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# Hikers enjoy mild weather for annual luminary hike at Wittenbach/Wege Center

by Kathryn Atwood  
contributing reporter

Dozens of local outdoor enthusiasts made their way to the Wittenbach/Wege Agriscience and Environmental Education Center (WWC) for a special night hike last Saturday evening.

Just after dark, hikers joined together to brave the trails by candlelight. The Twilight Walk is lined with luminaries, made of donated plastic milk jugs, filled with single tea-lights along the length of the trail.

The unique hiking experience was developed to encourage the community to explore the sights, sounds and serenity of a night forest. Though snowshoes were

available for rent during the winter event, with the mild weather guests enjoyed a peaceful stroll.

Phyllis Bentley, who frequents the center's trails with her husband Robert, said that she enjoyed this special nighttime event, "This place is always beautiful but there was a bit of magic with all of the luminaries. It was a nice walk for both of us."

Guests were also offered the opportunity to warm up inside the center following their walk with complimentary hot chocolate and special holiday crafts.



# Council discusses backhoe, LCTV fund, biodigester

by Tim McAllister  
contributing reporter

Lowell city council praised a Christmas video, bought a backhoe and received updates about the LCTV fund and the biodigester at their meeting at city hall on Monday, Dec. 15.



Dan DesJarden

Early in the meeting public works director Dan DesJarden said he would meet with any citizen to discuss the reasons for his retirement.

"I'd like to clear up a rumor, misinformation out in the community [about] why I'm retiring," DesJarden said. "I can assure you and the council

that isn't because of the city manager [Mark Howe]. I want to make that perfectly clear."

City manager Mark Howe played the council a video called "Christmas Surprise Traffic Stop with Lowell Police." The video was made by Rob Bliss for the UpTV cable channel. It recently went viral on the Internet.

"The video on YouTube is at 2.5 million views," Howe said. "I was told as of Saturday if you add the news organizations around the state, the nation and the world, it's somewhere near 25 million views."

Lowell police chief Steve Bukala was pleased by the video's reception.

"It's been a very rewarding week," Bukala said. "Probably the best week of my career."

The council voted to spend \$94,600 on a John Deere 310SK backhoe for the city. The city will buy the backhoe from AIS Construction Equipment,

City council,  
continued, page 2

# With gas prices lower than in five years - Lowell is among the lowest in the area

by Tim McAllister  
contributing reporter

The cost of a gallon of gas is lower than it's been for five years.

Because of a glut of oil on the market, the price

to a national average of \$2.54/gallon. The price of gas in Lowell is still lower, with local stations charging \$2.26/gallon.

we're dropping \$.08 a day," Dean said. "It normally goes down at least \$.01, \$.02, \$.05 daily, so I think it's going to go down more."

Dean said the Shell's prices are based on what another local station charges.

"We follow Admiral's. Normally the big Admiral changes first," Dean said. "The corporate office calls me to let me know when gas prices are changing. I didn't get a phone call today [Friday] yet."

An anonymous employee of "the big Admiral" station, 2001 W. Main, would only comment, "We go with the market, that's about all I can say."

"I don't know if it's due to the new stores in this area or what it is," Dean said.



was \$60.28 a barrel on Monday, Dec. 15. This was a 45 percent decrease since summer and the lowest since July 2009. Prices at the pump have plummeted

Tammy Dean, manager of the Shell gas station at 324 W. Main, said prices might get even lower.

"We're down pretty low. Since last week Thursday

# City council, continued

a Michigan company. The purchase will be financed over a ten-year period. Howe said the city is currently taking bids from banks to choose who will do the financing.

The council voted to "table" a vote on going in with Lowell Township and

Vergennes Township on \$111,000 worth of SCBA equipment for the Lowell Area Fire Department. SCBA equipment allows firefighters to breathe in smoky or otherwise contaminated environments. The last day the discounted price will be available on

the 18 fully-equipped SCBA units is Dec. 31. During "council comments," councilor Sharon Ellison offered an update on the LCTV fund money. There was controversy recently about the city council's vote to use the 2014 funds on street repairs instead of other community projects.

"There will probably be a recommendation forthcoming about working with the council when we do something like we did previously about not offering any money for grants," Ellison said. "Maybe a process so that everyone is on the same page."

Mayor Jim Hodges' "council comments" included an update about the biodigester. Hodges said the facility will start producing electricity next year.

"We continue to make progress on the biodigester project," Hodges said. "The majority of the construction work is complete and we are

in the start-up and testing phase."

The next city council meeting will be at city hall on Monday, Jan. 5 at 7 p.m.

Public works director Dan DesJarden will meet with any citizen to discuss the reasons for his retirement.

## college news

Lowell was well represented at the commencement ceremony for Kansas State University in Manhattan, Kan. on Dec. 13, 2014. Lowell High School graduates Paula Kay Blough and Molly Brieger Doyle were both granted degrees in the College of Agriculture.

Blough is a 2010 graduate from Lowell High School and was a double major in agricultural communications and journalism and animal sciences and Industry. She graduated magna cum laude and will be pursuing a career in production agriculture and also communications for agricultural organizations.

Doyle is a 2011 graduate from Lowell High School and completed her

degree in feed science and management. Doyle will remain at Kansas State University in the College of Veterinary Medicine, which she started in August of 2014. She plans to pursue a career in large animal veterinary medicine upon completion of vet school.

Lowell High School was the starting point of many Kansas State graduates: Roland "Mike" Doyle attended in the 1950s; Brian and Cheryl (Parsons) Doyle in the 1970s; Mary Roth and Stephen Doyle in the 1980s; Brett Plattner and Aaron Plattner in the 1990s; Regan Doyle and Patrick Doyle in the 2000s; and now Paula Blough and Molly Doyle in the 2010s.

Kansas State University was founded in 1863 as the



Paula Kay Blough and Molly Brieger Doyle

first land-grant university under the Morrill Act. It has nine colleges and more than 250 undergraduate majors and options offered over three campuses and across the world online. It is home to several unique degree programs including

bakery science, feed science, and milling science which compose the grain science department in the College of Agriculture. These degree programs are the only programs of their kind in the nation and possibly even the world.

## MSU Extension provides resources for individuals facing foreclosure

Michigan State University Extension will soon launch a new toolkit of resources for individuals who are experiencing or previously experienced foreclosure. Available online Jan. 6, the toolkit will equip individuals and families with knowledge and skills needed to help them rebuild personally and financially.

The "Starting Over After Foreclosure"

toolkit comprises eight distinct units, which will all be available free at MIMoneyHealth.org. They are:

- Getting a Fresh Start After Foreclosure.
- Reimagining Your Future: What Direction Do You Want to Go?
- Assessing Your Financial Situation.
- Rebuilding Your Financial Situation and Credit History.
- Finding a Place to Call Home.
- Knowing Your Rights and Responsibilities.
- Getting Prepared, Getting Organized.
- Returning to Homeownership.

For more information on other Michigan State University Extension financial and homeownership education programs, visit MIMoneyHealth.org.

The "Starting Over After Foreclosure" toolkit was developed in part with support from National Mortgage Settlement funds distributed by the U.S. Department of Treasury.



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### LHS PRESENTS THE SANTA CLAUS CHRONICLES

The "Santa Claus Chronicles" will be presented at Lowell High School on Dec. 18 and 19 at 7:00 pm and on Dec. 20 at 9:00 and 11:30 am. For more information go to [www.seatyourself.biz/lowellhs](http://www.seatyourself.biz/lowellhs)

### 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.



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# Christmas trees just keep giving

Christmas trees provide more than a place to hang lights. They provide shelter for birds and small animals as they are growing. They give the economy a boost. Christmas trees add beauty and aroma to the holiday season.

And even after they have completed their most glorious service, many trees are recycled as mulch to continue adding beauty. Some are placed in yards near bird feeders to provide shelter until spring.

Lake residents and ice fishermen use Christmas trees to mark large holes in the ice after removing

shanties. Once the ice melts in the spring, the trees sink to the bottom of the lake, providing shelter for fish.

Residents of Mackinac Island haul their Christmas trees to a common gathering area along the shore. Then volunteers place the trees to mark a trail across the Straits of Mackinac. That ice bridge is their link to the rest of the world, and the Christmas tree trail allows snowmobilers to navigate the Straits in low-visibility conditions.

Here are some more facts about evergreens that are ever giving:

- Some 25 to 30

million real Christmas trees are sold in the U.S. every year.

• Close to 350 million real Christmas trees are currently growing on Christmas tree farms in the U.S. alone, all planted by farmers.

• Christmas trees are grown in all 50 states and Canada. Eighty percent of artificial trees worldwide are manufactured in China, according to the U.S. Commerce Department.

• Real trees are a renewable, recyclable resource.

• More than 4,000 local Christmas tree

recycling programs are available throughout the United States.

• For every real Christmas tree harvested, one to three seedlings are planted the following spring.

• About 350,000 acres are in production for growing Christmas trees in the U.S.; much of it preserving green space.

• Michigan has approximately 42,000 acres in commercial Christmas tree production, with an annual farm gate value of more than \$41 million.

• The U.S. has close to 15,000 farms growing, and more than 100,000 people are employed full- or part-time in the industry.

• It can take as many as 15 years to grow a tree of typical height (six to seven feet) or as little as four years, but the average



## Ring in the New Year with a COLA

Happy New Year from Social Security! Put down the champagne and ring in the New Year with a COLA! And we don't mean the soda. In 2015, nearly 64 million Americans who receive Social Security or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) will receive a cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) increase to their monthly benefit payments of 1.7 percent.

The average monthly Social Security benefit for a retired worker in 2015 is \$1,328 (up from \$1,306 in 2014). The average monthly Social Security benefit for a disabled worker in 2015 is

\$1,165 (up from \$1,146 in 2014).

For people who receive SSI, the maximum federal payment amount increased to \$733 (up from \$721 in 2014).

Other Social Security changes in 2015 are also worth noting. For example, the maximum amount of earnings subject to the Social Security payroll tax will increase to \$118,500 (up from \$117,000 in 2014). A worker will earn one credit toward Social Security coverage after paying taxes on \$1,220 in earnings in 2015 (up from \$1,200 in 2014). As

a reminder, eligibility for retirement benefits still requires 40 credits (usually about 10 years of work).

Information about Medicare changes for 2015 is available at [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov).

The Social Security Act outlines how the COLA is calculated. To read more about the COLA, please visit [www.socialsecurity.gov/cola](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/cola).

To learn more about other changes in 2015, read our fact sheet at [www.socialsecurity.gov/news/press/factsheets/colafacts2015.html](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/news/press/factsheets/colafacts2015.html).

*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 [vontil@ssa.gov](mailto:vantil@ssa.gov)*



growing time is seven years.

• The top Christmas tree producing states are Oregon, North Carolina, Michigan, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin and Washington.

• Michigan supplies approximately three million Christmas trees to the national market each year.

• The most common Christmas tree species are balsam fir, Douglas fir, Fraser fir, noble fir, Scotch

pine, Virginia pine and white pine.

• Michigan produces and sells more than a dozen Christmas tree varieties on a wholesale level, which is more varieties than any other state.

Sources: USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service, National Christmas Tree Association and Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development.

