

regular council meeting



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50 CENTS



## Public has a chance to discuss site plans for Showboat and Riverwalk at open house

by Tim McAllister  
contributing reporter

The Showboat and the Riverwalk are two of the most notable landmarks in Lowell. Four potential plans for the Showboat's upcoming renovation were revealed to the public during an 'open house' at city hall on Thursday, April 17. The public was asked to vote for their favorite of the four and to provide input and offer suggestions.

Two consultants, Pat Cornelisse and Dave Austin, were on hand to explain and discuss the plans with the public.

"We just tried to show the ideas and then list the good and bad," Cornelisse said. "Nothing's perfect. Every stage location has

something good about it and every stage location has something not so good. For every element it's that way. We have favorites, but there [are] good things in every one."

Cornelisse's past projects include the Lowell Riverwalk, Tassell Park on the Thornapple River in Cascade Township and the Black Lake Boardwalk on Lake Macatawa near Holland State Park.

"We do a lot of park and waterfront work, a lot of West Michigan stuff and we've done a fair amount of work over the years in Ottawa County," Cornelisse said.

There were four options labeled A through D, each

with a different arrangement of stage and seating. Cornelisse said any of the four designs would work for Lowell.

"They're all workable," Cornelisse said. "We're just showing different arrangements and what you can do, just to give them different ideas."

The public's input gave them several ideas they hadn't thought of.

"People tend to have some ideas," Cornelisse said. "We need another restroom; that's been coming up a lot."

Diane Smith of Lowell was one of the members of the public who offered input on the project.

"I'm excited," Smith said. "I love the idea of having gates so we can tie our boats up. I loved option A. I love how everything is in kind of the round theme, which is the whole theme of the showboat and I love where the stage is here. It's very easy for all the boats to see the stage and the seating



Diane Smith chose 'option A' because, 'It's all about the river.'

folks can also look over the river. It's all about the river. I just think it's all about everything going out toward the river."

According to the consultants, the most important issue was where to put the stage.

"What we're really concerned about is stage location," Austin said. "We've got three different

locations for the stage and that's the main issue. The rest of it can all be modified to fit that."

Aside from stage placement, there was a whole list of things they had to consider.

"I have a certain amount of people I have to hold

Riverwalk open house, continued, page 2

## LAHM launches new website

The Lowell Area Historical Museum (LAHM) is dedicated to the past but, they recognize the importance of modern tools, such as the Internet for providing access to history and have launched a new website.

The website has many features, including an upcoming events section where visitors can learn about classes and events the museum is hosting. Parents can find out about workshops for their kids, teachers can book tours, classes and resources online. Genealogists will find lists of resources, oral histories and have access to online Lowell Ledgers from 1870-1987.

"The website is designed to let people know what we have to offer and to give them easy access. The site will constantly be added to, so keep checking it out," reported board member Lisa Plank.

She added, "We had one community member say that he was curious about flooding after such a hard winter. He remembered that we had a big snowfall in 1950-51. He went to the museum website's resource page and accessed the online Lowell Ledgers from the 1950s and looked to see what kind of flood was reported for that year. We hope people will think of our website like that, as a resource that they can go to for information and answers to their questions."

The museum has served the community for over ten years by providing quality exhibits, programs and services. In looking forward to the next decade the museum has been busy planning new ways to make the history of our area relevant and available to as many people as possible.

They are working with the schools to create teacher resource kits that will allow teachers access to material, lesson plans and images that explore a variety of historical topics. Each kit will be matched to curriculum at a specific grade level.

Last summer, five interpretive boards were installed on the Riverwalk and four more are planned for Main Street this summer. The boards are located outdoors, in public areas and feature photographs, maps and information about topics that historically happened in those locations.

You can visit the new website at [www.lowellmuseum.org](http://www.lowellmuseum.org)

## Group seeks volunteers to help clear area for trail

by Kathryn Atwood  
contributing reporter

Volunteers are invited to spend the night under the stars and create a new path for future generations of hikers by joining the Fortune Bay Expedition Team (FBET) at Fallasburg Park on May 17 and 18.

FBET members, along with the National Park Service and volunteers, will work together to clear the way for the proposed trail, a three-mile loop that will connect to the 4,600 mile North Country Trail. The trail addition will be located just south of the park's historic covered bridge.

In the evening volunteers will be able to settle into camp and enjoy a bonfire, food and entertainment as well as a moonlit midnight hike.

Certified expedition leader, Robin Hutsko, says this is the first time they

have organized a working expedition of this caliber that is open to the public.

"Many of the events we offer would not be possible without the use of established trail systems, most of which were previously built by volunteers. We wanted to plan an event designed to get the public more involved, show our appreciation for the parks and trails we love so much and have fun doing it."

The FBET headquarters, located in Lowell, works to develop leaders in the wilderness environment by participating in and leading a variety of educational, training and exploration activities. They also provide support to likeminded organizations, such as Boy Scouts of America, Search and Rescue and First Responders.

No particular skill set is required to take part in the weekend expedition as volunteers will be placed based on their abilities and past experience. Opportunities for volunteers interested in helping with food preparation, bonfire activities and camp set up and clean up are also available.

"FBET is much more than your typical social organization. We support and encourage members of all ages and skill levels to grow and challenge themselves to 'go farther,'" said Hutsko.

If you would like to take part in this unique volunteer opportunity, registration and additional information are available on the team's website, [www.fortunebay.org](http://www.fortunebay.org) or by calling 616-987-0223.



# Riverwalk open house, continued

and a certain size stage," Cornelisse said. "Because of the ADA (Americans With Disabilities Act) everything's got to be barrier-free. We have the direction of the sunlight; you don't want people

looking directly into the sun. We tried different Showboat locations, different stage locations and the seating area is always different so we could show all the different possibilities and some people came up with

some other possibilities in the other meetings we've had and we've gone back to explore them."

After this brief public input phase Cornelisse said the final decision could be made as soon as May.

"I believe the 'steering committee' will be making the final selection," Cornelisse said. "Typically what happens is they'll say, 'I like option B, but I like this from option C and this from option D, can you meld

them together?' Sometimes you can and sometimes you can't."

If you still want to see the plans and give your opinion, simply contact the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce.

"This is the last piece of public input until the next 'open house' where the final plan will be shown," Cornelisse said.



## along main street

### Rep. Lyons invites residents to speak up

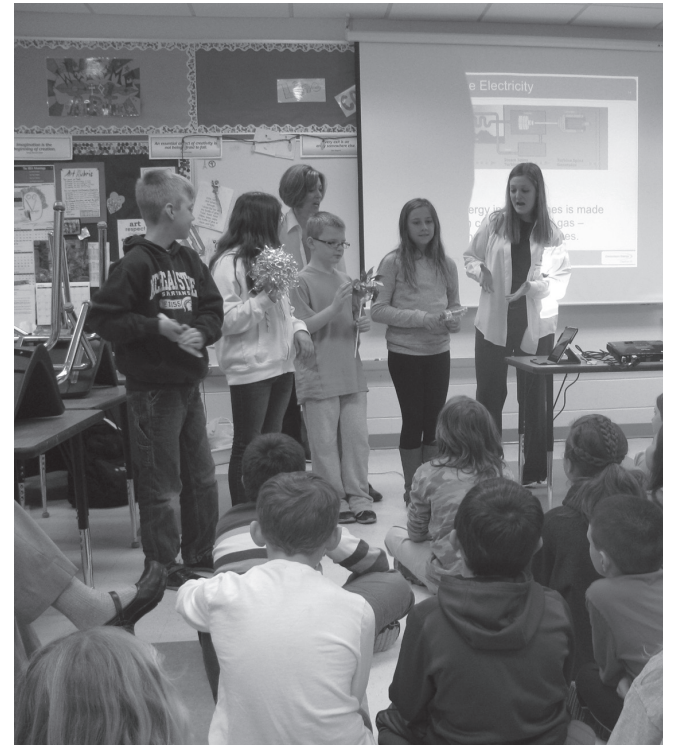
State Rep. Lisa Posthumus Lyons invites residents of the 86th District to her April in-district office hours. The office hours session is Monday, April 28, at Keiser's Kitchen located at 700 E. Main St. in Lowell from 10:00a.m. to 11:30am. No appointment is necessary. Residents may also contact her office at (517) 373-0846, or via e-mail at LisaLyons@house.mi.gov.

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.

### Junior Regional Art Competition

The third annual Junior Regional Art Competition for youth ages 13-18 is now on display at LowellArts! 69 pieces by 50 artists are currently on display in the King Gallery through May 22. Hours are Tuesday-Friday 10am-6pm and Saturday 1-4pm. Closed Sunday and Monday.

## Consumers Energy presents energy program to students



On Monday, April 14, Consumers Energy presented their educational program, Think Energy, to the fourth-grade students at Murray Lake Elementary. This program teaches children about renewable and non-renewable resources and how the students themselves can help conserve energy resources by learning to use energy wisely. Little things like taking a five minute "power shower," turning off the lights when you

leave a room, changing out incandescent light bulbs for compact fluorescents, setting the temperature on the water heater between 120 - 130 degrees, and washing your laundry in cold water can decrease your energy output, as well as your gas or electric bill. By participating in this program and filling out a short survey after the presentation, students are able to earn their classroom a \$100 mini-grant.

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# Council takes citizen comments, accepts bid to build a kayak launch system and city manager discusses budget

by Tim McAllister  
contributing reporter

The back-and-forth between board members and citizens continued at the Lowell City Council meeting at city hall on Monday, April 21.

From the audience of 11, three residents addressed the council during the opportunity for citizen comment.

Light and Power board chairman Greg Canfield read a brief, prepared statement. "As a follow-up to my letter to the editor in this week's Ledger I would like to address the effect that negative publicity is having on our community. Personal attacks and unfounded claims of improper action made to the media, in an attempt to advance a cause, do nothing but give our community a black eye it doesn't deserve."

"Things here, as portrayed by the media, certainly don't shout, 'Move here.'" Canfield said. He went on to say, "We have some challenges to work through here, but let's do it in a positive and professional manner instead of attempting to turn Lowell into a ghost town."

Perry Beachum, another Light and Power board member, made remarks about the comments made by others in Ledger articles and the Light and Power board's alleged violation of Michigan's "open meetings" law at their meeting that took place on March 13.



**Barb Barber of VOICE addressed the city council.**

"I'm representing myself, personally, and not Lowell Light and Power..." ... "I've read through the charter, front to back, several times, and I'm upset, Mr. Altoft, I don't know if you're representing the council or if you are representing yourself, but

city of Lowell." "When this [alleged misuse of a company vehicle] was brought to our attention we went to a closed meeting to discuss some other personnel business," Beachum said. "We then came out of that, and we did have a discussion. It was

**"As a follow-up to my letter to the editor in this week's Ledger I would like to address the affect that negative publicity is having on our community."**  
~ Greg Canfield

the articles that was quoted in here, basically called the board members liars, cheats - maybe not cheats, out of control." Beachum went on to say... "I was deeply saddened to read these articles, the information of you quoting Dick Wendt as the worst lawyer around. I would beg to differ. I think he's done a fine job for the

in opens [sic] meeting, but it was not on the agenda, and I would just say that we were following what we perceived was the correct thing to do."

Beachum said the city council did the same exact thing last year.

"I do believe back in December the council had, after they came out of closed

session, had a discussion on a matter that was brought up during the meeting and was not on the agenda," Beachum said. "So we're just following the example of the city council."

Barb Barber of VOICE was the next citizen to

and he agrees with us," Barber said.

