

## Christmas Memories

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Merry Christmas from everyone at the Ledger!



## Behind The Scenes



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## Production of *Ho Ho Ho: The Santa Chronicles* musical sets the stage for Christmas cheer

by Kathryn Atwood  
contributing reporter

We all know what the days before Christmas are like for us, but have you ever wondered what it is like for the residents of the North Pole? That question was answered when a slew of investigative reporters went behind-the-scenes to get the scoop in the live musical theater production “Ho Ho Ho: The Santa Chronicles.” Presented by the Lowell Area Schools theater department, the lively Christmas musical welcomed audiences to four shows over three days last week at the Lowell Performing Arts Center. Thirty-three talented Lowell High School actors in leading and supporting roles and dozens of elementary-age guest elves made up the cast of the comical holiday themed show.

In the opening scene, audiences met Santa’s clearly disgruntled press secretary, played well by sophomore Jillian Riney. Her less than cheerful demeanor led to laughs as she was forced to answer the questions of some not so bright reporters at a press conference two days before Christmas.



Keara Anderson, Maddie Anderson, Aidan Lane and Kami Holdridge.



Keara Anderson, Maddie Anderson, Aidan Lane and Kami Holdridge delighted all as the difficult to manage elves in charge of Santa’s reindeer.

Scene two took audiences behind-the-scenes and into the stables where they met four “special” elves and their Sarge, played by Brianna Massey, the team in charge of readying Santa’s reindeer

After the song “Santa, Where Are You?” the man in red, played by Paige Wilson, surprised his little elves with a special visit.

struggled to lead despite many comical attempts. Gladys Snowing, editor of The Snow News, shared her view of the happenings of the North Pole in the third scene of the production. Played by talented freshman Eden Nethercott, the character comically cited examples from her own hilariously pun filled publication.

The scene capped off with the first musical number of the show, Snowpants, which featured eager area elementary students joining

the older thespians on stage for both song and dance. Another reporter conducted several on the street interviews to find out what North Pole residents thought of Santa Claus in scene four. A frantic couple loaded with shopping bags, played to a tee by Maddi Emelander and Sage Moore, were too distracted to share much. Elderly friends Matilda and Flo, believably portrayed by Sarah Dec and Jacquelyn Pytlik, didn’t

Ho Ho Ho, cont’d., page 2

## Annual “Windows of Warmth” winner

by Tim McAllister  
contributing reporter

All Weather Seal, 319 E. Main, has given away another houseful of windows as part of their annual “Windows of Warmth” program.

Lori Smith, a resident of Pleasant St. in Lowell, was this year’s lucky recipient of over \$15,000 worth of new windows.

“She is a widow,” according to director of marketing Megan McGuire. “Her husband passed [away] in 2008 as a result of lung cancer and a brain tumor.”

Smith works multiple jobs and cares for multiple relatives with special needs.

“She works two jobs and cleans houses on her days off just to make ends

meet,” McGuire said. “She helps take care of her elderly mother and also provides a home to her sister who is disabled.”

McGuire said Smith has been nominated for a few years.

“Lori has been nominated for the giveaway three years in a row,” McGuire said. “We are glad to be able to help her out this way.” The new windows will save Smith hundreds of dollars in heating and cooling costs.

“She’s excited to be able to open her new windows and be able to save on her energy bills,” McGuire said.



Lori Smith, center, receives her huge check for a houseful of window.



# Federal court order returns wolves to endangered species list

*Ruling suspends Michigan's lethal control laws and permits*

A federal court judge has ordered the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to immediately return wolves in the Great Lakes region to the federal endangered species list, making it illegal for Michigan citizens to kill wolves attacking livestock or dogs.

Under endangered species status, wolves may be killed only in the immediate defense of human life.

Two state laws allowing livestock or dog owners to kill wolves in the act of

depredation are suspended by the ruling.

Additionally, lethal control permits previously issued by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources to livestock farmers to address ongoing conflicts with wolves are no longer valid; permit holders have been contacted regarding this change.

The return to federal endangered species status also means DNR wildlife and law enforcement officials no longer have the authority to use lethal control methods to manage wolf conflict.

However, non-lethal

methods – such as flagging, fencing, flashing lights and guard animals – may still be used and are encouraged. Compensation for livestock lost to wolves continues to be available through the DNR and Department of Agriculture and Rural Development.