## Holiday Hours

Buyers Guide/Lowell Ledger Office Hours during the Holidays

### Week of Dec. 22

Mon. & Tues., 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
Closed Wed. & Thurs.  
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## financial focus



Christopher C. Godbold

### Seek to balance "risk tolerance" and "required risk"

Like everyone else, you have financial goals. To help achieve these goals, you may need to invest — and when you invest, you'll need to take on some risk. But the more you understand this risk, and the better you are at managing it, the greater your potential for staying invested for the long term.

To begin with, then, take a look at these terms:

• *Risk tolerance* — Your risk tolerance is essentially your comfort level with taking risk. For

example, if you have a high tolerance for risk, you may be comfortable investing aggressively. Conversely, if you tend to be risk-averse, you might lean more toward more conservative investment vehicles that offer greater protection of principal.

• *Required risk* — While the term "required risk" may sound odd, it is actually an integral component of your ability to invest successfully. Basically, your required risk

is the level of risk necessary to help you achieve your investment goals. The higher the return necessary to reach those goals, the more potential risk you'll need to assume.

As you invest, you'll need to balance these two aspects of risk. For example, what might happen if you have a low risk tolerance, leading you toward "safer," low-growth investments, but your goal is to retire early? For most people, this goal requires them to invest in vehicles that offer significant growth potential, such as stocks. And, as you know, investing in stocks entails risk — specifically, the risk that your stocks will lose value. So in this situation, your risk tolerance — the fact that you are risk-averse — is going to collide with your required risk level, the amount of risk you are going to need to take (by investing in stocks) to achieve your goal of early retirement.

When such a collision occurs, you have two choices. First, you could "stretch" your risk tolerance and accept the need to take on riskier investments in exchange for the growth potential you will require. Your other choice is to stay within your risk tolerance and adjust your ultimate goal — which, in this example, may mean accepting a later retirement date.

Obviously, this is a personal decision. However, you may have more flexibility than you might have imagined. For instance, you might feel that you *should* be risk-averse because you have seen so many fluctuations in the financial markets. But if you have many decades to go until you retire, you actually do have time to recover from short-term losses, which means you may be able to reasonably handle more volatility. On the other hand, once you're retired, you won't have as many years to bounce back from market downturns, so you'll have less "risk capacity" than you did when you were younger.

In any case, by balancing your risk tolerance and your required risk level — and by understanding your risk capacity — you can be better prepared to take the *emotion* out of investing. When investors let their emotions get the better of them, they can make mistakes such as chasing "hot" stocks or selling quality investments due to temporary price drops. By having a clear sense of what risk really entails, however, you may be able to avoid costly detours — and stick with your long-term investment strategy.



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# viewpoint

## outdoors

Share the planet

Dave Stegehuis

Anytime a game or non-game species suffers from serious long term population decline, the culprit is usually loss of habitat. Wild creatures must find food, water, and cover; three essential things to insure survival. Together these necessities make up what we call habitat. Take away any one and the species is in trouble.

Loss of habitat is sometimes a natural phenomenon, but today it is likely a man-made problem. Residential and commercial

development requires the removal of plants and trees and sometimes the filling in of wetlands. Parking lots, roads, and buildings replace existing habitat. Intensive farming practice requires tilling once fallow ground and removal of fencerows. Weather extremes, like cold, deep snow, flooding, and drought, can be a short term detriment to wildlife causing poor nesting conditions and failed food sources.

Unless humans as a species fall on exceedingly hard times and our

population drastically declines, the expanding needs of humans will continue to have an impact on wildlife habitat. The best we can do in the meantime is to protect, reclaim, and improve wildlife habitat where possible.

There are a number of organizations which focus on establishing viable habitat through purchase, improvement, or both. Others insure that wildlife friendly areas are protected and preserved for the future. Supporting these organizations by contributing funds or providing actual hands on

volunteer time will greatly benefit wildlife.

Another way to support wildlife is to buy hunting and fishing licenses. Also, fishermen and shooters pay federal tax on firearms, ammunition, and fishing equipment, and that money comes back to the states for the benefit of wildlife.

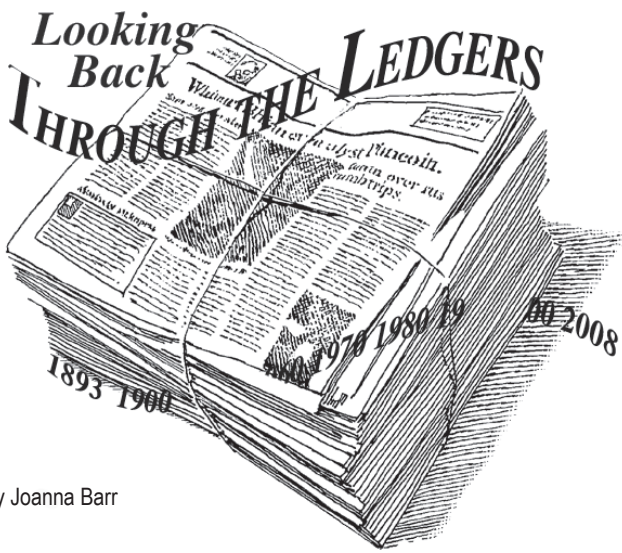
Closer to home, look only as far as your backyard for opportunities to help wildlife. Sometimes just leaving natural plants and trees alone will be helpful. Neighborhood culture and zoning regulations may have a bearing on what you can do, but the wilder your

property the better. Planting selected trees, shrubs, and plants can provide food and cover. A pond or water feature provides water. If you control acreage there are many more things you can do. Check on-line and with Natural Resource personnel or federal foresters for advice.

We planted a perennial forage crop for deer on our land but also reserved space for an existing stand

of milkweed because milkweed is crucial to the survival of Monarch butterflies. The lesson here is that care must be taken when dealing with Mother Nature.

If enough of us are aware of the importance of habitat and do what we can to save and improve it, our wild friends will be with us for years to come. We have to learn how to share the planet.



By Joanna Barr

### 125 years ago Lowell Journal December 18, 1889

Merchants are requested to decorate their store fronts for Wednesday p. m., Dec. 25th.

James Gilmore, who has worked for John McDonnell of Tyrone, for several years, murdered Mrs. McDonnell by strangling her with a strap, and afterwards committed suicide by shooting himself, last Friday. No cause has yet been found for the horrible crime.

### 100 years ago The Lowell Ledger December 17, 1914

Any attempt on the part of the railroads to repeal the two-cent fare law at the coming session of the legislature will meet with determined opposition from the United Commercial Travelers, according to Chief Clark James Hammel, of the state labor commission, who is a member of the legislative committee of the traveling men's organization.

D. D. Krum, treasurer of Vergennes township, had the misfortune to lose two fingers on a buzz saw one day last week while cutting wood. Something distracted his attention from his work and the saw did the rest.

### 75 years ago The Lowell Ledger December 21, 1939

The ornamental gateway markers on M-21 east, have been completed, thanks to the favorable weather of the past fall season. Landscaping of the grounds will begin as early as practical the coming spring.

Sam Yeiter, son of Mr. and Mrs. O. J. Yeiter, has been selected as one of five members of the Michigan State College Student Council to represent that school at a national meeting of student councils to be held at the University of Minnesota all next week. Lowell friends are proud of Sam's many fine achievements during his college days.

F. C. Foreman, who recently purchased from George Demuth of Toledo, Ohio, the property formerly known as Watt's Hill, lying just west of town, has had a crew of men at work for the past two or three weeks grading and rebuilding the roadway leading to the hilltop.

Modern custom has revived the habit of the old time singers who used to parade the streets on Christmas morning, singing the joyous tidings of the birth of Christ. It is a sweet and pretty sound that steals in through your curtains on that day of days. It is a suggestion that through the dullness and care of ordinary life, through the wearisome monotony of tiresome routine, a spirit of happiness comes to our doors, which can bring sunshine on the darkest days of shadow. So if you are inclined to say some bad words when the singers arouse you from sleep, think better of them. Better go to the window and give them a round of applause. And if you can go down stairs and fix up some coffee and doughnuts for them, it is still better.

### 50 years ago The Lowell Ledger December 18, 1964

Terry Blaser, son of Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Blaser, Five Mile Road, struck and killed a deer early Saturday evening, on M-91, south of Lowell. The car was damaged, but the driver escaped injury.

Lowell Police picked up an inmate from the Ionia Reformatory, early Sunday morning, walking the Grand Trunk Railroad tracks. The escapee, Abner Buss, 23, of Grand Rapids, was serving a 2 1/2 to 15 year term on a break-in conviction. He was a trustee at the reformatory.

Lowell post office employees had no trouble with a Christmas card that arrived here this week addressed to "Rittenger's Rangers." They delivered it to Chief Avery Block; it was from Sib Moore in Florida.

Richard Schlernitzauer, one of Lowell's two elk hunters, filled his permit last Saturday, on the next to the last day of the season. Schlernitzauer's elk weighed 600 pounds.

Moose Lodge members are busy tearing out the wall in the former Rittenger office building, to enlarge their club rooms. They plan to have the new expanded dance floor ready for New Year's Eve.

Looking Back, continued, page 7

## health



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

### vitamin D for infants

Supplemental vitamin D is recommended for breast-fed or partially breast-fed infants. When breast-feeding was more common than formula, a mother would receive prescription for vitamin D on discharge from the newborn nursery. With the widespread use of formula, that practice stopped.

Vitamin D is important because it helps with the absorption of calcium and phosphorous into developing bones. Vitamin D deficiency causes softening of the bones, a clinical condition called Rickets.

Vitamin D containing foods, such as oily fish, eggs and fortified foods are not consistently eaten by young children.

The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends giving 400IU of liquid vitamin D daily. This should be continued until the baby has weaned or is drinking at least 32 ounces of vitamin D fortified formula.

Some guidelines also recommend increasing vitamin D to 600IU daily for children older than one year of age.

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

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

# Social Security Q & A

**Question:** I suspect that someone I know is collecting Social Security disability benefits when they shouldn't be. What is the best way for me to report fraud?

**Answer:** Social Security has zero tolerance for fraud and uses many proven tactics to prevent

fraud, waste, and abuse. Our Office of the Inspector General is relentless in its pursuit of people who conceal work activity while receiving disability benefits. We investigate and seek prosecution for people who receive benefits for a child or children who aren't under their care, or who fail to

notify Social Security of the death of a beneficiary and continue to receive and cash checks of the deceased. We also depend on you to help stop fraud. Please report fraud online at <http://oig.ssa.gov/report> or call the Social Security Fraud Hotline at 1-800-269-0271.

**Question:** I haven't received my *Social Security Statement* in the mail the last few years. Will I ever get one again?

**Answer:** In September 2014, Social Security resumed mailing *Social Security Statements* to workers ages 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, and 60 who aren't receiving Social Security benefits, and who don't have a *my Social Security* account. Rather than once every five years, those over age 60 will receive a *Statement* every year. Instead of waiting to receive a mailed *Statement* once every five years, we encourage people to open a *my Social Security* account at [www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount) so they can access their *Statement* online, anytime.

**Question:** Why is it so important that my baby have a Social Security number?

**Answer:** Your child may need a Social Security number if you are planning to open a bank account, buy savings bonds, obtain medical coverage, or apply for government services for the child. Your child will also need a Social Security number if you are going to declare him or her on your taxes. Getting a Social Security number for your newborn is voluntary, but it is a good idea to apply

when your child is born. You can apply for a Social Security number for your baby when you apply for your baby's birth certificate. The state agency that issues birth certificates will give us your child's information and we will mail you a Social Security card with the child's Social Security number. Visit [www.socialsecurity.gov/ssnumber](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/ssnumber) for more information.

