

### santa Q&A



page 9

### community dinner



page 16

### city council meeting



page 3

## Lowell businesses experience a good turnout with the official start of Christmas shopping

by Kathryn Atwood  
contributing reporter

Local merchants welcomed a flurry of bargain hunting shoppers last weekend for the official start of the holiday buying season.

Black Friday is known as the biggest shopping

day of the year. This year \$50.9 billion was spent by more than 133 million U.S. consumers during the unofficial shopping holiday, down 11 percent from 2013.

At Springrove Variety customers were offered a large percentage discount which was even greater for

those who arrived during their "early bird" hours, 6-9 am. Though there were no lines outside the door, clerk Linda Hamp said they had customer traffic as soon as they opened and stayed "very busy" throughout the day.

Rookies Sports cards Plus offered various discounts to shoppers, as well as 10 percent off holiday gift certificates.

Retailers who did not run specific sales for the day report that they still felt

the impact of the increased shopping traffic.

"We just don't need to run any," said Debbie Haggai, the owner of Dovetail Antiques, "After Christmas Through Lowell we stay so busy."

Small Business Saturday brought even greater crowds to the downtown shopping district.

Lowell retailers welcomed shoppers with discounts and giveaways.

Flat River Antique Emporium who let customers pull coupons ranging from 10-50 percent off their purchases. At Red Barn Consignment and Antiques customers were entered into a drawing with their purchase to receive a free gift.

Over at Dovetail Antiques customer traffic was high once again on Saturday. Haggai said that she was glad to see so many people taking advantage of their local businesses on this important shopping day for small retailers, "I feel like it allows our community to come together and see what small businesses have to offer."



Out of town shoppers Susan Byington, Henrietta Place and Sydney Klutman, at Springrove Variety, said that Lowell is on their shopping list each Thanksgiving weekend.

## LPD officers have body cameras in use

by Tim McAllister  
contributing reporter

The unrest in Ferguson, Mo. has brought into focus the issues surrounding police body cameras. Some state legislators say body cameras should be mandatory. Lowell police have had body cameras for over a year, and were one of the first agencies to use them.

"October of 2013 was when we got them," Lowell police chief Steve Bukala said in an interview on Monday, Dec. 1. "We had some drug forfeiture money that we needed to spend and that was what we decided to spend it on. We tested a few throughout the summer of 2013 and settled on the Taser Axon body camera."

It was reported Oct. 31 on MLive Lansing that Rep. Jeff Irwin and Rep. Tom McMillin were "working together on a proposal that would require all law enforcement officers in Michigan to wear body cameras."

"I'd rather see voluntary compliance rather than the state legislature dictate agencies get these," Bukala said.

Body cameras allow officers to review incidents immediately and with total accuracy.

"The officer can actually watch the video after the incident takes place with an app on their smartphone, so our reports are even more accurate than they were

LPD body cameras,  
continued, page 2



## Lowell Relay for Life sells Christmas trees for a cause

by Kathryn Atwood  
contributing reporter

For the fifth straight year in a row, a unique Christmas tree sale has been held on the north end of

town allowing shoppers to select a locally grown tree to enhance their holiday and aid in the fight against cancer.

Relay For Life benefits from the sale held on the Trees, continued, page 2

50 CENTS



0 4 8 7 9 1 5 3 8 3 2

# LPD body cameras, continued

before,” Bukala said. “They’re able to quote people verbatim in the police report versus going by their memory of what happened.”

The department keeps the video files on computer storage at the police station.

“We keep hard copies of all traffic stops for 90 days in case there’s a citizen complaint,” Bukala said. “Any criminal activity we keep until the case is adjudicated. They’re kept on

a four terabyte hard drive at the police department.”

When asked if the hard drive was safe from threats, such as hackers or viruses, Bukala replied, “Yes.”

“That’s the trend in law enforcement right now, for departments to get these,” Bukala said. “It’s still not common, but it’s catching on. It’s trending that way.”

Bukala said the recent situation in Ferguson was preventable. Bukala blames

Ferguson police chief Tom Jackson for letting the situation escalate.

“That chief knew right away that Michael Brown had grabbed the officer’s gun, that the gun was fired inside the police vehicle and the officer was injured, but he didn’t give any of the information out right away,” Bukala said. “A lot of this violence could have been prevented had they been forthcoming with a lot of that

information up front. What happens is, when you don’t give the media information, they speculate and give conjecture and they come up with their own theories.”

Bukala said he would’ve handled the situation completely different.

“If that ever happened here in Lowell I would be very forthcoming with the media and I would try to release as much information as I possibly could,” Bukala

said. “Maybe I wouldn’t have gotten very detailed, but I would have given the media something, then I would have said, ‘I will release more when I can.’”

Chief Bukala also provided the Ledger with the most up-to-date Lowell crime statistics. Police made 327 arrests through Oct. 2014. Outstanding

warrants account for 100 of those arrests. There were 52 drug arrests and 18 drunk driving arrests. Police also responded to hundreds of complaints, including 275 ordinance violations and 557 assists. Lowell police wrote 385 tickets and let 1,337 lucky drivers off with just a warning.



## along main street

### FINE ART & CRAFT SALE

Rogue River Artisans 32nd annual juried Fine Art & Craft Holiday Sale will be held Saturday, Dec. 6 from 9 am to 4 pm at Lowell High School. Over 110 of the area’s finest artisans and craftsmen. A holiday lunch is available. \$1 admission with proceeds going to Red Arrow special activities. For more information go to [lowellholidayartshow.com](http://lowellholidayartshow.com)

### COFFEE WITH COUNCIL

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

### GILDA’S CLUB ACTIVITES

**Holiday Social at the Lowell American Legion Post** - Join us December 9 (Tuesday) at 5:30 - 8 pm for a “Polar Express” magical evening including supper, a visit from Santa and other fun surprises! American Legion: 3124 Alden Nash Ave., SE, Lowell. All ages are welcome and carpool will be available from the Lowell Clubhouse if needed. We look forward to celebrating the holidays with you! **Woodcarving** – Tues., Dec.16, 3:15-4:15 pm. Learn how to make easy and beautiful wood carvings with Doug Shassberger. Beginners are welcome and supplies are provided. **Book Club** – Tues., Dec. 16, 4:15-5:15 pm. Join Kathy Mieras for a relaxing and cozy book club. Pick up your book to borrow at the parlor desk. **Movie Matinee** - Tues., Dec. 23, 3-5 pm. Bring the family and watch Elf: a movie about innocence, goodness and Christmas cheer. The story is about an elf from Santa’s world who is genuinely

sweet and endearing. You will fall in love with Buddy and have a few laughs too. Lowell Clubhouse, 314 S. Hudson St. For more information call 897-8600 or visit [www.gildasclubgr.org/pinkarrow](http://www.gildasclubgr.org/pinkarrow)

### CHRISTMAS IN FALLSBURG

Christmas in Fallasburg will be held at the Fallasburg Schoolhouse, 13944 Covered Bridge Road on Saturday, Dec. 13 from 6 to 8 pm. This is a benefit for the continued preservation of the historic village sponsored by the Fallasburg Historical Society. Traditional holiday music by the Hawks & Owls band, wine, cheese, cider, coffee and lots of Christmas goodies plus a roaring bonfire in adjacent Fallas Field to cap off the evening. For more information go to [www.fallasburg.org](http://www.fallasburg.org) or call 616-682-0785.

### FLAT RIVER GALLERY & FRAMING

Watercolorist Debra Hoover will be the featured artist at Flat River Gallery & Framing for the month of December. Reception Dec. 18, 5-7. Public invited.

### LIVESTRONG CLASS AT THE YMCA

A cancer survivor exercise class to regain your strength, balance, flexibility and cardiovascular endurance will be held Mondays and Thursdays from 11:30 am to 12:45 pm, Jan. 2 through April 2, 2015 at the Lowell YMCA. Class is free, call 616-855-9570.

*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.*

# Trees, continued

property of A-1 Laser located at 677 Lincoln Lake Ave. Relay For Life is the main fundraiser for the American Cancer Society, founded over 100 years ago, to aid in comforting and curing those facing the deadly disease.

The sale, run entirely by team A-1 Laser, is the most successful individual fundraiser of the Relay for Life of Lowell event.

Team members signed up for volunteer shifts for the fundraiser that began the day after Thanksgiving and continues until all 350 trees are sold.

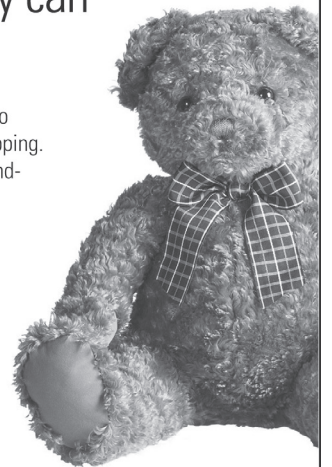
Fraser and Douglas fir, blue spruce and scotch pine varieties of trees are available at the lot which is open daily. Hours are Monday through Friday from 9-7, Saturday 9-6 and Sunday from noon-5.

...  
**War is a cowardly escape from the problems of peace.**  
~ Thomas Mann (1875 - 1955)

## Ship it.

Because nobody can hug an email.

When your sentiments need to go the distance, choose FedEx® shipping. Available from your local pack-and-ship experts.



the lowell ledger

105 N. Broadway, Lowell 897-9555

FedEx Authorized ShipCenter

the lowell ledger

(USPS 453-830)

Published weekly for \$25<sup>00</sup> a year for zip codes beginning with 493 or 495 \$36<sup>00</sup> a year any other zip code.

Deadline for display advertising is Friday at Noon

Deadline for classified advertising is Monday at 5 pm

JON JACOBS .....PUBLISHER  
JEANNE BOSS.....EDITOR  
TIM McALLISTER.....CONTRIBUTING REPORTER  
JUSTIN TIEMEYER.....CONTRIBUTING REPORTER  
KATHRYN ATWOOD.....CONTRIBUTING REPORTER  
TAMMY JANOWIAK.....CLASSIFIED/ACCOUNTING  
JON JACOBS.....ADVERTISING SALES

(616) 897-9261

E-Mail: [ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com](mailto:ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com)

Second Class Postage Paid at Lowell, MI

Published every Wednesday

POSTMASTER: Send address change to:

The Lowell Ledger

P.O. Box 128 • Lowell, MI 49331

[www.thelowellledger.com](http://www.thelowellledger.com)

**We want to be your Other Family Doctor.**

- Sick or Injured Animals Seen Same Day
- Evenings & Saturday Hours Available
- Early Drop-offs & House Calls
- 24-Hour Emergency Service
- Science Diet Pet Foods
- Boarding & Grooming

Call 897-8484  
11610 East Fulton Street • Lowell, Michigan

**ANIMAL HOSPITAL OF LOWELL**

**WE SHIP UPS!**

Our Prices Can't Be Beat!  
Call Us for a Price Quote!  
Weight & Zip Code Required for a Quote

**The Lowell Ledger**  
105 N. Broadway, 897-9261

# City council discusses e-mailed items added to agenda

by Tim McAllister  
contributing reporter

The dialog between city councilor Jeff Altoft and city manager Mark Howe continued at the council's regular meeting at city hall on Monday, Dec. 1 at 7 pm. This time the audience also got involved in the debate.

Councilor Altoft sent an e-mail to Howe and the entire city council on Tuesday, Nov. 25. The e-mail was in reference to a contentious "work session" they had the evening before. The e-mail included a list of things Altoft requested be added to the Dec. 1 meeting's agenda. A similar request by councilor Matt Mayer was denied at a previous meeting.

The first of councilor Altoft's new agenda items was "purchase and funding of purchase of fire truck." Altoft asked city manager Mark Howe a series of questions about funding for a fire truck the fire department recently purchased. Howe said he could not come up with the figures off the top of his head and would provide Altoft with the information as soon as possible. At one point Tony Ellison, husband

of councilor Sharon Ellison, yelled at Altoft from the audience.

"Watch your smile, because that's disrespectful," Altoft said to mayor Jim Hodges during a discussion about sidewalk repair on an area near 521 Elizabeth St.

"Excuse me," Hodges said.

"There you go," Altoft said.

"You're not showing much respect either," Ellison called out.

