It was a big leap of faith to get involved with at the start and through the years we've steadily been improving it. We're at the point now where people are pretty excited about some of the things that we've done out there and we look forward to continuing on that trajectory in the future."

While Bruwer isn't the "on paper" owner, as general manager, he acts as if he was the owner.

"Arrowhead Golf Course is a family-run business," Bruwer said. "It's been in my family since 1989. I have been out there full time since 2004. My dad, Randall Bruwer, is the owner of the golf course. The plan is for me to take it over. I think a lot of people assume I'm the owner and I pretty much do everything an owner would do. That's how I've approached it, as if I was the actual owner."

Bruwer's wife Kristen also works at Arrowhead and the whole family lives right up the street.

"We live in Lowell, right between the golf course and Murray Lake Elementary," Bruwer said. "It's great, we're close to

work and we're close to the school my kids attend, so it's a perfect little spot for us."

The couple, married since 1999, have two daughters. He refers to his marriage as, "Fifteen of my most favorite years." The two crazy, lovesick kids met when they were college students. Despite the risk of financial ruin they abandoned safe careers and instead chose to run the family business.

"I met my wife at Hope College," Bruwer said. "Upon graduating I took a job in the admissions' office there and Kristen was a teacher in the West Ottawa

***"...I enjoy trying to learn more about the business that I'm in, and not just because it's golf; if it was a broomstick factory, I would be passionate about that also."***

school district. Then we just decided to take a leap of faith and run the golf course.

Bruwer has been on an improvement rampage during the last ten years he's been running the golf course.

"We added a new driving range last year," Bruwer said. "The year before that we added two new holes. Prior to that we added a new irrigation system, which is paramount to being able to have decent conditions at a golf course. In the past we've added sand traps, water traps, things of that nature and the overall upkeep of the course."

More tangible improvements to the course are on the way.

"We're going to continue to improve the conditions of the course,"

Bruwer said. "We're going to make little tweaks out on the course, but this year I'm going to focus on the fine-tuning of the course and cart path improvements."

One of Bruwer's most important goals for Arrowhead is for the golf course to be involved in the community.

"We just really enjoy being part of the community in Lowell and we try to get as involved as we possibly can in the community," Bruwer said. "We receive far more than what we give, obviously. Without the community of Lowell there's no Arrowhead.

~ Josh Bruwer

These are our customers. These are the folks that we're trying to get to come out and play at Arrowhead. We get that aspect of the community as well, with the great environment, great school system. It's a place that when you tell people where you're from you're proud to say, 'I'm from Lowell.' There's a lot of good things coming out of Lowell and we're proud to be a part of that community and anytime we can be a part of that community we want to embrace that. Whether it's some of the local sports' teams that have their fundraisers out at the golf course or we have the girls' golf team that plays their home matches out at Arrowhead. It's their home course. That's a big deal for us. It's a tough

business; it's a seasonal business, obviously, here in Michigan, but we are just really appreciative to be part of the community."

One of the ways Bruwer keeps Arrowhead in the public eye is through the formation and promotion of fun golf leagues and tournaments.

"We've done a lot of programming," Bruwer said. "For example, golf outings, fundraisers, promotional-wise getting people out to the course. We have a junior league that is probably one of the largest in the area. There's over 100 kids involved each summer.

It's fun to be a part of the community. We have a couple new leagues we'll be starting, such as a senior league on Thursday mornings. It will be a 'senior scramble.' We'll just keep moving on a positive trajectory and get folks out [there] to the golf course to see what it's all about."

Another place you'll find Bruwer representing Arrowhead every year is at the Lowell Community Expo that the chamber of commerce puts on every year. This year's event was held on Saturday, March 22.

"The expo is really a great way for us to get our name out," Bruwer said. "It happens at the time of year where traditionally everyone's starting to get amped up and excited about golf. It's a great way for people to talk to us and ask questions about what we have going on in the upcoming year. A lot of them will come in and purchase their memberships at the expo, as well as a chance to sign up for leagues. It's good

to see some faces we haven't seen since last fall."

Try to remember this little tidbit for next year's expo: it's cheaper if you sign up for a membership at the expo.

"We run an 'expo special' where people can buy their membership at a discounted price," Bruwer said. "It's just a way for us to make contact with some of our customers who we haven't seen since the fall and hopefully pick up some new customers that are either new to the area or are unfamiliar with the area or are unfamiliar with Arrowhead."

The course has over 250 members, which is a lot for a course of its size.

"It's an accomplishment we're really proud of and one I'm hoping to eclipse this coming year," Bruwer said.

You might imagine that a man who got to hang out at the golf course all day was living some happy-go-lucky fantasy out of golf movies like "Caddyshack" or "Happy Gilmore," sipping martinis, dynamiting gophers or watching game show hosts punch comedians in the face. And you'd probably assume that Josh Bruwer was one of the best golfers in town. None of that is true.

"People think that I am some great golfer or that I must golf all the time," Bruwer said. "Truth be told, with two young kids, the last thing I want to do is, 'Hey, let me go golf now!' You know, you're out there looking over every little detail of the course, trying to make sure it's the best it possibly can be and when you get some down time, just for sanity's purposes, I personally need to get out of there! So if you're looking for a good golfer, you might want to

look elsewhere because I don't have as much time to put into it as you would think. There's all the golf I could possibly want right under my nose, but if I get a chance to get away from it, I get away from it."

Instead of having his fun on the back nine, Bruwer tends to be found closer to home.

"To be honest, I like just hanging out with the kids and the family, doing those types of things," Bruwer said.

As far as Arrowhead Golf Course goes, Bruwer takes immense pride in his work, claiming that no matter what type of business he was responsible for, he would make sure it was the best that it could possibly be.