**Question:** I am about to retire, but I still have a young child in my care. Will I receive additional benefits for the child I care for?

**Answer:** When you qualify for Social Security retirement benefits, your children may also qualify to receive benefits. Your eligible child can be your biological child, an adopted child, or a stepchild. In limited circumstances, you may also get benefits for a dependent grandchild. To receive benefits, your child must be: unmarried; under the age of 18; between 18 and 19 years old and a full-time student (no higher than grade 12); or 18 or older and disabled from a condition that started before age 22. You can read more about planning for a disabled child's care here: [www.socialsecurity.gov/retire2/yourchildren.htm](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/retire2/yourchildren.htm).

**Question:** A few years ago, I lost my Social Security card. Now my credit report shows that someone might be using my Social Security number. I'm afraid they might ruin my credit. What should I do?

**Answer:** Identity theft and fraud are serious problems, not just for you, but for the financial integrity

of our agency. It also puts our national security at risk if someone dangerous is using your number to obtain other forms of identification. It's against the law to use someone else's Social Security number, give false information when applying for a number, or alter, buy, or sell Social Security cards. Keep in mind, you should never carry your Social Security card with you. If you think someone is using your Social Security number fraudulently, you should report it to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) right away. You can report it at [www.idtheft.gov](http://www.idtheft.gov) or you can call FTC's hotline at 1-877-IDTHEFT (1-877-438-4261) TTY: (1-866-653-4261).

**Question:** I know someone who believes it's not a big deal to cheat a little on their Supplemental Security Income application. What can I tell them to dissuade them from giving false information?

**Answer:** Social Security not only seeks criminal charges against and imprisonment of people who give false, incomplete, or inaccurate information, we also have the authority to impose civil monetary penalties against people who commit fraud. When we find evidence that someone provided false information or withheld information that would have prevented him or her or someone else from collecting benefits, we can impose a civil monetary penalty of up to \$5,000 for each occurrence. We are also authorized to impose administrative sanctions.

Social Security, continued, page 14



## Christmas Concert

Rob Mills Family  
December 21 ~ 11:00 am





### EVERGREEN CHURCH

10501 Settlewood Dr. SE • Lowell, MI  
[www.evergreenmc.org](http://www.evergreenmc.org)



# area churches

**GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
10305 Bluewater Highway (Missouri Synod)  
*Halfway between Lowell & Saranac on M-21*  
[www.goodshepherdlowell.org](http://www.goodshepherdlowell.org)

Worship Service.....Sunday -10:30 A.M.  
(Nursery available)  
Sunday School.....9:15 A.M.

Joseph Fremer, Pastor **897-8307**  
*All facilities are wheelchair accessible*

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



**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF LOWELL**  
2275 West Main Street • 897-7168  
Barrier Free  
Internet: <http://www.fbc Lowell.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 Congregational UCC  
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865 Lincoln Lake Ave SE 616.897.5906



Sundays 10am  
[www.ourbigchurch.org](http://www.ourbigchurch.org)

**SNOW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
3189 Snow Ave. SE, Lowell  
**Pastor Tony Shumaker**  
9:45 A.M. ....Sunday School  
10:30 A.M. ....Fellowship  
11:00 A.M. ....Worship

**897-9863**  
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Worship: 10 a.m.


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



**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF LOWELL**  
621 E. Main Street  
897-5936  
[www.lowellumc.com](http://www.lowellumc.com)  
Barrier-free entrance

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

Pastor Brad Brillhart



**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF LOWELL**  
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Barrier Free  
Internet: <http://www.fbc Lowell.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)

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

<p><b>DECEMBER 17</b> Bill Ellison, Jerry Scott, Amy Riddle.</p> <p><b>DECEMBER 18</b> Danielle Anchors, Hillary Graves, Julie Alberts, Heather Walendzik.</p> <p><b>DECEMBER 19</b> Lori Moore, Carol Chamberlain.</p> <p><b>DECEMBER 20</b> Ed Mohr, William Henry Burt, Jackie Spencer, Rob Lombardo.</p>	<p><b>DECEMBER 21</b> Brooke Page, Zachary Tykocki, Debbie Walendzik, Eric Koepfel.</p> <p><b>DECEMBER 22</b> Jason Seeley, Cody Soyka.</p> <p><b>DECEMBER 23</b> Marie Doyle.</p>
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# Gymnasts will salute the military at season opener

by Kathryn Atwood  
contributing reporter

Lowell varsity gymnastics will be holding a special salute to the military during their season home opener, the Lowell Gymnastics Invitational, on January 10 at 9 am.

The first-time event was inspired by former Lowell gymnasts who went on to serve and raise families in the military, according to head coach Michele DeHaan, "One of my former gymnasts, Carisa (Sayer) Terry graduated from Western Michigan University's aviation program and then enlisted in the Navy as a pilot in their officer program. Another former gymnast, Melissa (Neubecker) Lyons, married right after high school to a man enlisted in the Army. They recently had their first child while he was on his third deployment to Afghanistan and he missed the birth."

Last Christmas, DeHaan's own niece and former gymnast Rebecca Chamberlain enlisted in the Air Force. When

Chamberlain graduated basic training DeHaan was present and left the event inspired, "Witnessing a military ceremony that was so disciplined and with all the fanfare was amazing. We came back home so proud to be Americans and had such a greater appreciation for the military. It really put things in perspective; the sacrifice they make by choosing to serve and protect the rest of us. So I decided to make our home invite a military theme."

Once she introduced the idea the ball got rolling quickly as the team readily embraced the special tribute event. Each team member selected a soldier or veteran to honor, whose name will be sewn on the sleeves of special camouflage leotards the team had custom made. Both athlete and honoree will be introduced by special guest announcer and popular radio personality, Andy O'Riley, at the opening of the meet.

The ceremony will also include a current Army enlistee playing Revele,



Taps and The National Anthem on his trumpet; a presentation of colors by the local VFW; and a fun

"21 Tuck Salute" to be performed by the gymnasts. Recruiters from the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines

will be on hand at the event in full uniform to share enlistment opportunities and to hand out awards at the close of the meet.

Along with the tribute, the team will also be collecting cash donations for the Wounded Warrior Project, as well as commodities for Operation Care Package. DeHaan

said that the event will be a great one for her team, the honorees and the community, "It is a great opportunity to make more people aware of how many families have friends and loved ones that make the choice to serve. We need to appreciate their service and sacrifice."

## Looking Back, continued

### 25 years ago The Lowell Ledger December 20, 1989

Headline: Santa & Lowell senior citizen's party. Christmas carols, lunch and a visit from Santa were all a part of the senior citizen's Christmas luncheon. You know it's a good day when the toughest choice you must make is whether you want spaghetti or scalloped potatoes and ham for lunch. That's the sort of day 30-40 of Lowell's senior citizens had on Thursday, Dec. 14 participated in the third annual Senior Citizens' Christmas Program/Luncheon... Following lunch, Lowell's Middle School seventh-grade choir sang holiday carols, under the direction of Paul Balaam. It marked the fifth performance in two weeks for the choir. No Christmas celebration is complete without a visit from the jolliest of elves - Santa Claus. Draped over his velveteen suit was a bag filled with goods that said "thank you, we appreciate what you, the senior citizens have done for the Lowell Community."

Headline: Where are the City tree lights? Downtown

shopping spirit taken down with light sets, some merchants are disappointed. Not even Santa Claus will be able to reverse the decision to discontinue a six-year Lowell Chamber of Commerce tradition. Many have questioned: "Where are the lights" and "Why aren't the trees lit along Main Street?" The extension cords for the lights have been taken down and the lights will not be put up. Jim Pfaller, Chamber of Commerce President adds, "It was going to cost \$500 to repair and replace many of the sets of lights. The City's lease for the trees is in its last year and we have no guarantee the trees will be around next year." Pfaller added that of the 60-plus sets of lights only eight still work. "It's the wind that has caused the damage. The Chamber spent \$300 last year to repair lights," he says. Former Chamber President Denny Thomet adds that if the City decides to keep the trees up along Main Street the Chamber would consider putting the lights back up. The lease for the trees is up in 1990.

Ice skating now available. Those ice skating enthusiasts can now enjoy their sport at Creekside Park on Gee Drive during the day.

## CITY OF LOWELL

KENT COUNTY, MICHIGAN

### AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 3.02, "DISTRICT BOUNDARIES," OF CHAPTER 3, "ZONING DISTRICTS-GENERAL," OF APPENDIX A, "ZONING," OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF LOWELL

The Lowell City Council adopted Ordinance No. 14-03\_ amending Section 3.02, "District boundaries," of Chapter 3, "Zoning Districts-General," of Appendix A, "Zoning," of the Code of Ordinance of the City of Lowell on December 15, 2014. Ordinance No. 14-03\_ amends the zone district classification of real property located at 312 and 318 East Main Street in the City of Lowell from I-Industrial District to C-2 Central Business District. A copy of Ordinance No. 14-03\_ is available for inspection at City Hall, 301 East Main Street in the City during regular business hours of the City.

Ordinance No. 14-03\_ is effective 10 days after this publication.



Susan Ullery  
Deputy City Clerk



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ANIMAL HOSPITAL OF LOWELL

# Lowell High School

# WINTER SPORTS TEAMS

## BASKETBALL



First row, left to right: Anna Sleeman, Kennedy Coxon, Catherine Stump, Tara McQueen, Kathryn Montgomery, Katie Holzhueter, and coach Jacob Strotheide; second row, left to right: Breanna VanLaan, Bailey Reitsma, Ally Frederickson, Bridget Garter, Jordan Mixon, and Kae Mongar.

### GIRLS VARSITY BASKETBALL

Varsity girls basketball coach Jake Strotheide will lead a team heavy with veterans this season.

Returning senior players: Kate Montgomery, Katie Holzhueter, Tara McQueen, Kennedy Coxon and Catherine Stump are expected to lead the

team this year using their experience and individual athletic strengths.

According to Strotheide, varsity newcomers Ally Frederickson and Bailey Reitsma will also be players to watch this season, "Ally is a great defender in the

back end of our defense and we believe she will have a big season for us. Bailey is just an amazing athlete. She is just good at everything."

Strotheide feels that the girls have both the talent and the drive to earn a better finish this year.



First row, left to right: coach Kyle Carhart, Gabe Steed, Ethan Bates, Alex Anschutz, Marcus Malling, Joe Geisen, and coach Connor Hoke; second row, left to right: Matt Beachler, Josh Branagan, Austin Branagan, Mitchell Davis, Avery Buckius, Ryan Stevens, and Carter Noskey.

### BOYS VARSITY BASKETBALL

Armed with a bench full of strong athletes, head boys varsity basketball coach Kyle Carhart and assistant coach Connor Hoke will lead the Arrows toward an OK White conference title this season.

One senior, nine juniors and two sophomores will make up this year's team. One of those sophomores, Matt Beachler, was already offered a Division 1 college

offer from Central Michigan University after averaging nearly 14 points per game during his freshman season and is expected to lead his team in scoring this season.

## CHEER

Nineteen students including three returning seniors and two sophomore exchange students will take to the mat this year under the direction of the brand new Lowell varsity competitive cheer coach Diane Jager.