"Uh, Mr. Ellison, please," Hodges said.

"Sorry," Ellison said.

"No outbursts please," Hodges said.

The other new agenda items under "Old Business" were "sidewalks," "waste water plant," "union contract negotiations" and "inaccuracies of the minutes of previous meetings published online for the public to view."

In "New Business," Altoft had "possible changes to the council rules" added. In the "Closed Session," "performance of the city manager" was added. The meeting included discussion of the city of Lowell's use

of the yearly LCTV [Lowell Cable Television] fund money to repair streets.

"It just sort of got sidetracked and in the heat of the moment a decision was made," Ellison said. "I don't think it was a decision that was made lightly. It seemed quickly

and maybe it wasn't done the way we had planned it, but unfortunately it has been done. I just wanted to remind everyone that it was a one-year decision. We did not vote to dissolve this board. There's been a lot of good things that have come out of this. The decision

made to share this money with the community or entertain grant requests was made, but the LCTV fund is not a community fund. It wasn't left to everyone in the community by a nice individual. It was money that was earned or was given to... the city received from

the sale of an infrastructure, the sale of a utility."

The meeting adjourned at 8:26 pm. The city council's next regular meeting will take place at city hall on Monday, Dec. 15 at 7 pm.



Councilmembers Jeff Altoft and Sharon Ellison

# New music teacher named Staff Member of the Month

Murray Lake Elementary (MLE) was not left with much time to find a music teacher this summer. Former music teacher, Jacqui Dimmick, took an Alto fifth-grade position that opened up in August. This left Murray Lake looking for a music teacher with only a couple weeks left before school started. "We were kind of scrambling. It is not easy to replace a music teacher like Jacqui Dimmick. She did a fantastic job for ten years here at MLE. Her performances were awesome. I only had a couple weeks to find someone. I called a few principals in the area and luckily a buddy from Caledonia recommended another Jacqui, Jackie Bernat. We interviewed a few others, but Jackie rose to the top and has come in and done a fantastic job. She is enthusiastic, hands on with the kids and gets them moving," said principal Brent Noskey.

Second-grade teacher, Kristin Manske added, "Ms. Bernat is truly a rock star music teacher. The kids



Pictured above are music students, Paige Wilcox and Isabelle VanTimmeran, along with Jacqui Bernat and her assistant Ms. Durbin.

absolutely love going to music because Jackie makes it so fun."

Bernat is a Michigan State University graduate and was teaching music in Grandville. She left Grandville because she would have had to teach in seven different schools this year and wanted to find a

building that she could call home. She enjoys playing all instruments. She can be seen using a variety within her classroom, especially her guitar. Bernat also enjoys dancing and learning about all different types of music. She currently lives in Kentwood with her family, including her three-year-old son, Vincent, who she calls her favorite musician.

"Wow, thank you, Murray Lake. I am honored to be staff member of the month. What a kind surprise that really made this month and year special. I cannot

accept this nomination without recognizing my student assistant, Ms. Durbin, who has worked hard to help out in the music room. I also want to give a shout out to the Murray Lake staff, thank you for being incredible. I am so lucky to be working alongside a group of talented educators and staff. They have been very welcoming and supportive from the first day I arrived. I also want to thank my students. You guys rock! It's quite amazing watching these kids grow each day," said Bernat.

...  
**Ah, music. A magic beyond all we do here!**  
~ J. K. Rowling



## Oak Meadow

TREE SERVICE INC.

**Complete Tree Care**

- Pruning & Tree Removal
- Storm Damage Cleanup
- Stump Grinding
- Fully Insured

**Call Today!**  
616-890-2348



MILITARY DISCOUNT



MEMBER  
T.C.I.A.  
VOICE OF TREE CARE



MEMBER  
ISA



## FLAT RIVER OUTREACH MINISTRIES

**SIGN UP FOR CHRISTMAS FOOD & TOYS**



Flat River Outreach Ministries is making plans for distributing food and toys to Lowell area families for this holiday season.

If you or someone you know could use our help this Christmas season, please contact us.

**You can fill out a registration form during Food Pantry hours, or for information call FROM at 897-8260 Ext. #28.**

# business directory

TO ADVERTISE IN THE LEDGER

BUSINESS DIRECTORY Call 897-9261

**FRY DADDY'S**  
608 West Main Street  
Lowell, MI 49331  
**897-FISH**  
FISH SHRIMP WING PINGS -  
CHICKEN STRIPS  
DAILY SPECIALS  
OPEN MONDAY - SATURDAY  
SUNDAY 3-8  
Best Fish In Town!!!



**Rich's Service Co.**  
In-Home Appliance Repair  
Dryer Vent  
Cleaning  
INSURED • 20 YEARS EXPERIENCE  
WASHERS • DRYERS • REFRIGERATORS  
GARBAGE DISPOSALS • STOVES • DISHWASHERS  
209 E. Main St. RICH CURTIS  
Lowell, MI 49331 (616) 897-5686



**KIRK COLLINS**  
Owner  
**Showboat**  
AUTOMOTIVE SUPPLY, INC.  
Auto Value  
Parts Stores  
1450 W. Main St., Lowell, MI  
(616) 897-9231  
HOURS: MON - FRI 8-7; SAT 8-5:30; SUN 9-3



**THE LAURELS**  
OF KENT  
A Skilled Nursing and Rehabilitation Center  
• Rehab Services • Respite Stays  
• Long Term Care • Palliative Care  
Able to admit 24/7  
350 North Center Street  
Lowell, Michigan  
616-897-8473 or  
616.292.1031  
www.laurelsokent.com

**HANSON**  
REAL ESTATE  
GROUP  
.com  
(616)  
682.9225

897-4123  
**Arctic Inc.**  
Heating & Cooling  
• Heating & air-conditioning • Wall hung boilers & water heaters  
• Geo Thermal systems • Radiant floor heat • Snow melt systems  
• Whole house generators • Duct work • Humidifiers  
SALES, SERVICE AND INSTALLATION, UPGRADES, NEW HOMES  
www.HeatingCoolingOnline.com



**Eckman Landscape Construction**  
Hard Scapes - Brick Pavings -  
Boulder Walls - Retaining Walls -  
Decks - Fences - Tractor Services -  
Bark - Mulch  
Joel Eckman, owner  
Lowell  
616-802-2666  
joeleckman80@yahoo.com



**BILL WHEELER**  
Certified Public  
Accountant  
W.J. WHEELER MICHIGAN  
103 Riverside Dr.  
Lowell, Michigan  
49331  
616-897-7711



**YOUR BUSINESS  
COULD BE HERE!  
SAVE \$\$\$\$\$\$  
ADVERTISING IN THIS SPACE!!!  
Only \$17<sup>00</sup>  
PER WEEK!**



Check us out online ...  
thelowelledger.com  
Make us your homepage!



## financial focus



Christopher C. Godbold

### Check out this year-end financial checklist

As 2014 draws to a close, you may want to look back on the progress you've made this past year in various areas of your life — and that certainly includes progress toward your financial goals. At the same time, you may want to make some end-of-year moves that can close out 2014 on a positive note while paving the way for a productive 2015.

Here are a few such moves to consider:

- *Boost your retirement contributions.* This actually isn't an "end-of-year" move because you have until April 15, 2015, to contribute to your Roth or Traditional IRA for the 2014 tax year. Nonetheless, the sooner you get extra dollars working for you in your IRA, the better. You can put in up to \$5,500 to your IRA (or

\$6,500 if you're 50 or older) for 2014. If you are self-employed, or run a small business, you also have until April 15 to contribute to a retirement account, such as a SEP IRA or a SIMPLE plan. In addition to helping you build resources for retirement, these types of plans can offer you some tax advantages — so if you haven't established a retirement plan yet, consult with your financial and tax professionals

- *Sell your "losers."* If you own investments that have lost value since you purchased them, you can sell them before 2014 ends and use the tax loss to offset some capital gains you may have earned in other investments. If you don't have any capital gains, you can use up to \$3,000 of your tax losses to offset other ordinary income.

And for a loss greater than \$3,000, you can "carry over" the excess and deduct it from your taxes in future years. If you still liked the investment that you sold at a loss, and you want to keep it in your portfolio, you could repurchase it, but you'll have to wait 31 days to avoid violating the IRS' "wash sale" rules. Keep in mind that these suggestions only apply to investments held outside your employer-sponsored retirement account; you can't take a tax deduction on capital losses in a 401(k) or similar plan.

- *Evaluate your 401(k) investment mix.* You may be able to adjust the investment mix in your 401(k) as often as you like. So when evaluating your 401(k), make sure your holdings aren't concentrated in just a few investments, and try to determine if your portfolio is still appropriate for your risk tolerance — not too aggressive or too conservative. Also, if your plan offers a "Roth" option, consider taking advantage of it — with a Roth, you won't be able to deduct your 401(k) contributions from your taxes, but once you retire, you won't be taxed on your withdrawals.

- *Review your insurance coverage.* If you've experienced any changes in your life in 2014 — new spouse, new child, divorce, new job, etc. — you may need to review your life insurance coverage to make sure that it's still sufficient for your needs and that you have the correct beneficiaries in place.

By making these and other moves, you can say a fond farewell to 2014, knowing that you've done what you could to help bolster your financial position — for 2015 and beyond.

Edward Jones, its employees and financial advisors are not estate planners and cannot provide tax or legal advice. You should consult your estate-planning attorney or qualified tax advisor regarding your situation.

\*\*\*

**Competence,  
like truth,  
beauty and  
contact  
lenses,  
is in the  
eye of the  
beholder.**

~Laurence J. Peter  
(1919 - 1988)

## LEGAL NOTICES

**TO ALL CREDITORS:**  
The Settlor, Jo Ann Barley, (date of birth November 14, 1936), who lived at 3288 Coit Ave., NE, Grand Rapids, Michigan, died November 18, 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 Jo Ann Barley Trust dated April 7, 2014, as amended, will be forever barred unless presented to Belinda S. Schuelke, Trustee, 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: November 26,  
2014

Jennifer M. Racine  
(P69709)  
4060 Chicago Drive  
Grandville, MI 49418  
616-530-2332

**STATE OF MICHIGAN  
PROBATE COURT  
COUNTY OF KENT**

**NOTICE TO  
CREDITORS  
Decedent's Estate**

FILE NO. 14-196532-DE

**Estate of ANN R.  
WISNIEWSKI. Date of  
birth: August 27, 1920.**

**TO ALL CREDITORS:**

**NOTICE TO  
CREDITORS:** The  
decedent, Ann R.  
Wisniewski, died  
November 2, 2014.  
Creditors of the  
decedent are notified  
that all claims against  
the estate will be  
forever barred unless  
presented to Robert S.  
Wisniewski, personal  
representative or to  
both the probate court  
at 180 Ottawa Avenue  
NW, Suite 2500, Grand  
Rapids and the personal  
representative within 4  
months after the date  
of publication of this  
notice.

November 25, 2014

Belinda S. Schuelke  
134 Diamond Ave. SE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49506  
616-456-6080

John D. Mitus (P31244)  
410 Bridge St., NW  
Grand Rapids, MI 49504  
616-774-4001

Robert S. Wisniewski  
0-1068 Lincoln St., NW  
Grand Rapids, MI 49534

# viewpoint

## to the editor

### a grand scheme

Dear Editor,

Is there a grand scheme to contract work out? I'm talking about the city of Lowell. If it's true it would make it much easier for the city to rid itself of its city employees if they weren't unionized. That brings us to the contract negotiations between the city and the union that represents the employees of the Department of Public Works (DPW).

Could the city council make the DPW employees

sign an unjust contract? I believe we're about to find out. Could it be the city council knew from the start that they would have the final say if they drug the negotiations out long enough? Could it be the city council doesn't want the employees of the DPW to have a just contract that would allow the employees a say in their own well-being and that of the city?

It took only two months for the city to come to a

contract agreement with the Lowell Police Department. Why can't the employees of the DPW have a just contract similar to the one the Lowell Police Department has? It sure would have saved the city a lot of money and a lot of grief. Could spite for joining a union have something to do with the employees of the DPW not getting a raise and bonus that the rest of the city full-time employees received? If I was a DPW employee I surely wouldn't vote to sign an unjust contract no matter the consequence.