The council voted 3 - 1 to accept a bid of \$27,544 from Camp & Cruise to build a "kayak launch system" as part of the Riverwalk extension project. Tamela Spicer, a member of the

"Property taxes are the major source of revenue for city operations," Howe said. "They account for nearly 25 percent of all revenues and they're more than 50 percent of 'general fund' revenues. The decline in property tax over three years has resulted in a loss of more than \$250,000 per year to the general fund. We've been able to weather these declines through a number of budget adjustments."

Using the example of the 'equipment fund,' Howe said that having "deficits" in the budget could lead

***There isn't a lot of extra money, but we're meeting our needs. We're able to sustain services.***

~ Mark Howe

address the council. Barber began by expressing her organization's support of councilperson Jeff Altoft.

"We're very proud that he sits there and we put him there," Barber said.

Barber also said that VOICE consulted with a "tax expert" who told the group that the city did not pay the proper taxes on a light and power truck that an employee drove home overnight on several occasions.

"Since we don't have the taxpayers' money to pay for one, thankfully we were given the opportunity to speak to a tax expert at Warner, Norcross and Judd,

light and power board, was appointed to the arbor board by mayor Jim Hodges.

***"When we have real issues, let's discuss them."***

~ Sharon Ellison

City manager Mark Howe gave a PowerPoint presentation with an overview of the city's 2014-2015 budget.

Lowell down a dangerous financial path.

City council meeting, continued, page 10

## LL&P warns of possible scam

On April 15, Lowell Light & Power posted on their website that someone is making phone calls to customers posing as an LL&P representative.

According the site someone identifying themselves as Peter Johnson from Lowell Electric is

requesting a credit card number or power would be disconnected.

The onsite posting goes on to say, "Lowell Light and Power is not making calls requesting your credit card numbers. We have several options for paying your bill and a credit card is just one

of our options if you select to do so. However, it is not required. If you select to pay by credit card, please note, when we take your credit card information over the phone we process your payment and then we destroy your credit card information."

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## On raising the minimum wage



Sen. Carl Levin

When the Senate returns to Washington in late April, we should debate and pass legislation to raise the minimum wage.

It is indisputable that the minimum wage now lags far behind the cost of living. We last acted to raise the minimum wage in 2009, when we set the current rate of \$7.25 an hour. Adjusted for inflation, that's just \$6.62 in current dollars. And it is far lower than the rate in 1980, which was nearly \$9 an hour when adjusted for inflation.

It is indisputable that increasing the minimum wage would reduce poverty. The Congressional Budget Office estimates that nearly 1 million Americans would rise from poverty under this legislation. And earlier this year, economists who surveyed the empirical research on this subject estimated that the impact would be far greater: roughly 4.6 million people immediately lifted above the poverty line, and 6.8 million over time.

And it is indisputable that failure to raise the U.S. minimum wage – among the lowest in the developed world – has contributed to growing income inequality. Here's what the Economist, a generally conservative publication, said in

December: "Skepticism about the merits of minimum wages remains this newspaper's starting-point. But as income inequality widens and workers' share of national income shrinks, the case for action to help the low-paid grows."

The Economist and others recognize that we should consider this issue in the context of a larger issue: Increasingly, working hard is not the path to get ahead in this country. Increasingly, income goes not to working families, but to the owners of capital. The share of our national income that flows to those who work for a living has, by every measure, fallen. That is enormously troubling. This is a nation built on the idea that hard work is the path to success, the path to a better future for our families. That breakdown of the relationship between labor and prosperity threatens to fracture the understandings that have fed our growth and success for more than two centuries.

None of the statements I have made so far are particularly controversial; they represent mainstream economic thinking. Opponents of raising the minimum wage have one response to these facts: They say raising the

minimum wage will destroy jobs. They cite this as an unassailable fact. But this position is far more open to dispute than any of the arguments in favor of raising the minimum wage.

The Economist put it this way: "Some studies find no harm to employment from federal or state minimum wages, others see a small one, but none finds any serious damage." Again: "None finds any serious damage." And when the University of Chicago surveyed leading economists last year, they found them evenly split on the question – just as many economists believed there would be no noticeable impact on employment opportunities as believed there would be noticeable job loss. In that same survey, economists said by a four-to-one margin that the benefits of a minimum wage increase outweighed the potential costs.

The minimum wage has been increased only twice in the last 17 years because too many in Washington oppose any minimum wage increases, at any time, under any economic circumstances.

These opponents seem wedded to a policy of tax cuts for the wealthy, reduced protections for workers and consumers and reduced protection for the environment as the answer to any and all economic problems. This dogma has, for the last 30 years, dominated much of our country's economic policy. But who can persuasively argue that working families are better off for it? Corporate profits are at an all-time high, as are income and wealth for the most fortunate Americans. But for average working families, the last 30 years have been an exercise in running to stand still.

We can and must raise the minimum wage. Empirical evidence supports it, and fairness demands it.

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# viewpoint

## to the editor

### get involved

To The Editor,

It seems to me that we see quite of few letters from concerned citizens, how does the DDA spent it's money, what about Light and Power, can we get a contract done, who in their right mind approved that sign. These questions keep coming up!

Well, if you are concerned than contact your councilman or mayor and let them know that you would

like to serve on one of these boards. Openings happen all the time and go unanswered, that is why we have some people serving on several boards and commissions and this leads us to having a few opinions running all the boards.

If you really care about Lowell than just don't write and rant, volunteer to serve.

Mike Larkin  
Lowell

### pull together

To The Editor,

My wife and I chose to move to Lowell 22 years ago. We have appreciated living in this community of beauty and cooperation which has produced the Riverwalk, Pink Arrow and other events and projects to make us thankful to be here. However, I am

distressed by the recent, ongoing rancor as exhibited in council meetings, letters to the editor, etc.

It is obvious people speak from limited information, personal bias, dislike of others and just a general distrust. One person said our lawyer is the worst.

My question is "what law school did you graduate from?"

People, it's time to man/woman up and say things like, "I don't know all the facts," "I might be wrong."

Bottom line is we can, we must, be better.

Because of health I have not been able to be active, but I hope people will pull together and help this community truly be "The Place To Be."

Vance M. Dimmick  
Lowell

### more than a few at meetings

To the Editor,

Oh my goodness! Are you serious, Greg? Our "very small special interest group" has filled the council chambers numerous times with standing room only, but then to be discounted because only a few spoke. Do you have any idea how difficult it is for the public to come to meetings over and over again only to be threatened, dismissed and condescended to, with it being obvious that no one is listening nor does anyone care what they have to say?

I think last year's election said it all and if

any of the leadership had been listening things would be different by now. The candidate who got the most votes (over a hundred more than the next closest) is still the only one who is willing to stand up to the mayor, city manager and city attorney and speak for the people who you all are supposed to represent. And even a write-in candidate got almost as many votes as the incumbents. If any of you were listening, that should speak louder than any speeches and tell you how many are really concerned with what's going on.

As far as our "special interests," they include concerns about the continued unnecessary spending of tens of thousands of city resident taxes and Lowell Light & Power customer fees to fight against our own employees even though we the people as well as neutral fact finders and judges have said over and over again "Stop!" How many streets could have been "rehabilitated" with that money without depriving legitimate endowment fund recipients of financial support. Our "special

interests" include our leaders threatening and guilt tripping the public, constant closed-door sessions and an unwillingness to answer legitimate questions.

I am so disgusted with hearing the public being blamed for the negative attitude. First it was the workers blamed for stirring up the public with yellow signs (since everything was already happening behind closed doors, no one had any idea of all their money

To The Editor,  
continued, page 12

## outdoors

Overwhelmed

Dave Stegehuis

Now that the recent long hard winter is finally behind us, springtime in Michigan opens the floodgate for an overwhelming number of outdoor activities. The days are getting longer, but not long enough.

Gobbling tom turkeys have joined the robin as a harbinger of spring. Mild weather and a blooming landscape make it a great time to be in the woods and turkey hunters take full advantage.

Trout and walleye seasons resume while steelhead gather in Great Lakes feeder streams. Multitaskers can hunt for Morel mushrooms while fishing small streams where colorful brook trout call home.

Some folks are looking forward to getting boats and docks in the water. Few states have more registered watercraft than Michigan, but everyone has to wait for the ice to melt to get on the water.

Inland lakes begin to warm inviting bluegills to seek the comfort of shallow water and prepare for the spawn. Fishermen seek out these feisty panfish for some

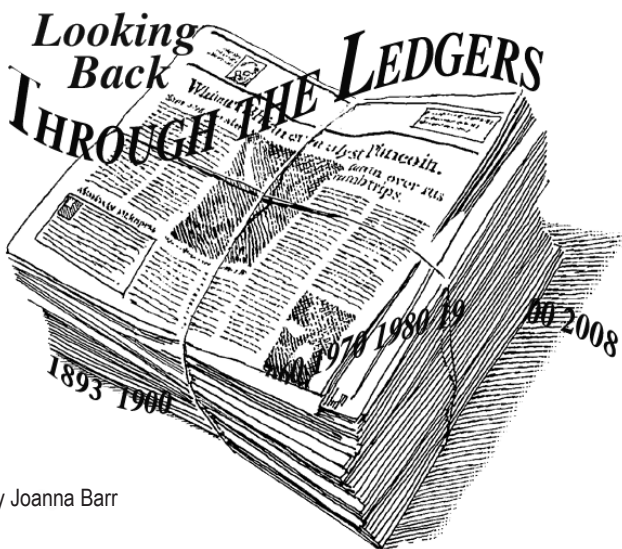
exciting action on a fly rod. Spring cleaning and yard work may have to wait.

Golfers who didn't travel south this winter are eager to start swinging. Golfers are as tuned to the weather as fishermen and are primed to hit the links at the first warm breeze. Those who fish and golf may have to make a tough decision.

Now that the snow is gone and the ground has thawed out, gardeners can begin to prepare plots and start seeds indoors for planting next month. It's difficult to imagine growing vegetables where there was three feet of snow and ice not that long ago.

Then, of course, there are springtime domestic chores like yard work and house cleaning. At our place we take the opportunity of cool days and dry conditions to restock the woodshed for next winter.

Now that the cold weather has broken, there are many things to do. It may be necessary to make a list and get organized so as not to get overwhelmed and miss out on special opportunities.



By Joanna Barr

### 125 years ago Lowell Journal April 24, 1889

P. Kelley went to Mt. Clemens yesterday to try the effects of mineral water on his rheumatism.

W. M. Andrews has rented a house in this village and will leave the farm. He has labored hard enough and long enough to earn a good rest.

The Lowell Cutter Co. is filling orders for five or six carloads of measure bottoms and crates for a Chicago firm who manufactures sheet iron measures.

Don't step into B. C. Smith's, for if you do you will surely bargain for a suit of clothes, from one of the endless variety of stylish cloths he has on his counters. His prices are so reasonable that one cannot afford to buy ready made goods.

The Grand Rapids Telegram Herald has been outdoing even itself lately. A week ago it put on a new dress of type and came out regularly with eight pages and Sunday it surprised its readers again with a 24-page paper. Its publishers have lots of vim and vinegar.

One of those unreasonable men who takes a newspaper for a year or two and then sends it back marked "refused" or "not wanted" was sued by a Michigan publisher a short time ago and the judge gave a verdict for the plaintiff for full amount with costs. The court decided that notice to discontinue was not sufficient if the subscriber was in arrears. He must pay first.-Ex.