"I really enjoy running a business," Bruwer said. "You asked me what my hobby is. I enjoy trying to learn more about the business that I'm in, and not just because it's golf; if it was a broomstick factory, I would be passionate about that also. I'm just trying to provide the best product that I potentially can. You're not going to get a bigger effort from anyone in terms of where you spend your dollars with the amount of time and effort I feel we put into our product. I can say that with a lot of confidence because I honestly feel that. It really means a lot to us to put the best product we possibly can out there, so we have a tremendous amount of pride in what we're trying to do."

You can set up a tee time by calling 616-897-7264 or by visiting the website, [www.arrowheadontheweb.com](http://www.arrowheadontheweb.com).

"It's more than just a job, it's really a big part of our family," Bruwer said.



# SPRING SPORTS

SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY

# CALENDAR

## GIRLS' VARSITY TENNIS

- \* Denotes a meet at Lowell High School Tennis Courts
- 4/15 at 4:15 p.m. Byron Center
- 4/16 at 4:15 p.m. Forest Hills Central
- 4/17 at 4 p.m. East Kentwood

## BOYS' & GIRLS' TRACK & FIELD

- \* Denotes a meet at Red Arrow Memorial Stadium
- 4/15 at 4:15 p.m. Forest Hills Central
- 4/17 at 4:15 p.m. East Grand Rapids

## GIRLS' VARSITY SOFTBALL

- \* Denotes a game at Cherry Creek Softball Field
- 4/15 at 4:15 p.m. & 6 p.m. Forest Hills Central
- 4/17 at 4 p.m. & 5 p.m. South Christian

## BOYS' VARSITY BASEBALL

- \* Denotes a game at Cherry Creek Baseball Field
- 4/12 at 11 a.m. New Albany Bulldogs at New Albany High
- 4/12 at 1 p.m. Seymour Owls at New Albany High
- 4/15 at 4:15 p.m. Forest Hills Central
- 4/16 at 4:15 p.m. Forest Hills Central

## BOYS' VARSITY GOLF

- \* Denotes a meet at Deer Run Golf Course
- 4/15 at 12:30 p.m. Kent County Classic at Highlands Golf Club
- 4/16 at 3:30 p.m. Jamboree at Caledonia
- 4/19 at 11 a.m. Davison High\*

## GIRLS' VARSITY LACROSSE

- \* Denotes a game at Red Arrow Memorial Stadium
- 4/16 at 7 p.m. Grandville
- 4/21 at 7 p.m. Comstock Park\*

## BOYS' VARSITY LACROSSE

- \* Denotes a game at Red Arrow Memorial Stadium
- 4/15 at 5:30 p.m. at Caledonia
- 4/17 at 7:15 p.m. Forest Hills Eastern\*
- 4/22 at 7:15 p.m. GR Christian

## GIRLS' VARSITY SOCCER

- \* Denotes a game at Red Arrow Memorial Stadium
- 4/15 at 6:45 Grandville\*
- 4/16 at 6:45 p.m. Cedar Springs
- 4/21 at 6:45 p.m. Forest Hills Central





## Grand Budapest Hotel proves Anderson's flexibility as filmmaker

by Justin Tiemeyer  
contributing reporter

Wes Anderson is one of the few remaining filmmakers that one might describe as consistent. Beginning with his first feature-length film *Bottle*

*Rocket*, Anderson has consistently played with similar themes; he's consistently used the same actors and he's consistently delivered a fantastic cinematic experience.

*The Grand Budapest Hotel* tells the story of Monsieur Gustave H. (Ralph Fiennes), the concierge of the Grand Budapest Hotel, from the perspective of his devoted lobby boy Zero Moustafa, played by both Tony Revolori and F. Murray Abraham. After the announcement of the death of beloved patron Madame D. (Tilda Swinton), mystery and adventure pursue the daring duo of Gustave and Zero from the fictional Republic of Zubrowka into the grand world of Anderson's imagination.

Though Fiennes is a new face, he is warmly

welcomed into the Wes Anderson pantheon with Adrien Brody, Willem Dafoe, Jeff Goldblum, Edward Norton, Bill Murray, Jason Schwartzman, and Owen Wilson. Normally, when this many fantastic actors are featured in a film released during the first quarter of the year, viewers ought to be warned to stay away if they value their time and ticket price, but Anderson organizes the cast into a lattice of hipster comedy.

Much like the 2012 film *Moonrise Kingdom*, *The Grand Budapest Hotel* departs from Anderson's normal formula of silly comedy which is interrupted by a tragic event that propels an ensemble cast toward an interesting ending. While *Moonrise Kingdom* might be described as Anderson's first

foray into romantic comedy, *The Grand Budapest Hotel* evolves into an action-adventure flick more akin to *Indiana Jones* or *James Bond* than one might expect.

While it may take some time before viewers are emotionally involved in *The Grand Budapest Hotel*, the investment is quite rewarding. Anderson delivers a subtle and intensely literary character study which is ultimately about love. It is not the romantic love of *Moonrise Kingdom*, nor the dysfunctional familial love of *The Royal Tenenbaums*. Instead, Anderson delves into the barely treaded territory of the love shared between persons of the same post, career or position, the love and admiration of those who are concerned with

work ethic, dedication, and the proper care for the people they serve. This relationship is interesting and deep enough that when Gustave and Zero are described as brothers, it seems more to cheapen their relationship than strengthen it.

*The Grand Budapest Hotel* is not likely to be shown everywhere that you'll be able to see *Noah*, *Divergent* or *Muppets Most Wanted*. The film is not meant to be a blockbuster, despite the grandiosity of the hotel it describes and the stories it surrounds. If you're willing to drive a little further to a theater with enough screens to show an Indie feature, however, this diamond in the rough is sure to take you on a unique journey.

## Lowell Cable fund debate reaches back nearly a decade

by Justin Tiemeyer  
contributing reporter

At the March 24 "budget workshop" meeting of the Lowell City Council, the question of what to do with the Lowell Cable Television (LCTV) fund money was brought to the table. The council voted against an annual \$50,000 in distributions for street repair, with residents claiming that the fund was not intended to buttress the general fund for routine maintenance.