The employees of the DPW have performed their jobs faithfully for years and deserve better treatment than they have received in

the last three years, ever since the city hired a new city manager. How would you like to go to work every day with a constant reminder that it might be your last? This whole fiasco revolves around a domineering city manager and three councilmembers that act as his disciples.

The constituents of Lowell were deliberately left out from day one. It's time to rally around the employees of the DPW and give them a new year that will surpass all others.

Sincerely,  
Jim Howard  
Lowell

councilmember Altoft and the city manager had heated arguments. Others may have felt "discussion" would be more objective.

The meeting felt like a psychotherapy session is opinion.

A great deal of the meeting was spent on dysfunctional discussion about councilmember's interaction. Focus seemed to be on councilor Altoft. Again opinion. And finally stating that the meeting felt like a college class with Mr. Howe the professor. Opinions should be marked clearly as an editorial.

Sincerely,  
Jeff Hill  
Lowell

### opinion or reporting

To the Editor,

I would like to comment on the way the reporter from the Ledger goes about his job. Tim McAllister likes to express his personal opinion while covering city council meetings. Please, just the facts.

First I noticed a photo

of a sign posted on a wall saying Mark Howe's "ground rules." Yet, I did not see Mr. Howe's name on that letter. Was it only his or a group effort by councilmembers?

You also felt

Monday. James Smith and Mr. Blakeslee were schoolmates. In the afternoon Charles with his guests visited his father, George Blakeslee, and many were the reminiscences related by the older men who were also schoolmates.

The terrible wind Thanksgiving day tore down a gate and a portion of the fence along the Grand Trunk railway about two miles east of Ada. String butchers and neighbors must be careful of their stock at present.

M. A. Donovan's grocery store with all the contents burned to the ground early Sunday morning at Grattan Center.

Rev. Chamberlain was called to the bedside of his mother a few days ago. She had suffered a very serious paralytic stroke and the physician gave but little hope for her recovery.

Our pastor, Rev. Chamberlain, has a new Ford automobile.

## outdoors

### trail mix

Dave Stegehuis

National monuments and theme parks are examples of high profile tourist destinations. Not so well advertised in Michigan is an extensive trail system which weaves through all regions of the state. Trail development has been high on the agendas if government agencies and private groups for several years. Results are apparent across the state.

When talking about trails we generally think about taking a hike. There are plenty of trails for walking, but others are designed for multiple uses or a specific activity. There are trails for biking, ATV's, motorcycles, snowmobiles, horses, and even watercraft. These trails allow people to enjoy their sport, visit some really great locations, and get some needed exercise. Local businesses benefit because of increased traffic in their area.

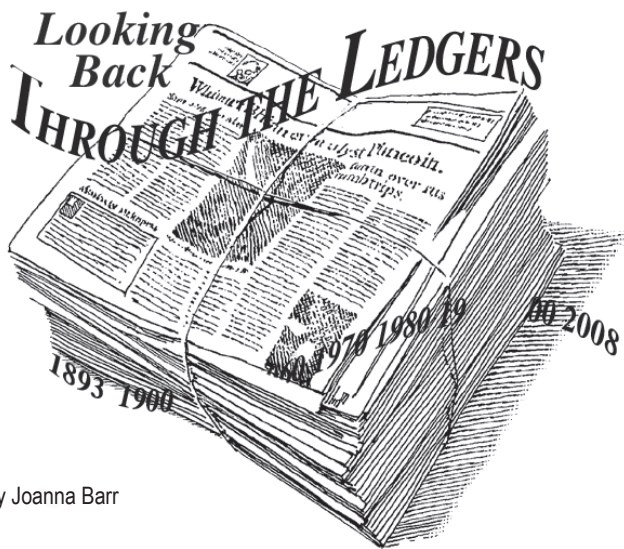
The North Country Trail is one of the most well-known systems and incidentally is headquartered in Lowell Michigan. This trail runs from New York to North Dakota and cuts across both Michigan peninsulas including downtown Lowell. Another

popular local trail is the White Pine Trail which connects the city of Grand Rapids with Cadillac, Michigan. Hundreds of miles of snowmobile trails take the riders across country between cities and towns. Cross country ski trails lead though the most scenic places in the state.

Some trails are better than others for a particular purpose. Trail rules may only allow certain activities. For example, snowmobiles and cross country skis do not mix. A little research will turn up a trail for your activity. Walking trails are the most common and don't require special equipment. We find them almost anywhere we go.

Trail systems are receiving the continued support of government agencies and user groups which usually establish and maintain trails through a joint effort. Trail organizations are always looking for volunteers if you want to pitch in and help.

To experience some healthy, fun, and inexpensive recreation check out trails that are compatible with your interests and ability. Happy trails.



By Joanna Barr

### 125 years ago Lowell Journal December 4, 1889

Mrs. J. Q. Quick lost her valuable brood mare last week. It had been out to pasture on John Fallas' farm near Fallasburg and when they went after her Monday they found her dead. In going in a shed in which there was a wagon, she became entangled and broke two of her legs. The mare was worth about \$500 and was presented to Mrs. Look by her father.

Charles McCard, who was arrested, tried, convicted and sent to prison for 4 years, three years ago next spring, for murdering Michael O'Hara, of Wyoming Township, but who secured a new trial after serving a year's time, was yesterday delivered up by his bondsmen, Frank J. Lamb. The time, when McCard's case will be called in the circuit court is near at hand and Mr. Lamb became uneasy about his staying to stand the test, so last night he delivered McCard up to the custody of Sheriff Bishop. McCard has been living in the city since his release about a year ago. He worked part of the summer for the Street Railway Company. His case is the first on call at the December term of the circuit court. — Telegram Herald.

### 100 years ago The Lowell Ledger December 3, 1914

Neighbors are holding a surprise husking bee for U. S. Hunter Tuesday while he is in Grand Rapids with a very sick daughter. Mrs. Will Schrader furnished chicken dinner for the men.

James Smith of Belding and his father, Will Smith, of Greenville were dinner guests of Charles Blakeslee

### 75 years ago The Lowell Ledger December 7, 1939

The holiday advertising in the columns of the Ledger will prove a splendid guide to all shoppers for miles around. A visit to Lowell stores will prove a revelation as to the great variety of holiday merchandise that has been stocked to meet the exacting needs of all shoppers.

Main Street improvements: New orange and blue awning at Henry's Drug Store; modern new front in the Gee block nearing completion; remodeled display windows at the Wepman clothing store; that part of the C. Thomas block, formerly occupied by the City State Bank, being remodeled and when completed is to be occupied as the offices of two of our professional men.

Much credit should go to the ladies employed by the local WPA sewing project for their splendid work throughout the past four years. The ladies have been commended by Mrs. Grace Gaul, district supervisor from Grand Rapids, for their versatility and thoroughness. For the past three years, the ladies have made all Showboat costumes, for the last two years have made most of the Main St. Christmas decorations and each year make a large number of toys for the American Legion units. Besides this extra work, the ladies turn out from four to five dozen garments per week for distribution to needy families throughout the county. At times, there have been as many as 15 women employed, under the direction of Mrs. Agnes Dollaway.

## 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](mailto:ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com) ("to the Editor" in subject line) or dropped off or mailed to: The Lowell Ledger, 105 N. Broadway, Lowell, MI 49331.

# In The Service

Air Force Airman Joshua M. Hewitt graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, San Antonio, Texas.

The airman completed an intensive, eight-week program that included training in military discipline and studies, Air Force core values, physical fitness, and basic warfare principles and skills.

Airmen who complete basic training earn four credits toward an associate in applied science degree through the Community College of the Air Force.

Hewitt is the son of James S. Hewitt, of Grand Rapids;



**Joshua M. Hewitt**

and Marcy A. Hewitt, of Lowell.

He is a 2013 graduate of Lowell Senior High School, Lowell.

# health

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



## head lice

Head lice is a common problem that affects people of all ages, but most commonly occurs in school aged children. Outbreaks are common in schools. Lice are tiny insects that can live in people's hair and cause scalp itching. Infestations can occur in individuals of all socioeconomic backgrounds and more commonly occur in those with longer hair.

Lice do not fly or jump. They are spread by person-to-person contact or by sharing clothes or personal items. Most people will have itching on their scalp if they

have lice, but some people will have no symptoms at all. Because not everyone has symptoms, it is important to have yourself and loved ones checked regularly when there has been a reported exposure or any new symptoms of scalp itching in the house. Typically lice or their eggs (nits) can be spotted on the scalp after careful examination with good lighting and magnification.

There are several over-the-counter shampoo and lotion treatments (RID or NIX) for head lice which can be performed at home.

It is important to follow the directions carefully. You should also use a special fine-toothed comb with slight moisture applied to hair to carefully comb out all the remaining lice and nits. This process, called wet combing, should be performed for approximately 30 minutes on any infected individual. Repeating the wet combing every two to three days, for the next two weeks is the most effective means of eliminating the problem. Sometimes a second dose of the shampoo or lotion will need to be applied 10 days after the initial treatment to destroy any lice that may have hatched from any remaining nits.

If you or your child has lice, all household contacts should be inspected every two to three days and treated only if infected. It is important to wash all bedding, clothes, coats and towels in hot water and dried

in the dryer on the hottest setting. You should also vacuum all your furniture and carpets. Lice can only survive for two days off the host individual, but the nits can survive for two weeks. Items that cannot be washed or vacuumed can be placed in a sealed bag for two weeks. It is not necessary to call an exterminator or use spray insecticides.

Head lice can be annoying and difficult to deal with. When treatment failure occurs, it is usually because the person was not properly and thoroughly "wet combed" every two to three days for two weeks. Treatment failure can also occur when the household is not properly sanitized or household contacts are not inspected or treated. If you have been unsuccessful at eliminating a case of head lice, see your healthcare provider. They will have other second-line options which can be prescribed.



# lend a hand

volunteering opportunities

The Literacy Center of West Michigan has scheduled an information session on Thursday, Dec. 11, 2014, for prospective volunteer tutors. This session is held at 6:30 pm and lasts one hour. It allows persons interested in becoming volunteer tutors to find out more about

the center and its literacy programs. At the end of the session, there will be an opportunity to sign up for tutor training.

The Literacy Center of W. Michigan is a nonprofit, United Way agency devoted to reducing illiteracy in the community. Based on the 2003 National Assessment

for Adult Literacy and the 1992 National Adult Literacy Survey, up to 14.6 percent of adults in Kent County lack basic prose literacy skills and have difficulty using certain reading and writing skills considered necessary in everyday life. By training people to be tutors, the center can offer one-on-one reading help to adults asking for assistance in reading

or English as a Second Language (ESL). You do not need to speak another language to tutor ESL.

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

# happy birthday!

## DECEMBER 3

Chris Chambers, Christine Gillies, Amanda Sterzick, Richard Kline, Jennifer Kovacs.

## DECEMBER 6

Katie Blough, Kristopher Vezino, Maria Blough, Christopher DeBold, Marc Wernet.

## DECEMBER 4

Tennille Bryant, Autumn French, Casey French.

## DECEMBER 7

Jennifer Berry, Jeni Buck.

## DECEMBER 5

Christopher Vickers.

## DECEMBER 8

Mike Cummings, Ellen Miller.

## DECEMBER 9

Allen Metternick, Sara Triplett, Deb Schuitema, Alison Nugent, Ben Nugent, Noah VanLaan.