It is thought the wool clip of Michigan is going to average lighter than usual this year. While sheep never wintered better, they went into the winter pretty thin as a result of the severe drought of the summer and the wool did not grow during that drought as much as usual. The clip, however, will be in fine condition, as sheep were never healthier, taking the whole State over.

R. J. Enos and F. T. King started last week for a trip to the Upper Peninsula. Pine is what they are particularly looking for.

G. J. Johnson, from Grand Rapids, has rented one of A. P. Hunter's buildings, on Bridge Street, where he will open a cigar factory, next week.

Joe McGlynn, brakeman, fell from the rear of the L. & H. train, Saturday noon, as the train was entering town. His scalp was badly cut and had to be sewed up. He was taken home and Dr. McDannell summoned. He is now able to be out.

### 100 years ago The Lowell Ledger April 23, 1914

Some folks prefer buying new things to paying for their old ones.

Fred Barnes is making needed repairs on the barn he recently moved to his residence.

Mrs. Florence Fuller has had new concrete front and approach walks laid on her home lot.

Hiram VanDeusen has been making improvements on his barn to accommodate his new horse and carriage.

Looking Back, continued, page 7

### We love to hear from you!

The Lowell Ledger welcomes your Letters to the Editor. Letters are required to bear the author's signature, phone number and address (for verification purposes only, not for publication). Letters will be published at the discretion of the publisher. Opinions expressed in in "To The Editor" are not the views of the Ledger employees or the publisher. All letters are subject to editing for length and grammar. Thank you letters and advertising will not be printed.

Letters may be submitted via email to: ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com ("to the Editor" in subject line) or dropped off or mailed to: The Lowell Ledger, 105 N. Broadway, Lowell, MI 49331.



# engagements

# Give your mom some extra help

## Barr/Wells

Kayla Barr and David Wells, both of Grand Rapids, will be wed on April 26, 2014, at the St. Patrick Parish in Ada. The bride is

the daughter of Matthew and Allison Barr of Lowell. The groom is the son of Larry and Kathy Wells and Jarma Wells, all of Kentwood.

## business matters



The J.B. Harrison Insurance Agency has been named no. 10 of the Auto-Owners Insurance Company Western Michigan Region Top 10 Agencies. The Top 10 Agencies qualified by showing the greatest increase in profitable

Property/Casualty written premium in 2013.

The Top 10 agency representatives met with Jeff Harrold, chairman and CEO; and Cathy Adcock, regional vice president – Western Michigan region; for a luncheon in Lansing.

Mother's Day is right around the corner. It's always nice to give Mom a card, flowers or candy, but this year people all over the country are helping their moms save an estimated \$4,000 annually on the cost of Medicare prescription drugs. You can help your mom too—and it won't cost you a dime.

If your mother has Medicare coverage and has limited income and resources, she may be eligible for *Extra Help*—available through Social Security—to pay part of her monthly premiums, annual deductibles and prescription co-payments.

To figure out whether your mother is eligible, Social Security needs to know her income and the value of her savings, investments and real estate (other than the home she lives in). To qualify for the *Extra Help*, she must receive Medicare and have:

- Income limited to \$17,235 for an individual or \$23,265 for a married couple living together. Even if your mom's annual income is higher, she still may be able to get some help. Some examples where income may be higher include if she and, if married, her spouse:
- Support other family members who live with them;

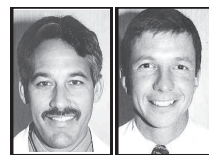
- Have earnings from work; or
- Live in Alaska or Hawaii.
- Resources limited to \$13,440 for an individual or \$26,860 for a married couple living together. Resources include such things as bank accounts, stocks and bonds. We do not count her house or car as resources.

We have an easy-to-use online application that you can help mom complete. You can find it at [www.socialsecurity.gov/prescriptionhelp](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/prescriptionhelp). To apply by phone or have an application mailed to you, call Social Security at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778) and ask for the *Application for Help with Medicare Prescription Drug Plan Costs* (SSA-1020).

To learn more about the Medicare prescription drug plans and special enrollment periods visit [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov) or call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227; TTY 1-877-486-2048).

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

# health



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

## high blood pressure treatment

Recently the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute released new national guidelines to all physicians for treatment of high blood pressure. These guidelines suggest target blood pressure goals for different groups of patients and recommend certain medications that should be used in different patient populations.

Blood pressure is a simple measure of the pressure within the arteries. The systolic reading is the pressure within the arteries as the heart contracts and the diastolic pressure is the reading in between beats as the heart relaxes. So, a blood pressure reading of 134/72 would indicate a systolic reading of 134 and a diastolic reading of 72.

Hypertension occurs when either of the two readings are too high. Most people with high blood pressure are completely symptom free, but over time, untreated high blood

pressure can lead to heart attack, strokes, heart failure and kidney disease. Treatment of high blood pressure has been shown to decrease these possible complications.

The new guidelines released this year are summarized below:

- For adults younger than 60, blood pressure goals are systolic <140 and diastolic <90.
- For adults 60 or older, blood pressure should be <150/90.
- For adults any age with chronic kidney disease and diabetes, blood pressure should be <140/90.

You can help lower your blood pressure without medication by exercising regularly, limiting salt intake, reducing your weight and not smoking. If blood pressure remains high in spite of the above life style changes you should see a physician for further treatment recommendations.

...  
"Live an active life among people who are doing worthwhile things, keep eyes and ears and mind and heart open to absorb truth, and then tell of the things you know, as if you know them. The world will listen, for the world loves nothing so much as real life."

~ Dale Carnegie



# happy birthday!

## APRIL 23

Nathan Roudabush, Jonathan Dixon, Karen Merriman, Nicole Cummings, Brandon Short.

## APRIL 27

Janice Ryder, Dennis Pretzel, Debbie Burrows, Ashlyn Karp.

## APRIL 28

Terese Brown, Timmy Vezino, Shawna Austin, Kattie Hildenbrand, Beth Weston.

## APRIL 24

Gary Goff, Trevor Foss, Nichole Hoag, Don Shaffer, Logan Propst.

## APRIL 29

K.J. Vezino, Bryan Roth, Lucy Wade.

## APRIL 26

Marsha Ray, Casey Brown, Bonnie Baird, Audrey Bailey, Jonathan Christiansen, Brad Brzezniak.



# area churches

**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

**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.  
Sunday School Children thru adult.....11:00 A.M.  
Youth Ministry.....Mon. 6:30 - 8:30 P.M.  
AWANA 6-8.....Wed. 6:15 P.M.  
Contact Church Office For Prayer Meeting Times  
Nursery Provided • Barrier Free

**First Congregational UCC**  
A progressive voice in our community.

865 Lincoln Lake Ave SE 616.897.5906

Sundays 10am

[www.ourbigchurch.org](http://www.ourbigchurch.org)

**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 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

**Happy 60<sup>th</sup> Karen!**

**Ready to go another 600 miles?**



## college news

Bryleigh B. Loughlin is among the 47 students in Western Michigan University's (WMU) 6,313-member senior class to be named a 2014 Presidential Scholar.

The annual Presidential Scholar designation is the highest honor WMU can bestow on an undergraduate.

The award goes to the most outstanding seniors in each of the University's academic schools, departments and specialty programs. Only the highest caliber of students receive

the award. They are selected on the basis of their general academic excellence, academic and artistic excellence in their majors, and intellectual and artistic promise.

Loughlin is the Presidential Scholar in communication and a graduate of Lowell High School. A member of WMU's Lee Honors College, she is majoring in organizational communication, as well as in Spanish and expects to graduate in April 2014. Following

graduation, Loughlin plans to continue her education and obtain a master's degree in communication while working in the field of corporate social responsibility or in the nonprofit sector. She already has worked as the corporate social responsibility intern for the Amway Corp., coordinating a cross-functional team to develop a synthesized, organized and flexible environmental messaging campaign for the company and its affiliates around the world. With a passion for community involvement, Loughlin volunteered four days a week at a Spanish elementary school in Burgos, Spain,

during a semester abroad in fall 2013. Her interest in the Spanish language continued with an internship at Southwest Michigan's Hispanic American Council. That internship was made possible by a Next Generation award from the Nonprofit Leadership Alliance. Loughlin has served as president of the Nonprofit Leadership Student Association on campus and on the executive committee of the Lowell Pink Arrow Project in her hometown community.

This year's scholars were recognized during the 34th annual Presidential Scholars Convocation, held on campus March 20. During

the event, the students received certificates from three WMU dignitaries: Dr. John M. Dunn, university president; Dr. Timothy J. Greene, provost; and Dr. William G. Rantz, faculty senate president.

The convocation, which also celebrates the overall excellence of the university's

students, is sponsored by the office of the president and faculty senate at WMU. It included a program and closing reception. Many presidential scholars will graduate from WMU Saturday, April 26, during spring commencement exercises.

...

**"If you have an important point to make, don't try to be subtle or clever. Use a pile driver. Hit the point once. Then come back and hit it again. Then hit it a third time - a tremendous whack."**

~ Winston Churchill

## Looking Back, continued

Guy Meyers of Ionia came Monday to take the place in Jack Bannon's barber shop left vacant by the removal of J. E. Tinkler.

A blaze in and around the chimney of Henry Taylor's house, West side, at 6 o'clock yesterday morning, called out the fire department, but ready hands extinguished the flames before the arrival of the firemen. The damage is small and is covered by insurance. Mrs. Taylor, who is in ill health, suffered a severe nervous shock from the excitement.

Frank Randall is adding a fine porch to his home on Monroe Street. It is seven feet wide and extends across the entire front of the house.

The vacant store in the Negonce block is being made ready for Glen E. DeNise, who expects to occupy it about May 1.

Will Gibbs had bought two lots of Mrs. O. O. Adams, overlooking Flat River, on the West Side and is living there in a large tent preparatory to building a house.

Alterations on the shops below and removal of stairway necessitated reaching C. E. Hackett's paint shops by the carriage slide on the north corner, but patrons enough find the way to keep the good painter busy.

P. C. Peckman is having a fine job of cement walk done in and around his residence lot.

A cold snap Sunday followed Saturday's big gale and a slight sprinkle of snow was on the ground Monday morning, April 20.

The Lowell Foundry company reports finding a good quality of molding sand in this vicinity, which will give the enterprise quite an advantage.

B. C. Smith has had an attractive new front with side entrance placed in his store. It's just like him. He always did like to have his premises look well.

The Hayes Ionia Body company of Ionia has started a \$20,000 addition to its plant and will put in equipment sufficient to make automobile bodies complete and increase their output to 150 bodies a day. The force will be increased accordingly and the new factory will be ready June 15.

### 75 years ago The Lowell Ledger April 27, 1939

It's time to get on the water wagon. Main St. drinking fountains were turned on Tuesday.

Did you know that manager Jay Bolens of the Kroger store used to be a professional football player? Made his living at it too.

Daylight savings time makes its change next Sunday at midnight. Doesn't affect us here as we are on E.S.T. the year 'round, but it is a job to get readjusted to the new hour of one's favorite radio programs. The man who can devise a way of avoiding these twice-a-year changes will be a benefactor.

Silas Onlooker thinks that it might be possible for residents of Hudson St. to get rid of the dust nuisance by having the Common Council fix the speed limit at ten miles per hour on that particular thoroughfare. Silas says that all the motorists would then use Vergennes Rd. and Riverside Dr. which are paved.

John A. Arehart, manager of the Universal Metal Products company of Saranac, announced this week

that Juri C. Armstrong has been appointed to sales manager of that company. Mr. Armstrong has been in the sales department of the Lowell Manufacturing Company for 17 years and has been head of the department for the last five years.