The story of the LCTV

fund dates back to May of 2007 when the city council announced that the sale of Lowell's cable utility Lowell Cable would be sold to Comcast for \$3.5 million on June 30, 2007. Though the deal had been in discussion for two years prior, the public was only made aware of the proposed sale shortly before it was finalized.

The public was largely against the sale of Lowell Cable. Ivan Blough led the opposition on behalf of the citizens of Lowell. In fact,

it was during this dispute that VOICE of Lowell, a group that now protests what it claims to be unfair and illegal utilities contracts, was organized by Blough. When Lowell Cable was founded in 1982, Blough served on the first board of directors with King Doyle and Dr. Orval McKay.

Letters flooded the Lowell Ledger from concerned citizens and businesspersons.

"Just what West Michigan needs is another 1.2 million leaving the area," wrote Cliff Yankovich, owner of Chimera Design.

"I believe again our community is not being informed correctly on major decisions that should be brought before the constituents of Lowell before acted upon," wrote Jim Howard.

"Shame on the council for sneaking this through and not seeing our community for the dollar signs in their eyes," wrote Nancy Stroosnyder of Fry Daddy's.

Blough railed upon the city council for months regarding their "closely guarded meetings," and asking difficult questions like, "How did the city council gain ownership of

Lowell Cable?" and "Why were the negotiations over two years kept secret?"

Kent McKay, the son of original board member Dr. Orval McKay joined Blough and the opposition.

"Nobody knows the intentions of those who created Lowell Cable better than one of the men who was seated at the table," McKay wrote. "Making the future better was the intent of the original Lowell Cable board members and it should be the intent of today's city councilmembers."

Despite the call made by Jim Hodges, back then a councilmember, to hold a public hearing, the complaints of the public were ultimately not enough to stop a unanimous vote on May 21 to sell to Comcast. While this decision did not silence the public, it certainly changed the topic of concern. Debate switched to how the money should be used and who should govern its use.

The first debate of how the money should be used took place at the May 7, 2007 council meeting when city manager Dave Pasquale proposed to use the money for budget stabilization and a rainy day fund for

the repair and replacement of streets, sidewalks, trails and equipment. Mayor Chuck Myers opposed any short-term use of the fund, suggesting that money raised over a quarter of a century in Lowell should only be used toward long-term benefits to the community.

Blough and much of the public sided with Myers, constantly repeating that this was not city money and it was not raised by the taxpayers, so it shouldn't be used by the city. Blough's camp believed that the money should go to funding for scholarships, arts and education and grants to businesses.

In April of 2008, city council actually voted to use \$100,000 from the sale of Lowell Cable on street repairs, but mere days later reversed their decision because councilmembers had experienced a change of heart.

Yet another strange turn happened shortly thereafter. Though councilmembers originally agreed with Blough that a separate advisory board should be set up to control distributions from the LCTV fund, they ultimately appointed themselves as the fund's

stewards, a move that Blough described as a "conflict of interest."

Though the season had its fair share of intense discussions at city council meetings, the council ultimately sided with the public desire to tighten their belts and made cuts to fund road repairs.

Though it might be said that the will of the people was not represented by the closed sessions leading up to the sale of Lowell Cable, it was because of the people of Lowell that large portions of the proceeds were kept from being used for short-term repairs and city budget balancing. Since the debate began, the City of Lowell witnessed the passing of beloved citizen Ivan Blough. It remains to be seen if the will of the people of Lowell continues to resonate with that of Blough toward long-term projects benefitting the people.

The question of how the LCTV fund money should be allocated is to be raised once again at the regular city council meeting on Monday, April 7. These meetings are open to the public and take place on the second floor of city hall.

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# obituaries

## ENGLE

Laura Mae Engle, age 88 of Lowell, went peacefully to be with the Lord Wednesday, March 26, 2014 in the presence of her loving family. She is survived by her children, Patricia Wiggins of Morgan City, LA, Robert Engle of Lowell, Martin (Jill) Engle of Greenville, Nancy Finch (Dennis Lynn) of Schoolcraft, Tom Engle (Vickie Rule) of Lowell and Helen Mary VanDrunen of Grand Rapids. She is also survived by her brother Edwin (Evadale) Jones; eighteen grandchildren, thirty great grandchildren, six great-great grandchildren and many nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her husband of 69 years, Clayton; son-in-law, Truman Wiggins; and four great grandchildren. Laura loved her fishing, baking and canning. She retired from Amway after many years. A Memorial Service was held Interment Alton Cemetery.



## RACINE

Betty Lou Racine died Friday, March 28, 2014, after a fourteen-year battle with breast cancer; she was 74. She was born May 27, 1939, in Cadillac where she married John Joseph Racine on August 17, 1957. Surviving are her husband, John Joseph Racine; two sons, Brian Racine of Lowell, Wayne (Traci) Racine of Belding; two daughters, Karla (Lyle VanVuuren) of Lowell, Denise Fosburg of Lowell; five grandchildren, Jennifer Racine, Lisa Fosburg, Johnathon (Britney) Fosburg, Michael Racine, and Megan Racine; two great-grandchildren, Josiah Racine and Emma Racine; one great-grandson, Mason Thomas due in June; and extended family, Ed Roth 3rd, Jodi Rice, Mackensie Rice, Savannah Rice, Deaken Roth and Lilly Fetterhoff. Cremation has taken place. There will be a memorial luncheon at a later date.