**LOW COST SPAY & NEUTER**

No restrictions. Available for everyone. Also vaccinations, tests and parasite control

**Call 897-8865**  
www.spayneuterexpress.com

# area churches

**SNOW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
3189 Snow Ave. SE, Lowell  
Pastor Tony Shumaker

9:45 A.M. .... Sunday School  
10:30 A.M. .... Fellowship  
11:00 A.M. .... Worship

**897-9863**  
Nursery & Children  
Worship Programs Provided

**A friend...a family...a mission!**



**GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
10305 Bluewater Highway (Missouri Synod)  
Halfway between Lowell & Saranac on M-21  
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



**CHRISTIAN LIFE CENTER (Assembly of God)**  
3050 Alden Nash S.E. • 897-1100 • Staffed Nursery  
Robert Holmes, Pastor

**SUNDAYS:**  
Worship: 10 a.m.

**WEDNESDAYS:**  
Family Night (for all ages): 7:00 p.m.  
"The Source" Youth: 7:00 p.m.  
**Loving God ... Loving People!**

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF LOWELL**  
2275 West Main Street • 897-7168  
Barrier Free  
Internet: <http://www.fbcloowell.org>

Rev. Jon Pickens & Pastor Phil Severn

Sun. Worship Service.....9:30 A.M.  
Sunday School, nursery - adult.....11:00 A.M.  
AWANA - K-5, during school year.....Wed. 6:15 - 8 P.M.  
Youth Ministry - grades 6-12.....Mon. 6:30 - 8:30 P.M.  
(Youth Ministry moves to Wed. during summer)

**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF LOWELL**  
621 E. Main Street  
897-5936  
www.lowellumc.com

Barrier-free entrance

SUNDAY WORSHIP.....8:30 & 10:30  
Sunday School.....9:30  
YOUTH GROUPS (JR. & SR. HIGH).....6:00 p.m.

Pastor Brad Brillhart

**ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
402 Amity St. • 897-9820  
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

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

865 Lincoln Lake Ave SE 616.897.5906

Sundays 10am

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

We make **Holiday Cards**

Starting at just **40¢** per card with envelopes.

**LITHO**  
LOWELL

105 N. BROADWAY • LOWELL • 897-9261

# Social Security Q & A

**Question:** I applied for a Social Security card for my child at the hospital and the card came back with the first name misspelled. What should I do?

**Answer:** Go to your local Social Security office or card center to ask for a corrected card. We need to see at least two original documents proving your child's: U.S. citizenship; and identity. We also must see proof of your identity, as the parent.

The documents you show us must be either originals or copies certified by the issuing agency. We cannot accept photocopies or notarized copies. To find out more, go to [www.socialsecurity.gov/ssnumber](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/ssnumber). There, you can learn what documents you

need, fill out and print an application, and then bring or mail the information to us. You may also want to read the publication, *Social Security Numbers For Children*, available at [www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs)

**Question:** What are some of the documents Social Security will accept as proof of identity for a child?

**Answer:** While you can use a birth certificate to prove age or citizenship, you cannot use it as proof of identity. Social Security needs evidence of the child's existence after birth. An acceptable document must show your child's name, identifying information, and, preferably, a recent photograph. Your child must

be present unless the picture ID also shows your child's biographical information (i.e., age, date of birth, and parents' names). We generally can accept a non-photo identity document if it has enough information to identify the child (such as the child's name and age, date of birth, and parents' names). We prefer to see the child's U.S. passport. If that document is not available, we may accept the child's: adoption decree; doctor, clinic, or hospital record; religious record (e.g., baptismal record); daycare center or school record; or school identification card.

All documents must be either originals or copies certified by the issuing agency. We cannot accept photocopies or notarized copies of documents. To find out more, visit [www.socialsecurity.gov/ssnumber](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/ssnumber). There, you can also find out what documents you need, fill out and print an application, and then bring or mail the needed information to Social

Security. You may also want to read the publication, *Social Security Numbers For Children*, available at [www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs)

**Question:** What is the earliest age that I can apply for my Social Security retirement benefits?

**Answer:** To apply for Social Security retirement benefits, you must be at least 61 years and nine

months of age and want your benefits to start in the next three months. You can begin receiving retirement benefits as early as age 62, but if you take benefits before your full retirement age, your benefits will be reduced permanently. If you'd like to test the waters and get an idea of what your benefit amounts would be at different retirement ages, visit our *Retirement Estimator* at

[www.socialsecurity.gov/estimator](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/estimator). If you're ready to apply for retirement, go to [www.socialsecurity.gov/applyonline](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/applyonline)

**Question:** Can I delay my retirement benefits and receive benefits as a spouse only? How does that work?

**Answer:** It depends on your age. If you are between full retirement age and **Social Security Q & A, continued, page 14**

## business matters



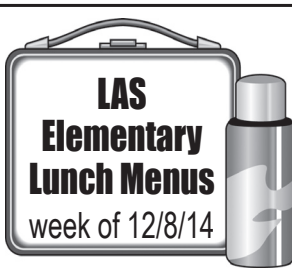
Greenridge Realty announced that Amy Reedy received Realtor of the Month in November.

This award recognizes Reedy for her outstanding success and achievements.



### LEGAL NOTICE

Verizon Wireless is proposing to install a 150-ft (157-ft overall height) monopole cell tower with triangular antenna platform at 900 Fero Avenue NE, Lowell, Michigan 49331. Any interested party may submit comments within 30 days to Trileaf Corporation at 1821 Walden Office Square, Ste 510, Schaumburg, IL 60173 regarding the impact of the proposed action on any districts, sites, buildings, structures or objects significant in American history, archaeology, engineering or culture that are listed or determined eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under National Historic Preservation Act Section 106. Interested persons may review the application for this project at [www.fcc.gov/asr/applications](http://www.fcc.gov/asr/applications) by entering the associated Antenna Structure Registration (Form 854) file no.: ASR file# A0926759; and may raise environmental concerns about the project under the National Environmental Policy Act rules of the Federal Communications Commission, 47 CFR §1.1307, by notifying the FCC of the specific reasons that the action may have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment. Requests for Environmental Review must be filed within 30 days of the date that notice of the project is published on the FCC's website and may only raise environmental concerns. The FCC strongly encourages interested parties to file Requests for Environmental Review online at [www.fcc.gov/asr/environmentalrequest](http://www.fcc.gov/asr/environmentalrequest), but they may be filed with a paper copy by mailing the request to FCC Requests for Environmental Review, Attn: Ramon Williams, 445 12th Street SW, Washington, DC 20554. A copy of the Request should be provided to Trileaf Corporation, Attn: Joseph Klemp, 1821 Walden Office Square, Ste 510, Schaumburg, IL 60173, 630-227-0202, [j.klemp@trileaf.com](mailto:j.klemp@trileaf.com).



**MONDAY:** Popcorn chicken (served at Alto, Cherry Creek & Murray Lake), mini corn dogs (served at Bushnell), baked beans, fruit & veggie bar: spinach & romaine side salad, baby carrots, mixed fruit, apple slices.

**TUESDAY:** Grilled cheese sandwich & green beans (served at Alto, Cherry Creek & Murray Lake), breakfast pizza w/cheese stick & warm cinnamon apples (served at Bushnell), fruit & veggie bar: spinach & romaine side salad, cucumber coins, applesauce, banana.

**WEDNESDAY:** Breakfast pizza w/cheese stick & warm cinnamon apples (at Alto, Cherry Creek & Murray Lake), Bosco sticks w/dipping sauce & seasoned corn (served at Bushnell), fruit & veggie bar: spinach & romaine side salad, cherry tomatoes, peaches, applesauce.

**THURSDAY:** Homemade macaroni & cheese w/dinner roll (served at Alto, Cherry Creek & Murray Lake), fish nuggets (served at Bushnell), seasoned broccoli, fruit & veggie bar: spinach & romaine side salad, baby carrots, fruit goop, apple slices.

**FRIDAY:** Homemade cheese pizza on WG crust, side salad, fruit & veggie bar: spinach & romaine side salad, baby carrots, orange slices, juice.

## Your local agent insures your Retirement

Ask about our annuities and IRAs



**Mark Johnson**  
mjohnso@fbinsmi.com  
616-940-8181



**Kristin Johnson**  
kjohnson@fbinsmi.com  
616-940-1151

**FARM BUREAU INSURANCE®**

Michigan's Insurance Company



6095 28th Street, Grand Rapids

MarkJohnsonAgency.com



**NOW OPEN IN LOWELL**  
505B W. Main St



**Free Phone Unlimited Talk/Text and Data Plans Starting at \$35**

# Simply Delicious

## Sugar Cookie Cut-Outs

Prep time: 15 minutes  
Chill time: 2 hours or up to 2 days  
Cook time: 8–10 minutes per batch  
Yield: 4 dozen cookies

- 1 cup (2 sticks) unsalted butter, room temperature
  - 1 cup granulated sugar
  - 2 teaspoons vanilla
  - 1 egg, room temperature
  - 2 egg yolks, room temperature
  - 2 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
  - 1/2 teaspoon salt
- Icing:**
- 2 2/3 cups powdered sugar, sifted
  - 2 tablespoons meringue powder
  - 4 tablespoons water

Combine butter, granulated sugar and vanilla in mixer bowl. Beat on medium speed until light and fluffy, about 3 minutes. Add

egg and egg yolks; beat on low speed until blended. Gradually add flour and salt, beating just until blended.

Refrigerate dough, wrapped in plastic wrap, at least 2 hours or up to 2 days.

Heat oven to 350°F. Work with 1/2 of dough at a time, keeping remaining dough refrigerated. Roll out dough on lightly floured surface to 1/4-inch thickness. Cut out cookies using cookie cutters; place 1 inch apart on parchment paper-lined or ungreased baking sheets.

Bake in oven until edges are lightly browned, 8–10 minutes. Cool on baking sheets 1 minute. Remove to wire racks; cool completely.

For icing, combine powdered sugar, meringue powder and water in mixer bowl. Beat on high speed until light and fluffy, 6–8 minutes. If icing is too thick, thin with small amount of additional water.

# Holiday Favorites



## FAMILY FEATURES

The best holiday meals have sides that are warm, comforting and satisfying — like your family's favorite mashed potatoes. This year, bring potatoes to the table in three new ways with recipes that can be easily made with little fuss. Gathering everyone together is easy when you serve side dishes prepared with quality ingredients, such as Hungry Jack potatoes. Invite guests to taste the traditional flavors of the season in a whole new light with these crowd-pleasing recipes:

- Add some celebration to your spread with Festive Loaded Mashed Potatoes. Red bell pepper and green onion bring crunch, color and flavor to round out a merry mealtime.
- A delicious combination of spinach, potatoes and creamy cheese is the perfect complement to your holiday entree. This recipe for Double Cheese Spinach-Potato Pie is a hearty, flavorful side that can be served in its classic pie form or as a casserole.
- Family and friends will be lining up for seconds when they try Pumpkin Potato Soup, with its rich, velvety texture and the spice of the season.

You can find more warm and satisfying holiday soup and side recipes on the Hungry Jack Pinterest page, or at [www.hungryjackpotatoes.com](http://www.hungryjackpotatoes.com).

## Pumpkin Potato Soup

Prep time: 5 minutes  
Cook time: 15 minutes  
Servings: 6–8

- 1 tablespoon vegetable oil
- 1/2 cup diced onion
- 1 can (15 ounces) pumpkin puree
- 1 can (14.5 ounces) vegetable or chicken broth
- 1 cup water
- 1 cup Hungry Jack Classic Mashed Potatoes
- 1 cup milk
- 3 tablespoons brown sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon pumpkin pie spice
- 1/4 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1/2 cup sour cream

Heat oil in 2-quart saucepan over medium heat. Add onion and cook until translucent, about 5 minutes.

Add pumpkin, broth, water and potato flakes; stir until smooth. Stir in milk, brown sugar, pumpkin pie spice and garlic powder.

Heat over medium-high heat, stirring occasionally until soup begins to bubble around edge of saucepan and is thickened. Reduce heat to low.

Stir in sour cream and heat through before serving. Season with salt and pepper to taste.

**Nutrition information per serving:**  
180 calories; 7 g fat (3 g saturated fat); 4 g protein; 26 g carbohydrate; 3 g fiber; 15 mg cholesterol; 670 mg sodium.



## Double Cheese Spinach-Potato Pie

Prep time: 15 minutes  
Bake time: 30 minutes  
Servings: 6

- 1 carton (4.2 ounces) Hungry Jack Cheesy Hashbrown Potatoes
- 3/4 cup Hungry Jack Mashed Potato Flakes
- 3/4 cup milk
- 2 eggs
- 1/2 cup grated Parmesan cheese
- 1/2 teaspoon ground black pepper
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 16 ounces frozen chopped spinach, thawed and squeezed dry
- 2 tablespoons vegetable or olive oil

Refresh hashbrown potatoes according to package directions. After 12 minutes, drain and squeeze out any excess liquid from carton.

Heat oven to 425°F. Coat 9-inch pie dish with cooking spray.

While hashbrowns are standing, combine potato flakes, milk, eggs, Parmesan, pepper and salt in large bowl. Mix in spinach.

