

2014

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M50 bridge construction running on schedule

by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

Construction of the new M50 (Alden Nash Avenue) bridge over I-96 in Lowell Township is running on schedule according to Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) officials.

The process of replacing and widening the aging bridge began in March, just after MDOT announced that they would be using bridge slide technology to minimize closures and delays both on M50 and I-96. This is the first time that this procedure has been used in Michigan, though it has been used more than thirty times nationwide thus far.

The technique calls for construction of the new bridge adjacent to the existing bridge. Traffic is then diverted onto the new bridge in its temporary location while demolition of the old bridge occurs. Once the old structure is removed the new bridge, which has been built on a steel beam, will be placed on a jack and slid into place.

According to John Richard, a representative from MDOT communications, construction on the new M50 bridge is nearing its finish with the concrete deck being poured earlier this week on both Monday and Tuesday night. He added that traffic for both north and south bound M50 will be diverted to the new construction this time next month, "In late August, traffic will be switched over to the new bridge while the old bridge is demolished and the new abutments are constructed."

The demolition will occur over a weekend, Friday night through Monday morning, and will be one of only two times that M50 will be closed due to the large construction project. The other closure will take place over a weekend in October when the actual bridge slide is scheduled to occur. Traffic on I-96 will be reduced to one lane during those times and diverted up and over the exit and entrance ramps.

While drivers have experienced intermittent lane shifts, temporary delays and shoulder closures, traffic over and under the bridge has maintained a smooth flow despite the veracity of the project due to the use of the bridge slide technique. Use of the traditional bridge replacement method would have called for a multiple month bridge closure, major traffic delays and long and inconvenient detours.

When completed in November the bridge will be 33 feet wider than the original for a total width of 68 feet. This will accommodate four twelve-foot lanes, two through lanes, two left-turn lanes, and two ten-foot shoulders. Other changes to expect include a right-turn lane added for southbound M50 traffic entering westbound I-96 and the widening of both the eastbound and westbound off ramps.



Traffic continues to flow freely over the existing M50 bridge while finishing touches are being put on the new one.

Sidewalk and fireworks issues discussed at city council meeting

by Tim McAllister
contributing reporter

There was a short city council meeting Monday, July 21, with only three of the five councilors present.

City councilor Sharon Ellison was absent, leaving only councilors Jim Hall and Jeff Altoft in attendance, along with mayor Jim Hodges and city manager Mark Howe. Public works director Dan DesJarden, deputy city clerk Susan Ullery and police chief Steve

Bukala were also there. City councilor Chris Schwab resigned July 8. His seat is vacant.

Three of the seven members of the public in attendance spoke during the "citizen comments" time.

Dick Johnson complained about the aftermath of sidewalk repairs in front of his home on Sibley Street.

"My lawn is now about eight inches above the sidewalk, at roughly

a 90 degree angle to the sidewalk," Johnson said. "What they did was they took all of the dirt and threw it into the lawn [...] and left it there."

Johnson said his wife "left a note" about the issue at city hall two months ago, but there has been no response from city leaders.

"Nobody's contacted us," Johnson said. "Nobody's come and seen anything for two months."

The second citizen to address the council was Lowell Light & Power board chairman Greg Canfield.

"We made an investment in the 'Moose' building anticipating, with other discussions that had gone on, there would be a good chance of a parking lot coming along," Canfield said. "And if we can't get a longer-term lease I'm just disappointed that we can't get this before the voters to see how the voters feel

about that. But downtown development... A couple people that came to us that have a lot of interest in putting a restaurant in that building on the main floor, but parking is a huge problem downtown."

The third and final citizen to speak, Debra Diven-Dunning, complained that her obnoxious neighbors set off

City council,
continued, page 2

Fourth annual Arts Explosion has over 100 students participate

City council, continued

by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter
More than 100 local students exploded with creativity last week at the fourth annual "Arts Explosion" day camp held on the campus of Impact Church.

Arts Explosion is the summer component of the year round Exploration of the Arts program at Impact, which offers students from 1st grade to 12th grade the opportunity to explore the arts through a wide variety of classes and events.

Students were able to select two courses of study from a list that included options, such as culinary arts, photography, crochet, woodworking, paper mache, movie making, silly science and sewing, just to name a few; musical options included intro to drumming, percussion ensemble, rock band and musical production; and dance options included hoop, ballet, hip hop and contemporary selections.

The classes, often inspired by the interests and experiences of those leading them, were held over four

days and ended with an Expo-style showcase for the students to show off their new talents to friends and family on Thursday night.

Andrea Struckmeyer, who is the programs' director, said she was more than impressed with the accomplishments of this year's participants, "I was amazed at the products and performances our

instructors and students produced. I'm sure I say this every year, but this one was my favorite."

According to Struckmeyer, the team at Impact developed the arts' program after a positive response from parents to some initial class offerings. "Several years ago we started offering a few art and dance classes through

and develop a love for the arts." And that she does this by working with the instructors and the Impact administrators throughout the year to create a varied list of offerings for students and then working to promote and execute those events "with creativity and excellence."

She went on to give many accolades to the team

fireworks all the time and scare her dogs.

"I have dogs that won't go outside for the entire weekend and will hide in the bathtub, which is really inconvenient because they don't even want to do their business outside," Duiven-Dunning said. "I have a heart condition so I'm not overly thrilled about it."

She described several instances when fireworks irritated her.

"I have one side of me where the neighbor kids were out in the street shooting bottle rockets at each other," Duiven-Dunning said. "I had the neighbor behind me in one of the houses that, bottle rockets and other larger things that they shoot up in the air were actually landing on my garage. They quit when I yelled at them over the fence because it scared me. For one because of the noise and when I saw it was falling on my garage. I have elderly neighbors as well that I'm sure don't appreciate it. I can imagine people with small children or people that actually, you know, have to get up and go to work the next day..."

Duiven-Dunning described her neighborhood on and around Jefferson Street as "mixed."

"Our neighborhood's kind of mixed where I'm at, so there are, I hate to say it, but some of the residences that we have the most problem with aren't homeowners," Duiven-Dunning said. "They're tenants. They're renting."

The city received a bunch of money from the Federal Emergency Management Agency

[FEMA] as an "addendum" from last year's flood.

"We have received an addendum to our grant agreement with the state of Michigan," said city manager Mark Howe. "I think I mentioned this at the last council meeting. The state has decided to cover half of the 25 percent local share that we had to provide for federal funding for federal reimbursement that we received from FEMA. This grant agreement, as I said, would be an addendum and it would net us about \$10,700 in reimbursement from the state."

During "council comments," councilor Altoft asked who pays for repairs on a city truck that the sewer plant uses.

"The red pick-up that belongs to the city, that the sewer plant uses, do they pay for all the maintenance work on that out of the sewer budget?" Altoft asked. "Is everything that's done to that out of the..."

"That's one I'd have to look into," Howe said. "That's the first time I've heard that question so I'd have to look into that for you and get back to you with an answer."

"Because you know they are a contractor and it is a city-owned vehicle with city-owned plates and city insurance, and they're a subcontractor," Altoft said.

"I can look into that and get back to you," Howe said.

During his "manager's report," Howe said that the council was in error when, at their last meeting, they required a "supermajority" of four votes out of five to get the "leasing land" charter amendment on the ballot. However, Howe said the vote taken by the council would stand.

"I did, for future charter amendments, want everybody to know that it does only require three out of five councilmembers to vote to put the charter amendment on the ballot," Howe said.

There are vacancies on the historic district commission, the planning commission and the city council. Anyone interested in serving on the city council must get their application to city hall by noon on Friday, July 25.