Jager is no stranger

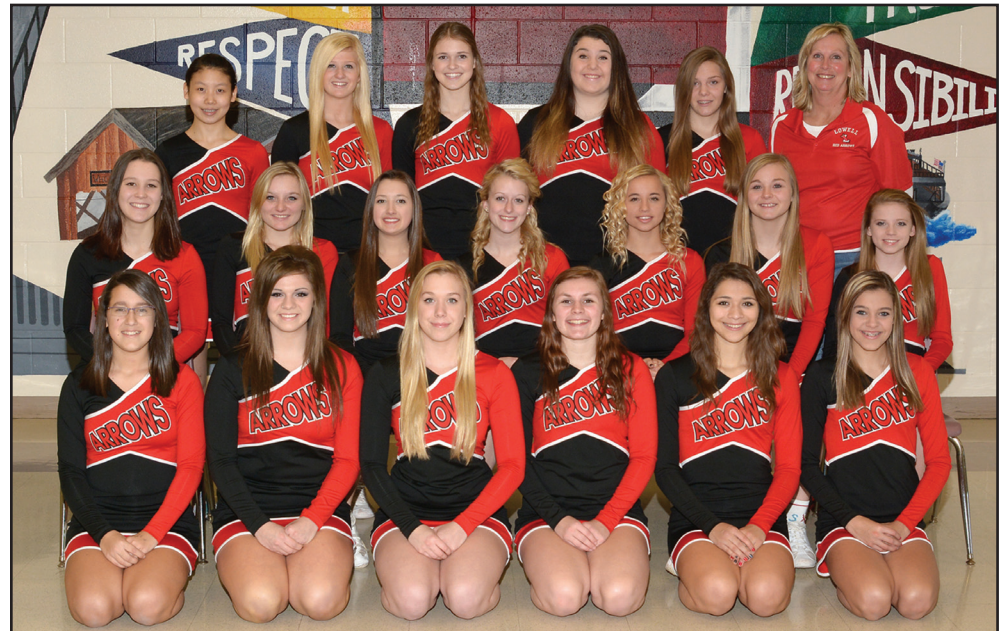
to Lowell, "I may be new to Lowell cheer but not to Lowell as I grew up and graduated here. I am very excited to come home. Once an Arrow always an Arrow!"

The young team will compete a dozen times on the road and host the Lowell

Invitational on Saturday, Jan. 24.

Jager said that she is very pleased with the team's dedication and potential, "They are totally committed to succeed. The sky is the limit in my book."

First row, left to right: Vanessa VanderBoon, Kenzie Huver, Braylin Conner, Baileigh Ford, Amber Brown, and Marissa Grover; second row, left to right: Jule Schwebe, Hannah VanWynen, Justine Anes, Baylee Bennett, Katie Taylor, Mikayla Brooks, and Brooklyn Fryers; third row, left to right: Danyang Zhas, Kalie Kopecek, Kaitlyn German, Kimmie Cloutre, Alex Edwards, and coach Diane Jager.



## BOWLING

Lowell's varsity bowling teams are coached by Chris Clark.

The two teams face a season entirely on the road after the loss of their home base, Lowell Lanes, which went out of business this past summer.

The boy's rolled their way to first place in the Allendale Invitational held on Saturday Dec. 13. They faced Sparta in the finals and won by over 40 pins.



Picture, left to right: Tim Buechler, Ben Stewart, Carson Clark, Justin Everitt, Landon Smith, Logan Smith, Jason Price. Coach Chris Clark is in the back row.



First row, left to right: Krystal Sheldon, Jasmine Falsetta, and Autumn Sheldon; second row, Ally Stockreef and Marilla Marks.



# Lowell High School

# WINTER SPORTS TEAMS

## HOCKEY



Seventeen varsity level student athletes from Lowell, Caledonia and South Christian will make up this years co-operative boys ice hockey team. Under the direction of head coach Todd O'Gorman and assistant coach Gary Olson the team will face off as part of tier three of the OK conference and will call the Kentwood Ice Arena home. Eddie Heikkila, Ethan Campbell, Nick VanTil, Logan Propst and Cam Bonney will represent Lowell on the team.

### LOWELL/CALEDONIA/S. CHRISTIAN HOCKEY

First row, left to right: Nick Oostra (South Christian), Eddie Heikkila (Lowell), Nick Vantil (Lowell), Nate Regan (Caledonia), Alex Osborn (Caledonia), Owen Rattke (Caledonia), Egan Simmons (Caledonia), and Matt Shaver (Caledonia); second row, left to right: Nate Winterburn (Caledonia), Nolan Winterburn (Caledonia), Ethan Campbell (Lowell), Kyle Sundstrum (Caledonia), Logan Propst (Lowell), Alec VanZee (South Christian), Cam Bonney (Lowell), Nate Pinder (Caledonia), and Adam Alkema (Caledonia).

## GYMNASTICS



Third row: head coach Michele DeHaan, Paige DeHaan, captain Bethany Kaczanowski, Colleen Cater, captain Lauren DeHaan, Maura Fitzpatrick, Lilly Quiggle, and asst. coach Alyssa Buikema; second row: Sela Bauman, Alise Forward, Danielle Krajewski, Allison Fuller (Ionia), and Corah Kaufman; first row: Karmen Anderson, Sarena Wilterdink, Lauren Browning, and Leana Weiler.

After making school history last season by being the first Lowell varsity gymnastics team to qualify for state-level competition, the pressure is on for this years squad.

Head coach Michele DeHaan, who led the gymnasts to their 10th place state finish in 2014 says, "We would love to repeat that but it's going to be a tough road. The girls have worked hard in the off-season to prepare, but we just plan to take one meet at a time and see how far we can go this year."

Four returning seniors, three juniors, six sophomores and one standout freshman will make up this year's team. They've scheduled four home competitions, including a special home opener featuring a salute to veterans on January 10.

## WRESTLING

No picture provided

Lowell varsity wrestling has a legacy of success. Last year they earned the title of Division 2 State Champions racking up three first place finishes from Lucas Hall, Max Dean and Josh Colegrove under the direction of former head coach Dave Dean.

This year the large team looks to repeat that level of success under first year head coach RJ Boudro. Boudro previously worked as an assistant coach for the team for seven years and believes

this years varsity squad has the talent and potential to claim a title once again. "We have three returning state champions and two were sophomores," he said. "We lost five seniors who contributed a lot, but our freshmen class will be tough. Expectations are high, but we have a lot of work to do."



## BOYS & GIRLS JV BASKETBALL



First row, left to right: Sage Solomonson, Will Reynolds, Chase Launer, Nick Dalessandro, Brennan Battle, and Hank Huston; second row, left to right: Andrew Poulton, Alex Powell, Zach Petroelje, Andrew deVoest, Adam Anderson, and coach Isaac Tawney.



First row, left to right: Riley Conlan, Paloma Aveto, Alyssa McIntire, Haley Godbold, Kayleigh Striplin, Gina Ricards, and Amber Curtis; second row, left to right: coach Jesse Vasquez, Lucy Wade, Alyssa Roest, Carsen McDonald, Hana Steinebach, Christy Lyon, Jayce Perysian, Cassie Dean.

# Lowell High School 1st trimester honor roll

**Lowell High School  
Honor Roll for the  
1st trimester –  
2014-15 school year**  
*First trimester term GPA  
must be a 3.000 or higher  
to qualify & is based  
on final grades*

## 9TH GRADE

Madeline Anderson  
Paige Anes  
Sky Angelo  
Bryan Ashenbrenner  
Collin Baker  
Noelle Baker  
Atlas Barrie  
Christian Beimers  
Keaton Bell  
Jonathan Berklich  
Carter Bierling  
Laurel Blakie  
Bethany Blattner  
Hailey Boggs-Osman  
Makyla Branagan  
Alexander Brandt  
Devin Breen  
Olivia Brenner  
Amber Brown  
Emily Brown  
Joshua Bush  
Sydney Carmichael  
Dawson Chapman  
Ashton Charron  
Tayler Chertos  
Morgan Chubb  
Carson Clark  
Kimberly Clouatre  
Marlon Coe  
Riley Conlan  
Alexis Cook  
Elizabeth Cooper  
Travis Cornell  
Madelyne Crace  
McKenna Creighton  
Devin Cupp  
Katherine Cussimano  
Christian Davis  
Cassandra Dean  
Darby Dean  
Isabelle Dial  
Eric Dimmick  
Elijah Dixon  
Selena Doty  
Brady Douma  
Connor Douma  
Jonathan Draigh  
Katrina Droski  
Quinne Duhr  
Jarrett Duimstra  
Keana Fahrni  
Maura Fitzpatrick  
Geoffrey Fleenor  
Katelyn Flier  
George Gonzales  
Jacob Gutowski  
Mitchell Haff  
Hannah Halfmann  
Elijah Hall-Jones  
Jacob Hanson  
Brandon Hare  
Jenna Harper  
Maria Hart  
Ambrosia Heeren  
Alexis Higley  
Lindsay Hindley  
Hailey Hoevenaar  
Samuel Hofman  
Lydia Hull  
Morrison Ismond  
Peyton Jankowski  
Hendrick Jannenga  
Cole Jaskolski  
Dylan Jernberg  
Evan Johnson  
Jade Johnson  
Roman Johnson  
Ethan Kaminski  
Abigail Kastanek  
Jonathon Kehoe  
Fiona Kelly  
Akasha Khalsa  
Alyssa Klaver  
Annelise Kolp  
Dawn Kondor  
Katherine Kroll  
Emily Kropf  
David Kruse  
Dakota Krzysik  
Hunter Krzysik  
Elizabeth Kuhns  
Laura Lachowski  
Alexander Laird  
Andrew LeFebre  
Joanna Link

Jayce Lixey  
Benjamin Lobbezoo  
Cassiopeia Longway  
Chloe Looman  
Courtney Lubbers  
Abigail Mangus  
Nicholas Mason  
Cameron Massel  
Caleb Mast  
Zachary May  
Kelum McDonald  
Abigail McDowell  
Cody McGee  
Autumn McGovern  
Gabrielle McRee  
Blake McVey  
Justin McWayne  
Ethan Meyer  
Conner Meyers  
Raiden Miller  
Madison Minier  
Samuel Misak  
Nichole Mitchell  
Jason Mohr  
Karina Moore  
Karleigh Mrozinski  
Eden Nethercott  
Ryan Noffke  
MacKenzie North  
Connor Nugent  
Jacob Nugent  
Nicole Nugent  
Mitchell O'Gorman  
Jessica Ohlrich  
Nicole Paulus  
Ryan Pawlowski  
Zachary Phipps  
Justin Plunkett  
Alexis Poll  
Austin Pollock  
Morgan Polsgrove  
Sydney Powell  
Garrett Pratt  
Natalie Price  
Ethan Quiggle  
Miah Ransom  
Jacob Rau  
Kelly Reitsma  
Brianna Roest  
Seth Ross  
Roman Rozell  
Brendan Sanders  
Holton Sawyer  
Chloe Schmidt  
Drake Seese  
Kaitlyn Senneker  
Erin Smith  
Lauren Snarski  
Kya Sparks  
Noah Spencer  
Emma Stockreef  
Kenneth Stump  
Megan Summerfield  
Nathaniel Svoboda  
Olivia Tavarone  
Madeline Taylor  
Zachary Tichelaar  
Brayden VanAmburgh  
Griffin VandeKopple  
Abigale VanderBerg  
Vanessa VanderBoon  
Bailey VanderMark  
Jordan VanOosten  
Zachary Vatter  
Quinn Weakman  
Austin Whaley  
Elyssa Whittum  
Jade Williams  
Kaitlynn Williams  
Jarod Willson  
Nathan Yomtoob  
Keigan Yuhas  
Kennedy Zimmerman