Add oil to refreshed hashbrowns in carton and mix well. Spread 3/4 of hashbrowns firmly onto bottom and sides of prepared pie dish. Spoon spinach mixture lightly into dish. Top evenly with remaining hashbrowns, fluffing hashbrowns with fork.

Bake until hashbrowns are well-browned and center is set, 30–35 minutes. Let stand 10 minutes before slicing into wedges.

**Note:** To thaw spinach, microwave in large bowl on HIGH for 4–5 minutes. Place in colander and press firmly with spoon or spatula to drain liquid.

**Nutrition information per serving:** 260 calories; 11 g fat (3 g saturated fat); 11 g protein; 28 g carbohydrate; 3 g fiber; 70 mg cholesterol; 710 mg sodium.

## Casserole Pie

Double ingredients and prepare in 9-inch-by-13-inch baking dish. Allow additional time to thaw spinach. Reserve 1/2 carton of hashbrowns for topping; press remaining 1 1/2 cartons of hashbrowns on bottom and halfway up sides of baking dish. Prepare spinach filling as directed in recipe. Bake at 400°F for 40–45 minutes. Makes 12 servings.



## Mango Chutney Cheese Ball



## INGREDIENTS

Makes 6 servings

11 ounces cream cheese, at room temperature

1 cup golden raisins

1 (2.1 ounce) package cooked bacon, diced

1 bunch green onions, chopped

3 tablespoons sour cream

1 (9 ounce) jar mango chutney

## DIRECTIONS

1. In a medium bowl, stir together the cream cheese, raisins, bacon, green onions and sour cream. Form into a ball, and wrap in plastic wrap. Refrigerate for at least 3 hours or overnight before serving.

2. To serve, place the cheese ball on a serving tray, and pour the mango chutney over it. Surround with crackers for dipping.



# Santa Claus is coming to Lowell this Saturday

by Kathryn Atwood  
contributing reporter

Historic downtown Lowell is a magical place during the Christmas holiday. Santa Claus will arrive at the Lowell Showboat and the annual nighttime parade is slated for 6 pm sharp on Saturday, Dec. 6.

The Santa has been making his way to town, along with Mrs. Claus and a handful of elf helpers, since 2003 to meet with children aboard the Lowell Showboat.

More than 12,000 children have come to

visit, sit on Santa's lap and proclaim their Christmas wishes since his first stop on the historic Robert E. Lee.

"There is no other place in the world like the Showboat," said Santa. "It is magical. Every year the decorations change and

Mrs. Claus and I hope it makes for an enchanting time for the entire family."

Santa credits Mrs.

Claus with the hard work put into decorating the special Santa room and thanks the many volunteers who plan

each year to make the next holiday season better than the last.

Santa, continued,  
page 10



Santa and Mrs. Claus. (file photo).



**FLAT RIVER  
OUTREACH  
MINISTRIES**

**CHRISTMAS  
IS  
COMING**

Help bring Christmas to families in our community!

**Donate Toys for FROM Christmas at the following locations:**

Ada Lowell 5, Dollar General, Ella's Coffee Shop, Englehardt Library, Fifth Third Bank, Grand River Veterinary Hospital, Huntington Bank, Mercantile Bank, Springgrove Variety

**Christmas Distribution on Dec. 13**

Sign-Up for Christmas Distribution during  
Pantry Hours: Monday, Tuesday & Thursday from 2-4:30 pm; Wednesday 5-7 pm and Friday 10 am - noon.

**FOOD, TOYS & MONETARY DONATIONS**

can be dropped off at the  
**FROM Administration offices:  
11535 Fulton St. E.**

Monday thru Thursday, 10 am to 4 pm.  
Now thru Monday, December 8

If we can be of assistance to your family with food and/or toys, please come to the Food Pantry to sign up.



**FROM**  
serves families in the Lowell School District



## FOR SALE



**2002 DODGE RAM 3/4 TON  
CARGO VAN**

115,000 miles, runs great, needs brakes and exhaust.

**\$2,200**

**Call 897-9555** ask for Jon

## The Right Choice for Rehab

**Beverly Myers made the Right Choice for Rehab**

"I came here from University of Michigan hospital on their recommendation. During an appointment with my surgeon, we discussed my care and The Laurels of Kent and he said I was in a good place. In my opinion that is a high recommendation! Everyone there is always so friendly and helpful! All the staff were great; from maintenance, laundry, nursing and therapy! When I came to The Laurels of Kent, I was on a stretcher and now I am walking out! That says it all!"



**Congratulations Beverly on reaching your rehabilitation goals!**

**Specializing in:**

- Orthopedic Rehab
- Stroke Rehab
- Auto Accidents
- Physical Therapy
- Occupational Therapy
- Speech Therapy



*A Skilled Nursing and Rehabilitation Center*

**350 N. Center Street • Lowell  
616.897.8473**

Medicare/Medicaid

We Accept Most Insurances

Short-Term Rehab  
4-Star Overall Care



According to Medicare.gov

**VIRTUAL TOURS - Visit [www.laurelsokent.com](http://www.laurelsokent.com)**

## Santa, continued

Calling his special holiday role “the best ‘job’ in the world” Santa said that the highlight of every season is, by far, meeting with the children.

“I just love to see the twinkle in their eyes and knowing that no matter what may be going on in their life right then, that for at least that moment in time, with Santa everything else is forgotten and nothing is more important than what they have to say. Every child knows that they are loved when they leave.”

Santa reports that he plans to continue making his way to Lowell each Christmas season.

“As long as this community continues to believe in the magic of Christmas and all that it means, I will return each year.”

Santa went on to answer questions submitted by Mrs. DeVito’s first-grade class at Bushnell Elementary.

**(Cash Drayton)** Where do you live?

(Santa Claus) I live in what we call Santa’s castle, right in the center of Christmas Village. It is not really a castle but it is pretty big.

**(Rylie Barriger)** What toys do you like to play with?

(Santa Claus) I like playing with all of the toys. Each time we design a new toy I will always play with the first one we make to make sure it works right and will not break right away. Mrs. Claus will usually try out the new girls’ toys for me. The elves like playing with the Legos the most.

**(Kayden Dixon)** How do you pick your reindeer names?

(Santa Claus) I usually let the elves come up with name ideas and then Bernard, my head elf, will give me the top three choices and Mrs. Claus and I then pick the name that we think best fits that reindeer.

**(Adalie Dow)** Where do your elves live?

(Santa Claus) The elves live in large houses within Christmas Village.

**(Alexander Force)** How do you get into houses without chimneys?

(Santa Claus) I have a set of three special keys that I will have with me on the Lowell Showboat. One of them fits every door in the world so I can get in anywhere.

**(Holly Fountaine)** Can I pet your reindeer?

(Santa Claus) Yes, you can. I will have a couple of them with me at the Lowell Showboat on Friday, December 12th.

**(Kayla Howell)** How do you make all of the toys?

(Santa Claus) I don’t make all the toys myself. I will usually make the first one and then the elves will mass produce the rest of them in the workshop.

**(Amaya Jackson)** Can I ride on your sleigh?

(Santa Claus) I’m sorry but you will not be able to ride in my sleigh. However, I have one of my smaller sleighs at the Frederik Meijer Gardens that you can sit in and have your picture taken.

**(Kegan Adams)** Where do your reindeer live?

(Santa Claus) They are in the reindeer barn most of the time this time of the year.

We have to lock it at night or else they will try to sneak out and play their reindeer games.

**(Callum James)** Do you eat a lot of cookies?

(Santa Claus) Yes I do, a lot more than I should and Mrs. Claus is keeping an eye on me. On Christmas Eve when I’m delivering the toys I will usually eat one or a part of one at each house and then take the rest of them back for the elves to eat.

**(Taylor Lacie)** How many elves do you have?

(Santa Claus) I have 869 elves!

**(Grayson Moilanen and Ransom Rathbun)** How do your reindeer fly?

(Santa Claus) It is truly part of the magic of Christmas. Most of the year they do not fly, usually the first of October I will start the new reindeer with their flying lessons and then the rest of the adult reindeer start their

warm-up training the end of October. Then the Christmas training starts the middle of November. By that time they are all up and flying.

**(Garrett Nowak)** What do the reindeer eat?

(Santa Claus) My reindeer eat mostly vegetables and grains. However, they do get special treats on an occasion of their choosing. I will let them try most anything once, as long as it will not hurt them, but their favorite is still carrots.

**(Chase Peterson)** Does Mrs. Claus make cookies for the elves?

(Santa Claus) Yes and she makes lots and lots of them. She also has several of the elves that work in our bakery that help her.

**(Corrie Sakowski)** How long does it take to make the toys?

(Santa Claus) Just like most of you kids, the elves always have the week off

between Christmas and New Years. Then we get started on making the toys for the next year and the elves are busy pretty much the entire year designing, planning, building and wrapping the gifts.

**(Adalee Smith)** How big is your sleigh?

(Santa Claus) It is pretty big. It is about the size of a very large car. If I needed I could get three people in the front seat and three in the back seat and then my bag of toys goes in the back end. When it’s only me on Christmas Eve then I have some munchies in the front with me along with my emergency kit. The rest of the sleigh is full of toys.

**(Rylee Snyder)** What is your favorite color?

(Santa Claus) My favorite color is red, but I also really like green, white and black. That is why you will usually see me dressed in those

colors even when it’s not Christmas.

**(Mylee Williamson)** Does Rudolph like me?

(Santa Claus) Yes, Rudolph loves you! He likes everybody unless they give him a reason not to. As long as you stay on Santa’s “good list” all the reindeer will like you!

**(Ella Mikulski)** What do you do when it’s not Christmas?

(Santa Claus) During the off season I will start with a long winters’ nap. Then Mrs. Claus and I do a lot of traveling and checking up on the kids around the world. That is why you want to be good. You never know when I will be watching.

Santa closed by adding, “I hope to see all of you and your families on the Lowell Showboat this year. When you come to visit let me know which question was yours. I love you all!”

## Lowell Middle School choir concert



Lowell Middle School recently presented their fall choir concert at the Lowell Performing Arts Center. The brief performance featured the sixth-seventh and eighth-grade choirs each singing two musical selections.

Accompanist Kimberly Meiste and director of choirs Nathan Masterson led the performance which they called a “huge success.”

## Give the gift of preparedness this holiday season

With the holidays fast approaching, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security’s Federal Emergency Management Agency Region V office encourages everyone to consider giving gifts that will help protect their family members and friends during a future emergency.

“A gift to help prepare for emergencies could be life-saving for friends and family,” said FEMA Region V acting regional administrator Janet Odeshoo.

“These gift ideas provide a great starting point for being prepared for an emergency or disaster.”

Supplies for an emergency preparedness kit can make unique — and potentially life-saving — holiday gifts, such as:

- Battery-powered or hand-crank radio and a NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert.
- Flashlight and extra batteries.
- Solar-powered cell phone charger.
- Smoke detector or carbon monoxide detectors.
- First aid kit.
- Fire extinguisher
- Fire escape ladder.
- Enrollment in a CPR or first aid class.
- Books, coloring books, crayons and board games for children, in case the power goes out.
- Personal hygiene comfort kit, including shampoo, body wash, wash cloth, hairbrush, comb, toothbrush, toothpaste and deodorant.

- A waterproof pouch or backpack containing any of the above items, or with such things as a rain poncho, moist towelettes, work gloves, batteries, duct tape, whistle, food energy bars and more.

Holiday shoppers might also consider giving a winter car kit, equipped with a shovel, ice scraper, emergency flares, fluorescent distress flags and jumper cables. For animal lovers, a pet disaster kit with

emergency food, bottled water, toys and a leash also makes a good gift.

The gift of preparedness might just save the life of a

friend or family member. For more information, preparedness tips or other gift ideas, visit [www.Ready.gov](http://www.Ready.gov)

## Social Security benefits children yearlong

With holidays and vacations, December is often considered a time to focus on the children in our lives. Whether we’re taking the kids to visit Santa, buying Hanukkah gifts, or volunteering for a toy drive, children are at the heart of the holiday season. We at Social Security definitely know a thing or two about helping children.