May Day will take on added significance next Monday for certificate holders of the Lowell State and City State depositors corporations - about 1800 in all - who will share in the dividends totaling \$75,650.61. Standing room should be at a premium at the State Savings Bank the first few days of May - and don't fail to bring your certificate with you.

When Main St. was paved some twenty odd years ago the handling of automobile traffic was not a problem and in order to save paving costs, the sidewalks were made approximately four feet wider on each side of the street. Now in these days of greatly increased motor traffic there are some who think that the sidewalks should be narrowed to their original width and the space thus saved used to make the pavement eight feet wider. In this connection Mrs. Hary N. Briggs makes the suggestion that if the village contemplates another WPA (Work Projects Administration) project here might be a good idea to give consideration to one of widening Main St. What's your idea?

### 50 years ago The Lowell Ledger April 23, 1964

Headline: Plan new Showboat seats. The Showboat has created a new citizens committee to solve the seating problem. The committee is made up of members of the school board, city council, Showboat committee and the community at large. It will study a plan for ground level seating and using only the north one quarter of the present stands. The plan will include 1000 chair seats at stage level and 3,000 on a gradual elevation made with concrete walls and dirt felled with blacktop. Lafayette street would remain open but moved 30ft. west by a river fill which rejoin the old street at the present Showboat dock.

Four area teen-agers were fined and ordered to spend the week end in jail last Wednesday by Plainfield Justice Alan Tanner after they pleaded guilty of being disorderly by throwing water-filled balloons at cars on Parnell Road.

An aluminum pram owned by Richard Schlernitzauer was stolen sometime Friday night or Saturday morning from the north side of Franks 5c to \$1 store, police reported. The thieves took the boat down to the river and paddled away. If anyone observes the boat on the river, they are requested to notify the police department.

In spite of the statements of chain stores that "trading stamps do not increase prices" a check of 47 items in the Eberhardt store in St. Johns without stamps, the items would cost \$1.99 more in the store giving stamps. The way we figure it, the 47 items came to \$24.84 in the stamp giving store and \$22.85 in the non-stamp giving store, or nearly 8 percent more.

### 25 years ago The Lowell Ledger April 26, 1989

Headline: ADAD recommendation awaits - Kindergarten committee to ask for board approval. Following two all day alternate day (ADAD) informational meetings and the gathering and studying of results from a parent survey, the ADAD research team will make a formal recommendation to the Lowell Board of Education at its May 8 meeting to implement a two-year pilot ADAD kindergarten program for the 1989-90 school year. The research, which was done by a 21-member group, including parents, kindergarten and first-grade teachers, three school board members and elementary administrators, provided parents with answers to its concerns and left the majority of its members with a feeling of excitement...Based on the information received, 118 said they would be in favor of Lowell Schools beginning a two-year pilot All/Day Alternate Day kindergarten program.

Thieves broke the front window of Sam's Factory Outlet early Monday morning, on West Main St. and took a carburetor from the building.

No injuries in bizarre crash with railroad. No serious injuries were incurred in an accident Friday, April 24, north of Lowell at the Lincoln Lake Road train crossing. The driver of this truck [pictured] who was working on the tracks did not see a south-bound vehicle according to the Kent County Police report. The accident was still under investigation.

Injured swan released. Lowell Veterinarian released the swan downed by a high tension line 3-4 weeks ago. ~~Langlois said the swan suffered from a concussion.~~

## — LEGAL NOTICE —

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
PROBATE COURT  
COUNTY OF KENT

NOTICE TO  
CREDITORS  
Decedent's Estate

FILE NO. 14-195304-DE

Estate of SHIRLEY A.  
DANIELS. Date of birth:  
11/12/1925.

TO ALL CREDITORS:

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Shirley A. Daniels, died 02/24/2014.

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

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

April 17, 2014

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

William Curtis  
15152 Legend Oaks Ct.  
Fort Mill, SC  
803-804-3200



# Lowell woman trekking 4,600 mile North Country Trail

Shelly Sulser  
J-ad News Service

A former Lowell resident who is on a quest to become the first woman to thru-hike the 4,600 mile North Country National Scenic Trail in one season passed through West Michigan last week.

Gail Lowe, 64, has more than 10,000 miles under her belt – including two thru-hikes on the Appalachian Trail and one on the Pacific Crest Trail – and began her current hike north of Cincinnati on March 16.

The North Country National Scenic Trail stretches from North Dakota to the eastern border of New York.

“I grew up in St. Claire Shores, but I call Lowell my home,” said Lowe of the town this is also home to the National Scenic Trail National Headquarters.

Lowe, who will be 65 when she finishes her walk in October, has named her journey “Becka’s Hike,” in memory of her daughter, Rebecca, who died at age 46 of breast cancer last year.

“She had a lump and she let it go for five years so by the time it was diagnosed it had spread to her brain, her bone and her intestines,” said Lowe during a pause in Battle Creek April 11. “I’m just walking in her memory and if I’m successful, I’ll be the first woman to thru-hike the entire hiking trail in one hiking season. And so, if I go down in history, so will she.”

While her daughter wasn’t a hiker, she did enjoy singing, specifically karaoke.

“Everyday, absolutely,” said Lowe about how often she thinks of her. “She’s right here (in locket.) She loved Michigan. Michigan was her favorite place in the whole world, especially with the leaves in the fall.”

Thursday morning, Lowe, who lives in Mexico when she’s not on a quest, started hiking just south of Marshall and hiked through Battle Creek on Friday.

The national trail, headquartered in Lowell, follows the Linear Park through Battle Creek, between the Fort Custer National Cemetery and the intersection of Wagner Drive and East Emmett Street.

At that location, the two paths split.

The Chief Noontday Chapter of the North Country Trail Association maintains a total of 95 miles of the trail passing through Barry, Calhoun and Kalamazoo counties.



**Gail Lowe, 64, will be 65 when she completes the North Country National Scenic Trail this fall as the first woman to thru-hike the 4,600 foot path in one season. She grew up in St. Claire Shores, now lives in Mexico but considers Lowell, where she once lived, her hometown.** (Photo by Shelly Sulser)

Updates on Lowe’s hike are available on the North Country Trail Association (NCTA) Facebook page and through her Nature Nymph LLC YouTube channel where she is posting video blogs.

She’s hiking north and west to North Dakota, then will fly to Vermont and start the hike back to Ohio.

Lowe is a retired ICU nurse, having worked in medicine for 30 years.

“I’m also a respiratory therapist, so I have two skills,” she said. “I was doing the ICU nursing when I retired. I managed to squeeze in a few hikes while I was still working.”

She has also hiked solo the Brooks Range in Alaska, climbed Mt. Fuji in Japan, Mt. Whitney, which is the highest mountain in the lower 48 states, the Florida Trail, Isle Royale, and she has walked the Michigan shore-to-shore trail.

“I will now have crossed Michigan in both directions,” she said. “I love Michigan.”

Her last big hike was in 2011, when she hiked the Appalachian Trail.

“That was my 20-year anniversary hike,” she said. “I did the first one in 1991 and went back 20 years later. I’m telling people ‘I don’t think there will be a third.’”

She said her children have always had mixed reactions to her long distance hiking.

“One, ‘she’s crazy,’ the

me in, fed me and kept me warm and safe and dry. It’s just that so many people are excited about my hike that they’re coming out in throngs and wanting to be part of my journey which I love. I love meeting new people. There are nights I’m in my tent and cuddled down in my five degree sleeping bag.”

She had some local trail angels, however, not only in Ohio but here in Calhoun County.

Mike and Julie Nofs of Battle Creek caught up with her on Facebook where she posts as Chosen Hiker and came to her rescue after she tried to settle down for the night near Homer.

Her air mattress went flat.

“When I needed it most, I had nothing,” she said. “It was a miserable night between the lumps and the cold and I was really upset I was going to have to take another day off of hiking to hitchhike into town. But I had posted that on Facebook and lo behold, wonderful Mike and Julie from Battle Creek, who said, ‘Julie can go pick that up for you after work and deliver it to you.’”

From there, “I’m thinking we’ve got a lifelong friendship going,” she continued, adding that their relatives put her up for three nights. “These are truly fantastic trail angels and I thank them.”

The best part, she said, is seeing something different, every step of the way.

“The best part, I think for me, is seeing Americana, hiking the back roads, seeing all the small

towns, pulling in when I feel like it, getting an omelet at a mom and pop restaurant and talking with the locals,” she said. “I love the challenge. I love with every step I take, I’m looking at something different. So, I’m not boxed into four walls and seeing the same thing every day and that in and of itself gives such a sense of adventure and I just wish that the readers would just really find a sense of adventure in their life and follow that passion.”

This week, after spending a night with friends of the Nofs in Hastings, she’s scheduled to give an interview on National Public Radio and is hoping to get a ride into Grand Rapids for the appointment.

“It’s a little scary to think about the kind of mileage I’m going to have to do to get this monster done,” she said. “I really need to focus on pounding out the miles. I’m going to have to be hiking from dusk til dawn.”

In Michigan, the North Country National Scenic Trail spans 1,150 miles.

From its point of entry near Ironwood, the North Country Trail route soon enters Ottawa National Forest and Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park.

Rivers, waterfalls, forested hills and ridges characterize the trail.

“Laughing Whitefish Falls and numerous other falls provide outstanding scenery as the trail continues eastward to Munising and Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore,” according to information posted at the Augusta Drive trail head marker.

The Chief Noontday Chapter of the North Country Trail Association

has grown steadily from a beginning in May 1996 at the public library in Augusta.

In all, 12 members were listed on the roster then which has grown to the present membership of 150.

Membership dues in the NCTA provides financial support to the chapter for operating expenses.

Dedication of the Ft. Custer National Cemetery NCT section, 2.8 miles, was held in May 2004.

The trail also passes through Historic Bridge Park in Emmett Township.

The North Country National Scenic Trail is the longest of the 11 National Scenic Trails authorized by Congress (in 1980) and Michigan supports the longest portion of all the seven states.

It is administered by the National Park Service.