## 10TH GRADE

Daniela Acevedo  
Hannah Allan  
Adam Anderson  
Karmen Anderson  
Sterling Anderson  
Al-Amin Babel  
Angelica Barnhart  
Brennan Battle  
Sela Bauman  
Matthew Beachler  
Johanna Bem  
Jeremy Bergin  
Delaney Bierlein  
Dakota Bileth  
Maxwell Bishop  
Faith Blakely  
Elijah Boulton  
Collin Bowers  
Casey Bramble  
Austin Branagan

Maria Briggs  
Madeline Burt  
Stephanie Carlson  
Kyle Cater  
Samantha Celori  
Emma Chapin  
Brodrick Chapman  
King-Shing Choi  
Autumn Chrisman  
Colton Churches  
Ryne Clarke  
Katie Clemenshaw  
Paige Clouse  
Riley Coxon  
Troy Coyne  
Amber Curtis  
Nicholas Dalessandro  
Andrew de Voest  
Maria DeCator  
Paige DeHaan  
Casey Depew  
Samuel DeVito  
Kyla Dixon  
Sydney Dodde  
Alexander Dommer  
Michael Doyle  
Robert Dubisky  
Jonah Epema  
Brayden Ergang  
Edward Fisher  
Isabelle Fleszar  
Callie Ford-Weber  
Rose Ford-Weber  
Alise Forward  
Paige Fosburg  
Brady Fox  
Laure Frederickson  
Lea Fritsch  
Darby Fuller  
Taylor Furtaw  
Kamryn Gaines  
Bridget Garter  
Bethany Geldersma  
Haley Godbold  
Parker Grant  
Sonja Grasman  
Abigail Green  
Emily Grochowalski  
Madeleine Haines  
Rebecca Hall  
Simon Hamacher  
Christian Haugaard-  
Rosenfeldt  
Nathan Hawkins  
Noah Hawkins  
Edward Heikkila  
Kollin Hieftje  
Taylor Higgins  
Emily Hock  
Olivia Hock  
Shannon Hoekstra  
Kamryn Holdridge  
Jacob Holmes  
Molly Hoseth  
Thomas Hubert  
Anderson Hudson  
Noah Huizinga  
Jerrold Humphreys  
Bailey Inda  
Kara Jeffries  
Danton Jernberg  
Eric Judd  
Kelsie Jurmo  
Terese Kane  
Jeremy Kargl  
Maja Karlsen  
Caleb Kaufman  
Corah Kaufman  
Bretton Kooistra  
Adam Korzen  
Johanna Kuhn  
Josie Ladner  
Logan Landman  
Aidan Lane  
Geniaya Lewis  
Jared Lezan  
Isabel Lillie  
Kayeleigh Lubbers  
Christina Lyon  
Sara Majestic  
Madison McCormack  
Carsen McDonald  
Alyssa McIntire  
Kenzie McLarty  
Alyssa Mears  
Jarrod Melle  
Tessa Micho  
Chase Miller  
Kathryn Miller  
Kennedy Mitchell  
Nicole Mooney  
Daniel Moore  
Ryan Morris  
Benjamin Mullins  
Riley Nethercott

Nhi Nguyen  
Nova Nietling  
Laura Nocera  
Benjamin Noffke  
Hayden Noon  
Olivia Nurmikko  
Hunter Owens  
Grace Paiz  
Tasanaporn Patcharatailuk  
Lawrence Patrick  
Tiana-Marie Peavey  
Jayce Perysian  
Jasmine Peters  
Chad Peterson  
Katie Peterson  
Mary Peterson  
Tiana Petricevic  
Zachary Petroelje  
Remington Phillips  
Caleb Pickens  
Abigail Pickett  
Josealyn Pontius  
Andrew Poulton  
Alexander Powell  
Jacob Pratt  
Griffen Preston  
Lisa Price  
Jacquelyn Pytlik  
Lillian Quiggle  
Mansel Reed  
Matthew Reedy  
Aiden Remar  
Andi Reynolds  
Gina Richards  
Jillian Riney  
Megan Ritchie  
Samantha Robinson  
Belen Rodrigo Lescure  
Alyssa Roest  
John Rogalke  
Alexander Rozell  
Samuel Russell  
Seth Salinas  
Jule Schwebe  
Michelangelo Serpico  
Trevor Sherman  
Christina Sherwood  
Courtney Simpson  
Brevon Slagell  
Brandon Smit  
Benjamin Smith  
Connor Smith  
Caleb Sobie  
Sage Solomonson  
Hana Steinebach  
Jensen Stephens  
Madison Stephens  
Nathan Stephens  
Benjamin Stewart  
Jonathan Stewart  
Bradley Stoffers  
Mason Sturgeon  
Evan Swanson  
Garret Taylor  
Jakob Thompson  
Fiona Thomson  
Donald Trierweiler  
Steven Tripp  
Nickolas Truba  
Sydney VandenHout  
Trevor VanDyke  
Kenneth VanOosten  
Sara Walters  
Corrina Wenger  
Zachary Weston  
Lauren White  
Nathan Whittum  
Maya Williams  
Sophia Winn  
Jacob Wosinski  
Kendra Wroten  
Rowan Ysseldyke  
Danyang Zhao

## 11TH GRADE

Maya Aalsburg  
Keara Anderson  
Alexander Anschutz  
Anastasia Barnes  
Jessica Barrett  
Ethan Bates  
Kyle Bell  
Baylee Bennett  
Jenna Bessey  
Elena Bishop  
Logan Blough  
Anna Brillhart  
Katerina Brim  
Paige Brooks  
Lauren Browning  
Jared Brzezniak  
Timothy Buechler  
Ethan Campbell  
Elle Coble

Jack Cooke  
Matthew Cooper  
Mitchell Davis  
Skyler Dawson  
Maxwell Dean  
Zeth Dean  
Sarah Dec  
Veronica Delgado  
Billy Dickson  
Elizabeth Dickson  
Ellen Dilly  
Hannah Duvernay  
MeKare Elliott  
Madison Emelander  
Kelsey Emmanuel  
Haley Jo Engels  
Rachael Fotis  
Rachel Fox  
Alexis Frederickson  
Eric Gable  
Joseph Geisen  
Avery Gemmell  
Abigail Gerig  
Regan Gravitt  
Jennifer Green  
Austin Grim  
Addison Grohman  
Kyrsten Grover  
Kellen Guinn  
John Gutowski  
Brandon Haehnel  
Autumn Hamilton  
Cameron Harper  
Jessica Havlik  
Mary Hess  
Ryan Hessler  
Victoria Hewitt  
Maranda Holloway  
Lance Huber  
McKenzie Huver  
Haris Islamcevic  
Mathea Ismond  
Aaron Jakubiak  
Madison Kaminski  
Reece Karns  
Megan Khodl  
Kyle Klaver  
Nicholas Kloosterman  
Sara Kloosterman  
Kayla Kole  
Kalie Kopecek  
Hunter Kramer  
Daniel Kruse  
Allyson Laird  
Bridget Lally  
Anna Litchfield  
Maxwell Majinska  
Claire Maksymetz  
Marcus Malling  
Kyle Mankel  
Marilla Marks  
Brianna Massey  
Derek Massey  
Jarett Maughan  
Brett Maxim  
Sarah Mayhew  
Collin McGee  
Bryndal McGillicuddy  
Hensley McMillian  
Diana Mexicano  
Evan Mierendorf  
Richard Misak  
Jordan Mixon  
Aleecia Moomau  
Ellinor Morris  
Karson Murley  
Garrett Nauta  
Abigail Nies  
Carter Noskey  
Sawyer Olesko  
Ashton Pallottini  
Brendan Paulus  
Liam Peterson  
Samantha Petrovich  
Cameron Philo  
Archer Pina  
Anthony Pollock  
Bailey Reitsma  
Tess Richardson  
Hannah Ritsema  
Matalynn Ritter  
Trevor Roest  
Noah Roth  
Isaiah Rowley  
Amanda Russell  
Amy Russell  
Sara Schuitema  
Karen Senneker  
Trevor Shurlow  
Madison Smith  
Gabriel Steed  
Brooke Steffen  
Ryan Stevens  
Austin Stickney  
Andrew Struckmeyer

Hayden Sutton  
Joshua Talalay  
Carter Thalison  
Michael Trupke  
Jamie-Lynn Urban  
Micaela VandenBerg  
Courtney VanderMark  
Morgan VanEnk  
Breanna VanLaan  
Kenneth Vickers  
Elisabeth Vogt  
Calvin Warning  
Kyle Washburn  
Courtney Watson  
Amanda Webster  
Donelle Weeks  
Leana Weiler  
Brian Whitsett  
Faith Wilson  
Sarena Wilterdink  
Nolan Yahrmarkt  
North Yates  
Briar Zimmerman

## 12TH GRADE

Anthony Alderink  
Allison Annable  
Maxwell Barber  
Tanner Barnes  
Rachel Bazen  
Timothy Bem  
Daniel Bieri  
Taylor Bierling  
John Bigham  
Abrielle Bladey  
Nathan Blattner  
Maria Blough  
Blake Bochert  
Alexander Bohr  
Michael Bonney  
Santana Boulton  
Mikayla Bozman  
Josh Branagan  
Hannah Briggs  
Laurel Bronkella  
Paige Brown  
Joshua Buechler  
Katelyn Bush  
Mackenzie Bush  
Anne Capman  
Amy Carpenter  
Austin Casarez  
Colleen Cater  
Alexandra Chapdelaine  
Tess Chapin  
Brendan Chumney  
Jay Clark  
Mitchell Clay  
Brandon Cole  
Joshua Colegrove  
Braylin Conner  
Amber Cook  
Ciara Cornish  
Kennedy Coxon  
Paul Crosby  
Bailey Cummings  
Coty Curtis  
Lauren DeHaan  
Maggie DeKraker  
Zachary Diamond  
Margaret Doane  
Taylor Doorn  
Abigail Downing  
Caitlin Doyle  
Hannah Draigh  
Kenneth Duke  
Olyvia Elliott  
Steven Endres  
Justin Everitt  
Ann Fife  
Bradley Fisher  
Danielle Fron  
Alexia Garcia  
Devin Garcia  
Caitlyn Gauck  
Nathan Gibas  
Zachary Gordon  
Shannon Gorman  
Brayton Grant  
Riley Hale  
William Halling  
Louis Hart  
Isaac Henderson  
Nicole Hewitt  
Nickolas Higgins  
Rachel Hindley  
Tayler Hoevenaar  
Megan Hofman  
Katie Holzhueter  
Jacob Hoofman  
Tabitha Husted  
Kelliann Jacobs  
Eric Jefferson  
Chloe Johnson