## YEITER

On Tuesday, March 25, 2014 the angels escorted Army Col. Gerald "Samuel" Yeiter into Heaven. 'Sam' as he was known to all was born January 2, 1918 to Rosella (Curtiss) Yeiter and Orlo Yeiter of Lowell who preceded him in death as well as his

sister, Evelyn Speerstra. His brother, Robert, continues to live in Traverse City. Sam was credited with many accomplishments during his life. He was the first Eagle Scout in Lowell. And while attending Michigan Agricultural College, he tried playing football his first year, but as he said, "I was way too small and they always crushed me!" So he turned his attention to becoming a football cheerleader and received an All-American Cheerleader Award. (At this time, only men were cheerleaders.) As America entered WWII in 1941, he volunteered for the Army and quickly advanced to leading his reconnaissance regiment through Tunisia in northern Africa against "Desert Fox" Gen. E. Rommel; chasing him up into Italy and France. Sam remained in the war until its finality and received the The Silver Star and The Bronze Star for bravery as well as one of the top honors of France, La Croix de Guerre medal. Returning home to Lowell after the war, he married Ida B. Speerstra also of Lowell on August 5, 1945. Continuing his Army Career post-WWII, he and Ida were stationed in Turkey and Greece until Sam's final commission to Salzburg, Austria. It was during this time that Sam and Ida adopted their two babies from Germany, whom they named Crista Maria and Gary Curtis Yeiter. Returning to the States proved difficult in finding a job. Sam tried selling Amway's "No Hose" and "Nutri-lite", but it didn't provide the best income for a family of four. It was in the late 50's that Ida began selling Tupperware and quickly Sam became a dealer, too. Sam and Ida soon soared to the top of the sale's charts. Within a year and a half, Sam accepted a position with Tupperware Home Parties in Florida, but this just wasn't "home". In 1961 they purchased the Tupperware Distributorship in Grand Rapids and Seal-Craft Sales was born. With Sam and Ida now at Seal-Craft's helm, they accomplished another stellar rise to the top as one of the most successful Tupperware "ships" in the nation! Even



after Ida's devastating automobile accident in 1972, his staff rallied to keep Seal-Craft Sales on top despite Ida's absence. Tupperware's own December 1978 issue of the "Our World" magazine wrote that in 1975, at Tupperware's national conference THP's president, Joe Hara, announced their reception of Tupperware's highest award, the Ad Astra Per Aspira Trophy: To the stars through difficulty. "Therefore in adversity and in victory," Joe Hara stated, "they exemplify the highest virtues of our business." Sam and Ida continued as Distributors until retirement in the early 90's. They were married just shy of 50 years when Ida passed in 1995. In June '96, Sam married Jeanette Hoendervanger. Sam's hobby's included small game hunting (in his earlier days) fishing, mowing and watching John Wayne movies. He also loved it when Roadrunner outsmarted Wile E. Coyote; laughing so hard he'd begin sneezing! And Sam just plain loved people; his families, extended family and parties (the more the merrier!). His deep love and respect for all branches of the military never waned. Every Memorial Day in Lowell, Sam participated in Lowell's parade. And even though his memory faded quickly in the latter months, he could continue to give his military colleagues a proper salute. Sam was a long-standing member of the United Methodist Church, Rotary and the VFW. His character traits of leadership, patience, generosity, perseverance, faith and being a friend to all he met served him well his entire life. Due to physical limitations, Sam lived the last three years at the VA Home for Veterans in Grand Rapids. While there, his love became ceramics class. After his death, Sam left the VA Home covered in an American; being stopped in the corridor for those in attendance to give him a salute of respect. He was the first recipient of the VA's new program: "No Vet Dies Alone". Sam is survived by his children, daughter Crista (Steve) Simmons, Richland and grandsons Brandon (Kasey) Hull and Trevor Hull, all of Ft. Mill, SC and son, Gary (Connie) Yeiter and grandsons Jason (Meagan), great grand children, Emma and Layla; and Eric (Jillian), great grand children, Blake and Matthew (all of Pt. Charlotte, FL); many nieces and nephews, and his wife, Jeanette and her family. Per Sam's wishes, cremation has taken place. A private interment next to Ida in Lowell's Oakwood Cemetery will occur at a later date. A military service was held on March 29 at the VA Home. Arrangements made by Roth-Gerst Funeral Home. Donations may be made to the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans, Ceramics Dept., 3000 Monroe N.E., Grand Rapids, MI 49505.



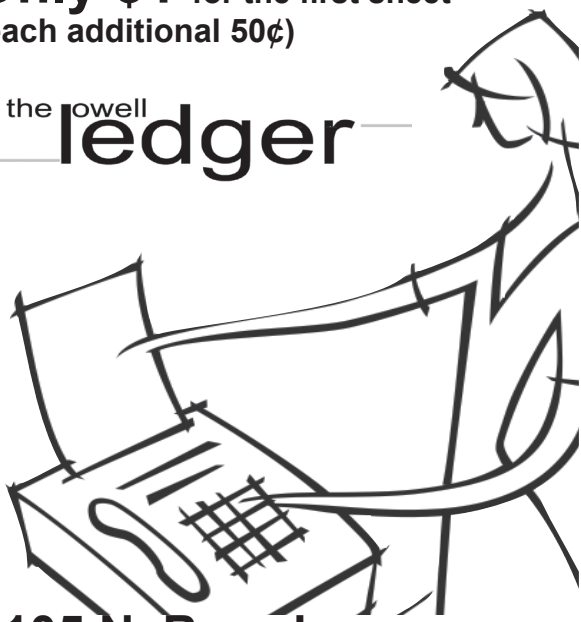
## PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

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# classifieds

## for sale

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

**SEMI LOADS 10 CORDS OF 8 FT. LOGS - 10 in. average diameter. See pictures at www.coxx.com, movies on YouTube (alanj-cox) or call Al at 231-846-0346 anytime**

DON'T PAY HIGH HEATING BILLS - Eliminate them with a Classic Outdoor Wood Furnace from Central Boiler. 25 year warranty. Call SOS your "Stocking Dealer" Dutton, MI 616-554-8669 or 616-915-5061.

ACREAGE FOR SALE - Ada, 10 wooded acres. Located on private drive. Prime building spot. \$99,900. Call 616-481-7702.