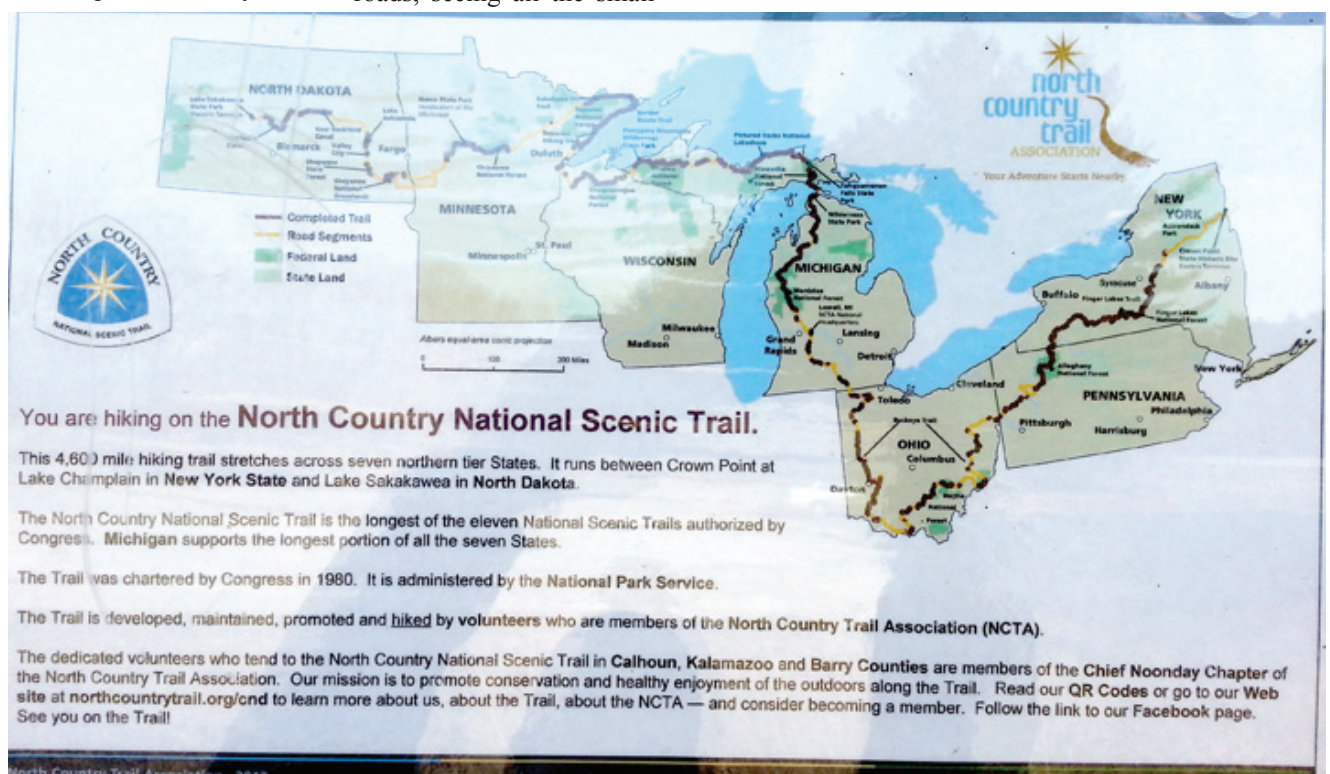
Lowe said in her April 13 blog that the NCT is much different than all of the others.

“When I came into this hike, I thought it would be the same as my other hikes,” she said, “which was hike six days and take one day off a week. That’s not going to work on this hike. There’s just too many miles so at this rate, I think I’ll be lucky if I get one day off a month. We’re going to ramp up the miles and we are really going to start pouring it on.”

Lowe asks readers “Like” the North Country Trail Association Facebook page “so we can get over 8,000.”

She can also be “friended” on Facebook. Just look for “Chosen” Hiker.

More information about the chapter and how to get involved is at [www.northcountrytrail.org/cnd](http://www.northcountrytrail.org/cnd).



**The North Country National Scenic Trail stretches from North Dakota to New York. Lowe started in the middle in Ohio, is walking to North Dakota, will fly to Vermont then walk back to Ohio.**

(Photo by Shelly Sulser)



# Red Arrow **SPORTS**

## Arrows come out on top in overtime against FHC

by Kathryn Atwood  
contributing reporter

Lowell Red Arrow sluggers rallied against the Northview Wildcats for a slim 5-4 overtime victory on April 21 in front of a home crowd at Cherry Creek Field.

The varsity team went into the game with a 5-4 record overall and a record of 2-1 in league play after securing two of three victories against Forest Hills Central. The non-league win against the Wildcats improved their overall record to 6-4.

A single run was scored in the first inning by Red Arrow Zach Gordon who advanced to first after being hit with a wild pitch from Northview starting pitcher Harry Julien. After stealing second base Gordon was able to score after a successful ground ball by Kyler Shurlow.

Northview was able

to load the bases and earn four total runs during the second inning after Red Arrow pitcher Jon Wyckoff allowed two walks and two hits. Coach Juston Miller brought in pitcher Alex Chavez who earned the outs needed to end the inning at a 4-1 deficit for the Arrows. Matt Cooper and Collin VanNord also spent time on the mound during the game which coach Miller said was part of his training plan, "We went into the game with the plan that each would throw about two innings. I use the non-league games for development because right now our mission is a league title and that is what we are working towards."

Innings three through six were slow rolling with neither dugout earning runs. Red Arrows Zach Gordon, Garrett Gordon, Parker Groom and Jake Stephens



**Zach Gordon connects with the ball during the team's 7th inning rally that led to a one-run overtime victory.**



**Pitcher Collin VanNord closed out the winning game against Northview that brought the Arrows to a 6-5 overall record.**

did each offer up solid base hits, but were left stranded.

The tying rally by the Red Arrows in the seventh inning was led by Groom who connected with the ball resulting in a first base hit. A walk by Matt Milstead loaded up one and two before Shurlow offered up a solid hit deep into center field allowing for the teams first run of the inning. Garrett Gordon was next at bat and performed well slugging the ball far into right field where the Wildcat fielders were unable to make the catch, allowing the two

runs needed to push the game into extra innings.

Northview was unable to score at the top of the eighth and had multiple errors in the bottom helping the Red Arrows secure their victory with a hit by VanNord, a bunt from Matt Cooper and a fumbled pop up by Groom that drove in pinch runner Logan Smith for the game winning run.

Coach Miller said that he was happy with the performance of his players, "It went really well tonight. Almost everybody got in the game. It was a good night."



**Senior Parker Groom rounds second after sending out a pop up that led in the game winning run in overtime.**

**The Arrows will face the East Grand Rapids Pioneers three times this week in league play.**

**The Pioneers are currently undefeated after shutting out last year's state title holder Grand Rapids Christian.**

**The series between the Arrows and Pioneers will wrap up at Cherry Creek Field on the 24th starting at 4:30.**

**The team will also face Forest Hills Northern in a nonleague tournament this Saturday beginning at 11 am in Lake Odessa.**

# What's Your Sport?



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

# the lowell ledger





# City council meeting, continued

"These are the types of things that get communities in trouble, that lead them toward emergency managers and those types of things," Howe said.

Again using the example of the 'equipment fund,' Howe said the city has transferred money from the 'general fund' to make up for any deficits, and that a two percent increase in property taxes might be in Lowell's future. Despite these problems, Howe said not to worry about the budget.

"It's stable," Howe said. "There's not a lot of cuts. There's no cuts to staff. There isn't a lot of extra money, but we're meeting our needs. We're able to sustain services."

During "council comments," councilperson Altoft responded to Beachum's and Canfield's

remarks from earlier in the meeting.

"I didn't make allegations about anyone in particular," Altoft said. "I brought up policies and procedures that weren't being followed right. That's all this is about, is policies and procedures and the charter."

For her "council comments," councilperson Sharon Ellison made a speech about the way councilperson Altoft and members of VOICE addressed the council at the city council meeting on April 7.

"I was surprised," Ellison said. "I was a little embarrassed for the city."

Ellison said that vocal critics of the council and the light and power board were bad for the city.

"I understand we don't always agree on issues and

sometimes the subjects that we do address are controversial," Ellison said. "Citizens do have the right and we always encourage them to speak up at meetings, but I think that over-the-top negativity at that meeting and accusations I saw were very disappointing. I think it's detrimental to how we function as a community. Disagreements are one thing. Accusations, personal attacks are another."

Ellison's next topic was Ralph Brecken, the Lowell city employee who originally presented the information about the light and power truck to the board.

"To the VOICE group," Ellison said, "I would just like to know how having a person with workplace issues in the city, who's not a voter registered in the city nor a city resident, how

having that person speak for you helps, as your mission statement reads, 'understand issues, tap into the creativity of residents or find positive ways to solve problems in our local government.' I saw that same person in the news at the Belding city council meeting, where he lives, pursuing similar issues, so of course I question the motivation and credibility of that person, and so should you. Whose interest is he representing? Who is he accountable to?"

Ellison finished her speech by dismissing VOICE and other critics of the council as, "a handful of people who are disgruntled" and told the audience that she and the other board

members had to "give up personal time" in order to serve on the council.

"When we have real issues, let's discuss them," Ellison said.

Instead of adjourning to the customary 'closed session' to discuss union negotiations, city manager Howe asked the council if they could instead discuss the topic in front of the public. The council agreed.

"The update is simply that we had made a proposal," Howe said. "The proposal that we made went with the fact finder's report and went with what the union had requested on a majority of the issues, in fact over half of the outstanding

issues. Not every issue that they wanted, not necessarily every issue that they had as a priority. We also made the employees whole in terms of wages."

Howe said the union rejected this contract proposal.

"That proposal was rejected by them and so it is now their turn to submit a proposal to us and to let us know what they're thinking and how we might be able to come to some resolution," Howe said.

The city council will have a public "work session" at city hall at 6 pm on April 28. The next regular city council meeting will be at 7 pm on May 6 at city hall.

*Editor's note: It is important for the community to remember that The Ledger reports what is said by councilmembers and the public alike and has no vested interest other than informing our readers. These "stories" are not opinions, but a record of events and comments made at these public meetings.*

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION

The Lowell Charter Township Planning Commission will hold a public hearing to consider the following amendments to the Township Zoning Ordinance:

1. An amendment to revise the existing requirements for wireless communication towers and antennas to comply with the regulations required by the State of Michigan and the federal government for wireless communication towers and antennas. The amendment would delete the existing regulations contained in Section 22.03(q) and replace it with new Section 4.41.
2. An amendment to revise Section 4.33 to delete the existing regulations pertaining to towers and antennas which are over 35 feet and revise this Section to only regulate those towers and antennas which are 35 feet and under.
3. An amendment to clarify accessory building setback requirements in the R1, R2, and R3 zoning districts in Section 4.15(b).
4. An amendment to add Section 4.42 to allow certain architectural features of a building and unenclosed porches, decks, balconies, steps, and awnings to project into required yards.
5. An amendment to add Section 4.43 to allow barrier free access ramps which do not meet the minimum set back requirements of the Zoning Ordinance to be approved by the Township Zoning Administrator.

The hearing will be held as follows:

**WHEN:** MONDAY, May 12, 2014  
**TIME:** 7:00 P.M.  
**WHERE:** LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP HALL  
2910 ALDEN NASH AVENUE SE  
LOWELL, MI 49331

Any person is welcome to attend this meeting and to offer comments or ask questions regarding the proposed amendments. The proposed amendments are available for review at the Lowell Charter Township offices, 2910 Alden Nash Avenue, SE, Lowell, Michigan, 49331 during normal office hours on Monday, Tuesday, & Thursday. Phone 616-897-7600.

The amendments may also be viewed on the Township web site at [www.twp.lowell.mi.us](http://www.twp.lowell.mi.us)

Tim Clements, Secretary  
Lowell Charter Township Planning Commission

## financial focus



Christopher C. Godbold

### Turn your retirement "vision" into reality

Retirement can be an exciting, active time of your life. But if you're going to get the full benefits from your retirement years — which could last two, or even three, decades — you'll need to have a *vision* for what you want to do. And to transform this vision into reality, you'll need to take a "holistic" approach — one that involves a financial strategy, clear communications with family members and an awareness of the challenges

that may stand in your way.

To articulate and achieve your vision, ask yourself a series of questions, such as the following:

- *What do I want to do?* When you retire, do you plan on traveling around the world? Purchasing a vacation home? Pursuing your hobbies? Or maybe you're even thinking of opening a small business. Clearly, you have many options — and you'll need to be aware that some

choices are going to be more costly than others. If you can identify how you want to spend your retirement years and then put a "price tag" on your goal — or at least come up with a pretty good estimate of how much money you'll need each year — you can then create an appropriate investment strategy. Such a strategy will include both your need for *growth* — during your pre-retirement and retirement years — and your need for *income*, especially during your retirement years. Your investment strategy will also need to be based on your risk tolerance, family situation and time horizon — how many years you have until your retirement.