The city council will have their next meeting at city hall on Monday, August 4 at 7 pm.



Students in the movie making class eagerly gather around the ring light to record their portion of the classes production. Photo by journalism student Jacquelyn Bileth

Impact's KidZone program. Parents seemed to like the affordability and the opportunity to expose their children to these kinds of arts' experiences without having to make a year-long commitment. As a result, a team of Impact artists and I began to develop the Exploration of the Arts program," stated Struckmeyer.

Struckmeyer said that her role in the program is to, "Create opportunities for students to explore

of talented local artists who lead these exploratory classes saying she is always on the lookout for people with passions and talents in areas like dance, art, music and drama, "Arts Explosion would not be possible without the time and talents of our instructors. Many of them have been with the Exploration of the Arts program for a few years and each time I am again

Arts Explosion, continued, page 14

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New gas station and restaurant nearing completion

by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

After a brief halt in construction, the new J&H Family Stores gas station and accompanying restaurant, located on the south east corner of Lincoln Lake Ave and Vergennes St., is nearing completion.

Vergennes Township approved plans for the site, a gas station and convenience store and an attached restaurant with drive thru capabilities, back in 2012. Construction of the project began almost two years later in April of this year. The location is now tentatively scheduled to open in late August despite a delay in construction due to what J&H president Craig Hoppen describes as the Lowell City Airport manager and the Federal Aviation Administration wanting to “give permissions and input.”

Outdoors the new station will feature four gas

islands and one diesel for a total of ten fuel pumps. The company is also installing sidewalks from the location to the intersection for the convenience of pedestrians and landscaping that will help to promote the privacy of nearby residents.

Indoors the 4400 square foot building will boast a large cooler and freezer selection, a wide array of snacks and other convenience items and a variety packed fountain area.

Tim Hortons, an internationally known cafe and bake shop with growing roots in the West Michigan area, will occupy the attached restaurant space. Their beverage menu will include coffee, hot and cold specialty beverages and tea. Bakery items will include fresh baked donuts, muffins, cookies, bagels and a variety of pastries.

Hot breakfast options include biscuit, panini and bagel sandwiches, as well



Construction crews continue to work on the new gas station and restaurant slated for an August 28 opening.

as wraps, oatmeal and hash browns. The menu will also include lunch fare, such as sandwiches made on fresh baked bread, wraps, grilled paninis, crispy chicken sandwiches and soup.

Hoppen said that this second location in Lowell,

the first is located on Alden Nash near I-196, will bring the family-owned and operated business to a total of 40 company-owned stations and added that they are glad to be reaching this milestone here in Lowell, “We love

the Lowell area. It is a great supportive community; they welcome locally owned businesses. We are excited to contribute to the growing neighborhoods.” The company already has a strong history of community investment and

support including a Pink Arrow sponsorship.

The location will be open seven days a week and will eventually evolve into a 24-hour location. Hoppen reports that the business will create 25 new jobs between the store and the restaurant.

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financial focus



Christopher C. Godbold

Smart use of "variables" can lead to right answers for retirement

If you think back to your math classes in high school or college, you may remember that many of the problems involved the use of *variables*. Changing these variables around in any fashion would change the outcome of the problem. Similar situations occur in life all the time. To illustrate: If you look at the need to manage your retirement income so that you can't outlive it as a "problem" to be solved, you will need to adjust some variables to arrive at the solution you seek. That's why it's so important you be aware of the key variables involved in your retirement income planning.

What are some of these variables? Consider the following:

- *Your investment mix* — You might think that once you reach retirement, you can invest solely in income-producing vehicles,

but you can't forget about inflation. Even a low rate of inflation, such as we've had for a number of years, can seriously erode your purchasing power over time — which is why you need to consider owning at least some investments that provide growth potential. Of course, you can change your investment mix at any time: For example, you might want to shift to a greater percentage of income-oriented investments as you move deeper into retirement.

- *Your withdrawal rate* — You'll need to calculate how much you can afford to withdraw from your investment portfolio each year without depleting it prematurely. Your annual withdrawal rate will depend on a few different factors — such as your projected longevity, your investment mix and your other sources of income — but you'll want to be careful not to take out too much too soon. As was the case with your investment mix, you have the flexibility to adjust your withdrawal rate during your retirement years.

- *Your Social Security* — You can start collecting Social Security benefits as early as age 62, but your benefits will be permanently reduced

by up to 30 percent unless you wait until your Full Retirement Age (FRA), which is likely 66 or 67. However, your monthly checks can increase if you delay taking your benefits beyond your Full Retirement Age, up to age 70. If you come from a particularly long-living family, and you have sufficient income apart from Social Security, you might want to delay your payments to get the larger benefit amount. Once again, you have a choice to make.

- *Your earned income* — Just because you've retired from one career, it doesn't mean you'll never again earn some income. Many retirees take part-time jobs, do some consulting or even open a small business. Whether you feel that you need to work, or you just want to work, the money you earn from employment can be an important component of your overall retirement income.

As you can see, all these variables involve choices on your part. And how you choose to exercise each variable will affect all the other variables. Consequently, as you manage and monitor your retirement income, you'll need to make many important decisions. Still, this doesn't have to be a scary prospect — because the very fact that you have choices means you also have a great deal of *control* over your situation.

So, study your choices carefully, as you work toward achieving the income you need to enjoy the retirement you want.

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viewpoint

to the editor

Diane Jones for Kent County Commissioner

Dear Editor,

It is with great pleasure I write this letter for Diane Jones, our District 4 Kent County commissioner. Diane served with me as a trustee on the Cannon Township board. I was one of the trustees on the interview committee when Diane was appointed in 2011. In my opinion, it speaks volumes to a person's character when they are selected from a group of eleven to resume a position they once occupied. She was then elected as trustee in 2012.

As Township Trustee and now as Kent County commissioner, Diane keeps health, safety and the welfare of residents at the forefront of her decisions. Along with the rest of the board, Diane was committed to our focus of maintaining a healthy fund balance, without sacrificing services.

Commissioner Jones "hit the ground running" after her appointment as commissioner and I'm confident she will continue to do so in the years to come. Please help me support Diane on August 5th and enable her to continue the work she has started as our Kent County commissioner.

*Deb Diepenhorst, Cannon Township trustee/
deputy supervisor*

Supporting Diane Jones for Kent County Commissioner

Dear Editor,

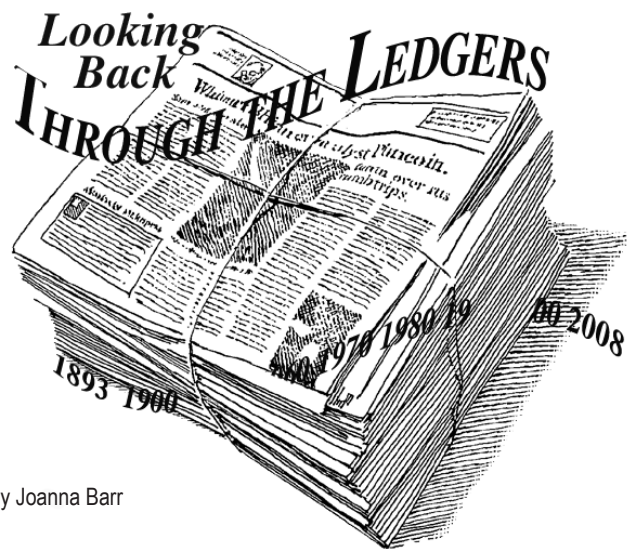
I am writing to support Diane Jones for Kent County commissioner, from the unique perspective of someone who has had the privilege of calling her my friend for 22 years.