BED & MATTRESS SET - queen, Sealy, \$95 includes frame. Hammond Wholesale, 320 W. Main St., Carson City, 989-584-1600. See us on Facebook. Delivery available.

**HAY - round bales 5x5; also squares. Delivery available. 231-846-0346 anytime.**

200 APPLIANCES - Washers, dryers, refrigerators & stoves. Guaranteed. From \$69. Hammond Wholesale, 320 W. Main St., Carson City, 989-584-1600. See us on Facebook. Delivery available.

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

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

**THIS FRIDAY/SATURDAY ONLY - Catfish, \$9.99 per pound (no baskets). Fry Daddy's, 608 W. Main, Lowell, 897-3474.**

FREE AD! - Place & pay for a classified ad in the Buyers Guide & Lowell Ledger for 3 weeks & receive the 4th week FREE! You must mention the special in order to receive this offer. Valid only with new classified ads, and must be paid for when ad is placed. Call 897-9555.

## for sale

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

ALWAYS LOOKING FOR SOMETHING TO WRITE ON? - We have scratch pads available for \$1.50 per lb. at the Lowell Ledger.

## help wanted

CAREER OPPORTUNITY - King Milling Company is seeking a qualified individual for a second shift (3 p.m. - 12:00 p.m.) production position. Please apply at 115 S. Broadway in Lowell.

ON SITE MARKETING - We are seeking positive, high energy individuals to work in our job site department. Responsibilities include: Passing out fliers around our job sites in nice suburban neighborhoods. Applicants should be clean cut, well groomed, and have excellent communication skills. NO SALES INVOLVED. Not a straight commission position. Average producers make \$400-\$800 per week. \$10/hr + bonuses. Please call 897-7040 and ask for Matt.

WANTED INDEPENDENT DISTRIBUTORS - Press carriers, Lowell area. Reliable transportation required. Contact Paul at 616-541-0564 or Brian at 616-541-0563.

GENERAL LIGHTING LABORER - A local lighting maintenance company is in need of hard working employees. The positions will require significant amounts of travel & working in a team environment. If you are interested in the opportunity, please call 642-9853 ext. 108, ask for Mike.

HELP WANTED - must be capable of running the following equipment: floor scrubber, buffer & power washer. Experience not a must, we will train. Flexible hours include mornings, nights & weekends. Must be 18 & have valid drivers license. Fax or email resume to: 616-897-0989 or billsenterprises.inc@gmail.com

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

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CAREER OPPORTUNITY - King Milling Company is seeking a qualified individual for a first shift (7 a.m. - 4 p.m.) general labor position. Please apply at 115 S. Broadway St., Lowell.

## wanted

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

## misc.

SNOW UNIT-ED METHODIST CHURCH - at 3189 Snow Ave. SE will serve a family style Turkey & Dressing dinner on Wed., April 9 at 5:30 pm. Adults are \$10 & children 6-12 are \$4 & children 5 & under are free. Take out dinners also available.

## for rent

WE DO BUSINESS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE FEDERAL FAIR HOUSING LAW - Equal Housing Opportunity. It is illegal to discriminate against any person because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin. In the sale or rental of housing or residential lots; in the advertising the sale or rental of housing, in the financing of housing, in the provision of real estate brokerage services and in the appraisal of housing. Anyone who feels he or she has been discriminated against may file a complaint of housing discrimination: 1-800-669-9777 (toll free) 1-800-927-9275 (TTY).

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

COTTAGE ON CAMPAU LAKE - Sleeps 6, includes fishing boat & kayak. June - Aug., \$550 weekly. Call 868-7214.

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

**PRICELESS STORAGE - Indoor/outdoor. New Units on Alden Nash, 1 mile South of I96. Call for specials 558-2900.**

## services

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MILLERS ROOFING SERVICE - Specializing in roofing. Houses, barns, sheds & garages. Top quality materials & reasonable rates. Free estimates. Allen Miller, 4030 E. Cloverdale Road, Hastings, 269-758-3270.

**JJ'S LAWN CARE - Reliable, respectable, affordable. Fully insured. Free estimates. Call 616-902-6147 www.lawnsbyjj.com**

BASEMENT WATER-PROOFING - Professional Basement Services waterproofing, crack repair, mold remediation. Local/licensed. Free estimates. 517-290-5556.

GLOBAL DISCOUNT GARAGE DOORS - Spring repairs, electric openers replaced & repaired. Free estimates. Lowest prices guaranteed. Call 616-334-3574.

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## card of thanks

THANK YOU  
 I want to thank everyone for gifts, flowers, phone messages and for all the lovely cards I received for my 90th birthday. It made my week so special. Special thanks to my family for the dinner at Corner Landing. So much more.

Love you all,  
 thanks again,  
 Doris McCaul

# Coming Events

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

SEED SWAP - Sun., April 6, 2-3:30 p.m. Wouldn't it be great to get rid of your seed stash & acquire new seeds? Bring out any seeds you have to swap. Seeds can be up to four years old, but please don't bring anything you know isn't viable. Make sure all packets are labeled with the type & variety name (original packets are appreciated but not necessary). Even if you don't have seeds to swap, come on out. The WWC will have heirloom & traditional varieties available for small donation. Wittenbach Wege Center, 11715 Vergennes, Lowell, 987-2565.

THE LOWELL BOARD OF EDUCATION - second Monday of the month at 7 p.m. in the Administration Building, 300 High St., Lowell.

MICHIGAN BLOOD DRIVE - every second Monday, noon - 7 p.m. Kent County Fairgrounds, King Memorial Youth Center. Walk-ins are welcome, but appointments are recommended. 1-866-MIBLOOD, www.miblood.org

WOMEN FOR SOBRIETY - meets every Monday, 7-8 p.m. at Bowne Center United Methodist Church, fellowship hall, 12051 84th St., corner of Alden Nash. Call Sue at 868-6219 or www.womenforsobriety.org

MEDICINE CABINET WORKSHOP - Tues., April 22, 3:30 - 5 p.m. Join Linda Carrington for this follow-up class to her Green Smoothie workshop. In this workshop, Linda will demonstrate the ways that essential oils may support digestion, help alleviate coughs, colds & ear infections, mood & allergies, assist in first aid & pain relief, help relieve stress & anxiety & aid with a wide variety of health concerns & more. Space is limited, please register in advance. Gilda's Club, Lowell Program, 314 S. Hudson, Lowell, 897-8600.