- *What "roadblocks" might I encounter?* As you work to achieve your retirement vision, you may well encounter some "roadblocks" along the way. One significant roadblock is the amount of health care expenses you might face during retirement. Many people think Medicare will cover everything, but that's not the case — in fact, you could easily spend a few thousand dollars each year, out of pocket, for health care costs. And since these costs typically rise as you move further into retirement, you'll need a reasonable portion of your assets to be allocated to investments with the potential for rising income. Even beyond normal health care costs, though, you'll need to be aware that you could eventually need some type of long-term care, such as a stay in a nursing home or assistance from a home health aide. These costs can

## — LEGAL NOTICE —

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS  
DORIS M. DEVRIES TRUST  
uad 12/14/1993**

**TO ALL CREDITORS:**  
The Settlor, Doris M. DeVries, who lived at 2121 Raybrook SE, Apt. 111, Grand Rapids, MI 49546, died on 3/19/2014. There is no personal representative of the settlor's estate to whom Letters of Administration have been issued.

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the Doris M. DeVries Trust dated 12/14/1993, will be forever barred unless presented to Michael DeVries, at 1011 72nd St., SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49508, or

**Craig A. Bruggink, attorney for Trustee, 429 Turner Ave., NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49504, within four months after the date of publication. Notice is further given that the Trust will thereafter be assigned and distributed to the persons entitled to it.**

**Date: 4/15/2014  
Michael DeVries**

**Michael DeVries  
Successor Trustee of  
Doris M. DeVries Trust  
uad 12/14/1993, Grand  
Rapids, MI 49508  
616-989-6547**

**Craig A. Bruggink  
P.L.C. (P29358)  
Attorney for Trustee  
429 Turner NW  
Grand Rapids, MI 49504  
616-456-4038**



# Murray Lake names March Staff Members of the Month

Administrative assistant Joan Weeber and office assistant Julie Simmons were both named Murray Lake Elementary (MLE) Staff Members of the Month for March.

“It is quite fitting to have them both named in the same month, as they work side-by-side and have our office running like a well-oiled machine. Elementary offices many times show a very similar resemblance to a circus. These ladies do not get fazed. They deal with the chaotic day with patience and a smile on their faces,” commented principal Brent Noskey.

Fourth-grade teacher Julie Fuss adds, “I have observed all the changes of clothing and shoes that they had to deal with just in one day from the muddy playground and don’t forget the 100 ice packs

per week I see them hand out for bumps, bruises, cuts and scrapes. They also have to buzz people in the building on top of the other one million things they are doing. I don’t know anyone who can multi-task better than these ladies. Thanks for all you do!”

Weeber has been an administrative assistant for Lowell schools for 15 years. She worked at Bushnell Elementary for five years and has been at Murray Lake since it opened ten years ago. She lives in the Murray Lake area with her husband Jack. They have two adult children: their daughter Alicia and her husband Christopher live in Ada and their son Jack Jr. will graduate from Aquinas College this spring.

“I enjoy the variety of experiences in my work at MLE. Dealing with

students, parents and staff members brings a new challenge every day! I feel fortunate to work with the supportive and caring staff at MLE,” says Weeber.

When she is not working at Murray Lake, Weeber enjoys walking with her husband, golfing, hunting and spending time with her family.

Simmons and her sons, Jackson, a senior at Lowell High School; and Sam, a seventh grader at Lowell Middle School; live on Murray Lake with two cats, a dog and a rat (pet not wild). This is her eleventh year working for Lowell Area Schools. She worked at the high school for seven years before coming to Murray Lake. Simmons grew up in Lowell and graduated from Michigan State University. In her free

time, she likes photography, music, traveling and to be with family and friends.

Simmons said, “I truly

enjoy working at Murray Lake because the staff and students really care about each other. Coming to

work every day is truly a pleasure and often quite an adventure!”



Joan Weeber and Julie Simmons

# LHS Students of the Month for April

Lowell High School has announced that Makenzie Frederickson, 12th grade; and Larry Patrick, 9th grade; are the Lowell High School April Students of the Month. In order to be eligible for this honor a student must be nominated by a department. All the nomination forms for the month are then reviewed and voted on at the monthly Department Chair Meeting. Students are selected based on academic achievement, character, and work ethic. There are 1,200 students eligible for nomination, so this is quite an accomplishment for Frederickson and Patrick. The students receive a \$20 movie gift card and a certificate.

Tammi Dent nominated Frederickson and she writes, “Makenzie Frederickson has been a true delight to

get to know these past two years. Now as a senior she is taking AP Spanish and she has done a great job being a leader in the class. She started our year off with a wonderful 10-minute speech all in Spanish about horseback riding and how to care for a horse before and after riding. She introduced a bunch of new vocabulary to the class and her speech was flawless. MkFrenzie, as we call her in Spanish class, is always an encouraging, positive and motivating peer to her classmates. As was shown last summer when the AP kids posted videos on Facebook. MkFrenzie was almost always the first to post each month, even through all the sunburns, plus she made lots of comments on other posts. Along with being a fantastic student, she is also a fabulous tutor.

Over the past three years she has always been willing to tutor other Spanish students either during lunch or many times after school. She does a great job working one-on-one with our students. It’s been a true pleasure to get to know MkFrenzie and I can’t wait to see what the future holds for her.”

Patrick was nominated by Amanita Fahrni, with some help from Tosha Duczowski-Oxley, Phil Beacher and Russ Stevens and she writes, “I don’t have the honor of having Larry Patrick in the classroom, but I do have the honor of seeing him interact with peers and staff during non-academic times. I’ve consulted with my team and they see Larry exhibit the same behaviors in class that I’ve witnessed outside the classroom, [which are] kindness, caring,

respect, appropriat[ion], has an amazing sense of humor, flexible, considerate, helpful and understands social cues.”

She goes on to say, “Larry is a student who cares about all students. He floats around and is friendly with everyone. I’ve personally watched Larry take the initiative to prompt students that are sitting alone to join him and his friends at their lunch table. He has even taken the initiative to join these students while they are alone and his friends follow. Watching him exhibit this compassion and the way the other students have bloomed warms my heart. Larry walks our halls with a smile on his face and a greeting on his lips. Larry is never short for words. He will engage anyone in a conversation and it’s



Makenzie Frederickson



Larry Patrick

always positive. Sometimes he chats with students and other times he chats with staff. He has even joined me in singing the school fight song at lunch when we were having a pep lunch. His outgoing positive attitude is an amazing attribute that make[s] me proud to think he will be a Red Arrow for

life. Larry does well with his academics. I could type up his grades, how hard he works and how determined he is in Algebra – but that’s not why I’m nominating him. I’m nominating him because of his exemplary character. This is something we can’t teach – he just has it!”

# Financial Focus, continued

be enormous; to cope with them, you need to prepare well ahead of time, so you may want to consult with your financial advisor for possible solutions.

• *How can I protect my family?* Your retirement vision can’t just involve yourself, or even just yourself and your spouse. To fully enjoy your retirement years, you’ll want to know that you are helping to protect your grown children from financial and emotional burdens that could fall on them should you become incapacitated in

some way. Among the steps you might consider taking is establishing a durable power of attorney, which allows you to appoint an agent to manage your financial affairs, make health care decisions or conduct other business for you during your incapacitation. Consult with your legal advisor about creating a durable power of attorney.

You will find that having your retirement vision come to fruition can be a great feeling. So, do whatever it takes to make it happen.

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YEARBOOK 2014



# obituaries

## TICHELAAR

Sharon Fay Tichelaar, age 75 of Lowell, went to be with her Lord on Saturday, April 19, 2014. She was preceded in death by her husband Harry. She is survived by her children Tina Williams, Amy Tichelaar, Rick (Helayne) Tichelaar, David (Tammy) Tichelaar, Tim (Mary) Tichelaar, Phil (Janelle) Tichelaar, Susan Switzer, Tom (Elcene) Tichelaar and Mark (Shelly) Tichelaar; 23 grandchildren, 33 great-grandchildren, 1 great-great granddaughter; many nieces and nephews; brothers Bruce (Sandra) Kaechele and Fred (Terri) Kaechele; sister Cheryl (Ken) Thede. Sharon was very active in her church. Funeral services Wednesday 1:00 p.m. at The Community, 7239 Thornapple River Dr., Ada, MI 49301. Rev. Mara Norden officiating. Visitation 1 hour prior at the church. Memorial contributions may be made to The Community.



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## WIERDA

After a long and brave battle with Multiple Sclerosis, our beloved Linda A. Wierda of Lowell, passed peacefully on Tuesday, April 15, 2014. She was preceded in death by her parents Martin J. and Marie A. Byrne, brother Roger Byrne and niece Jesse Byrne. Linda is survived by her husband Lawrence Wierda, stepdaughter Tanya Wierda, stepgrandsons C.J. and Stephaen Freshour, brother Bruce (Peggy) Byrne, nephews Chris (Karla) Byrne and Fred Byrne, great niece and nephews Kaylee, Colton and Cooper, aunts Evelyn Byrne, Muriel Duff and Elaine Teupel; devoted caregiver Sally Curtiss, special friends Pam, Karen, Renee, Terri and Anne; and other caregivers, many friends and cousins. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated Wednesday 11:00 a.m. at St. Patrick Catholic Church, 4351 Parnell N.E., Ada. Rev. Mark Peacock presiding. Interment St. Patrick Cemetery. Visitation Tuesday 6-8:30 p.m., with rosary at 8 p.m. at Roth-Gerst Chapel, 305 N. Hudson, Lowell, MI 49331. Memorial contributions may be made to the local chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, 21311 Civic Center Dr, Southfield, MI 48076.

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# To The Editor, continued

being spent to fight their employees). Next it was the union for misleading the workers. How on earth are they misleading workers by not encouraging them to sign contracts that would leave them totally exposed to abuse and mismanagement? Then it's been VOICE [Voters Organized in Civic Excellence] for simply asking legitimate questions and refusing to go away when the leaders weren't comfortable with the questions being asked. Even the newspaper was blamed for not printing both sides. Anyone who attends local meetings and then reads the articles will attest to the accuracy of those reports giving all sides of the issues.

All while the city leaders and management are still trying to keep things secret and even trying to avoid giving appropriate information requested through the Freedom of Information Act. I don't know what businesses are "bashing" others since your letter is the first I've heard of anything like that. It seems to me there's been much more "personal attacks" by city representatives than any of the public. I myself despise personal attacks and I'm sorry this has become so personal towards you, Greg,

but your letter was the last straw for me!

Actually, if decent contracts had been signed two years ago, many of the problems of the city leadership (which is truly the cause of the "black eye" on the community) would never have been exposed. Perhaps we should thank the workers for their sacrifice in this long ordeal because hopefully our community will be so much better once the abuse, control and ego trips are stopped and the welfare of the community becomes everyone's focus. I know many of our elected officials and board members do care.

When the curtain is pulled back and we see who is really behind it pulling the strings and creating all the "spin" perhaps everyone will finally see the truth and stand up for what's right. Let's stop the intimidation and guilt trips and just clean up the mess and move forward. Thank you to everyone who is willing to continue to ask questions and demand answers of leaders who should be serving the public and not their own self interests.

Thank you,  
Peggy Covert  
Lowell

## PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

B	A	N	T	U	L	A	C	M	I	M	E		
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## VERGENNES TOWNSHIP PUBLIC NOTICE

The Vergennes Township Board will receive comments regarding an application under the Vergennes Township Alcohol Ordinance.