Citizens in need of assistance with problem wolves should contact their local DNR wildlife biologist or DNR wolf program coordinator Kevin Swanson at 906-228-6561.

Friday's federal court order came in response to a lawsuit filed by the Humane

Society of the United States challenging the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's decision to remove wolves in the Great Lakes Distinct Population Segment from the federal endangered species list in January 2012. The ruling affects wolves in Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin.

"The federal court decision is surprising and disappointing," said Russ Mason, DNR Wildlife Division Chief. "Wolves in Michigan have exceeded recovery goals for 15 years and have no business being

on the endangered species list, which is designed to help fragile populations recover – not to halt the use of effective wildlife management techniques."

The DNR will work closely with the Michigan Attorney General's office and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to determine the full impact of this ruling on the state's wolf management program and identify next steps.

"In the meantime, the Wildlife Division will continue updating the state's wolf management plan,

which includes the use of hunting and other forms of lethal control to minimize conflict with wolves," Mason said. "Although the federal court's ruling prevents the use of these management tools for the time-being, the Department will be prepared for any future changes that would return wolves to state management authority."

For more information about Michigan's wolf population and management plan, visit [www.michigan.gov/wolves](http://www.michigan.gov/wolves).

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## Ho Ho Ho, continued

offer much comment either. Even Mrs. Claus herself, Tiana Peavey, was too busy to answer questions.

The show's second musical number "Santa, Where are You?" followed the meandering reporter's wish to interview Santa himself. The younger elves took to the stage once again for the number which ended with a quick visit from Santa, who was greeted with excitement by his elves.

A little known service of the North Pole was the focus of the fifth scene of the short production. The North Pole hotline featuring operators Cleo and Fiona is the desperate shopper's answer to the gift buying dilemma. Mostly used by husbands according to the uproarious pair, played by Tiana Petricevic and Ashton Charron, the two took on

callers with the desire to assist and a little bit of sarcasm.

In the fifth and final scene of the play, all of the residents of the North Pole come together on stage for a

special birthday celebration for Santa, whose birthday falls just two days before Christmas. After Santa, played by Paige Wilson, blew out his candles and laughed at some mischief

from his naughty elf Sol, the cast joined together in chorus singing "We Wish You a Merry Christmas" to close out the successful show.



The entire cast joined together in chorus to close each show by singing "We Wish You a Merry Christmas."

...

Don't part with your illusions. When they are gone you may still exist, but you have ceased to live.

~ Mark Twain (1835 - 1910)

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# LMS Students of the 1st Trimester

Teachers at LMS select students who have been outstanding in the categories of academics, citizenship and attitude each trimester. The following students have been selected as students of the 1st trimester at Lowell Middle School: Dawson Beach, Isabella Blakely, Dylan Cudney, Dillon DeGood, Conner Dekok, Katie DeYoung, Miles Droski, Laine Fleszar, Parker Georgacakes, Khloe Hayes, Sierra Hieshetter, Lexi Kapcia, Tyler Kapcia, Meghan Landgren, Emily Larson, Sam Lixie, Natasha Marsh, William Martin, Devon Maxim, Grady McDonald, Corah Miller, Nikola Miller, Keegan Nugent, Jenna Perry, Samantha Peterson, Gibson Raimer, Lark Sawyer, Hannah Schmidt, Tyler Senneker, Everardo Soriano-Lopez, Nick Struckmeyer, Riley Taylor, Irene Trierweiler, Ethan VanderWarf, Kendra VanOverloop and Hope Winters.

## State police warn of possible scams

The Michigan State Police Lakeview Post has seen an increase in scams in the Ionia, Montcalm and Gratiot county areas. An overview of the scams are listed below:

**Internal Revenue Service (IRS) scams** involve fake agents threatening that an arrest warrant will be issued if money isn't immediately collected. State police officials remind residents that the IRS never contacts people by phone, instead relying on mail communication. The fake IRS agents tell people they owe the federal agency additional money and say an arrest warrant will be issued if the debt isn't paid immediately. Suspicious activity may be reported to the treasury inspector general for tax administration at 1-800-366-4484. A complaint may also be filed online.

**Financial institution/fake loan scams** involve someone identifying themselves as an officer from a financial institution and that they have a loan prepared for them. The caller is directed to send them a Green Dot Money Pak in a specified amount

to cover the taxes and fees, however there is no loan.