Did you know that we issue Social Security numbers for children, typically during the first weeks or months of their life? Typically, the hospital will ask if you want to apply for a Social Security number for your newborn as part of the birth registration process. This is the easiest and fastest way to apply.

Remember, a child age 12 or older requesting an original Social Security number must appear in person for the interview, even though a parent or guardian will sign the application on the child’s behalf.

Children with disabilities are among our most vulnerable citizens. Social Security is dedicated

to helping those with qualifying disabilities and their families through the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program. To qualify for SSI:

The child must have a physical or mental condition, or a combination

# Red Arrow SPORTS

## Kaczanowski awarded volleyball scholarship

by Kathryn Atwood  
contributing reporter

Lowell High School (LHS) senior Bethany Kaczanowski was recently awarded a scholarship from the West Michigan Volleyball Officials Association (WMVOA).

One of only four varsity volleyball players in the state are selected for the honor. Kaczanowski said she was both "flattered and grateful" when she learned she had earned the \$2,400 award.

The WMVOA was formed in 1984 by a group of local volleyball referees who wanted to give back to the volleyball community.

The group, which has since grown to over 100 members, began awarding scholarships in 1985. To date, they have given 97 scholarships totaling more than \$100,000 to varsity volleyball players headed to college or vocational school after graduation.

Winners are selected based on a combination of equally valued criteria, including athletic participation, athletic and academic awards, community involvement, leadership skills and grade point average.



Senior volleyball standout Bethany Kaczanowski with her parents, Daniel and Christine, at the scholarship presentation.

"Beth is a gem. She is every coach's dream athlete. I had the opportunity to be both her eighth grade and varsity coach and have watched her grow into an honest, caring, responsible and hard-working individual in and out of the gym," said her coach Julie Quist.

Quist also credits Kaczanowski for her leadership of the team this past season which helped in propelling the squad all the way to the district finals.

"We were playing our very best and I have to give credit to Bethany for her leadership, believing in the team and her will to never give up. Every time Beth stepped on the court, whether for practice or a match, she gave the team 110 percent."

According to Kaczanowski, who also participates in gymnastics and tennis, she began playing LHS volleyball in 6th grade when Quist asked her to manage the 8th grade team. "This allowed me to play with a team before I was old enough to really be on one," said Kaczanowski.

Capitalizing on the extra experience, she continued to play and thrive at the sport, which she said she was drawn to because of the quick action on the court; "I personally love how fast-paced it is. There is no time to dwell on individual points. You are forced to move on instantly when you make mistakes."

At the high school level she has spent three years as part of the varsity team, serving as setter and team captain. Along the way she has earned Academic All-State, Scholar Athlete and All-Conference honors.

Excelling off the court as well, the honor roll student also participates in the Lady Arrow varsity club, choir and is the vice president of the National Honor Society. The avid community and school supporter was also nominated by her peers as this year's homecoming queen.

Kaczanowski plans to attend Michigan State University to earn a degree in chemical engineering with a concentration in biomedical engineering. She hopes to continue on to medical school to pursue a career in sports medicine where she said she will continue to utilize the lessons she learned on the court at LHS.

"The most important thing I learned on the court is how to deal with people. Volleyball is an extremely vocal sport. Given there is only seconds between points to give and receive feedback from your teammates and coaches, you have to make the most of it. After a while you learn how to give support, advice and motivation, and how to receive it. Knowing what different people respond to is an important skill on the court and in everyday life," ends Kaczanowski.

### CERTIFIED NURSING ASSISTANTS

The Laurels of Kent is seeking compassionate caring Certified Nursing Assistants with nursing home experience to join our nursing team. Full and Part time positions are available on all shifts.

#### The Laurels of Kent offers:

Opportunity to work with a team that cares

**Flexible scheduling**

*(we strive to work with school schedules)*

**Attendance bonus**

*(earn bonus money just by coming to work)*

**Excellent wages**

Low cost industry leading benefits package including

medical, dental, vision and Rx

Vacation after just six months of employment.

For more information on The Laurel Health Care Company and The Laurels of Kent you may call us at (616) 897-8473 or visit our web site at [www.laurelsokent.com](http://www.laurelsokent.com)

Interested applicants are invited to contact Latrice Garner, RN DON at [lgarner@laurelhealth.com](mailto:lgarner@laurelhealth.com) or Anne Christensen, RN ADON at [achristensen@laurelhealth.com](mailto:achristensen@laurelhealth.com) or you may apply in person at 350 N. Center St., Lowell, MI.

**P**rinting

- CATALOGS
- FLIERS/COUPONS
- BROCHURES
- POST CARDS
- BUSINESS CARDS
- ENVELOPES
- LETTERHEAD
- BOOKLETS
- PROGRAMS
- POSTERS

AND MUCH MORE!

From black & white to full color we'll give your printed materials IMPACT!

COMPLETE DESIGN STAFF

LOWELL LITHO

The buyers guide  
"The People Paper"

897-9555  
105 N. Broadway  
Lowell

## THE PERFECT STOCKING STUFFER

### LOCAL NEWS, INFORMATION, SPORTS & ADVERTISING

Keep Friends and Loved Ones  
Up-To-Date on What's Happening in Their Hometown

WE'LL SEND A GIFT CARD FOR YOU!

ORDER YOUR LEDGER GIFT  
SUBSCRIPTION TODAY!

the lowell ledger

616.897.9261

## Rudd's

### SEPTIC SERVICE LLC

- Septic Tanks Cleaned •
- Home Sale Evaluations •
- LOWEST PRICES IN TOWN •

**\$15 Off Septic Pumping**

WE ACCEPT COMPETITORS COUPONS!

**897-8560**

**THE CLASSIFIEDS**  
small ads **BIG** deals  
CALL 897-9261



Give the gift of a brighter,  
more radiant smile

**PHILIPS**  
**ZOOM!**

Let your holidays  
be bright

Call our office today!

Family Dentistry Of Lowell  
Dr. Wilson & Dr. Byrd

(616)897-4835

Ask us how to receive  
**\$50 off!**

# obituaries

## BLAZO

Clara Dorothy (Ritsema) Blazo, aged 95, passed away peacefully on November 19, 2014. She was preceded in death by her husband Morris and infant daughter Nancy. She is survived by her children Diane Scott of Ada, Frank Blazo of Grand Rapids, David and Pam Blazo of Rockford and Joel and Anne Blazo of Lowell; her grandchildren Julie and Ryan VanderRoest, Lisa Blazo, Mark Blazo and Evan Blazo; many nieces and nephews. She loved being outdoors in the beauty of nature. She had many hobbies, including reading, gardening, crocheting rugs and rug hooking. At her request, cremation has taken place and there will be no funeral service. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Lowell Area Historical Museum, 325 W Main St, Lowell, MI 49331.



## FISHER

Janet Ann Fisher, aged 54, of Lowell, passed away November 27, 2014. She was born June 11, 1960, in Grand Rapids, the daughter of Charles E. and Ona (Roth) Ross. Janet married James Fisher December 14, 1995, in Jamaica. She was a member of Vergennes Methodist Church in Lowell. She loved to do crafts and play cards with her family. Surviving are her husband, James Fisher of Lowell; children, Monica Smith of Grandville, Jamie Smith of California, Rebecca (T.J.) Sornson of Holly, Matthew (Kim) Smith of Lowell and Bradley Fisher; nine grandchildren, Audrie Hoogerhyde, Mariah Hoogerhyde, Gavyn Sullivan, Jacob Smith, Kaylie Smith, Gabrielle Sornson, Emily Sornson, Hayden Sornson and Bentley Smith; sisters, Dorann (Mack) Truax of Lowell, Joann Mutschler of Lyons and Mary (Mark) Murphy of Colorado. Funeral services were held Tuesday, December 2, 2014, at the Vergennes Methodist Church in Lowell with Pastor Matt Stoll officiating. Interment Oakwood Cemetery in Lowell. Those wishing may make memorial contributions to her family. Arrangements by Lake Funeral Home in Saranac. Online condolences may be made at www.lakefuneralhomes.com



## MANLEY

Virginia A. Manley, age 92 of Lowell, is now absent from her body and present with the Lord on November 25, 2014. She was preceded in death by her husband Lewis; sons Lew, Lynn and daughter Sharon Knox; and brother Bruce Moore. She is survived by children Paul (Vicky) Manley, Patricia (Patrick) Prusinski, Larry (Mary) Manley, Sherry (Don) Garner; sister Peggy (John) Hendricks; daughter-in-law Brenda Manley; son-in-law Harry Knox; sister-in-law Elsie Moore; 15 grandchildren, several great-grandchildren and several nieces and nephews. A funeral service was held. Interment Snow Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to Snow United Methodist Church, 3189 Snow Ave SE, Lowell, MI.



## PECKHAM

Oscar H. Peckham, age 86 of Lowell, passed away Sunday, November 30, 2014. He was preceded in death by his parents William and Lena Peckham; nine siblings; son Mark Peckham and great-grandson Shawn Peckham. He is survived by his



loving wife Shirley; children Tony (Andria) Peckham and Heather (Mark) Kloosterman; brother Howard Peckham; sister Corky Yeiter; grandchildren Brock, Natasha, Britny, Eleni (Chris), Luke and Sara; 7 great-grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews. Oscar served in the Army Air Corps. A memorial service will be held Wednesday 11:30 a.m. at Roth-Gerst Chapel, 305 N. Hudson, Lowell MI 49331. Interment Oakwood Cemetery. Visitation one hour prior to the service at the Chapel. Memorial donations may be made to Faith Hospice, 2100 Raybrook Ave SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49546 or FROM (Flat River Outreach Ministries), 11535 Fulton St E, Lowell, MI 49331.



### MEMORIAL SERVICE

For

### RICHARD VORASE, USN

10 am at Key Heights  
Thursday, December 4

## PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

C	U	R	L	S		I	T	S		F	L	E	E		
U	R	I	A	H		N	E	W		C	L	O	A	K	
B	A	S	T	E		F	E	E		R	E	U	S	E	
E	L	C	H	A	P	O				A	V	I	A	R	Y
			E	R	R		B	R	I	M					
E	L	D		S	O	L	I		Z	E	B	R	A	S	
B	A	I	L		D	E	L	I		A	L	A	M	O	
O	K	R	A		S	W	I	S		O	T	I	C		
L	E	G	I	T		D	O	I	T		T	E	C	H	
A	R	E	N	A	S		U	S	E	D		L	E	I	
				R	A	G	S		L	E	A				
	F	R	O	Z	E	N		J	A	C	K	S	O	N	
R	A	I	T	A		O	D	E		A	R	O	S	E	
U	N	P	I	N		M	I	L		L	O	L	L	S	
B	E	E	S			E	E	L		S	N	O	O	T	

3	5	4	1	9	6	2	7	8
1	6	7	2	8	3	5	9	4
9	2	8	5	4	7	1	6	3
7	1	2	3	6	8	9	4	5
4	8	9	7	5	1	3	2	6
5	3	6	9	2	4	8	1	7
2	9	3	4	7	5	6	8	1
8	4	1	6	3	9	7	5	2
6	7	5	8	1	2	4	3	9

# Looking Back, continued

An item in one of the dailies recently stated that Orlando Odell of Vergennes township was chairman of the board of supervisors in 1854. We quizzed the Orlando Odell of that name, who lives in Vergennes township, as to just how old he was and found out that the supervisor in question was his grandfather. The Odells settled in Vergennes township in the 1840s and have lived there ever since. Adelbert Odell, who is in partnership with his father on the home farm, is the fourth generation to live on that farm.

## 50 years ago The Lowell Ledger December 4, 1964

Bill Heim, his brother, Carl and several others on East Main Street, reported a strange flying object circling the town about 5 pm on Tuesday night. The kite-shaped object was quite low and clearly visible.

Earl Evans, owner of the Strand Theatre on West Main St., is in the Will Rogers Memorial Hospital, Saranac Lake, New York, where he will undergo surgery. He entered the hospital on November 15 and hopes to be back home in a few weeks.

Art's TV has moved into its new quarters, just east of their old location, on the Main Street bridge. The new showrooms offer more space and have a complete display of color and black and white TVs, stereos and radios. Mrs. Peg Bedell will have her jewelry and watch repair service in the TV shop.