Emily Judd  
Bethany Kaczanowski  
Samantha Kane  
Amanda Kooy  
Danielle Krajewski  
Nathen Kyburz  
Derek Lachowski  
Montana Launer  
Jared Laux  
Mary Leasure  
Cole LeBarre  
Nicole Lehman  
Nicholas Longway  
Hannah Lucas  
Nicholas MacDonald  
Thomas Mahalic  
Kaitlin Makuski  
Dylan Mankel  
Andrew Martin  
Alexis Martinez  
Brennan Mason  
Selena Mata  
Emma McLane  
Tara McQueen  
Jillian Meade  
Haley Milks  
Matthew Milstead  
Jaylene Milton  
Esme Misiak  
Heaven Leigh Mokma  
Kathryn Montgomery  
Sage Moore  
Sayra Moore  
William Nagy  
Landon Nethercott  
Nicholas Newman  
Kristen Nolan  
Anna Norder  
Breanna Oesch  
Daniel Onan  
Anna Organek  
Michael Partin  
Anna Peterson  
Victoria Pickens  
Jacob Polsgrove  
Jason Price  
Grace Quiggle  
Holly Race  
Colin Read  
Parker Reed  
Anna Reynolds  
Breana Rich  
Adrienne Rife  
Austin Rife  
Zachary Ritchie  
Francesca Robinson  
Morgan Rood  
Victoria Russell  
Steven Salinas  
Jesse Schmidt  
Rebecca Schreur  
Robert Schultz  
Caitlyn Serne  
Krystal Sheldon  
Hannah Skibbe  
Logan Smith  
Brendan Spencer  
Ashlin Stedman  
Jessica Steiner  
Colleen Sterly  
Marissa Sterzick  
Bethany Stewart  
Mackenzie Stiles  
Connor Stowell  
Catherine Stump  
Samantha Swartz  
Lydia Tawney  
Calib Taylor  
Morgan Taylor  
Alainie Thomas  
Jace Thomas  
Bailey VanAmburgh  
Claire VanBuren  
Ashley VanderLaan  
Collin VanNoord  
Kimberly VanOverloop  
Clayton Velting  
Lillianne Vogt  
Morgan Vulpetti  
Aaron Ward  
Alon Watson  
Rebecca Weaver  
Maxwell Wester  
Danielle Whaley  
Logan Wilcox  
Paige Wilson  
Chase Wilterdink  
Quinton Wingerter  
Morgan Winogrocki  
Catherine Wissman  
Michael Wittenbach  
Mallery Yaw  
Rachael Yomtoob

**Red Arrow**  
- BASKETBALL  
**SPORTS**

## Girls basketball remains undefeated

by Kathryn Atwood  
contributing reporter

Red Arrow varsity girls basketball remains undefeated on the season after adding two more wins against Grand Rapids Forest Hills Eastern (FHE) and Grand Rapids Ottawa Hills (OH) last week.

The Lady Arrows started out strong against fast and physical FHE, who they hosted Tuesday in their second home game of the year. Ahead as the first quarter began to draw to a close, sophomore Bridget Garter landed a two-point

basket at the buzzer to extend the Lowell lead to 13-7. Garter scored a total of nine points and four steals during the game.

Senior Catherine Stump opened up the second quarter with a successful three-point shot which was

her only basket of the night and one of only three scores by the Arrows in a slow second for the team. The girls did manage to hold on to the lead moving into halftime 20-18, Lowell's strong defense kept FHE standout Geonna Jeffries well-covered and fighting for shots at the basket.

Scoring stayed close in the third with Lowell gaining 13 points and FHE 14. The Arrows were out in front by ten before FHE surged into the lead midway through the quarter. Fighting to regain the top spot, the Arrows made a scoring run that put them one point ahead, 33-32, heading into the fourth.

Senior Kate Montgomery stepped up for Lowell in the final stanza of the game. According to head coach Jake Strotheide, "Kate was a big part of our win as she scored 12 of her 16 points in the fourth quarter. She's been solid all year long for us and we will continue to need her scoring for us to continue

our success." Montgomery made seven successful free throws in the quarter and also added nine rebounds. Overall the team was 14-36 from the line, something that Strotheide hopes to improve, "I thought if we could at least make 60 percent, we would have been able to pull away."

Montgomery's efforts were enough to propel Lowell into the win after outscoring their opponent 15-9 in the final quarter, ending the game 48-41. Strotheide also credits senior Tara McQueen's defensive strength against FHE's Jeffries in the win, "I thought that Tara McQueen was a big part of that win as she guarded their best player and held her to only one point in the fourth quarter." McQueen scored nine points for the night, while Bailey Reitsma added six and Katie Holzhuetter earned five.

Friday on the road at Ottawa Hills, Montgomery once again led her team in scoring earning 23 points in a runaway 74-42 win.

"We played really well as a team and we finally shot well," said Strotheide. "OH was really big and gave us some problems on the glass, but we were able to get the rebounds that we could and turn them into quick scores."

Holzhuetter added 14 points to the win, Garter and Reitsma each added eight and Stump came in with five. The team also saw significant improvement from the line finishing 22-26. Junior Ally Frederickson shined for the team defensively sending some of her seven blocked shots into the bleachers. "Frederickson was just a monster defending the paint. That really kept OH away from the basket and forced them into some bad shots," said Strotheide who added, "We had a really good week against two very good teams. Both teams were very physical and I thought that we've done a good job matching their intensity, where maybe a year ago we would not have done so."

## Boys basketball wins first two home opening games

by Kathryn Atwood  
contributing reporter

Lowell's Matt Beachler led his team to two wins and broke a school record during the first two games of the boys varsity basketball season last week.

The sophomore guard scored 15 points in the Arrow's season opening win over host Grand Rapids Forest Hills Eastern (FHE) on Tuesday. After finishing the first quarter trailing 8-11 Lowell massively outscored FHE 22-9 in the second quarter to take the lead 30-20 at the half.

The Arrows led the points race in the third quarter as well, racking up 11 to FHE's 7 overall, ending the quarter 41-27 to Lowell's advantage. FHE fought back in the fourth out-shooting the Arrows by two, but it was not enough to conquer the significant lead built up by the team and the game ended 54-42.

"We played all right in spurts," said coach Kyle Carhart, "But it's great to get the first one to start the season."

Gabe Steed scored 12 points for the team while Austin Branagan and Ryan Stevens each added ten.

At home on Friday, the squad faced nonconference competitors Hastings in their home opener in front of a packed crowd at LHS. The Arrows took the lead early in the first guided by two quick three-point shots from Stevens and Steed at the opening of the game. Beachler and A. Branagan also added two-point baskets to give Lowell a 10-point lead early on. Aggressive defense and offense from sophomore standout Beachler pushed the Arrows further into the lead and the quarter ended 22-14.

Beachler continued his scoring tear in the second,

hitting several three-point shots and succeeding at the line to aid the team in continuing to outscore Hastings. Lowell enjoyed a 16-point lead at the half, 42-26.

Hastings did manage to outscore Lowell in the third by two points but Lowell easily maintained their lead as Hastings could not fight back hard enough to grab the lead. The quarter ended 56-42 Arrow advantage.

In the fourth Beachler set a school record for the most points earned in single game with 44 points. He earned 20 in the first half, 24 points in the second and made nine 3-pointers during his impressive game.

"Matt's teammates did a good job getting him free and finding him where he could be successful. Matt has spent more time in the gym than anyone I've been around, so we knew he was capable of a shooting performance like tonight," said Carhart of his impressive early season performance.

The Arrows won the game by a large margin, 77-53, leaving them undefeated thus far on the season. Along with Beachler's 44 points, Branagan added 10 points for Lowell, while Stevens and Carter Noskey scored six points apiece.



Record breaker Matt Beachler.

**The teams will face two nonconference competitors this week when they visit Northview on Tuesday and welcome Greenville on Friday.**



## Girls Softball Clinic

**FREE!!!!!!**

Saturday, January 10th & 17th  
Cherry Creek Gym

7, 8, 9, 10 yr. olds - 9 am - 10:30 am  
11, 12, 13, 14 yr. olds - 10:30 am - 12 pm  
Techniques including pitching will be taught.

Register at [www.llmi.com](http://www.llmi.com) (Registration tab)

# obituaries

## GRANT

Renee Grant, age 55, of Lowell, passed away peacefully on Monday, December 8, 2014, after a hard fought battle with Hodgkin's and Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma. She will be deeply missed by her partner, Sharon Schnipke; brother, Phil (Linda) Canup; sisters, Lynn Valentine and Roxanne Soper; and their families. Also left to mourn are numerous Real Estate associates, clients and friends, including Lynn Wolbers, Lan Hamilton, Carol Seacord and the Bagnall-Fausone family. Per Renee's wishes, cremation has taken place and a celebration of her life will be held at a later date. Renee arranged for her remains to be buried at sea, incorporated within a reef ball, off the coast of Sarasota, FL (eternalreefs.com). Those wishing to make a donation in memory of Renee are encouraged to consider Lowell Pink Arrow Pride, c/o Lowell Community Wellness, P.O. Box 246, Lowell, MI 49331.

## RAIMER

John Arthur Raimer, aged 81, of Saranac, passed away December 7, 2014. He was born January 15, 1933, in Ionia, the son of Garry and Marguerite (Scott) Raimer. He graduated from Saranac High School class of 1952. John married Margy Renwick in 1976 in Saranac. He worked for Columbian Storage and Transfer Company until retiring in 1993 after 26 years of service. John farmed all his life and raised Angus cattle. He loved to go to tractor pulls, farm auctions and enjoyed antique tractors and camping. John is survived by his loving wife Margy Raimer of Saranac; children, Rhonda (Bill) Palmer of Orleans, Renee (Ronald) Goff of Saranac, Scott



Raimer of Saranac, Mike Raimer of Saranac, Mark (Cathy) Raimer of Lake Odessa; stepchildren, Steven Estes of Saranac, Terri Sue (Andrew) Fonger of Lowell, Roger Estes of Belding and Mark (Tina) Estes of Belding; sisters, Lois (Clinton) Sprague of Bitely and Marla (Bruce) Hinzman of Tennessee; sister-in-law, Patricia Raimer of Lowell; special friend, Liz Balcer of Belding; 12 grandchildren; 20 great-grandchildren; several nieces, nephews and cousins. He was preceded in death by his parents and his brother, George Raimer. Funeral services were held Thursday, December 11, 2014, at the Easton United Methodist Church with Pastor Donna Sperry officiating. Interment Easton Cemetery. Anyone wishing may make memorial contributions to Saranac Fire Dept. Online condolences may be made at www.lakefuneralhomes.com

## LEGAL NOTICE

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
PROBATE COURT  
COUNTY OF KENT

01/09/2015 at 9:00 am at  
180 Ottawa Avenue NW,  
Grand Rapids, MI 49503  
before Judge David M.  
Murkowski (P35026) for  
the following purpose:  
on the petition of  
Fonda Jones for the  
appointment of a  
conservator for Karyn  
L. Walker.

12/09/2014

PUBLICATION OF  
NOTICE OF HEARING

FILE NO. 14-196584-CA

In the matter of KARYN  
L. WALKER.