**Craigslist scams** involve an item posted for sale such as a puppy or a tractor. The buyer is asked to send Green Dot Money Paks to the seller and the seller will mail the item. The item is never sent once the money is paid. In a few days, the seller calls or emails the buyer and says they require more money or an unanticipated shipping fee.

**eBay scams** may involve a seller that asks the

buyer to switch to email and not purchase through eBay. The caller is directed to pay through money orders or Green Dot Money Paks. The money is paid and the victim never receives the item.

Police recommend the following tips to avoid becoming a scam victim:

- Do not give out personal information to unknown callers.
- Don't respond to unsolicited emails from unknown senders.

• Be suspicious of transactions involving Green Dot Money Paks.

• Confirm the legitimacy of a contact -- such as a bank, credit card company or government agency -- by calling back and asking to speak with the person.

• Confirm the contact's phone number or email address.

• Report suspicious calls or email contacts to police.

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happy HOLIDAYS



## financial focus



Christopher C. Godbold

### Time for a family meeting to discuss financial preparations?

During the holiday season, you no doubt have a lot going on in your life — work functions, gatherings with friends and neighbors, tracking down the elusive “perfect gift,” etc. But you may find it valuable to add one more event to your calendar: a family meeting to discuss those financial preparations that affect you and your loved ones.

Of course, the scope of your meeting will depend on your age and the age of your children, and on whether you have elderly parents. So, let’s look at one family meeting scenario that would work under two different sets of circumstances: you are meeting with your own grown children or you are meeting with your elderly parents.

In either case, you’ll want to review the following areas:

- *Investment information* — It’s a good idea to let your grown children know where you (and your spouse, if still living) keep your investments and what sort of investments and retirement accounts you own, such as your IRA, 401(k), and so on. You should also provide your

children with the name of your financial advisor. And talk to your parents about their investments. You might think that this could be a challenging topic to bring up, but you might be surprised at their willingness to talk.

- *Estate planning documents* — Comprehensive estate planning can involve a variety of legal documents, such as a will, a living trust, power of attorney, etc. If you have already created these documents, you need to share both their *location* and their *intent* with your grown children, who will be active players in carrying out your estate plans. The same is true with your elderly parents — try to encourage them to share all their estate-planning documents with you, especially if they will be counting on you for their care.

- *Names of professional advisors* — As you put together your estate plans, you will likely need to work with a team of financial, tax and legal advisors. Make sure your grown children know the names of these professionals and how to contact them.

Similarly, seek the same information from your parents.

- *Wishes for future living arrangements* — It’s certainly possible that you will be able to live independently your whole life. On the other hand, you may eventually need some type of long-term care, such as that provided in a nursing home or an assisted-living residence. Let your children know what your feelings are about such a possibility, and what preparations you have made. And try to elicit the same information from your own parents.

- *Funeral or burial instructions* — Admittedly, you can probably find topics that are more pleasant to discuss than funeral plans. Yet, if you make your own burial or cremation plans in advance, and possibly even prepay for them, you will be taking a tremendous burden off the shoulders of your loved ones, who won’t be forced to make difficult decisions — or scramble for money at short notice — during a highly emotional time in their lives. Once again, you’ll also want to learn about your parents’ desires for their final arrangements, and what steps they may have already taken in this area.

By holding a family meeting about these issues today, you can avoid a lot of stress and misunderstandings in the future. So bring out the coffee and cookies — and start talking.

## kidsView



by Sierra Hieshetter

It’s the week of Christmas and all through our house, it’s beginning to look a lot like Christmas. That’s because school has been dismissed for the last

time in 2014...and you know what that means? It’s time for sledding, building snowmen and snowball fights. Oh wait, we can’t do that because there is no snow! What is Christmas break without snow? Let’s hope Santa brings things to keep the kids busy, otherwise it’s good-bye to silent nights for the parents! Oh well, as we all know, when you live in Michigan, it is summer time one day and 12 inches of snow the next! I have no doubt by the end of 2014, Mother Nature will pull through for all of us and deliver the fluffy white goodness.

On a personal note, I’d like to thank my readers for following my column and hope that next year they are as loyal as they have been this year. Here is a poem just for you:

I thank all my readers for a wonderful year;  
 A start at the Ledger that has been full of cheer;  
 I hope your Christmas is merry and bright;  
 And that 2015 starts out just right!