Diane and I met at St. Paul Insurance (now Travelers) where she hired in as claim representative right out of college in 1992. From the first meeting she attended, I knew there was something special about Diane. Dynamic, charismatic and a planner by nature, Diane set and achieved goals with solid planning, determination and 110 percent effort. Inquisitive, eager to learn and a quick study, she was not afraid to ask questions. Intelligent and thoughtful, Diane quickly took the information she learned and used it to make sound decisions. She was direct, honest, ethical and one of the hardest working people I'd ever met. She also had a great sense of humor, a quiet compassion for others, particularly children and the elderly; and had a wicked backhand as well as a great golf game.

Although I suspect she has little time for sports these days, all those things are still true today.

In addition, Diane is also devoted to her family and friends, despite the challenges of time and distance, but even more importantly, she's passionate about making a difference in her local community. She is surprisingly humble and thankful for the opportunity to serve, telling me that she is a better person from talking to all the people she's had the privilege to meet during her years on the board and this year, as commissioner. I hope you've been one of those people she's been able to talk to, to hear her passion, reasoning, dedication and commitment, because if you have, you'll know there's no better candidate for Kent County commissioner and I know she'll have your vote on Aug. 5.

*Tambri Lawless
Woodville, WI*



By Joanna Barr

125 years ago Lowell Journal July 23, 1889

George Barber has recovered the banjo which was stolen from him about three weeks ago. Vard Train found it under the Dougall ware house, where the miscreant who took it had hidden it with the evident intention of leaving it there until the excitement had quieted down. It was carefully wrapped up in a flannel bag and was not injured. It was found Thursday morning. Geo. was so pleased on recovering his property that he made the finder a present of \$5.

The complaint that a Ravenna minister had to walk 12 miles to get home, after preaching a funeral sermon, is answered by the friends of the deceased saying he got his dinner and ought not to complain about a little jaunt of 12 miles.

The president of the Corunna National Bank is reported to have been swindled out of \$4,000 by the worn-out "Gold Brick" fake. The bricks were made of copper and plated with gold. The operation was performed in Lansing.

Martin Goldsworthy, the Hancock man who embezzled \$400 from the Standard Oil Company at that place and then fled to Canada, returned because, as he said, he would "rather be in jail on this side than at liberty in Canada."

The weather makes a man long to go to the north pole or, as the next best thing, get himself a light suit of clothes. The latter is cheaper and the most comfortable. Go and let B. C. Smith make the suit for you and be happy.

100 years ago The Lowell Ledger July 22, 1914

Headline: Warehouse burns. Old McCarty building destroyed early Tuesday morning. The old McCarty warehouse and bean room, between the Lowell Cutter factory and the Lowell State bank building and adjoining block, was destroyed by fire early Tuesday morning, together with a quantity of baled hay, lime, cement and salt, belonging to different parties. The Cutter factory and the city fire alarms were sounded at 5 o'clock, a time when working people were getting-up; and the response by firemen, factory employees and citizens was prompt. Luckily there was no wind stirring and in spite of the dry condition of the condition of things, fire was practically confined to the one building, only the adjacent "grout" building being burned in window and doorways and having its outside stairs so badly scorched they will have to be rebuilt...

Additional concrete supports are being placed under the King block and the water has been drawn from the pond above for several days while the work is being done.

Some one abandoned a Ford automobile in good condition at Alto last week Wednesday afternoon. It is believed that the machine was stolen and that the driver left town on a train.

75 years ago The Lowell Ledger July 27, 1939

Gorgeous, exotic, brunette Jean Halmond of Leland, Michigan, who was selected Queen of the National Cherry Festival at Traverse City came to Lowell last night to christen the Showboat. As the bottle of Sweet Cherry wine crashed against the side of the boat, she said, "I christen thee Robert E. Lee VIII."

Understand that George Story plans to attend every performance of the Showboat next week, then the week following he will go to New York City, the object being to determine which is the best attraction – the World's Fair or the Lowell Showboat.

D. A. Wingeier, Showboat ticket chairman and L. E. Johnson, in charge of reserved seat sales, report record-breaking ticket sales for the 1939 Lowell Showboat. Demand for tickets is far and away ahead of all previous years. It is advised that all people of the community attend the opening performance Wednesday evening, August 2. The opening performance will be the equal of any as all rehearsals have been conducted under exact stage set-up.

Leonard (Peenie) Dailey and Roy Young, who were circus clowns with the "Big Tops" not so many years ago, will furnish fun and entertainment for Showboat audiences, August 2,3,4 and 5, while awaiting the arrival of Robert E. Lee VIII. They have many funny skits to keep the waiting throngs in good humor.

Showboat fans will get a real thrill in this year's show by the inclusion in the program of the Stevens Brothers of New York, who have with them an 800 lb. wrestling brown bear. It is a riot of slap bang comedy from the moment the boys appear on the stage until its forced ending when the bear rips the trousers off one of the men.

50 years ago The Lowell Ledger July 22, 1964

The 1964 Lowell Showboat, near collapse after last year's cold, rain-threatened week, came back with renewed vigor Monday night with the stands half full, but with more paying customers than any recent year. It was an enthusiastic crowd, made up mainly of adults who enjoyed the sharp good humor of the endmen and the minor misques that always add zest to opening night...

Rog MacNaughton, Showboat calliapist, will pound out several selected numbers on the calliope each evening before the show on East Main Street.

Each night before the Showboat sail, the endmen can be found riding through the streets on a horse drawn wagon owned by Tom Cornell of Route 2, Lowell. Tom has been acting as coachman for the endmen for several years.

A member of the Veterans' Facility group got separated from his group Tuesday night and joined up with companions that led him astray. The Lowell police furnished a room until he could be returned to the Grand Rapids facility.

Showboat Endmen were conducting a search of the town on Wednesday for three cats to liven up the dog act.

Showboat captain Frank Stephens added 10 more barrels to the rear end of the boat on Wednesday after the boat with its load of over 100 entertainers showed signs of riding low in the water the first two trips.

Art McClure was giving the Showboat crowds a thrill by flying alongside the Showboat on its trip down the river. He has shown remarkable control of his kite in

Looking Back, continued

dodging the wires and poles on the Showboat course. The Lowell Showboat site on the Flat River will be the scene of a big time wrestling show on Saturday, August 1, it was announced this week by Ray Langin, veteran mat promoter. The river site will make possible an aqua battle royal, the first time such a bout has been staged in the United States. Eight wrestlers will enter the ring at once in the battle royal and battle it out until only one remains in the ring. To be eliminated, the wrestlers will have to be thrown out of the ring and into the river...

25 years ago The Lowell Ledger July 26, 1989

Headline: Fallas' barn restoration. On Aug. 20, 1984, John Wesley Fallas, the founder of Fallasburg, deeded to his sons, Henry and Charles, his lands in Section 24, Vergennes Township (where the village is located). Besides reserving the right to cut timber for fuel or farm use, the now elderly widower asked as payment the building of a barn on the premises and "love and affection." James Mulder, title researcher, who has recently completed exhaustive analysis of the lands of Fallasburg from 1837 on, found that the tax rolls on that particular piece of land showed increases in both 1895

and 1896, so that indeed the barn was built. There is no record of what "love and affection" was offered, but shortly afterward J. W. Fallas went to his maker on Nov. 5, 1896 and was buried next to his wife, Phoebe in the cemetery that he had plotted out many years previously. It is this barn with attached 10 acres of land which the West Central Michigan Historical Society bought from the Wesley Miller estate last week. The building shows its age, but the magnificent foundation of boulders chinked with smaller stones stand as a monument to building well with what was available.