TO ALL INTERESTED  
PERSONS including:  
Jane Oliver and  
Kyle Oliver whose  
address(es) are  
unknown and whose  
interest in the matter  
may be barred or  
affected by the  
following:

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

Fonda Jones  
121 Franklin SE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49507  
616-430-9587

TAKE NOTICE: A  
hearing will be held on

## SCHNIPKE

Sharon Lynn Schnipke, age 50 of Lowell, passed away Sunday, December 14, 2014 at the U of M Hospital in Ann Arbor, surrounded by her family and friends. She was preceded in death by her father, Dennis (Gus) Schnipke; her partner, Renee Grant; brother-in-law, Jeff Timpson and her Grandparents Schnipke and Schichtel. Sharon will live forever in the hearts of her mother, Rosemary; sister, Michelle Timpson; brother, Steven & Katie Schnipke; nieces, Tricia Rose and Jordyn. The family would like to thank her caregivers Lynn Wolbers and Lan Hamilton who watched over Sharon after Renee Grant passed away December 8, 2014. Her other long-time friends Renee Lang & the Bagnall-Fausone family were also much appreciated. Sharon attended Kenowa Hills & Davenport College. She worked at Farmers Insurance Co. for 30 years and cherished her many friends there. Per Sharon's wishes, cremation has taken place. Visitation will be held Friday, December 26th at Roth-Gerst Chapel, 305 N. Hudson, Lowell MI, 5:00 to 9:00 p.m., with a scripture service at 8:00 p.m. Mass of Christian burial will be held Saturday, December 27th at St. Mary Catholic Church, 402 Amity St., Lowell at 11:00 a.m., with visitation one hour prior to the Mass at the church. The family requests that in lieu of flowers, please consider the charity of your choice or Gilda's Club of Lowell, 314 S. Hudson, Lowell MI 49331, where Sharon volunteered or St. Mary Catholic Church in Lowell, where Sharon was a member.



www.gerstfuneralhomes.com

## GRATTAN TOWNSHIP

**Regular Meeting 7:00 p.m.**  
**Synopsis of Meeting December 8, 2014**  
Meeting schedule and calendar  
for 2015 were approved  
Committee member appointments  
Our next Township Meeting will be  
January 12, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.  
**The approved minutes may be reviewed on  
our website at www.grattantownship.org**

## PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

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

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

# VERGENNES TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION

## PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** that a public hearing before the Vergennes Township Planning Commission will be held on **Monday, January 5, 2015 at 7:00 PM, at the Vergennes Township Hall, located at 10381 Bailey Drive, Lowell, MI** to consider 3 items which consist of amendments to the Zoning Ordinance, an application to rezone property and an application to expand a business building as summarized below:

Zoning amendments are proposed in Chapter 4, General and Special Regulations, in section 201.402 (B) "Accessory buildings, construction timing and location limitation" to include the R-1, R-2, R-3, F-R, R-L and C-O Districts with the current R-A District for the purpose of allowing by special exception use permit an accessory building to be constructed on an adjacent vacant parcel that cannot be combined with the residence parcel.

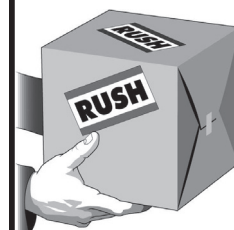
DAS Holdings LLC and DHS Holdings LLC are applying to rezone about 98 acres near the NE corner of Alden Nash Ave SE and Foreman, address of 910 Alden Nash Ave SE, Lowell, pp # 41-16-34-300-022 from the R-1 to R-2 District.

Annency Group LLC has applied for a special exception use permit to expand their business with a large addition proposed onto the back of the current building located at 12900 Christopher Dr SE, Lowell for the current Enwork business.

The complete ordinance amendments rezone application and special exception use permit application can be reviewed at the **Vergennes Township Hall, 10381 Bailey Drive, PO Box 208, Lowell, MI 49331 - Phone: (616) 897-5671** [fax 897-5674] or on the website at [www.vergennestwp.org](http://www.vergennestwp.org) Written and oral comments will be received from any interested party until the conclusion of the public hearing. Written comments may be addressed to the Planning Commission Chairman or the Planning Coordinator at the Township Offices. Comments may be emailed to the Planning Commission at: [zoning@vergennestwp.org](mailto:zoning@vergennestwp.org)

Vergennes Township  
Planning Commission

## WE SHIP UPS



### The Buyers Guide

105 N. Broadway  
Lowell • 897-9555



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

# classifieds

## for sale

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

**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.

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

**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.

**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.

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

**MOBILE HOME IN SENIOR PARK** - 14x70 trailer, 2 bedroom, 2 bath, carport, shed, central air, good condition. Saranac, lot rent, \$245/month, includes water, trash, lawn & plowing. \$12,000 obo. 642-0697.

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

**SLEEP NUMBER BED** - Why pay for the name, advertising & mall rent. Queen P-5 harmony \$1,299; king, \$1,699. Other models at similar savings. All brand new. Can deliver. Air & Water Bed Store, 616-682-4767.

## for sale

**2002 DODGER AM3/4 TON CARGO VAN** - 115,000 miles, runs great, needs brakes & exhaust. \$2,200. Call Jon at 897-9555.

**QUEEN PILLOWTOP MATTRESS SET** - Plush & thick. New. \$245 top. FREE delivery to Lowell until 1/15/15. Grand Mattress Co. 616-682-4767.

**SHELTIES** - beautiful sable & white puppies, \$600. Also occasional Border Collies. Baird Farm, Lowell, 897-9081.

**1999 PONTIAC GRAND AM** - \$1,200 obo. 196,000+, new head gasket, newer battery & front tires. Cracked windshield, nice interior. Lowell area, cell 262-5529.

**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.

## help wanted

**OFFICE/HOUSE CLEANER NEEDED** - Duties include: Cleaning: toilets, floors, windows, general cleanup/pickup; running errands, salting ice, shovel snow, laundry (wash, clean, fold), etc. Approx. 20 hours per week. Background check required. Please email resume to: [scott@awswest.com](mailto:scott@awswest.com)

**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

**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.

## wanted

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

## 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).

**ROOM FOR RENT** - Saranac country home on Peck Lake Rd. No pets. Smoking outside. \$260/mo. + 1/3 light bill. Contact Tanya or Marty for more information, 616-902-6104.

**REMODELED FARMHOUSE** - between Belding & Lowell. 4 bedroom, 1 bath, 2 1/2 stall garage. No smoking or pets allowed in house. Strong references required. \$800/mo. 616-291-3130.

**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.

**LAST CHANCE TO 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. 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.

## services

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

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

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

**ELECTRICIAN** - retired electrician doing small jobs. Reasonable rates, discounts for seniors. Call 616-401-6547.

## services

**ANGER MANAGEMENT & GRIEF GROUPS** - starting in Lowell. Must reserve a spot. 616-238-2116 or <http://www.lifetransitionstherapy.biz/>

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

**SHIP YOUR UPS PACKAGES WITH US & SAVE!!** - Call us for a price comparison. We will need: weight, zip code & dimensions of the box. No Hazardous materials or firearms accepted at this location. Daily UPS pickup at 3 p.m. Lowell Ledger, 105 N. Broadway, 897-9261.

## memorials

**IN MEMORY OF Donald Frank Shores, Dec. 23, 1924 to Dec. 2, 1994**

We miss your wonderful smile and those great big hugs. You were more than just our father, you were a friend and mentor. Thank you for your teachings and the example you set for us. Though you have been gone twenty years, it seems like only yesterday.

Love,  
your family

**LEDGER OFFICE**  
 105 N. Broadway, Lowell.  
 Now accepting Federal Express packages. Daily pickup at 3 p.m.

# 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 run 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.

**PIZZA & PAGES** - Tues., Dec. 30, noon. Pizza party & book talks of your favorite books or recent reads. Saranac Public Library, 61 Bridge St., Saranac. 616-642-9146.

**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)

**MUSH!** - Sat., Jan. 17, 10:30 a.m. Tun-Dra owners will talk about sled dogs & the Iditarod for all ages at Alto Public Library, 6071 Linfield Ave, Alto. Ph. 784-2007.

**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.

**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.

**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.

Agnes 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.

**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 - 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.

**MOVIE MATINEE** - Fri., Dec. 26, 10 a.m. Showing Maleficent & free popcorn at 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.

**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.

**THE WONDERFUL WATERCOLORBOT** - Dec. 30, 4 p.m. Watch with amazement while an image you create is recreated by our robot using watercolors, paper and a paintbrush. For all ages. Alto Public Library, 6071 Linfield Ave, Alto. Ph. 784-2007.

**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.

**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.

**LOST IN STORYLAND** - Friday, Dec. 19, 2:30 p.m. Performed at the elementary school by The Clarksville Village Puppeteers. Pre-school & home school children welcome. Sign up at the desk at Clarksville Area Library, 130 S. Main, Clarksville, 616-693-1001.

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

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

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

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

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

# Holiday Hours

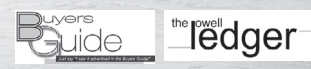
Buyers Guide/Lowell Ledger  
 Office Hours during the Holidays

### Week of Dec. 22

Mon. & Tues., 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
 Closed Wed. & Thurs.  
 Fri., 8 a.m. - noon

### Week of Dec. 29

Mon. & Tues., 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
 Closed Wed. & Thurs.  
 Fri., 8 a.m. - noon



### EARLY DEADLINES FOR THE BUYERS GUIDE

Dec. 28 paper - Tues., Dec. 23 at 5 p.m. • Jan. 4 paper - Tues., Dec. 30 at 5 p.m.



# Social Security, continued

During a sanction period, benefits stop. The sanction periods are 6 months for the first occurrence, 12 months for the second occurrence, and 24 months for each additional occurrence. You can report fraud online at <http://oig.ssa.gov/report> or call the Social Security Fraud Hotline at 1-800-269-0271.

**Question:** I'm not sure when I'm going to retire so I want to estimate my retirement benefit at several different ages. What's the easiest way to do that?

**Answer:** Using our *Retirement Estimator* is easy at [www.socialsecurity.gov/estimator](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/estimator), and it's the best way for you to get a good idea of what your monthly benefit payment may be after you retire. The *Estimator*

gives estimates based on your actual Social Security earnings record. Keep in mind, these are estimates and we can't provide your actual benefit amount until you apply for benefits. You can use the *Estimator* if you have enough work to qualify for benefits and aren't currently receiving benefits. If you are currently receiving only Medicare benefits, you can still get

an estimate. You can learn about this subject by reading our publication, *Retirement Information For Medicare Beneficiaries*, available at [www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs).

**Question:** My spouse and I have been married for over 30 years and we are about to retire. Will there be any reduction

in benefits because we are married?

**Answer:** None at all. We calculate lifetime earnings independently to determine each spouse's Social Security benefit amount, and couples aren't penalized because they are married. When both spouses meet all other eligibility requirements to receive Social Security retirement benefits, each

spouse receives a monthly benefit amount based on his or her own earnings. If one member of the couple earned low wages or failed to earn enough Social Security credits to be insured for retirement benefits, he or she may be eligible to receive benefits as a spouse. Learn more about earning Social Security credits by reading our publication, *How You Earn Credits*, available at [www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs).

**Question:** I have a relative who gets Supplemental Security Income (SSI) for a disability. She is now legally blind and wants to receive information from Social Security in an alternative format. How do I help them?

**Answer:** Social Security is dedicated to providing vital information in the most effective way for every individual. There are several ways to receive information from us if you are blind or have a visual impairment. You can choose to receive Braille notices and a standard print notice by first-class mail; a Microsoft Word file on a data compact disc (CD) and a print standard notice by first-class mail; an audio CD and a standard print notice by first-class mail, or a large print (18-point size) notice and a standard print notice by first-class mail. You can request these special notice options by visiting [www.socialsecurity.gov/people/blind](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/people/blind).

**Question:** I have a neighbor who is disabled and has been receiving Supplemental Security Income (SSI) for quite some time. Recently, he's been trying to find employment. Is there any way I can help?