**CITY OF LOWELL**  
**HOLIDAY SCHEDULE**  
 Lowell City Hall, Department of Public Works, Police Office and Light and Power office will be closed on Wednesday, December 24th and Thursday, December 25, 2014 for the Christmas holidays and Thursday, January 1, 2015 for New Year’s Day.  
 Those who participate in the City of Lowell refuse program with blue bags will have their refuse picked up on Friday, December 26, 2014 due to the Christmas holiday and refuse and recycle will be picked up Friday, January 2, 2015 due to the New Year’s holiday.



Betty R. Morlock  
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# viewpoint

to the editor

## responsibility

Dear Editor,

I would like to respond to [the] Maryalene LaPonsie article in the Dec. 10 Letter to the Editor and to the city council's decision to use the entire 2015 Lowell Cable TV grant to repair city streets.

In the article it mentioned that - (It's particularly baffling that the city manager is in the crosshairs since the manager works under direction of the city council. He's only doing what he's told to do by the majority of your elected council.) That statement makes it sound like all the responsibility lies on the

city council. In the first place, the city council works under the (advise) given by the city manager.

I've gone to many council meetings and a few work sessions since the city hired a new city manager over three years ago and I have come to the conclusion that it's the city manager and his disciples that's running the show. Except for a lawyer, the city manager is the only other person representing the city in closed door contract negotiation sessions between the city and the employees of the department

of public works. After three years of negotiations and the spending of tens and tens of thousands of dollars on lawyer fees, it's no wonder people point fingers and get upset. It's poor management when the city council makes decisions behind closed doors using the advice of one person. It's poor management when the constituents are left out of the decision making. It's poor management when the council fails to stand accountable for their actions. I have no doubt that the city of Lowell is being poorly run. The city council recently voted to use the entire LCTV fund grant for the year 2015 on street repair. Why? Why did the city council make the decision to bypass the LCTV board and use the

entire 2015 grant on street repair when a years' worth of interest isn't going to make much of a dent in the needed road repair? So what's the city council up to? Could it be the council plans on doing the same thing next year and the year after that and the year after that? The community worked hard to bring about the LCTV board and any further bypassing of the LCTV fund board or the disbanding of the board should go to the public for a vote. Bypassing the authority of the LCTV board just because the council has the authority to do so doesn't make it right. PS - Have a Merry Christmas and New Year that will surpass all others.

Sincerely,  
Jim Howard  
Lowell

## ask kathryn



Kathryn Denhouer Ph.D.

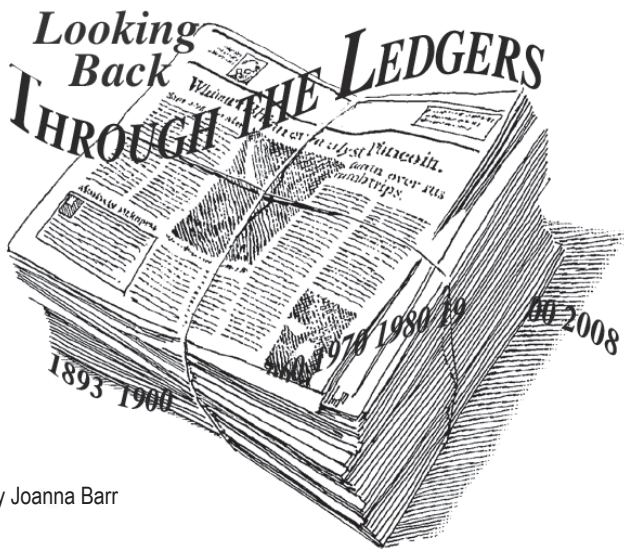
This is the last article that I will publish for the Lowell Ledger. The first article was written on December 20, 2000 and that was fourteen years ago! The time has gone by so quickly. My hair is turning gray and my bones creak a little more. That's just how it goes. I have enjoyed writing the articles and have appreciated all the positive comments and questions that have come from my readership. So many people in Lowell are eager to learn and find new and better ways to solve problems. Lowell is a wonderful community.