FREE MOVIE NIGHT - Mon., April 14, 5:30 p.m. Popcorn will be provided. RSVP to the library by stopping in or calling, Alvah N. Belding Library, 302 E. Main, Belding. 616-794-1450.

BOWNE TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY - meets the second Monday of the month at 10 a.m. in the Historical Museum at 84th/ Alden Nash.

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

AVERILL HISTORICAL MUSEUM OF ADA - 7144 Headley, is open every Friday & Saturday 1 - 4 p.m. or by appointment. Closed Jan. & Feb. 676-9346.

QR CODE QUEST - April 7-12. Students in 6th - 12 grades are invited to bring their iPads or smartphones & complete a scavenger hunt using QR codes. No registration is required. Alvah N. Belding Library, 302 E. Main, Belding. 616-794-1450.

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

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

LOWELL ARTS! GALLERY HOURS - Mon.-Fri., 10 - 6 p.m.; Sat., 1-4 p.m.; 149 S. Hudson. Visit www.lowellartsmi.org or call 897-8545.

CRAFT EARTH-FRIENDLY GARDEN PROJECTS - Wed., April 9, 1 p.m. Craft Earth-friendly spring garden projects using upcycled household containers & supplies from nature's bounty. For all ages. Englehardt Public Library, 200 N. Monroe, Lowell. Ph. 784-2007.

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

ADULT CANCER SUPPORT GROUP - Tuesdays, 6-7:15 p.m. A committed group for those diagnosed with cancer. Gilda's Club, Lowell Program, 314 S. Hudson, Lowell, 897-8600.

FREE ALL VETS COFFEE HOUR - Third Thurs. of each month. Bring a friend. Lowell Veteran's Center, 3100 Alden Nash, Lowell. Call 868-7426 or 897-8303 for more information.



# EARTH TALK™

## Questions & Answers About Our Environment

**Dear EarthTalk:** What are some cool apps that work with a mobile phone that can help me get in better touch with the environment? -- Mitchell Brown, Troy, MI

Not surprisingly, there are thousands of “green” apps out there that make it easier for people to find and share information to help us all become better stewards of the natural environment.

The American Lung Association’s State of the Air app shows live color-coded air quality maps for any U.S. location and includes both ozone and particulate pollution counts. The app also provides air quality alerts, short-term forecasts and opportunities to learn more about air quality risks and to contact lawmakers to push for more stringent pollution regulations. Another way to find out who’s emitting what nearby is via aMobileFuture’s Pollution, a free app that compiles information from various pollution databases around the world and then shows users which big polluters are emitting what near them. Coverage includes 1,380 cities, mostly in Europe and the U.S.

Ethical shoppers will appreciate the GoodGuide, a free app that shows how any of 120,000 food, personal care and household products stack up in terms of sustainability, fair wages and even health risks. Users just snap a picture of an item’s bar code to get the low-down on whether or not it’s a “good” buy. And the free JouleBug app turns living greener

into a game, taking specific sustainability-oriented steps such as reducing energy use, recycling more or buying local and translating these small acts into positive “units of impact.” Embedded videos demonstrate ways once can green up daily life.

Adair Systems’ 99 cents GasHog app makes it easy to track a car’s fuel efficiency. Enter the odometer reading and amount of fuel added each time you refill the tank and the app calculates the fuel economy of the previous tank and compares it to historical averages. The app also offers tips for improving fuel economy. And Avego’s free CarmaCarpooling app matches nearby drivers with riders to share the commute and the expense. At the end of the trip, the rider can send a payment through the system to the driver to cover a share of gas and wear-and-tear.

PaperKarma is a free app to help reduce junk mail. Users input their address information once and then snap a picture through the app of any unwanted junk mail. Behind the scenes, PaperKarma’s automated system notifies the publisher to take the user’s name and address off their list.

Another popular app is Light Bulb Finder, a free app designed to help ease the transition from older incandescent bulbs to more energy efficient replacements. Users enter in their zip code—the app automatically inputs average regional electricity rates accordingly—and then choose which type of fixture, size/shape and wattage bulb(s) they are looking to replace. The app then suggests options that



use less energy and shows how much money the user can expect to save with the newer bulb(s).

It’s nice to know that the little screens we’ve become increasingly dependent upon—and which otherwise tend to distract us from nature and the outdoors—can also be used for the betterment of the environment.

**CONTACTS:** State of the Air App, [www.lung.org/health](http://www.lung.org/health); JouleBug, [www.joulebug.com](http://www.joulebug.com); GasHog, [www.adairsystems.com/gashog](http://www.adairsystems.com/gashog); CarmaCarpooling, [www.carmacarpool.com](http://www.carmacarpool.com); Light Bulb Finder, [www.lightbulbfinder.net](http://www.lightbulbfinder.net); GoodGuide, [www.goodguide.com](http://www.goodguide.com).

**EarthTalk®** is written and edited by Roddy Scheer and Doug Moss and is a registered trademark of **E - The Environmental Magazine** ([www.emagazine.com](http://www.emagazine.com)). Send questions to: [earthtalk@emagazine.com](mailto:earthtalk@emagazine.com).

## Some of your Social Security questions answered

**Question:** My neighbor said my kids, eight and 15 might be eligible for survivors’ benefits since their mother died. Are they?