J&H Oil has applied for an SDM and SDD license through the Michigan Liquor Control Commission in order to sell packaged beer, wine and liquor in its gas station/convenience store, which is under construction on the south east corner of the intersection of Lincoln Lake Avenue and Vergennes Street. Under the township ordinance, a Public Hearing may be held. Comments will be taken during the regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, April 28, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. at the Township Hall, 10381 Bailey Drive, Lowell.

The complete application is available for public inspection at the township offices on Mondays, Wednesdays from 9 am to 3 pm, and Thursdays from 9 to noon.

Written comments will be accepted if received by 7 pm on April 28, 2014 by the Township Clerk. They can be sent to PO Box 208, Lowell, MI 49331, or by e-mail to clerk@vergenne-stwp.org

Mari Stone  
Vergennes Township Clerk

## BOWNE TOWNSHIP NOTICE

The public accuracy test for the May 6, 2014 Caledonia School and Thornapple Kellogg Schools bond proposals will be held on Wednesday, April 30, 2014 at 10:00 a.m. in the Historic Township Hall located at 8240 Alden Nash SE, Alto, Michigan.

Sandra L. Kowalczyk  
Bowne Township Clerk

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**Fri. 8 a.m. - noon**  
**closed Sat. & Sun.**

# 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.

**GET THE SMOKE, ASH & WOOD MESS OUTSIDE** - Central Boiler Classic Outdoor Wood Furnace with a 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.

**BOB'S 17TH ANNUAL SPRING BIRDHOUSE SALE** - Think Spring! Welcome your favorite birds with a fresh new birdhouse or feeder. Nice selection of Wren, Bluebird & bat houses. New this year, screech owl boxes. All cedar, built to last many seasons. Best prices! Bob's Birdhouses, 12279 60th St., Alto, 868-6633.

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

**SMALL ELECTRIC ORGAN** - all keys for bass & treble, etc & foot pedals. Perfect for small church, \$300. Call 897-6652.

**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.

**LOWELL ACREAGE** - 6.02 wooded, rolling acres, buildable. Lowell Schools. Walk to downtown, below last appraisal, \$47,900. Manus Realty, 616-560-2743.

**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.

**11.5 WOODED ACRES IN LOWELL FOR SALE** - Perfect for your new home. Deer, turkey & wildlife yet conveniently located near bike trail & town. \$74,500. Call 269-519-9493.

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

**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.

**DUPLEX FOR SALE** - Freeport, Michigan. 1100 sq. ft. per side, full basement, 2 br, 1.5 bath, attached garage, central air, all appliances including dishwasher, 132x153 lot. Call 616-622-2314 or 616-915-4763.

## help wanted

**NOW HIRING** - and training for career positions with West Michigan's leading real estate company. Call Rick Seese, Greenridge Realty, Inc. for a confidential interview. 616-437-2576 or 616-974-4250.

**HIGHSCHOOL/COLLEGE STUDENT WANTED FOR YARDWORK** - 10-15 hours per week. \$10/hour. Lowell area. Must have own transportation. Call 897-8369.

**OCCASIONAL DRIVER WANTED** - Lady needs ride to chiropractor. Call Linda 897-9202.

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

**K 9 ACADEMY** - Dog boarding/training facility now hiring part time help. www.k9academy international.com or call 616-293-5653.

**HOUSEKEEPER NEEDED** - 4 hours per week, Tuesdays, 6 -10 a.m. for Gilda's Club Lowell Program. Please email letter of inquiry and resume to position@gildasclubgr.org

**FORKLIFT OPERATOR** - Litehouse Foods, Inc. is looking for 2nd shift forklift operators. This position is responsible for loading & unloading trucks, stacking materials, inventories, picking orders & supplying workers with materials needed for production. Excellent benefits! Apply on-line at www.lighthousefoods.com. Litehouse is an ESOP Co. EOE/AA.

**CAREER OPPORTUNITY** - King Milling Company is seeking a qualified individual for a third shift (11 p.m. - 8 a.m.) sanitation position. Please apply at 115 S. Broadway, Lowell.

## wanted

**CASH PAID** - walnut trees. Call Bob Sayers, 616-527-4142, Ionia.

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

**HELP** - Looking for someone to shear 2 shetland sheep possibly 4Her. Pratt Lake & 36th St. area. Please call 446-7085.

## 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.

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

## sales

**TOTS PRESCHOOL SPRING ALMOST NEW SALE** - April 26, 2014, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Cherry Creek Elementary, 12675 Foreman, Lowell. FREE to shop! FREE to sell! Call Lori at TOTS to reserve a space! 987-2532.

**10423 BENNETT** - corner of Bennett & Parnell, May 1-3, 9-3 p.m. Antique furniture, kids' clothes, kids' toys, home decor, crib/toddler mattresses & much more.

**ALLEGAN ANTIQUE MARKET** - Sun., April 27, 400 exhibitors. Rain or shine, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. Located at the fairgrounds right in Allegan, MI. \$4 adm. No pets.

**ANNUAL RELAY FOR LIFE GARAGE SALE** - April 24 & 25, 9-5 p.m. 368 Alden Nash, Lowell. All proceeds go to the American Cancer Society. Clothes, books, misc. household items & much more.

## misc.

**CELEBRATE RECOVERY** - Come & help us "celebrate" our 5 year birthday on Thurs., April 24. Celebrate Recovery is open to anyone struggling with a hurt, habit or hang up. Celebrate Recovery, Impact Church, 1069 Hudson. Thursdays, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

## services

**HANDY REPAIR SERVICE** - All kinds of service work: locks rekeyed, deadbolts installed, screen & window repair. Call Bob Ford, 299-3198.

**BUSINESS CARDS** - Before you order your cards from somewhere else - check our rates! Call Lowell Litho, 897-9261.

**JIM'S POWER WASHING** - Dirt, spores, mildew washed away. Call today, 616-915-1745.

**TAXES, PAYROLL, QUICKBOOKS, & ACCOUNTING SERVICE** - by certified Quickbooks advisor. Call Kathy 897-0686.

## services

**LAMINATING SERVICE AVAILABLE** - Next day service. Drop off & pieces will be available by 9 a.m. the next day. Lowell Litho, 105 N. Broadway, Lowell.

**NEED A DUMPSTER?** - 14 to 20 yards available. Garage, attic, household cleanup, roofing, trash, junk etc. Dependable service & affordable prices. Call for free estimates. Contact Doug 616-295-6640.

**SHIP YOUR UPS PACKAGES WITH US & SAVE!!** - Daily UPS pickup at 3 p.m. Lowell Ledger, 105 N. Broadway, 897-9261.

## services

**TANK FULL? CALL FULL-ERI!** - Cleaning residential septic tanks. Over 40 years of great service. Owned & operated by Stoneybrook Sanitation. Call 24/7, 897-3050 for an appointment.

**FREE APPLIANCE REMOVAL!** - Want it out today? Call J&J. We remove all household appliances, lawn mowers, all vehicles, campers, batteries, etc. Any metal. Call 616-719-9742.

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

# 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.

**FRIENDS REBUILDING WHITES BRIDGE** - Meets 3rd Monday of each month at the Keene Township Hall, 8505 Potters Road, Saranac at, 6 p.m. Public is invited to join our group as we plan to raise funds to restore Whites Covered Bridge. For additional information email friends.rebuildingwhitesbridge@gmail.com or visit FriendsRebuildingWhitesBridge.org

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

**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.

**MOTHERS WHO HAVE OR HAVE HAD** - sons/daughters serving in the military. We are meeting on the 3rd Wednesday of every month. For more info call Sally 616-761-2042.

**LOWELL AREA PRAYER & HEALING ROOMS** - located in the FROM building, 11535 Fulton Street, most Monday evenings, 6-8 p.m. Christian Scripture based. No cost or fees, no appointment necessary, confidentiality respected.

**KENT COUNTY NARFE GROUP** - for retired & current federal employees meet the 2nd Thursday at Trinity Lutheran Church, 2700 E. Fulton, 1/2 mile west of E. Beltline. Potluck at 12:30 p.m. & meeting begins at 1:30 p.m. Call Ed Moore for time, 616-784-6716.

**ALTO LIONS CLUB** - Meets 1st & 3rd Thursday at 7 p.m. at Keiser's Kitchen.

**COFFEE WITH THE COUNCIL** - Come meet & have a cup of coffee with your city council members. First Saturday of each month at the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce office, 113 Riverwalk Plaza, Lowell. 8 a.m. - 10 a.m.

**CIVIL AIR PATROL** - Meets the second & fourth Tues. of the month, 6 p.m., Benz Aviation Building at Ionia Airport, teen/adult programs available, Call Shanna, 616-430-1348 or visit online http://mi222.miwg-cap.org

**SECOND MONDAY OF EVERY MONTH** - Community Crisis Fund meeting at 7 p.m. at Poppa C's in Clarksville.

**AUTHOR JOHNATHAN RAND** - Thurs., April 24, 6:30 p.m. from Indian River presents at Saranac High School gym, 150 S. Pleasant St., Saranac, 616-642-6100. Everyone welcome!

**FREE SENIOR COFFEE** - Every fourth Friday, 8-9 a.m., sponsored by Laurels of Kent, Lowell McDonalds, 1300 W. Main St.

**MOMS IN TOUCH GROUP** - forming for Alto Elementary. Call Suzanne for more info, 868-7337.

**LOWELL WOMEN'S CLUB** - Meets the second Wed. of each month, Sept. - May, 11:45 a.m., Schneider Manor. For more information call Jan at 897-2533.

**CELEBRATE RECOVERY** - Thursdays, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. A Christ centered program to help overcome life's hurts, habits, hangups. Impact Church, 1069 Lincoln Lake, www.impact-church.org or www.celebraterecovery.com

**FIRST & THIRD WEDNESDAYS** - Fun at Calvary for boys & girls preschool - 8th grade. Cadets for boys 1st - 8th; GEMS for girls 3rd - 8th; Kingdom Kids for boys & girls preschool - 2nd grade. 1125 W. Main, Lowell. Ph. 897-7060.

**LOWELL** - Varsity sporting events, concerts, school board meetings, city council meetings, DDA meetings & planning commission meetings can be viewed on the 'local' Comcast public access channel (25) within a day or two of when they were held. Many athletic contests & concerts can be heard 'live' from the www.wlhradio.org internet radio website.

**LOWELL ROTARY CLUB** - meets each Wednesday at noon at

Lowell City Hall. New members welcome.

**VERGENNES CLUB MEETS** - at 1 p.m. on the first Thursday of the month March thru Nov. Meeting at Schneider Manor Community Room. Program & refreshments. Guests welcome.

**CARVING CLUB** - meets 2nd & 4th Thursdays from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at LowellArts! New members welcomed. Call for information, 616-752-0096.

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

**TODDLER THURSDAY** - Every Thursday 11-11:30 a.m. Stories, songs, rhymes & learning. Ages 18 mo. - 36 mo. Alvah N. Belding Library, 302 E. Main, Belding. 616-794-1450.

**KID CRAFT SATURDAY** - Third Saturday of each month. Drop in anytime between 9 a.m. - noon. Make a craft & take it home. All ages are welcome. Alvah N. Belding Library, 302 E. Main, Belding. 616-794-1450.

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

**LEGOS AT THE LIBRARY** - For youth ages 5-11. Second Sat. of each month, 10 a.m. - noon. Bring your imagination & be ready to build. Legos provided. Alvah N. Belding Library, 302 E. Main St., Belding, 616-794-1450.

**LEGO DAYS** - first Saturday of the month, 10 a.m. - noon. Saranac Public Library, 61 Bridge St., Saranac. 616-642-9146.