Headline: Lowell Ambulance purchases new unit. Following through with its initial proposal to the three municipalities to replace its old ambulance, Lowell Ambulance purchased a \$32,600 1988 van from Michigan First Response. "There were a couple of ambulances available and we knew we needed one," Lowell police chief Barry Emmons said. "Most of the time you have to order." The new ambulance was listed at \$38,000 but that was purchased at \$6,000 less than that total. Suspension work was also needed on the vehicle. Funds to pay for the ambulance and its housing (new fire barn area) will be raised through a vehicle replacement housing fund drive. Money for the purchase was obtained through a loan at FMB State Savings Bank. The drive's goal will be \$69,000. It has already received \$17,000 from the Helen LOOK Daley Fund and has received a matching grant fund from Steelcase. "If we raise \$20,000 within the community by January of 1990, Steelcase will donate \$15,000," Roger Morgan said. "Local monies will be raised through a car raffle, contingent on the arrival of a state lottery license; a charity softball game; and donations from local organizations and businesses will be sought..."

health



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

testicular cancer screening

Testicular cancer affects males of all ages, but is most prevalent in young men. It is one of the most common malignant tumors found in males age 15 to 34. Some risk factors for testicular cancer include:

- being Caucasian,
- having a brother or father with testicular cancer,
- having an undescended testicle (one that did not come down into the scrotum) even if it was surgically corrected
- having small or irregularly shaped testicles
- h a v i n g Klinefelter's syndrome (a genetic condition)

Some signs of testicular cancer include:

- a hard, painless lump in the testicle (most common)
- a dull ache in the scrotum (less common)
- a scrotum that feels heavy or swollen.

Testicular cancer has good cure rates if found early and treated. All men should perform monthly testicular self-exams. If a lump, swelling, tenderness or any other change in the testicle is discovered, see your health-care provider right away.



happy birthday!

- | | |
|---|---|
| JULY 23
Dave Fosburg, Nathan Swift, Heather Pretzel, Robert Jahnke. | JULY 26
Elaine Gregersen, Eric Baird, Josh Geldersma, Ellen Dilly. |
| JULY 24
Nathan Bush, Mike Lally. | JULY 27
Kyle Hendrick, Mike Shalander, Ed Roth Sr., Jason Spencer, Paige Wilson. |
| JULY 25 | JULY 28
Tom Speerstra, Rachel Shanne Smith, Bobby Wright, Tiffany Hunt, Alexander Barr. |
| | JULY 29
Rachael Vegter, Mary Fox, Matt Lee. |

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perseverance

A community fighting cancer

J & H Family Stores - Supporting Pink Arrow Pride

J & H Family Stores is a Wyoming-based company that is well-known in West Michigan for its charitable endeavors, so it's only natural to find their fingerprints all over Pink Arrow Pride.

"We've been involved in Pink Arrow for three years now," said company president Craig Hoppen. "I think Pink Arrow is very commendable. The whole community gets behind it. There's nothing better to draw a community together than a common cause."

"I think Pink Arrow is a great example of a small town doing really big things," said marketing director Abby Albers. "It's fun to hear about all the other communities that are picking up the same kind of concept throughout the United States."

J & H Family Stores used to sponsor the fireworks at the Pink Arrow game, but they're changing things up for 2014.

"Up until this point we have sponsored the fireworks, but this year we upped our sponsorship a little bit," Albers said. "We are sponsors of the family perseverance stories this week in the Lowell Ledger and Buyers Guide."



"I don't think I know of someone who hasn't had somebody in their family or themselves affected by cancer," Albers said.

"I don't know anybody who hasn't been touched by cancer at some point," Hoppen said. "In your own

great organization to do so," Albers said.

J & H Family Stores also has its own way of giving back the rest of the year.

"It's called our Community Kickback Program," Albers said. "Every month we choose a vendor of ours and we pair them up with a charity from that community. We dedicate all of our advertising to that program and to those charities."

"A portion of the profits we make on those items that we sell goes to the charity and then our company will match whatever that is," Hoppen said. "It's good for everybody, and by us putting them on the radio it's a chance for them to pick up other sponsors."

J & H Family Stores currently has a new building under construction at the corner of Vergennes and Lincoln Lake.

"We are well underway as you can see," Hoppen said. "We finally have everybody around here happy, so I think we should have this thing wrapped up in probably six or seven weeks."

The new location, the company's 40th, will be a combination gas station, store and restaurant.

"It'll be a Mobil-branded J & H Family Store and it will have a Tim Hortons with a drive-through," Hoppen said. "We think it will be a good fit for the community. It's something Lowell really does not have right now, so I think it's going to be a hit."

They said that it's important to them to be involved in the local communities where they do business.

"We really try to be active in all the communities that we build in," Albers said. "We support those that support us."

I don't know anybody who hasn't been touched by cancer at some point. In your own family, in your church family, your work family, someone somewhere has gotten one form of the disease or another. It's something that impacts everybody sooner or later.

~ Craig Hoppen

All of the 12 stories will be consolidated in a commemorative program book. To be sold at the Pink Arrow Game on September 5.

They say that cancer is a universal struggle and therefore it's something everybody can relate to.

family, in your church family, your work family, someone somewhere has gotten one form of the disease or another. It's something that impacts everybody sooner or later."

"It's important to attack this disease with everything we have and this is a



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perseverance

A community fighting cancer

Throughout July the Lowell Ledger and the Buyers Guide will highlight the stories of area cancer survivors. Each writer will convey, in their own words, their experiences as they walk through the many phases of their personal journey.

~ Most photos taken by Modern Photographics of Lowell

Emma Organeck

Having a sibling with cancer is hard. No one really has any idea what you're going through until it happens to them. When my sister found out she had cancer she was seven and I was three. At that age I didn't really know what Anna was going through and it made me confused. We took many trips to the hospital but most times I stayed with my grandma and her house became my second home. At the time I didn't have a lot of people to play with me because Anna was gone and I didn't have a lot of friends. So I had pretend friends. I always talked about them.

I don't remember a lot about Anna's cancer journey but I do remember certain things. Like sitting in the hospital bed with Anna playing on girlsgogames.com and if Anna didn't eat all the hospital food, I'd call dibs. There was one moment I remember like it was yesterday. My mom, my grandma, Anna and I were in the living room watching Anna's "American Idol" performance at the hospital when my dog started barking at Anna when she was asleep. Only she wasn't asleep. She had stopped breathing. My mom called the ambulance and they came to get Anna. I went to my grandma's that night and the next day we went to see Anna and my mom. I enjoyed



home and more than one family. The more I went to the hospital, the more it felt like a home and doctors and nurses felt like cousins.

I said in the beginning, that having

go through struggles because I have been through it. All you can do is keep your head up and remind the one with cancer to keep fighting.

During school this year, I went to Gilda's Club of Lowell and joined this group which would help you through a cancer journey. I learned a lot from Gilda's Club and met a lot of kids who were going through the same

thing I went through. After going to that group, I felt like the kids who went there with me smiled more and more after group.

I have learned many things from cancer. The most important thing I have learned was that life will throw you curve balls but you can pull through.

Most people think that cancer means death. But it doesn't. It may be hard and you'll struggle, but it doesn't mean you give up.

~ Emma Organeck

the visit but every time we left the hospital I would start to kick and scream. They would have to carry me out of the hospital.