**Answer:** Maybe. Their mother must have worked and earned the required number of Social Security credits. If she did, both you and your children may be eligible for benefits. Apply promptly for survivors benefits because benefits are generally retroactive only up to six months. You can apply by calling Social Security’s toll-free number, 1-800-772-1213, between 7 am and 7 pm on Monday through Friday. People who are deaf or hard of hearing may call our toll-free TTY number, 1-800-325-0778. For more information, read our publication Survivors Benefits available at [www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs).

**Question:** I’m expecting a baby this June. What do I need to do to get a Social Security number for my baby?

**Answer:** Apply for a number at the hospital when you apply for your baby’s birth certificate. The state agency that issues birth certificates will share your child’s information with us, and we will mail the Social Security card to you. You can learn more about the Social Security number and card by reading our online publication on the subject, available at [www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs).

**Question:** How long does it take to complete the online application for retirement benefits?

**Answer:** It can take as little as 15 minutes to complete the online application. In most cases, once your application is submitted electronically, you’re done. There are no forms to sign and usually no documentation is required. Social Security will process your application and contact you if any further information is needed. There’s no need to drive to a local Social Security office or wait for an appointment with a Social Security representative. To retire online, go to [www.socialsecurity.gov/retireonline](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/retireonline).

**Question:** My husband doesn’t have enough

work credits to qualify for Social Security retirement benefits. Can he qualify on my record?

**Answer:** A spouse receives one-half of the retired worker’s full benefit unless the spouse begins collecting benefits before full retirement age. If the spouse begins collecting benefits before full retirement age, the amount of the spouse’s benefit is reduced by a percentage based on the number of months before he or she receives full retirement age. You can learn more by reading our online publication, Retirement Benefits, available at [www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs).

**Question:** I currently receive Social Security disability benefits. I now have a second serious disability. Can my monthly benefit amount be increased?

**Answer:** No. Your Social Security disability benefit amount is based on the amount of your lifetime earnings before your disability began and not the number of disabling conditions or illnesses you may have. For more information, go to [www.socialsecurity.gov/disability](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/disability).

**Question:** Is there a time limit on how long I can collect Social Security disability benefits?

**Answer:** No. Your disability benefits will continue as long as your medical condition has not improved and you remain unable to work. Your case will be reviewed at regular intervals to determine whether you still are disabled. If you are receiving disability benefits when you reach full retirement age, we will automatically convert them to retirement benefits, without a change in your payment amount. For all your disability questions, read our publication Disability Benefits, available at [www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs).

**Question:** My mother receives Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits. She may have to enter a nursing home later this year. How does this affect her SSI benefits?

**Answer:** Moving to a nursing home can affect your mother’s SSI benefits but it depends on the type of facility. In some cases, the SSI payment may be reduced or stopped. Whenever your mother enters or leaves a nursing home, assisted living facility, hospital, skilled nursing facility, or any other kind of institution you must tell Social Security. Call Social Security’s toll free number, 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778). We can answer specific questions and provide free interpreter services from 7 am to 7 pm, Monday through Friday. We also provide information by automated phone service 24 hours a day.

**Question:** I receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits. How do I notify Social Security that I have changed my address?

**Answer:** If you receive SSI payments, Social Security needs your correct mailing address to send you notices and other correspondence about your benefits even if you receive your benefits by direct deposit. As an SSI recipient, you must report any change in living arrangements or address by calling our toll-free number, 1-800-772-1213, or by visiting a local office. If you do not notify us in a timely manner, you could end up receiving an incorrect payment. It’s important that you report changes timely since some changes can affect your benefit amount.

**Question:** My uncle is interested in the Medicare Part D prescription help, but he has about \$10,000 in the bank. Would he still be eligible?

**Answer:** Based on his resources, yes. However, there are other factors to consider. This year a person’s total resources are, in most cases, limited to \$13,440 (or \$26,860 if married and living with spouse) to qualify for Extra Help with Medicare prescription drug costs. Resources include the value of the things he owns, such as real estate (other than the place you live), cash, bank accounts, stocks, bonds, and retirement accounts like IRAs or 401(k)s. There are exceptions. To learn more, go to [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov).



**THEME:  
THE TWENTIES**

**ACROSS**

- 1. Hidden, also "lost" in French
- 6. \_\_\_ and flow
- 9. Beehive basket
- 13. "Private Parts" author
- 14. \_\_\_ v. Wade
- 15. The Great Muppet
- 16. \_\_\_ peak
- 17. \_\_\_-Wan Kenobi
- 18. Bedazzle, e.g.
- 19. \*"The Jazz Singer" and such
- 21. Honeymoon, e.g.
- 23. Finale
- 24. RPMs
- 25. Electric guitar hookup
- 28. \*Art \_\_\_
- 30. Kindle editions
- 35. Figure of worship
- 37. Margaret behind sexual revolution
- 39. \*Flashy ocean ride in "The Great Gatsby"
- 40. \*This "biscuit" was renamed a "sandwich" cookie in 1921
- 41. Supplemented
- 43. Salty drop
- 44. Chronic disease in homeopathy
- 46. Pitcher with handle and spout for pouring
- 47. Maori war dance
- 48. \_\_\_ weight in boxing
- 50. Actor Sandler
- 52. Frostiness
- 53. To fix, as in cat
- 55. Bygone bird
- 57. \*Musical name for the 1920s
- 61. \*"Return to Normalcy" President
- 65. Architectural projection

CROSSWORD														
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MARCH 26 - APRIL 1

- With close to 7 million citizens signing up, public support for the Affordable Care Act narrowly notched a new high in the latest ABC News/Washington Post poll, while criticism of Barack Obama's handling of the law's rollout has eased.
- After nine seasons, 208 episodes, eight slaps, dozens of plays, and hundreds of high-fives the show "How I Met Your Mother" ended its run with the ending many fans had already guessed — with Ted getting back together with Robin. And many fans upset with the ending.
- a A Michigan high school student says he's been forced to leave his track team simply because of his hair. Mike Barker, a 17-year-old junior at West Iron County High School, was sporting a bright pink Mohawk to support his mother, who is battling breast cancer. When authorities allegedly told him to choose between his hair, which violated school policy, and the team, Barker says, "I picked family."