**Answer:** Yes. You can help by letting him know about Social Security's free *Ticket to Work* program. When people take part in the program, they can get help finding a job, vocational rehabilitation, or other assistance. Employment networks -- organizations that help you find and keep a job while supplying other employment resources at no cost -- provide these services. *Ticket to Work* gives people the opportunity to work with a variety of employment networks. If you or someone you know is interested in using the *Ticket to Work* program, visit [www.choosework.net](http://www.choosework.net) and click "Find Help" or call the Ticket Helpline at 1-866-968-7842 (TTY 1-866-833-2967).



Peppermint Hot Chocolate Ugly Sweater Cake

## Peppermint Hot Chocolate Ugly Sweater Cake

Servings: 10-12

- 1 package (16.25 ounces) Devil's Food cake mix
- 1/4 cup hot cocoa mix
- 3 eggs
- 2/3 cup water
- 1/3 cup vegetable oil
- 1/2 teaspoon peppermint extract
- Buttercream icing
- Red Decorator Preferred Rolled Fondant
- White Decorator Preferred Rolled Fondant
- Primary Colored Fondant Multipack
- Piping Gel
- String licorice
- Sprinkles: Sugar Pearls, Trees, Yellow Colored Sugar

Preheat oven to 325°F. Spray Ugly Sweater Cake Pan with vegetable pan spray.

In large bowl, beat cake mix, hot cocoa mix, eggs, water, vegetable oil and peppermint extract with electric mixer at low speed 30 seconds. Scrape bottom and sides of bowl; beat at medium speed 2 minutes.

Pour batter into prepared pan, spreading to even thickness. Bake minutes 44-47 minutes or until toothpick inserted into center of cake comes out clean. Cool in pan on cooling grid 10 minutes. Remove from pan; cool completely on grid.

With spatula, lightly ice cooled cake. Roll out red fondant 1/8 inch thick; cover cake. Knead small amount of white fondant into remaining red fondant, white with small amount of yellow fondant, small amount of yellow fondant with green fondant. Roll out all colors of fondant separately, 1/16 inch thick. Using holiday cutters, patterns or cut free-form, to make collar, ornaments and sweater neckline, cuffs and bottom band. Use piping gel to attach licorice ornament hangers, sprinkles and sugars.

## Eggnog Ugly Sweater Cake

Servings: 10-12

- 1 package (16.5 ounces) yellow cake mix
- 2/3 cup eggnog
- 1/3 cup vegetable oil
- 3 eggs
- 1/8 teaspoon ground nutmeg
- Buttercream Icing
- Icing Colors: Juniper Green, Christmas Red
- Holly Mix and Candy Cane Sprinkles

Preheat oven to 325°F. Spray Ugly Sweater Cake Pan with vegetable pan spray.

In large bowl, beat cake mix, eggnog, oil, eggs and nutmeg with electric mixer at low speed 30 seconds. Scrape bottom and sides of bowl; beat at medium speed 2 minutes. Pour batter into prepared pan, spreading to even thickness.

Bake 39-42 minutes or until toothpick inserted into center of cake comes out clean. Cool in pan on cooling grid 10 minutes. Remove from pan; cool completely on grid.

With spatula, ice cooled cake. Using tip 233 and green icing, pipe tree on cake. Using tip 46 and red icing, pipe outline neckline, sleeve cuffs and bottom sweater band. Attach sprinkles.

# Deck the Halls with UGLY SWEATERS

## Host an ugly holiday sweater party

### FAMILY FEATURES

The holiday season is all about making fun memories. Why not wear something no one will soon forget at your own ugly sweater party?

Hosting one is simple — have everyone show up in the tackiest holiday apparel they can find, whether from their closet, at a thrift store or something they "blinged" on their own. With the party attire planned, try these easy and ugly dessert ideas from Wilton:

■ **Soft, sweet and so ugly cakes:** If your guests' apparel doesn't grab attention, your cake sure will. Use the Ugly Sweater Cake Pan to bake the cake. Style the decorating after your own garment — use buttercream or fondant, holiday-shaped sprinkles and icing decorations to add some ugly to your cake.

■ **Cookie decorating fun:** Bring the classic seasonal activity to your party by having guests decorate their own sweater cookies. Set up a decorating station with the Tacky Sweater Cookie Kit. With 12 pre-baked vanilla cookies, a dozen of your friends can have a blast decorating with the included green and red icing and sprinkles. Set up a photo station so guests can take pictures of their silly cookies to share online.

■ **Warm up with lattes:** Who doesn't love sipping hot beverages by a warm fire with friends? Brew delicious Spirit of the Season Mocha Lattes to toast a merry Christmas. Offer assorted liqueurs for an adults-only party.

■ **It's time to judge:** At the end of the party, hold a contest for the ugliest sweater — both real and cookie. Award winners in different categories, such as All-Around Ugliest, Most Original, Funniest, Most Non-Ugly or Most Ridiculous. Get creative with the prizes, too. Find an inexpensive and unique white elephant gift, or hand out little first place ribbons.

Your party will be one to remember with these ideas. For more fun and festive party ideas, visit [wilton.com](http://wilton.com).



Set up a sweater cookie decorating station

## Spirit of the Season Mocha Latte

Servings: 8

- 2 cups very hot strong brewed coffee
- 2 cups Wilton Dark Cocoa Candy Melts Candy
- 6 cups milk
- 1/2 cup chocolate syrup
- Assorted liqueurs and spirits (optional), such as: peppermint schnapps, Irish cream liqueur, creamy rum liqueur, chocolate-flavored liqueur, cinnamon schnapps, caramel-flavored vodka

In large bowl, pour coffee over dark cocoa Candy Melts candy; let sit to melt.

In large microwave-safe bowl, heat milk and chocolate syrup until steaming, about 4 minutes. Whisk milk vigorously to froth. Whisk in candy mixture until combined.

Divide lattes evenly between eight mugs. If desired, add 1 ounce of your choice of liqueur to each drink.



Eggnog Ugly Sweater Cake



Spirit of the Season Mocha Latte

**THEME:  
THE WILD WEST**

**ACROSS**

- 1. French pancake
- 6. Trig function
- 9. \*The steam \_\_\_\_ motive drove Western growth
- 13. Flotsam and jetsam alternative
- 14. Earned at Kellogg School of Management
- 15. In any degree at all, archaic
- 16. Discrimination against elderly people
- 17. Black gold
- 18. Traction aid
- 19. \*Spaghetti \_\_\_\_\_
- 21. \*Precursor to cowboy
- 23. Type of tree
- 24. Cough syrup balsam
- 25. Contrary conjunction
- 28. Heracles' wife
- 30. Methane or carbon dioxide, e.g.
- 35. "Put a lid \_\_\_!"
- 37. Russian mountain chain
- 39. Lorry in America
- 40. Capital of Norway
- 41. Special Administrative Region of China
- 43. Tubular pasta
- 44. Rock bottom
- 46. \* \_\_\_\_ Party, Manifest Destiny opponent
- 47. Norse deity and husband of Frigg
- 48. Shoe hole
- 50. Audio bounce-back
- 52. Lt.'s inferior, in the Navy
- 53. Frequenter
- 55. \_\_\_ de Triomphe
- 57. \*Type of Wild West wagon
- 61. Metallurgy factory
- 65. Run off to wed

CROSSWORD														
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69						70				71				
72						73				74				

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**Altitude** **dish** AUTHORIZED RETAILER

\*Offer subject to change based on premium channel availability

- © StatePoint Media
- 66. Female sheep
  - 68. " \_\_\_\_ two shoes"
  - 69. RAF member
  - 70. Spring mo.
  - 71. Plural of ostium
  - 72. A chronic drinker, pl.
  - 73. \*Billy the Kid's was less than 20 when killing his first
  - 74. Lofty homes

**DOWN**

- 1. Bird weapon
- 2. Angry display
- 3. Shining armor
- 4. Fusilli, e.g.
- 5. Catch in a net
- 6. Ke\$ha's 2012 hit
- 7. \_\_\_-Wan
- 8. Artillery burst
- 9. Beauty or babe
- 10. Curved molding
- 11. Blacken
- 12. Football great \_\_\_\_ Graham
- 15. \*Jury did it to Wild Bill Hickock after famous gunfight
- 20. Watery discharge from eyes or nose
- 22. Priestly garb
- 24. \*She often worked in one room in Old West
- 25. \*The Wilderness Road trailblazer
- 26. "Take it back!"
- 27. Found over "n" in Spanish
- 29. Brightly colored and showy, Scottish
- 31. Rice-like pasta
- 32. \*Sacagawea, e.g.
- 33. To \_\_\_\_ a play
- 34. \*They were often traded
- 36. Work hard
- 38. Nonclerical
- 42. Early Irish alphabet
- 45. Bemoan
- 49. Triple \_\_\_ loop in skating
- 51. \* \_\_\_\_ Trail, spanning east-west
- 54. Swelling
- 56. Intimate
- 57. Large edible mushrooms with a brown cap
- 58. Assortment
- 59. Unit V
- 60. "Iliad," e.g.
- 61. Bone-dry
- 62. Marines' toy recipients
- 63. Prep for publication
- 64. Swedish shag rugs
- 67. Tail action

Puzzle solutions on page 12

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\*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 #0G87829

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	3				4			2
	6			1		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.

Share a memory and be part of the Ledger Christmas Eve edition!

Don't forget to send a favorite holiday picture to the Ledger! Bring it in or email it to: [displayads@lowellbuyersguide.com](mailto:displayads@lowellbuyersguide.com) in subject line - holiday pics Be sure and identify everyone in the picture!



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CALL 897-9261

# FROM puts the merry in Christmas for local families in need during annual gift distribution

by Kathryn Atwood  
contributing reporter

For more than a decade Flat River Outreach Ministries (FROM) has been putting the merry with Christmas for local families who struggle financially during the holiday season.

This year alone, the organization assisted 330 families in providing gifts for area students who might otherwise go without. The annual event has helped more than a thousand families in the last four years. Sign up for the program begins each November and is open to any family within the Lowell school district that needs the assistance. This year's event was planned by volunteer program coordinators: Sue Majenska and Karen Whalen and executed by volunteers.

On distribution day participants are allowed to

“shop” among the amassed donations for the perfect gifts for their children. Donations are accumulated through a variety of sources according to Dawn Broene, who is the current interim executive director at FROM. “Each year we send a letter to area churches titled ‘Mission Possible’ which lists items that we are collecting for the current year’s Christmas distribution. We also have area businesses that are collection sites. We have been absolutely blessed by the generosity of this community. We have too many generous donators to name individually, but we would like to thank all volunteers, donors, churches, schools and businesses for making this event possible.”



The FROM toy room before the start of this year’s Christmas distribution which assists local families at the holidays.

## Holiday Hours

Buyers Guide/Lowell Ledger  
Office Hours during the Holidays

**Week of Dec. 22**

Mon. & Tues., 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
Closed Wed. & Thurs.  
Fri., 8 a.m. - noon

**Week of Dec. 29**

Mon. & Tues., 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
Closed Wed. & Thurs.  
Fri., 8 a.m. - noon



**EARLY DEADLINES FOR THE BUYERS GUIDE**

Dec. 28 paper - Tues., Dec. 23 at 5 p.m. • Jan. 4 paper - Tues., Dec. 30 at 5 p.m.



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