I don't remember everything, like I said but I do remember feelings of confusion and sadness. As time passed I had more than just one

someone you are related to or someone you know having cancer is hard. It's scary and doesn't feel real. Most people think that cancer means death. But it doesn't. It may be hard and you'll struggle, but it doesn't mean you give up. I know it's hard to watch someone you love



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A community fighting cancer

Shelby Offrink

Years ago when the Pink Arrow Pride was first started in Lowell, I remember proudly telling people what a difference my community was making. Again, when it was featured on the TODAY show (come on, Matt Lauer is a big deal), I shared with non-"Lowellians" how great we were. I never thought that I would someday be a beneficiary of the generous donations of our community. That changed on February 27th of this year. My doctor said those three words no one wants to hear: "you have cancer." Say what? Oh, and not only is it cancer, but it's stage 4, it's a glioblastoma metaforme, it's incurable, super rare, in your spinal cord, poor prognosis cancer. Awesome. Any questions? And that is how my cancer journey started.

No one ever starts out thinking they'll have cancer and definitely

a while and could settle in to our new house in Caledonia. Then Maeve had to get her gallbladder removed as an emergency at the beginning of February (no, that is not normal for a three year old). Okay, now we were ready to put all this behind us... And then I went to the ER two weeks later because of some numbness and tingling in my upper leg and found out I had "lesions" (aka likely tumors) on my spinal cord. It was "probably" cancer.

A lot goes through your head when someone tells you, you might have cancer... "What? Yeah right. Who should I call? How do they know? This can't be right. What's for dinner? (just kidding) How far along is it? Am I going to die? Why me? They could be wrong, etc." You don't get answers to a lot of the questions.

Everything moved very quickly

No one ever starts out thinking they'll have cancer and definitely not preparing for it. I have been completely healthy my entire life with the exception of a handful of sport's injuries.

~ Shelby Offrink

not preparing for it. I have been completely healthy my entire life with the exception of a handful of sport's injuries. I grew up in Lowell, five minutes from the high school and my parents still live there. I did well in school and played sports. I went off to college, received my Chemical Engineering degree, met my husband, Ben and started working at Stryker. We bought our first house in Kalamazoo, got married and had our first daughter, Maeve. She's 3 1/2 now and doing well, but was born almost 12 weeks early due to my pre-eclampsia. She was 2 1/2 lbs and spent 43 days in the NICU. (And we thought that was a challenge!) In 2012 I was offered an opportunity to relocate to San Jose, CA, for a job opportunity, so we packed up and sold our house and drove across the country with Maeve and our two dogs. It was a fantastic experience and we stayed there just over a year until I was recruited back to Michigan for a new role. Some things are just meant to be, so we packed up again and moved back to west Michigan. That was in November (perfect, just in time for winter!) and Hazel decided to be born nine weeks premature in December also about 2 1/2 lbs (if you do the math, that means she's seven months old). After 30 days in the NICU in Kalamazoo, we thought we were finally done with the drama for

that week. A couple of days after I was admitted to the hospital I had a double laminectomy to perform a biopsy and officially diagnose the tumors. My surgery lasted close to 10 hours. I had to lay flat on my back for 48 hours after surgery and eventually came home to recover. During those weeks of recovery I consulted with a number of hospitals and doctors and eventually started my 30-day radiation and chemotherapy regimen. After less than one week of treatment, it was Maeve's 3rd birthday party and I was noticing my legs were feeling weaker. I had my mom take me in to the ER and within the next 12 hours I was unable to walk and lost feeling in my legs. I was transferred to Mary Free Bed for rehabilitation and spent three weeks there learning to function without the use of my legs and in a wheelchair as I completed my radiation. I am still wheelchair bound and have encountered a number of challenges over the past weeks and months, from serious items like blood clots in my legs to just basic frustration that I can't help out with certain things or do things for my girls. I am hopeful I will walk again, but until then, I am learning to live life in a wheelchair. I will continue the chemo and some other treatments as long as they continue to be effective. I have had multiple follow up MRIs



and the tumors/cancer appear to be shrinking, but it will be a lifelong battle with continuous monitoring.

You're probably thinking... Okay great, where is she going with all of this? Who cares? This is just another cancer story... But the point of this is that this might seem like a sad story, but I am so lucky in so many ways... I have the best husband anyone in the world could imagine. He is an amazing man and has been through

day and spend more time on the "little things." Strangers and people who barely know me have picked me up when things have gotten tough. And it has re-emphasized the generosity of the community of Lowell and the Pink Arrow Pride. How lucky am I to be a part of this amazing community?

We were supposed to live happily ever after and while it is not the happily ever after I had imagined, I am very thankful for the life I am

Strangers and people who barely know me have picked me up when things have gotten tough. And it has re-emphasized the generosity of the community of Lowell and the Pink Arrow Pride. How lucky am I to be a part of this amazing community?

~ Shelby Offrink

two battles with Hodgkin's lymphoma himself earlier in his life. I have seen my community, family, friends and employer support my family and I in ways I could never have thought of. I have been able to re-prioritize my life and focus on the important things. I am able to better appreciate every

living and for every moment I have with my family and friends. I wanted to use this forum to say thank you to everyone who is helping us on this unexpected path and for taking care of my family when I am not able to. I can't express how appreciative I am.

Thank you, thank you, thank you,
Shelby Offrink

perseverance

The spirit of Pink Arrow Pride

Tim Hollern

In my cancer journey there are two specific dates that changed my life forever. The first was September 22, 2011, the day I had a colonoscopy that led to my diagnosis of colon cancer. In the fog of the anesthesia after the colonoscopy I don't remember much, but I do remember the doctor telling my wife Alicia that he had discovered a mass and that it was consistent with cancer. That will wake you up from anesthetics real quick. That evening, much of my family (parents, siblings, in-laws) came to our house to help us process this. I think it is safe to say we were all in a state of shock! I was only 35 years old and in my mind people didn't get colon cancer until their 50s at the earliest. My wife explained to me and everyone else that the doctor had a plan and we felt good about the plan. He was going to order a CT scan the next day (a Friday) just to be sure there were no other areas of concern and then he would plan on going in and removing the mass from my colon the following week. I had the CT scan done Friday evening and waited over the weekend for the results. While I was



The Hollern family: front row, TJ, Ally and Emma; back row, Tim and Alicia.

My oncologist laid out a plan of attacking this cancer and in his words "curing" me. That word "cure" was just what I needed to hear! I had a chance and I would fight with everything I had!

~ Tim Hollern

pretty emotional that weekend, I was very confident that I would get this removed from my colon the following week and we would move on with life as normal. That was until the second date in my journey I will never forget, September 26, 2011.

Monday, September 26, 2011, the date I received the results of the CT scan and a change in plans. This was the day that rocked my world! I received news that not only did I have colon cancer but it was Stage 4! The CT scan showed that I had approximately seven spots on my liver. I was shocked, scared, angry, sad, and every other emotion you can think of. Immediately, I thought this can't be. I have a wife and three beautiful children! I can't die! I was at work when I got the news and I drove home in a complete fog! As soon as I got home family members and some friends once again started showing up to help us process all this. While

I had been confident we were going to beat this after the first diagnosis, this new diagnosis zapped me of any confidence I had. All I could focus on was whether or not I had a chance at surviving this? That week we were fortunate enough to meet with my oncologist who laid out a plan of attacking this cancer and in his words "curing" me of cancer. That word "cure" was just what I needed to hear! I had a chance and I would fight with everything I had! The plan he laid out included chemotherapy, a surgery on the liver, more chemotherapy, and surgery on the colon and maybe a little more on the liver followed by even more chemotherapy. I have a background in athletics so I looked at this as a game plan and now it was time to go execute the game plan.