Mrs. Ralph Fluger was busy over the Thanksgiving holiday week end installing attractive Christmas decorations in her bakery windows and in the adjoining windows. Ralph went deer hunting!

## 25 years ago The Lowell Ledger December 6, 1989

Headline: Christmas Parade, A record-breaking 40 entries participated in the '89 event. From Amity and Main to Main and Monroe, there were parade watchers that lined the streets for Lowell's traditional Christmas Parade. There were 30 scheduled entries for the 1989 Christmas parade, however by the time they were all lined up, that number was moved up to 40. "This is the biggest parade that I can remember," said Chamber of Commerce President Denny Thomet. "We want to thank everyone who participated in the parade, all the people that braved the cold and snow and came out and watched the parade and the Lowell Police for keeping the traffic moving." There were two winning floats this year. Sneaker's "Ultimate Sports Bar" earned second for its paper mache sneaker. Sneaker's was awarded \$50 for its efforts. Voted top float by the Christmas Parade panel was the Showboat Float put together by the Lowell Bus Garage. Winning the float contest earned Lowell's bus garage \$100.

At its regular Monday evening meeting, Lowell's City Council approved a new 10-year airport hangar lease with its owners Jim Serne, Roger Odell and Douglas Olin. The expiring lease left two options – to extend the lease another 10 years or to buy out Serne, Odell and Olin based on one half the appraised value. After investigating into the buy out, Olin, Serne and Odell preferred to extend the lease. Serne proposed a rent-free use of all three stalls for individuals concerned, in exchange for the City taking ownership of the hangar. In reviewing a proposed lease agreement with City Attorney Dick Wendt, Serne expressed concerns about not having guarantees for 12 rent-free years (rather a 10-year lease with a two-year option) and the possibility of still being subject to property taxes. Thus, Serne did not want to pursue this proposal further.

The garage of Elmer Graham was destroyed by fire on Wednesday, Nov. 29. The fire which was contained pretty much to the inside of the garage, gutted the building according to Alto Fire Chief Jerry Posthumus. Both Alto and Lowell Fire Departments were called to the scene at roughly 10:45 am. Posthumus said the fire was already well involved when the units arrived. "At this point the cause of the fire is undetermined. Two farm tractors that were sitting in the garage were destroyed." Graham's daughter, Sandra, incurred minor burns according to Posthumus. Lowell and Alto firefighters were at the fire an hour and 45 minutes.

**office hours:**  
 Mon.-Thurs. 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
 Fri. 8 a.m. - noon  
 closed Sat. & Sun.

# classifieds

## for sale

**COLD WEATHER IS HERE!** - & along with it, comes chapped hands! Try something different this year - homemade, all natural hand lotion. Lasts a long time & leaves your skin super soft! Many scents & unscented available. Check out my store at [www.etsy.com](http://www.etsy.com), search for Nana-Hannahs. For local pickup, use coupon code LOCAL15 & we can arrange a pickup in Lowell.

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

TFN

**SEMI LOADS 10 (TEN) CORDS OF 8 FT. LOGS - 10 in. average diameter.** See pictures at [www.coxx.com](http://www.coxx.com), movies on YouTube ([www.coxx.com](http://www.coxx.com)) or call Al at 231-846-0346 anytime. Delivered \$2,000.

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

TFN

**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.

**A CLASSIC OUTDOOR WOOD FURNACE** - gives you an independent & self-sufficient lifestyle but only if you buy before EPA rule on or about April 2015. Call today to learn more & for special pricing, SOS your "Stocking Dealer" Dutton, MI 616-554-8669 or 616-915-5061.

**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.

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

**3 BEDROOM TRAILER** - Key Heights, Lowell. 2 baths, central air, fireplace. 616-304-5591.

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

**LEDGER OFFICE**  
 105 N. Broadway, Lowell.  
 Phone 897-9261  
 Fax 897-4809  
[www.lowellledger.com](http://www.lowellledger.com)

## 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. 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).

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

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

TFN

**BOB'S 17TH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BIRDHOUSE SALE** - great gifts! Bluebird, wren, & bat houses, feeders, wood duck & screech owl boxes. Great prices & top quality. New this year, creches (manger) for your Nativity set. Bob's Birdhouses, 12279 60th St., Alto. 868-6633.

**10TH ANNUAL MERRY MAKERS CRAFT SHOW** - Impact Church of Lowell, 1070 N. Hudson St., Sat., Dec. 6th from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Breakfast & lunch offered to benefit Rebuilding Whites Covered Bridge.

**FUN & EDUCATIONAL CHILDREN'S BOOKS** - Open house, Fri., Dec 5, 11-3 p.m., 10127 Bennett SE, Lowell. Buy 3, get 1 free. Usborne books and more.

TFN

**HELP US DELIVER THE PAPER...please DIG OUT around your newspaper tube, mailbox, steps, walkways & porches! Let's all try to HELP EACH OTHER survive the Winter.**

## wanted

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

TFN

## 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.

**SELL AVON** - Only \$15 to get started. Call 616-897-5086 or sign up now at [www.startAvon.com](http://www.startAvon.com) and use ref code SGRIMM

**ANIMAL CAREGIVER** - Still looking for that special person who wants permanent work. Ambitious, physically fit person to care for many small dogs in a large, impeccably clean facility. Part or full time. Alto area. E-mail resume/inquiries to: [animalcaregivers@outlook.com](mailto:animalcaregivers@outlook.com) or 616-868-7382.

TFN

## help wanted

**HERBRUCK'S FARM & FOOD PROCESSING** - Looking for a career with opportunity for advancement? Full-time positions caring for chickens & processing eggs. First shift, consistent hours, steady work. Excellent benefits. Competitive starting wages. Apply at 6425 W. Grand River, Saranac, or [herbrucks.com](http://herbrucks.com)

TFN

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

**STUMP GRINDING** - No stump too big. Call Dan at 970-3832.

TFN

## services

**YOGA CREATIVE MOVEMENT** - Hoop dance for adult & child classes offered at The Hammock, 901 W. Main. Call 893-5661 or [thehammockllc.com](http://thehammockllc.com)

**PROFESSIONAL TREE CLIMBER NEEDS WORK** - Fully insured. Removals, trims, chipping, stump grinding. Call Dan for free estimate at 616-970-3832.

**NEED WOOD PELLETS DELIVERED?** - Call Dean, 616-808-6071.

**BASEMENT WATERPROOFING** - Professional Basement Services, waterproofing, crack repair, mold remediation. Local/licensed. Free Estimates. 517-290-5556

TFN

## services

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

**MAKE SURE YOUR BUSINESS IS LISTED** - in the 2015 Lowell City Directory! If you run a business out of your home or have a cell phone number for your business, there is a charge to put your phone number in the Lowell City Directory. The cost is only \$15. Your business name & phone number will be listed in the red pages & under 1 category in the yellow pages. Please call Tammy at 897-9560 or email: [citydirectory@att.net](mailto:citydirectory@att.net) for further info or to place your order. All orders must be paid by Dec. 31, 2015 to be included in the book.

TFN

# 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](mailto:classifieds@lowellbuyersguide.com), by mail: PO Box 128, Lowell, MI 49331 or in person: 105 N. Broadway, Lowell.

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

**FLAT RIVER WATERSHED GROUP** - Meets 3rd Monday of each month at the Main Street Inn in Lowell at 6:30 p.m. Our purpose is to protect, enhance & maintain land & water quality & other natural resources surrounding the Flat River Watershed. For more information, call Lloyd at 676-1812. Also, "Like" us on Facebook at the Flat River Watershed Council.

**LADIES SEWING CLOTHES TO DONATE** - First Friday of the month, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. Items are made from donated material & fabrics, clothes from newborn to 12 years old. Items are donated to Blodgett Children's Home & St. John's Home. Join us to cut out patterns, Christian Life Center, Lowell.

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

**STORYTIME** - Thursdays, 10:30 a.m. with Ms. Nikki. Clarksville Area Library, 130 S. Main, Clarksville, 616-693-1001.

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

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

TFN

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

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

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

**KD aLe: BEER TASTING WITH PAULY'S** - Wed., Jan. 28, 6 p.m. Brew guru Stacey Faba will help you choose the right beer. Pre-registration is required. Must be 21 or older. Englehardt Public Library, 200 N. Monroe, Lowell. Ph. 784-2007.

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

**BOY SCOUT TROOP 102** - every Monday, 7-8:30 p.m. during school year in Scout Cabin at the end of N. Washington St. Ages 11 and up or completing 5th grade. Call Scoutmaster Don Aversano at 847-571-8373 or Del Rockwell at 897-6814.

**GLUTEN-FREE LIFESTYLE** - Wed., Jan. 14, 6:30 p.m. Chef Terri Rees will share tips, techniques, substitutes & recipes at Englehardt Public Library, 200 N. Monroe, Lowell. Ph. 784-2007.

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

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

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

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

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

**FLAT RIVER OUTREACH MINISTRIES TREASURE'S THRIFT SHOP HOURS** - Wed. & Fri. 10

TFN

- 8 p.m.; Thurs. 10-6 p.m.; Sat., 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. at 11535 Fulton St. E. Thrift Shop, 897-8260; Food Pantry, 897-8260; Emergency Services, 897-8260.

**ALPHA WOMEN'S CENTER** - 517 E. Main. Hours: Mon. 11-3 p.m.; Tues. 12-8 p.m.; Wed. 10-3 p.m.; Thurs. 10-6 p.m. 987-9533. Diapers, formula, clothing & free pregnancy testing available. [www.awclowell.org](http://www.awclowell.org)

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

**GRINCH PARTY** - Mon., Dec. 22, 1 p.m. Movie, holiday games, crafts & snacks. Wear a grinch themed costume (not required). Saranac Public Library, 61 Bridge St., Saranac. 616-642-9146.

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

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

**PIZZA & PAGES** - Tues., Dec. 30, noon. Pizza party & book talks of your favorite books or recent reads. Saranac Public Library, 61 Bridge St. 642-9146.

**LOWELL ARTS! GALLERY HOURS** - Mon. - Fri., 10 - 6 p.m.; Sat., 1-4 p.m.; 149 S. Hudson. Visit [www.lowellartsmi.org](http://www.lowellartsmi.org) or call 897-8545.

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

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

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

**NEW CLASSES FOR EVERYONE** - children - adults at Christian Life Center, 3050 Alden Nash SE, Lowell. Every Wednesday 7-8 p.m. Bible-centered classes for children through 5th grade, youth group for 6th grade thru high school & adult prayer & Bible study. Everyone is invited to attend.

**ZENTANGLE** - Tues., Jan 27, 6:30 p.m. Create beautiful images from patterns. Supplies provided. Pre-registration is required, spots are limited. Alto Public Library, 6071 Linfield Ave, Alto. Ph. 784-2007.

**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.

**GINGERBREAD CONTEST** - Wed., Dec. 17, 4:30 p.m. For youth in 6th - 12th grades. Register a team of 1-4 people by Dec. 15. Come to the library after school (early release) Wed., Dec. 17 to build a structure. Must be complete by 4:40 p.m. when the library staff will vote & the winning team will receive prizes at Alvah N. Bel ding Library, 302 E. Main, Belding, 616-794-1450.

**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.

**SANTA VISITS** - Sat., Dec. 6, 10 a.m. Story & free photos w/Santa at Saranac Public Library, 61 Bridge St., Saranac. 616-642-9146.

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

TFN

# EARTH TALK™

## Questions & Answers About Our Environment

**Dear EarthTalk:** I've heard that the price of getting solar panels installed on a home is lower than ever, but has it gotten to the point anywhere in the U.S. where it's actually cheaper than traditional grid power yet? - Lester Milstein, Boston, MA

Rooftop solar panels have always been the province of well-to-do, eco-friendly folks willing to shell out extra bucks to be green, but that is all starting to change. According to the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL), the cost of putting solar panels on a typical American house has fallen by some 70 percent over the last decade and a half. And a recent report from Deutsche Bank shows that solar has already achieved so-called "price parity" with fossil fuel-based grid power in 10 U.S. states. Deutsche Bank goes on to say that solar electricity is on track to be as cheap or cheaper than average electricity-bill prices in all but three states by 2016—assuming, that is, that the federal government maintains the 30 percent solar investment tax credit it currently offers homeowners on installation and equipment costs.