**STORYTIME** - Wednesdays, 11 a.m., children 0-18 mos.; Fridays, 10 a.m., children 18-36 mos.; Fridays, 11 a.m., children 3-5 years. Books, rhymes, songs & crafts at Alvah N Belding Library, 302 E. Main St., Belding, 616-794-1450. www.belding.michlibrary.org

**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



# EARTH TALK™

## Questions & Answers About Our Environment

**Dear EarthTalk:** Is the gray wolf still endangered in the United States and how successful have re-introduction efforts been? -- *Loren Renquist, Salem, OR*

The gray wolf is still considered “threatened” under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). But a June 2013 proposal by the Obama administration to “delist” the animals—save for a small struggling population of Mexican gray wolves in Arizona and New Mexico—could change that if finalized later this year.

Gray wolves were added to the Endangered Species List in 1975 after being wiped out across the contiguous 48 states by government-sponsored trapping and poisoning programs. Thanks to protections under the ESA, populations have since bounced back nicely in two out of the three regions where protections and reintroduction programs were initiated. In the Great Lakes, wolf populations rebounded from just a few hundred individuals in the 1970s to over 5,000 today, expanding their range from Minnesota to Wisconsin and Michigan. In the Northern Rockies, natural migration from Canada and reintroductions in Yellowstone National Park and central Idaho have resulted in some 1,700 gray wolves now roaming across Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Washington and Oregon.

“Despite these substantial gains, the job of wolf recovery is far from over,” reports the Center for Biological Diversity (CBD). “Wolves need connected populations for genetic sustainability, and natural ecosystems need wolves; yet today wolves occupy less than five percent of their historic range.” That’s why CBD has joined a chorus of voices in urging the federal government to continue protecting gray wolves under the ESA.

The U.S. government had been scaling back wolf protections in recent years, so animal advocates weren’t surprised to see the Obama administration’s proposal. “In



**Gray wolves were added to the Endangered Species List in 1975 after being wiped out across the lower 48 states by government-sponsored trapping and poisoning programs. Thanks to Endangered Species Act protections, populations have since bounced back, but new efforts to “de-list” them could put the animals under the gun again. Credit: Don Burkett, courtesy Flickr**

April 2011 Congress attached a rider to a must-pass budget bill that stripped Endangered Species Act protections from wolves in all of Montana and Idaho, the eastern third of Washington and Oregon, and a small portion of northern Utah—an unprecedented action that, for the first time in the history of the Act, removed a species from the endangered list by political fiat instead of science,” says CBD, adding that wolves were subsequently delisted in Wyoming and the Great Lakes. “Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, Minnesota and Wisconsin have begun public wolf hunting and/or trapping, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture, cooperating with state agencies, is expanding its program of trapping, radio-collaring and releasing, then aerial gunning the pack-mates of these collared wolves—a program that...had been limited to those that preyed on livestock.” CBD fears that such tactics will become common if ESA protections are removed in the lower 48 states.

Luckily for the wolves, the Obama administration’s delisting proposal suffered a setback this past February

when an independent review panel concluded that the decision was based on insufficient science and should therefore not be enacted. “The science used by the Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) concerning genetics and taxonomy of wolves was preliminary and currently not the best available science,” reported panel member Steven Courtney, a scientist at UC Santa Barbara.

The review panel finding has opened a new public comment period on a proposal that has already generated more than a million comments. A final decision on the delisting proposal is expected by June.

**CONTACTS:** CBD, [www.biologicaldiversity.org](http://www.biologicaldiversity.org); USFWS, [www.fws.gov/home/wolfrecovery](http://www.fws.gov/home/wolfrecovery).

**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).

## Michigan fire season builds during Wildfire Prevention Week

Most of Michigan’s wildfires occur in the spring – April, May and June. According to the Department of Natural Resources, which is responsible for wildland fire protection on 30 million acres of state and private land, April is when wildfires start becoming a problem. During the state’s annual observance of Wildfire Prevention Week, April 20-26, the DNR reminds the public about the dangers of wildfires.

“One out of three wildfires in Michigan is caused by someone burning debris who did not take proper precautions or obtain a burn permit,” said Paul Kollmeyer, resource protection manager within the DNR’s Forest Resources Division. “Many people look outside and think the snow and spring rains have taken the edge off the wildfire danger.”

That’s not the case, Kollmeyer said.

“The dried leaves,

needles and brown grass from last year are still there. When the weather is warm, folks want to get out and clean up their yards. They don’t realize that all it takes is one strong wind gust catching an ember to ignite a wildfire.”

Kollmeyer said this is why planning is so vital before a match is even lit.

**“One out of three wildfires in Michigan is caused by someone burning debris who did not take proper precautions or obtain a burn permit.”**

A person is required to get a burn permit prior to burning brush and debris in Michigan. Residents in the northern Lower Peninsula and Upper Peninsula can obtain a free burn permit by visiting [www.michigan.gov/burnpermit](http://www.michigan.gov/burnpermit). Residents in southern Michigan should contact their local fire department or township office to see if burning is permitted in their area.

In addition to obtaining a burn permit, the DNR recommends people take the following steps to reduce the risk of wildfire to their home and property:

- Clear leaves and other debris from gutters, eaves, porches and decks. This prevents embers from igniting your home.
- Keep your lawn

hydrated and maintained. Dry grass and shrubs are fuel for wildfire. If it is brown, cut it down to reduce fire intensity.

- Remove fuel within three to five feet of your home’s foundation and out-buildings, including garages and sheds. If it can catch fire, don’t let it touch your house, deck or porch.
- Remove dead

vegetation surrounding your home, within the 30- to 100-foot area.

- Wildfire can spread to tree tops. If you have large trees on your property, prune them so the lowest branches are six to 10 feet high.

- Don’t let debris and lawn cuttings linger. Chip or mulch these items quickly to reduce fuel for fire.

- When planting, choose slow-growing, carefully placed shrubs and trees so the area can be more easily maintained.

- Landscape with native and less flammable plants. For more information about making fire wise landscaping choices, visit [www.firewise.msu.edu](http://www.firewise.msu.edu).

“Be safe and smart when it comes to fire,” Kollmeyer said. “Fire prevention is everyone’s responsibility.”

For more tips in safeguarding your home and property from wildfire risk, visit [www.michigan.gov/preventwildfires](http://www.michigan.gov/preventwildfires).





**THEME:  
FAMOUS MOTHERS**

- ACROSS**
- Swahili or Zulu
  - French lake
  - Marcel Marceau, e.g.
  - Type of squash
  - In the past
  - Engaged for a fee
  - Considered a representative of Allah
  - Month of Pearl Harbor attack
  - African antelope
  - \*Chelsea's politically-minded mother
  - Funeral rite
  - Tell tall tale
  - Can of worms
  - Corn holder
  - Ranee's husband
  - Popular pet rodent
  - Acted like
  - Leave behind
  - Spacious
  - "Just along for the ride" Mia!"
  - Heroes
  - On the rocks
  - Nervous biter's victim
  - Fit of shivering
  - "A Series of Unfortunate Events" author
  - The Three Tenors, e.g.
  - He is
  - Lunch stop
  - \*Rob to new mom Kim Kardashian
  - \*Minnelli's mother
  - One who moves from place to place
  - Bay window
  - \*Biblical matriarch Sarah had this many children
  - More capable
  - Like a wave caused by the moon

**CROSSWORD**

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APRIL 16 - APRIL 22

- In a 6-2 ruling the Supreme Court upheld Michigan's ban on using race as a factor in college admissions saying that Michigan voters had the right to change their state constitution in 2006 to prohibit public colleges and universities from taking account of race in admissions decisions. The justices said that a lower federal court was wrong to set aside the change as discriminatory.
- Mount Everest climbing season has been abandoned to honor 16 sherpas killed in an avalanche while they performed essential tasks for the upcoming season last week.
- The first American in 31 years has won the Boston Marathon. Meb Keflezighi, 38, won the men's race with a time of 2:08:37. Rita Jeptoo of Kenya, once again won the women's title with a time of 2:18:57 a new course record.
- An Ohio woman found a bird leg in a bag of fresh Dole spinach. She was happy she didn't actually have any of the spinach. A statement from Dole read: "Thank you for contacting us about the issue. We appreciate that you have given us the opportunity to respond. Dole Fresh Vegetables prides itself on its high product quality standards and takes consumer concerns very seriously. We have already spoken to the consumer and our Quality Assurance staff is investigating the incident."

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- DOWN**
- Johann Sabastian
  - Popular smoothie berry
  - Winningest Super Bowl coach
  - Do-re-do-re-do-re-do-re, e.g.
  - Like life, according to some
  - \*Juliet's mother, \_\_\_\_\_ Capulet
  - Often checked in a bar
  - Warming winter beverage
  - 5,280 feet
  - Saudi Arabia's neighbor
  - MaÓtre d's list
  - \*Christian Science founder, Mary Baker \_\_\_\_\_
  - \*Scarlet letter-wearing mother
  - Camelot, to Arthur
  - Tom Hanks' 1988 movie
  - "Fragrant" rice
  - \*Brady mom
  - Offer two cents
  - Obscure
  - \*"Mommy Dearest"
  - Parks or Luxemburg
  - When it breaks, the cradle will fall
  - Permeate
  - Plural of "lysis"
  - Art style popular in 1920s and 1930s
  - Arab chieftain
  - Cover story
  - Ultimate goal
  - Japanese capital
  - Liver or kidney, e.g.
  - Parkinson's disease drug
  - Lunar path
  - Music style with gloomy lyrics
  - "Tosca" tune
  - Purges
  - \_\_\_\_\_ year
  - Made in "Breaking Bad"
  - Additionally
  - Indian Lilac
  - Stumble
  - Greek letter N, pl.

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# Lowell's Girls' Night Out was 60's inspired

by Kathryn Atwood  
contributing reporter

Perfect spring weather greeted downtown shoppers for last week's Girls' Night Out event sponsored by the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce, which celebrated a fun psychedelic 60's theme.

Droves of high-spirited customers made their way through the eclectic mix of shops along Main Street enjoying complimentary appetizers, desserts and

beverages along the way. Retailers offered generous specials and discounts to participating shoppers as part of the event which takes place twice a year.

The next Girls' Night Out shopping event is scheduled for October.



Sarah Sheldon, Sarah Harmon and Chinese exchange student Wenxuan Ding during their stop into Rookies Sportscards Plus, one of more than 25 participating vendors of Girls' Night Out.

Brenda Schullo looks on as Jamie Bailey receives a makeup demonstration from artist Jaclynn Rodriquez at the HAIRstudio located inside Modern Photographics.



## Dr. Reyburn would like to announce the addition of Dr. Heather Jones, O.D. to Ada Vision Center PC.

Dr. Jones is from Saranac and attended Southern College of Optometry.



Ada Vision Center  
400 Ada Drive SE  
Ada, MI 49301  
616-676-1283  
www.adavisioncare.com  
info@adavisioncare.com



Welcome back to Michigan Dr. Jones!



Cheerful shoppers Michelle Battle, Dawn Anderson, Lisa Puente and Diane Smith share a smile while browsing the clothing selection at Pep Talk.

“In any moment of decision, the best thing you can do is the right thing. The worst thing you can do is nothing.”

~ Theodore Roosevelt

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## Kids rule at River Valley CU!

Open up a youth account before May 1st to get a piggy bank and we will put the first \$5 in the account. This is a great time to start your kids' savings accounts and teach them about money!

Call us today 897-0564 or visit us online at www.myrivervalleycu.org