Executing the game plan is just what we did! From the end of September 2011 to about July 2012 I was spending about every other week at chemo or having surgery or recovering from it. After 13 chemo treatments and two major surgeries my cancer was out of my body according to all the scans. Three month checkup scans became my norm and all was good until late 2013 when one of the original spots in the liver that could not be surgically removed but had been ablated (burned) started to show on a scan some possible cancerous activity. While frustrating, it was time to game plan again. This time it was some radiation to the liver through the use

of beads of radiation delivered right to the spot and then some down time and some surgery. The beads did their job and on July 2nd, 2014, I had my third surgery. As I write this I am still in recovery phase but feeling great! I feel confident that I am going to kick this thing once and for all now that the pesky little spot is no longer an area of concern.

As I reflect on my journey, I've learned a lot over the past two plus years. I learned that our family is truly blessed to have so many great people in our lives. The people who

that Alicia and I are raising our three children (Emma, TJ, and Ally) in an awesome community! A community that values doing something for others and giving for the greater good of the community. What great lessons for our children to learn! When the Pink Arrow Pride first started I would have never thought that my family would ever need it. Spreading awareness of cancer and giving back to the community is so very real with the Pink Arrow Pride. Our community showcases itself every September with the Pink

When the Pink Arrow Pride first started I would have never thought that my family would ever need it. Spreading awareness of cancer and giving back to the community is so very real with the Pink Arrow Pride.

~ Tim Hollern

have helped my family through this journey are numerous! Family, friends, colleagues, people who have made meals, prayed for us, sent us cards, notes, and just simply asked "how is Tim"? It's truly amazing! I have learned to cherish everyday with my family and friends and to never take anything for granted. Who knows how much time any of us have on this earth but we must cherish every moment. I have been strengthened in my belief in the power of prayer. So many people have prayed for our family and it has strengthened us through this journey. I have learned

Arrow football game that the people of Lowell support like no other. That Friday night football game is so very special and such a great community event but Pink Arrow is more than just that September night. It is Gilda's Club, it is helping people to fight cancer with monetary support, and it is showing those of us fighting this disease that in Lowell the whole community will help you fight! It has a real impact and has helped our family out tremendously and we will forever be proud to be members of this great community and of the Pink Arrow Force!

“Accidental business” still going strong after ten years on Main Street

by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

Flat River Cottage (FRC) opened its doors nearly a decade ago, almost by accident. Owner Rita Reister had done extensive renovations on a building she owned along Main St. and had been unable to find a renter for the space. Not wanting the property to sit empty over the cold winter months she devised a plan

of-a-kind pieces. We have a lady that does calligraphy and another one that makes all-natural soaps and has just gotten into spinning yarn. I like to think that each one owns a part of the store and that they are proud of that fact."

Other featured items include carefully selected artwork in a variety of mediums and the decorative

the paint company's assessment of superiority and supports that claim with a variety of reasons. "Annie Sloan's paint is the best paint because there is no preparation of the piece, no sanding, no priming. It goes on easily and dries fast; a coat will dry in an hour. The paint does not have a smell. It can be applied to wood, metal, plastic, melamine, concrete, and more," said Reister.

She reports that the paint is also versatile enough to be used indoors or out, covers extremely well and can be custom mixed for the perfect color to fit your home decor, "It is just fun to paint with!"

The same employees who restore, repaint and re-purpose the thoughtful and frequently updated pieces inside the shop will also custom paint items for their customers. They also offer personal shopping for clients seeking the perfect piece for their home making. The shopping experience at FRC is both unique and individualized.

Though it sits among the plethora of antique shops that Lowell is known for and indeed carries antiques, Reister said that the store does not fall specifically

into that category, "Our store is not an antique store, we are a store that happens to have antiques and vintage pieces. We are more of a decorating store and we try to help customers with their needs and wants and we like to help them in any way possible."

The GM retiree says that even after nearly a decade of owning the shop she is still excited to come to work. "Owning a business in Lowell has been a great experience. I worked in Grand Rapids for 36 years and did not have a lot of interaction with the people in Lowell. With the store I have met many interesting people and love to hear their stories and their ideas." Reister adds that each day brings her a new experience and that she never bores of the interaction with her valued customers and fellow vendors.

Reister says she hopes to develop further relationships with other local interior design experts that she may refer her customers to when they need additional services. And FRC will continue to provide the quality



products, friendly service and custom shopping experience they provide today, inside their shop, well into the future. "We will continue to provide the service and products that our customers want and need. We would like to exceed their expectations."

FRC is open six days a week, on Sunday by chance or appointment and often stay open late during town festivities. They offer shipping on some of their pieces and accept Visa, Master Card and Discover.



with her sister to sell some of their own decor items in the shop. The rest, as they say, is history.

Two years after their "accidental opening" of the business, the amount of merchandise inside it had grown tremendously inducing a move in 2007 to their current, much roomier location at 317 E. Main St. The store continues to house the great selection of refurbished and antique home and garden furnishings and complimentary accessories they began with and now also includes the work of several other local artists. According to Reister, "Our inventory is a great mix of antiques, vintage and some new pieces. For jewelry we have 'Nightforest Jewelry' and the 'Always Wired Bead Lady.' The vast majority of Nightforest Jewelry is vintage with some new pieces, the Always Wired Bead Lady creates her one-

paint known as "the best in the world," Annie Sloan Chalk Paint, which the team at FRC uses frequently to restore the unique pieces that they sell inside their comfortable and friendly shop.

The FRC is one of the less than ten specialty shops that carry the European based paint and paint accessories here in Michigan. Reister said that she agrees with

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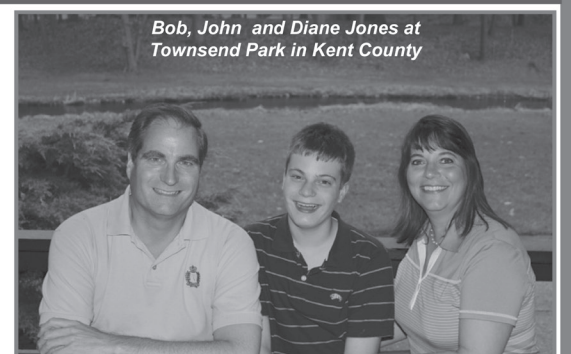


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JENNIFER BYRD, D.D.S.

ANN WILSON, D.D.S.

obituaries

DOYLE

Eunice Jane Doyle, 99, passed away Monday, June 16, 2014, at Martha Jefferson House in Charlottesville, Virginia. She was born July 27, 1914, in Chelsea and graduated from Hillsdale College before becoming an elementary school teacher in Saranac and Lowell. She married William S. Doyle, who predeceased her in 1987. They raised three children, William (of Millbrook, New York), Christine Thomson (of Charlottesville, Virginia) and Nancy (of London, England). In addition to her children, she is survived by six grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. Graveside services will be held at Oakwood Cemetery in Lowell at 11 a.m. on Monday, July 28, followed by a reception at The Watermark in Cascade at 12:30. Condolences may be sent to the family at www.hillandwood.com

HEINTZLEMAN

Josephine M. (Mooney) Heintzleman, age 84, of Lowell, passed away Wednesday, July 16, 2014. Jo was born in Ionia, MI on October 7, 1929. She was the daughter of John and Anna Mooney. Jo was preceded in death by her husband, of 62 years William; son,

Daniel Heintzleman; and several siblings. She is survived by children; Pat (Dan) Nowak, Nancy (Dale) Triplett, Tom (Debra) Heintzleman, Bill (Susan) Heintzleman, Michele (Mark) Hemstreet, Douglas Heintzleman, and Teresa (Jerry) Cummings; daughter-in-law, Lucy

Heintzleman; sisters, Sr. Bernadette Mooney, Esther (Arnie) Johnson, Marty (Mike) Baczewski; brother, Bob (Eileen) Mooney; and numerous grandchildren and great grandchildren. A Mass of Christian Burial was held. Memorial donations may be made to The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, 4065 Saladin Dr. SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49546 or a charity of your choice.