But therein could lie the rub. The federal tax credit for residential solar installations expires in 2016, and it's anybody's guess whether and to what extent the Republican-dominated Congress will renew it. Legislative analysts report that while Congress is unlikely to abandon the program entirely, big cutbacks could be on the way. But Deutsche Bank maintains that even if the credit is reduced to 10 percent, solar power would still achieve price parity with conventional electricity in some 36 states by 2016.

Meanwhile, homeowners in states where additional local incentives are available and there's lots of sunshine—such as across the Southwest—may in fact already be able



to power their homes cheaper with the sun than from the grid. Homeowners looking to go solar should check out the Database of State Incentives for Renewable and Efficiency (DSIRE), a free online database of all the different state and local incentives for solar and other forms of renewable energy.

And prices for solar are expected to keep falling as technologies improve and financing becomes more affordable. Solar leasing has helped hundreds of thousands of Americans realize the dream of going solar without breaking the bank. The companies behind such programs—SolarCity, SunRun and others—take care of installation, maintenance and upgrades while the customer ends up paying about as much for clean, green power as for grid power from coal or other fossil fuels.

Of course, solar is still a bit player in the scheme of things in terms of U.S. and global electricity production. But with costs coming down, we can expect to see a lot more solar panels going up on rooftops across the land in the coming decade. Environmentalists concerned about

our changing climate say the sooner the better, as our dependency on coal and other fossil fuels for electricity is a big contributor to global warming.

Congress will definitely be considering whether or not to extend the solar investment tax credit when it reconvenes in 2015. If you're part of the silent majority of Americans who would like to see the credit extended so that middle class Americans can continue to afford to convert to solar power, be sure to speak up and let your Congressional delegation know.

**CONTACTS:** Deutsche Bank, [www.db.com](http://www.db.com); National Renewable Energy Laboratory, [www.nrel.gov](http://www.nrel.gov); SolarCity, [www.solarcity.com](http://www.solarcity.com); SunRun, [www.sunrun.com](http://www.sunrun.com).

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



### Family Dentistry Since 1994

- ▶▶ Gentle Dentistry for Children & Adults
- ▶▶ Immediate Emergency Treatment
- ▶▶ Cosmetic Dentistry, Teeth Whitening
- ▶▶ Preventive Care
- ▶▶ Extractions/Broken Tooth Repaired
- ▶▶ Dentures (Same Day Repair)
- ▶▶ Implants
- ▶▶ Insurance Plans Accepted

Accepting  
New  
Patients

"Gentle & Painless  
Dentistry Is Our Goal"

Hours:  
Monday.....9 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Tuesday.....9 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Wednesday.....9 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Thursday.....8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**Judd T. Carroll D.M.D.**  
103 East Main • Lowell, Michigan  
(616) 897-7595  
[www.juddcarrolldentistry.com](http://www.juddcarrolldentistry.com)

## Social Security Q & A, continued

age 70, and your spouse is receiving Social Security benefits, you should apply for retirement benefits and request that the payments be suspended. Then, you can choose to receive benefits on your spouse's Social Security record. By doing so, you will earn delayed retirement credits up to age 70, as long as you do not collect your benefits on your own earnings record. Later, when you do begin receiving benefits on your own record, those payments could be higher than they would have been otherwise

because you earned delayed retirement credits.

**Question:** What is Supplemental Security Income (SSI)?

**Answer:** SSI provides monthly income to people with limited income and financial resources. People who never worked at a job that withdrew Social Security tax won't qualify for Social Security, but may still be eligible for SSI. To be eligible, an individual must be a citizen and resident of the United States or be a noncitizen lawfully admitted

for permanent residence. There are, however, some noncitizens granted a special immigration status that are also eligible. To get SSI, an individual's financial resources (savings and assets) cannot be more than \$2,000 (\$3,000, if married). Recipients must be age 65 or older, or blind or disabled. For more information, please read *SSI or What You Need To Know When You Receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI)*. Both are available at [www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs)

**Question:** Are Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits subject to federal income tax?

**Answer:** No. SSI payments are not subject to federal taxes. If you get SSI, you will not receive an annual form SSA-1099. However, your Social Security benefits may be subject to income tax. Learn more at [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov).

## Benefitting children yearlong, continued

of conditions, resulting in "marked and severe functional limitations." This means that the condition(s) must severely limit your child's activities.

The child's condition(s) must be severe, last for at least 12 months, or be expected to result in death.

If your child's

condition(s) does not result in "marked and severe limitations", or does not result in those limitations for at least 12 months, your child will not qualify for SSI.

The child must not be working and earning more than \$1,090 a month in 2015. (This amount usually

changes every year.) If he or she is working and earning that much money, your child will not be eligible for disability benefits.

Visit [www.socialsecurity.gov/people/kids](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/people/kids) to learn more about all we do to care for children. Caring for the next generation is a national

priority, during the holidays and all year long.

*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 [vondavantil@ssa.gov](mailto:vondavantil@ssa.gov)*

**THEME:  
YEAR IN REVIEW**

**ACROSS**

1. Good for biceps
6. "'\_ \_' alive!"
9. \*Many Kurds did this from Syria in 2014
13. Unctuous Heep, of "David Copperfield"
14. Not pre-owned
15. It made Harry Potter's invisible
16. Common Thanksgiving Day action
17. ATM extra
18. Reduce, \_\_\_\_\_, recycle
19. \*Captured drug lord
21. Zoo section
23. Go wrong
24. Hat part
25. Old age, archaic
28. Musical compositions for one
30. African equines
35. \*Suspect in PA police ambush was denied this
37. Kosher establishment
39. Davy Crockett's last stand
40. Popular Creole vegetable
41. \_\_\_\_\_ Miss hot chocolate
43. Auditory
44. MC Hammer's "2 \_\_\_\_\_ 2 Quit"
46. Last two words of certain shoe company's famous slogan
47. "Rambling Wreck From Georgia \_\_\_\_\_"
48. \*Beyonce and Jay Z performed in them together in '14
50. Antonym of #14 Across
52. "Big Island" flower necklace

CROSSWORD														
1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8		9	10	11	12	
13						14				15				
16						17				18				
19					20			21	22					
			23				24							
25	26	27		28		29			30		31	32	33	34
35			36		37			38		39				
40					41				42		43			
44				45		46					47			
48					49		50			51		52		
				53		54			55		56			
	57	58	59					60				61	62	63
64						65	66			67				
68						69				70				
71						72				73				



NOVEMBER 26 - DECEMBER 2

- Elizabeth Lauten, communications director for Republican Representative Steven Fincher of Tennessee, has resigned over her Facebook post where she made comments that had many accusing her of cyber bullying the president's daughters. She has since apologized.
- The NFL will not sanction players who walked out onto the field in a 'hands up' stance to show solidarity with the people of Ferguson, MO.
- Susan Boyle, 53, surprising singer from a 2009 Britain's Got Talent show has her very first boyfriend, an American doctor.



**dish**

*Make the Switch to Dish Today and Save Up To 50%*

Call Now and Ask How!

**1-800-318-5121**

Call 7 days a week 8am - 11pm EST Promo Code: MB0113 \*Offer subject to change based on premium channel availability

Promotional Packages starting at only ...

**\$19.99**

mo.

for 12 months

**FREE**

PREMIUM MOVIE CHANNELS\* For 3 months.

**HBO** **SHOWTIME**

**CINEMAX** **starz**

**ALTITUDE** **dish**

AUTHORIZED RETAILER

© StatePoint Media

53. Leave them behind for riches?
55. Grazing area
57. \*Animated Oscar-winner
60. \*Billboard Music Awards hologram guest
64. Indian restaurant condiment
65. Schiller's "\_\_\_ to Joy"
67. Got up
68. Remove, as in a Pinterest post
69. A cool \_\_\_, as in money
70. Takes it easy
71. They're famous for being busy
72. Snake-like reef dweller
73. Arrogant one
25. \*It caused a scare globally in 2014
26. Kobe, e.g.
27. Sad song
29. Off-color
31. The Phantom \_\_\_, Mickey Mouse's nemesis
32. a.k.a. honey badger
33. White liturgical neckwear
34. \*2014 Olympic site
36. Been in bed
38. \*Infamous terrorist group
42. Type of monument
45. Jane's mate
49. Sigma Alpha Epsilon
51. Type of sticker, pl.
54. \*Washington Nationals gave away a Jayson Werth garden \_\_\_\_\_
56. Ohio rubber hub
57. Olden-day temple
58. \_\_\_\_\_ for the picking
59. Elevator inventor
60. Come together
61. \*Hope \_\_\_\_\_ set U.S. soccer record for career shutouts
62. Norse capital
63. Egg holder
64. Cause friction
66. Bond movie "Live and Let \_\_\_\_\_"

**DOWN**

1. 27 is the \_\_\_\_\_ of 3
2. Russia's \_\_\_\_\_ Mountains
3. Reduced Instruction Set Computer
4. Wood-shaping device
5. Barn scissors
6. Facts and figures
7. Tiger's peg
8. Take an oath
9. Bloodsucking hopper
10. Displeasure on one's face
11. "Piece of cake!"
12. Obtain or create, barely
15. \*Russia/Ukraine "apple of discord"
20. Cattle control, pl.
22. "That is to say"
24. Suffering from gastric distress

**SUDOKU**

**you could save 28%\***

Call 1-800-970-4376 to see how much you could save on car insurance.

**esurance**  
an Allstate company

\*National average annual savings based on data from customers who reported savings by switching to Esurance between 12/1/11 and 4/30/12. © 2012 Esurance Insurance Services, Inc. All rights reserved. CA License #0G97829

							7	
1				8	3		9	
9			5		7			
		2	3			9		5
	8						2	
5		6			4	8		
			4		5			1
	4		6	3				2
	7							

© StatePoint Media

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

Puzzle solutions on page 12

**LAST WEEK'S  
ONLINE  
POLL  
RESULTS**

**Have you started your Christmas shopping?**

- YES .....38%
- NO .....23%
- BAH HUMBUG! .....38%

**TO VOTE IN THIS WEEK'S ONLINE POLL go to WWW.thelowellledger.com**

**CLASSIFIEDS**  
small ads **BIG** deals  
**CALL 897-9261**

# Annual community Thanksgiving dinner serves 1,000<sup>th</sup> meal

by Kathryn Atwood  
contributing reporter

First Congregational United Church of Christ held their sixth annual Lowell Community Thanksgiving last Thursday, November 27.

The annual dinner began as an effort to encourage the community to join together on the holiday for a common meal to nourish the needs of attendees both spiritually and physically.

Since its inception, the event has grown both

in volunteer support and attendance.

Event coordinator Shannon Hanley reported that nearly 200 meals were served.

“We served our 1,000<sup>th</sup> meal and we are looking forward to serving our next 1,000<sup>th</sup>! It is a fantastic event. I am so proud to be a part of it,” said Hanley.

The free community dinner was made possible through the generosity

of many local volunteers and area churches in combination with Flat River Outreach Ministries, who will benefit from all donations.

A full course turkey dinner with traditional sides like mashed potatoes and stuffing were served. Guests enjoyed a comfortable ambiance that included linen tablecloths, glass dishes, beautiful centerpieces and helpful servers.

Though by all accounts the meal was delicious and filling, Hanley said that the greatest part of the day for most was the opportunity to serve their neighbors and to have the chance to get to know them.

“It is a great mix of people attending this event. People from all walks of life come together, share a meal, linger over coffee, share stories and recognize commonalities.”



American Legion Post commander and retired Navy commander David and Jan Thompson dressed in period costume for the dinner.



Volunteers Ron Wood, Shannon Hanley, Ken Ballema and Stacy Everett carve and prepare the turkey.

# Holiday GIFT GUIDE

## Presenting the year's most valuable advertising opportunity

Deadline is  
Dec. 11

### \$110/Buyers Guide

\* Runs 12/14 - includes full color

### \$75\*/Lowell Ledger

\* when same ad is ran in Buyers Guide

Runs 12/17 - includes full color

Ad size is 1/8 page (post card size)

the lowell  
ledger

Buyers  
Guide

Just say "I saw it advertised in the Buyers Guide!"

897-9555 • email: [displayads@lowellbuyersguide.com](mailto:displayads@lowellbuyersguide.com)