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- 66. "Wow!"
- 73. Down in the dumps
- 29. Relinquish or abandon
- 68. Cowboy sport
- 74. Adam and Mae
- 31. The Hippocratic
- 69. Female gossip
- 70. Feeling of anger
- 32. \*Lindbergh's first solo crossing of Atlantic
- 71. Corpulent
- 72. \*"The Foresyte \_\_\_"

**DOWN**

- 1. Attention grabber
- 2. Tallest volcano in Europe
- 3. Movie roll
- 4. \*Famous Chicago hotel, opened in 1920
- 5. Uncharitable or cruel
- 6. Son of Aphrodite
- 7. \*Roaring Twenties hairstyle
- 8. Neutral shade
- 9. \*"Bib-Label Lithiated Lemon-Lime \_\_\_," a.k.a. "7Up"
- 10. Be aware of a fact
- 11. Poet Pound
- 12. Child's dream gift?
- 15. \*Fitzgerald's famous character
- 20. Swelling
- 22. Adam's partner
- 24. \*Route 66, e.g.
- 25. Mushroom cloud maker
- 26. Journalist Shriver
- 27. Song of joy

Puzzle solutions appear on page 12

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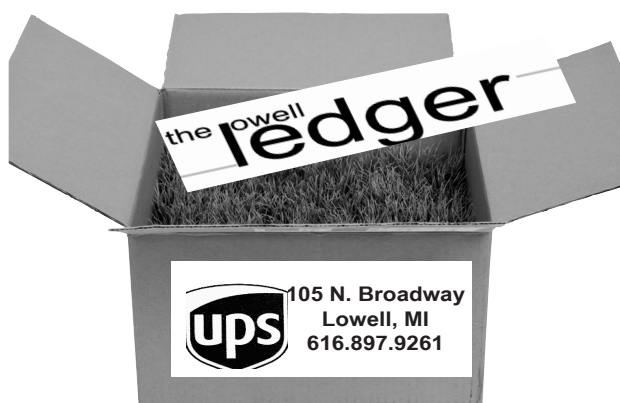
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Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.



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# IBEW vote, continued

manager Mark Howe. "Our proposal gave the union what it wanted on a majority of the outstanding issues in addition to substantial wage adjustments. We are disappointed in the outcome of the vote but look forward to seeing how the union proposes to meet us halfway."

Iorio said there was only one small positive change in the proposed public works contract.

"They made a big concession on employer rights," Iorio said. "It took

us two-and-a-half years, but they said that if they implement a work rule, they agree that it should be reasonable."

The IBEW continued to have problems with the city's position on issues, such as the grievance procedure, lay offs, overtime pay, subcontracting and hiring of "irregular" workers. Iorio said the city has always refused to define what "irregular" workers are.

"This is garbage and we can't accept it," Iorio said.

After the public works employees were finished, the light and power employees held their meeting. The light and power contract had the same issues for the IBEW as the public works contract.

"Very little, if anything, changed from last time," Matulewicz said. "Most of the verbiage is identical."

"We haven't gotten anywhere on this," Iorio said. "There's no union contract like that anywhere. They can do anything they want and we can't do

anything about it. Two-and-a-half years and thousands of dollars in attorney fees down the tubes. We have a good work force here that does a good job and they want to jack you around. Here they didn't even throw out the kind of money they threw at the city. It's hard to understand how the residents can put up with this, because you guys keep the lights on; you're there in a storm. It's just not right."

"LLP [Lowell Light and

Power] has tried to negotiate, i.e. meet the IBEW at least halfway, on the majority of the issues since this process began," said light and power chairman Greg Pierce. "If they were to have accepted our proposal, they would have retained everything (language and benefits) that all of the other LLP employees currently enjoy, plus they would have had made gains in some of the areas that were important to them. Moving forward,

we need to understand where they are willing to negotiate for something that is a compromise on the remaining issues so we can reach an amiable resolution for both parties."

Now it's the city's move.

"We'll see if they respond to our proposal," Iorio said, "but we're not just going to sit here dead in the water, which is maybe what they expect."

## Funny or false advertising?



Before checking the calendar, Greg Canfield's April Fool's joke confused more than a few customers on Tuesday. The stunt was not the first Canfield has played on the folks of Lowell. Back in 2010, while renovating the building where the Main Street Inn now stands, a sign was placed on the construction site that read, "HOOTERS OPEN SOON."

# Power Lines, continued

Within this framework the board establishes several key strategies that include things like being fiscally and environmentally responsible, a leader in technology and innovation, maintaining and upgrading our infrastructure to meet future demands, developing new avenues to serve the community and being a leader in fostering collaborative efforts. These strategies incorporate a huge

range of activities, including how we operate internally to how our operations impact the community to how can we promote the needs of small municipal utilities in a national energy environment. Although all of these components are necessary to our success as a utility, the most important components continue to be focused on how do we provide the best service and long-range strategy for our

customers, the citizens of the greater Lowell community?

One of the most important strategies to achieving this level of innovative operations and service is by maintaining a qualified, energized, team-oriented staff whose personal goals align with serving the long-term needs of the community. Fortunately we have been able to develop that type of staff at Lowell Light and Power. Our policies, procedures, benefits, hours of operation, evaluation process and work climate have all been developed to motivate and retain our staff as well as provide the most reliable, cost-effective and safe service to our customers.

There are always a few, however, that have a different opinion and that is all right. Different opinions foster new discussion. Without different opinions and brainstorming, new ideas and progress would not evolve. Unfortunately, sometimes those different opinions evolve to entitlement and fail to represent the well being of the majority. The question then becomes, when do opinions become counter-productive and start dragging down progress and achievement? I hope as a community we can recognize the difference and continue to strive for excellence.

Enjoy the warm weather and have a great spring.

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