RICHTER

Our Lord has received a blue eyed Angel on this day Saturday, July 19, 2014.

Elizabeth Irene Richter (BeVier), age 73, long time resident of Lowell, Baldwin, and Phoenix, Az. She is survived by her husband, William Richter; brothers, Jim and Bernie BeVier, of Iowa; children Richard and Julie Longway, Louanne and Bret Zillmer, Kathy and George Kinsley, David and Shonne Longway, Shari and Russ Dunham, Ken and Devon Richter, Pat and Charlie

Higley, Bill and Linda Richter, and Cindy Muscott; twenty four grandchildren; seventeen great grandchildren; and all her beloved friends.

We all called her Betty, as in "Betty Boop"! She was the World's biggest Tigers fan! Almost Pro bowler. Always the best Mother, Grandmother, and Great Grandmother.

A funeral service will be held Thursday 11:00 a.m. at Roth-Gerst Chapel, 305 N. Hudson, Lowell. Interment Blythefield

Memory Gardens. Visitation Wednesday 2-4:00 p.m. and 6-8:00 p.m. at Roth-Gerst Chapel. Memorial contributions may be made to the charity of your choice. We will miss you Mom!



VANDUSER

Wilma Gene VanDuser, age 68 of Saranac, passed away Saturday, July 12, 2014. She was preceded in death by her husband Kenneth VanDuser; sisters

Lillie P. and Phyllis Coon; brothers Bill and John Filkins. She is survived by daughter Kathryn (Rob) Thomas; brothers Earl (Lucy) Filkins, Gerald Filkins, Ronald Filkins, Brennan Filkins and Perry Filkins; sisters Alberta Odell, Ruth Nixon, Kathy (Alan) Anthony, Brenda (Robin) Kissling and Debra Eaton; grandchildren Kendall (Bruce) Corrigan-Salter, Zack Corrigan, Will Little, Jayden Thomas; great-grandson Liam Little; many nieces and nephews. Private services were held by the family.



WILSON

Charlene Marie Wilson passed away on May 25, 2014, at Palomar Hospital in Escondido, CA, where many of her children and grandchildren had rushed

to be by her side;—she said goodbye by gently squeezing their hands for the last time. She was due to be in the hospital briefly for observation and treatment for a slight fracture from a fall earlier in the week when sudden complications from kidney and heart failure caused



her death; she was 90 years old. She was born October 20, 1923, to the late Howard and Johanna (Wittenbach) Kyser in Lowell, where she was raised with her five siblings: Russell, Carroll, Bob, Lorene and Marilyn. Charlene graduated from Lowell High School in 1942; classmates filled her high school yearbooks with funny notes, stories and well wishes to Charlene, or "Slug," often affectionately referring to her nickname. At an early age Charlene loved to sing and after graduating had a stint singing on a local Grand Rapids radio station where she parlayed her Swiss yodeling and American cowboy songs and guitar playing into a lifetime hobby. (That guitar was handmade by her father Howard and is still being played.) Charlene also had a lifetime love for music from the "Swing" or Big Band era that she grew up in. Her children remembering fondly "...Mom singing and dancing around the house all the years we were growing up..." Chattanooga ChooChoo, "Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy," "(I Got a Gal in) Kalamazoo"...on and on!" Charlene married the late Leslie L. Wilson in 1944, then a young sailor in the U.S. Navy, who had also attended Lowell High School and lived nearby in Ada. Les was a veteran of WWII, only seventeen when he joined; his ship was at sea in the Pacific during Pearl Harbor and rushed to aid and rescue. He was also a veteran of the Korean War and Vietnam. While her husband traveled the world during his career in the Navy, Charlene moved with him within the states many times. They were stationed in Hawaii and Key West, Florida, but after the war most prominently to Pensacola, FL and finally to settling in Poway, CA (near San Diego), in 1958 with their seven children. Charlene was a stay-at-home Mom (and often a single Mom when Les was shipped out for up to nine months at a time) to five boys and two girls; she was an wonderful homemaker, gardener, chief cook and baker on a very tight budget (famous for her "Mom's Carrot Cake"), an active member of The Community Church of Poway, where she also sang in the choir and was a featured soloist and helped write the first church cookbook featuring many of her favorite recipes. She was involved in, or, supported her kid's activities or escapades; including Little League, scouts, 4-H, school, paper routes and more. Her second career started when after longing for the freedom that driving a car brings—finally achieved the goal of learning how to drive (and she drove fast); getting her California State drivers license and venturing into the world of the 1960s, a modern working woman; then juggling family, job and a new social life. She often was a surrogate mother and the quintessential grandmother to eventually 17 grandchildren who loved and adored her unconditionally. Second only to her children was the menagerie of pets, stray, wild and otherwise, that became members of the family: dogs, cats, birds (including hawks, falcons and owls), fish, rabbits, lambs and sometimes unexpected reptiles! Mostly she took it all in stride—always challenged by children and "pets" alike. She leaves her surviving cat Suki to her daughter Cheryl. She loved to travel, especially to her beloved state of Michigan where many family car vacations were planned over the years to visit the Wilson, Kyser and Wittenbach relatives; attend family reunions and class reunions; visiting the farms and small towns on the outskirts of Grand Rapids. Charlene retired back to Lowell after her husband died in 1995 and became a member of Lowell First United Methodist Church and an active participant at the Lowell Senior Center. She especially loved reconnecting at that time with numerous family members, brothers, sisters, cousins, nephews, nieces and friends, while, still driving like a race car driver. She only reluctantly moved back to California six years ago when her children and grandchildren wanted her close for visits and caregiving. Charlene is survived by seven children and their spouses: Stephen Wilson, James and Sharyn Wilson, Cheryl and Rick Trestrail, John and Elaine Wilson, Christine and Paul Nussbaum, Danny and Cynthia Wilson and Gary and Lorraine Wilson. Also by 17 grandchildren: Steve, Jamie, Lynee, the late Troy Wilson, Ryan, Amber, Nadia, Heidi, Justin, Jared, Melissa, Devon, Daniel, Charlyn, Jason, Jessica and Natalie. She also has 19 great grandchildren and two great-great grandchildren. Pre-deceased by her beloved sisters, Lorene Kyser Smith, Marilyn Kyser Hartger; and, brothers Carroll Kyser and Dr. Robert Kyser; and survived by her oldest brother Russell Kyser, numerous cherished family members and especially the beloved Wilson family. A memorial service and reception for Charlene will be held on Monday, September 8th at 11:00 in the morning at the Lowell First United Methodist Church, followed by internment at Oakwood Cemetery. In lieu of flowers donations can be made to Lowell First United Methodist Church (United Methodist Women), 621 E. Main Street, Lowell, MI 49331, in her honor.

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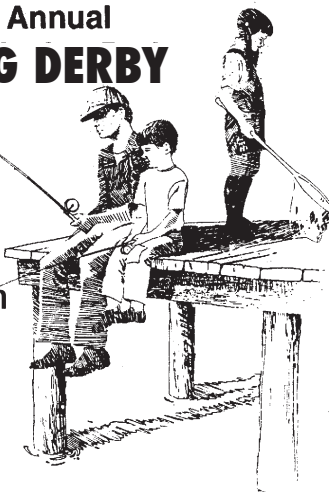
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CITY OF LOWELL PUBLIC NOTICE

In accordance with Section 4.9 of the City Charter, when a Council vacancy occurs in mid-term, the City Council shall appoint a person until the Monday following the next regular City Election. The City is seeking letters of interest for this Council position. City residents who are registered to vote in the City and are interested in serving on the City council should submit a letter of interest to the City Clerk, Lowell City Hall, 301 East Main Street, Lowell, MI 49331 by 12 noon on Friday, July 25, 2014.

Betty R. Morlock
City Clerk



LEGAL NOTICE FROM THE U.S. COURT OF FEDERAL CLAIMS

If, on June 9, 2008 or April 29, 2009, you had an ownership interest in land constituting part of the railroad corridor or right-of-way formerly operated by Mid-Michigan Railroad, Inc. between Lowell, Michigan and Greenville, Michigan, you may be eligible to join a class action.

What is this lawsuit about?

On June 6, 2014, an amended class-action complaint was filed against the United States in the United States Court of Federal Claims by property owners for themselves and on behalf of a proposed group or "class" of similarly situated property owners. The lawsuit is about whether the United States has taken the Plaintiffs' ownership interest in the subject railroad right-of-way as a result of an order issued by the Surface Transportation Board that authorized Mid-Michigan Railroad, Inc., the railroad previously operating a rail line on this right-of-way, to enter into an agreement with Friends of Fred-Meijer Heartland Trail for trail use of the right-of-way. The Friends of Fred Meijer Heartland Trail subsequently sold the right-of-way to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. In addition to trail use, the right-of-way is also preserved for rail use at any point in the future. The lawsuit seeks monetary compensation from the United States for the alleged taking of this property.

Am I an eligible class member?

Eligible class members are those who had an ownership interest on June 9, 2008, in property constituting a part of those portions of the railroad corridor or right-of-way located between railroad milepost 81.5 in Greenville, Michigan and milepost 103.2 in Lowell, Michigan formerly occupied by Mid-Michigan Railroad, Inc. ("MMR") or who had an ownership interest on April 28, 2009, in lands constituting a part of those portions of the railroad corridor or right-of-way located between railroad milepost 81.32 at Washington Street in Greenville, Michigan, and milepost 78.50, at Peck Road in Greenville, Michigan. You are still an eligible owner if you owned the property on the date it was taken – either June 9, 2008 or April 28, 2009 – it does not matter if you have since sold or transferred the property.

How can I join the Class Action?

To be considered eligible to join the Class Action, **you must mail or fax a completed form by September 15, 2014** stating that on June 9, 2008 or April 28, 2009 (per Paragraph 2), you, or the entity you represent owned an interest in land constituting part of the railroad corridor or right-of-way and that you wish to join the Class Action to have your claim pursued. If you do so and are otherwise eligible, Class Counsel will enter your appearance in the Class Action on or before September 25, 2014. **Class Counsel (info below) will provide you with the form upon your request.**

You will not owe money if you join this class.

Only if the Class Counsel are successful in obtaining an award for you, will they be paid from the greater of (1) a contingency fee equal to 33% of the total recovery or (2) the attorney's fees and litigation expenses - to the extent the Court determines that such fees and expenses are reasonable - that may be paid by the United States pursuant to the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970, 42 U.S.C. 4654(c).

What happens if I do or don't decide to join the Class Action?

If you become a class member, a judgment in this case will be binding on you, meaning you could not pursue your own separate lawsuit using your own attorney. If you do not join the Class Action, please be aware the statute of limitations for filing a claim has passed and you may no longer be able to individually pursue a claim.

Other information

Whether you are still the owner, or have sold the property, has no impact on your eligibility to make a claim. However, you must have owned the property on either June 8, 2008 or April 28, 2009, depending on where your property is located, to be eligible.

If you qualify, your claim is for the value of the property alleged to have been taken. The value of each property has not yet been determined, but could be substantial. The Court has not decided whether the Plaintiffs or the United States is correct; by establishing the Class and issuing this Notice, the Court is not suggesting that the Plaintiffs will win or lose the case.

This case is neutral toward the trail itself and does not attempt to stop it; the claim is against the federal government irrespective of what organization may be building or using the trail.

If this case is unsuccessful, you will have no obligation for attorneys' fees or costs.

You can request a form to join the Class Action from Class Counsel. Their contact information is: Arent Fox, LLP, 112 S. Hanley, Suite 200, St. Louis, MO 63105; (314)-296-4000 (phone); (202)-857-6395 (fax); or <mailto:debi.luce@arentfox.com>.

Arts Explosion, continued

amazed by their fresh ability to instruct and inspire our students. I also love that we continue to develop our team by adding new instructors. This allows us the opportunity to expand our offerings and our connection to the community."

Another connection that the program hopes to continue to make stronger is the one between being creative and the Creator, "Ever since I was a little girl, I have always been fascinated

God's greatest attributes," said Struckmeyer of the link between the arts and the church.

Plans are already underway for a winter session of classes that will culminate in a Celebration of the Arts recital in late February or early March and for another summer Arts Explosion day camp in 2015. These affordable classes are open to all students and further information can be found



Students cut and sewed their own cell phone pouches as part of the sewing class led by Kristen Lambert. Photo by journalism student Evan Johnson

by the creativity of God. I look for it in His creation both in nature and in people. I love the uniqueness within each of us and I love that He gave us each talents and gifts. When we are imaginative and creative, we are reflecting one of

on Impact's website impact-church.org as the events near.

These photos were taken by my photojournalism students for the newsletter we created. I have included their names with their respective photos.



Musical production students rehearse their song and dance number from the musical "Bye Bye Birdie." Photo by journalism student Emma Pearson

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First load of wheat arrives at King Milling



The first load of new crop wheat for 2014 arrived at the King Milling Company on July 14. This Soft Red Winter Wheat was grown by Greg Smit of Ada and delivered by Ryan Fisk (pictured left). The wheat was unloaded by King Milling Company employees Steve Barle and Dave Kryger (pictured right).

Perfect weather for the eighth week of concerts



by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

The Appleseed Collective headlined last week's eighth installment of the Lowell Showboat Sizzlin' Summer Concert series brought to the community by LowellArts! and the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce.

Powerhouse vocals, excellent lyricism and an eclectic mixture of Americana music styles, including bluegrass, dixieland, swing and gypsy folk with twists of jazz and country were offered up to the hundreds of music enthusiasts in attendance.

Based out of Ann Arbor, the five piece acoustic band consists of five young and talented performers: vocalist Katie Lee, guitarist Andrew Brown, violinist Brandon Smith, percussionist Vince Russo and bassist Ben Rolston. The group tours nationwide in support of their 2012 debut album release "Baby to Beast" and went back into the studio to record their sophomore effort "Young Love" which is expected to be released this winter.

This week the Sizzlin' Summer Concert series will feature West Michigan's premier rock band and veteran Showboat performers, Alive & Well. Their upbeat set list includes prime slices of classic and pop rock spanning the past fifty years. Showtime is from 7-9 along the Riverwalk and the event, as always, is handicap accessible and free to the public.

college news

Courtney Schmidt of Lowell was placed on the 2013/2014 Academic Honor Roll of the Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association (MIAA) which included 221 student-athletes from Hope College.

The academic awards program is administered by the faculty representatives of the MIAA member colleges.

Schmidt is a senior who lettered four years

and achieved this academic distinction for soccer.

The 25th annual academic honor roll consists of student-athletes who maintained a minimum 3.5 grade point average for the year.

Schmidt is a Lowell High School graduate.

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