My published articles have covered a wide range of topics from body dysmorphic disorder to anxiety, autism, self-esteem, depression and healthy grieving, etc. These are problems that we confront every day. My hope is that my articles have broadened your understanding of these issues and have helped you in some way. Currently, I am working on finishing two books: The memoirs of

my father and a book titled Transcendental Personality, which is a study of the personality traits that help individuals rise above difficulties and to thrive against all odds.

The field of psychology has changed over the years, but there are some enduring principles. One of these principles is practiced in Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) and is found in the Bible in Philippians 4:8,9 "Finally brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable - if anything is excellent or praiseworthy - think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me - put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you."

Thank you for this writing opportunity and if you have any questions or comments, feel free to contact me at kathryndenhouer@gmail.com



By Joanna Barr

### 125 years ago Lowell Journal December 26, 1889

Christmas trade has been immense and a great number of articles have been purchased, but the qualities most in demand have been cheap goods.

The Christmas will be merry for a great many young people, if you may judge by the crowd of Christmas shoppers on the street this week.

As has been their custom for a good many years, King, Quick & King are sending wood to all the widows in town for their Christmas offering.

E. R. Huxley has on exhibition in Robertson & Son's window an elegant painting that he has recently turned out. It is really a work of art and worth the careful attention of lovers of fine pictures.

Thos. Daniels, of Keene, has got his hands full. He has a saw mill set up in his wood lot and is making ties and lumber and sets the table for fifteen persons three times a day.

Mrs. G. Burnett, of Segwun, who was recently returned to her home from the Asylum, at Kalamazoo, as cured, is again violently insane. She was taken to the asylum again last Friday by Supervisor Weeks.

### 100 years ago The Lowell Ledger December 24, 1914

The power building of the Lowell Light and Power

plant caught fire again Sunday night, but the property was saved by prompt action. Owing to the proximity of the new house for the employees, help was at hand on call of the watchman and the fire extinguished with the comparatively small loss of from \$150 to \$200. Superintendent McMahon figures that the new house paid for itself that night.

Pretty hair increases the charm and beauty of every woman and it is now possible for any one to have soft abundant, lustrous hair if they will only use Parisian Sage, a most helpful tonic, sold by M. N. Henry. Adv.

The Lowell Moose lodge has appropriated a liberal sum to be used in Christmas relief among the poor and needy. Some fifty families will be visited by Santa Claus with substantial remembrances in the shape of provisions, etc. This is surely a good work.

Get your fresh roasted jumbo peanuts, salted peanuts and crackerjacks for the little one's Christmas present at the Lowell Coffee House.

Art Howk, formerly of Lowell, now of Peru, Ind., is reported in ill health and is living in a tent.

While hunting rabbits in Ada township Sunday near Chase Lake Ben Speerstra, nineteen years old, was seriously wounded in the left leg by the accidental discharge of his shot gun. Speerstra was hunting with John Platte when the accident occurred, the details of which have not been learned. The leg below the knee is badly shattered by the shot and it is feared amputation may be necessary. The injured lad is the son of Peter Speerstra, who lives on the farm of Ed. Pettis in Ada.

### 75 years ago The Lowell Ledger December 28, 1939

Toby Gahan's gas station was broken into Wednesday night sometime after 11:30 and a candid camera was taken, also a small amount of change that had been left in the cash register. Entrance was made by breaking the glass in the door and then turning the lock from the inside.

It is generally agreed that Christmas in Lowell this year was the best since 1929. Everyone seemed to feel the spirit of the season and there was generous giving by individuals and local organizations. Hundreds of baskets, clothing, toys, and other articles were distributed to needy families and children throughout the surrounding community.

Looking Back, continued, page 12

## We love to hear from you!

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

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

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His dream struck a chord with many people and inspired a nation. It shined a light on the ideal that every citizen should have equal opportunity to prosper and succeed.

As we remember Dr.

King and his dream for America, take a moment to reflect on your dreams for yourself and your family. What are the things that you want for your future? Do you see yourself enjoying retirement someday?

With some planning, that dream can come true. The best way to keep your retirement dreams on track is by opening a mySocialSecurity account. A mySocialSecurity account is an excellent tool that helps you plan for the future. It lets you verify your earnings on your personal Social Security Statement—because your

future retirement benefit depends on your earnings throughout your career. You can view your Statement at any time, giving you a good picture of what your future benefits will be. When you are ready to retire, you can even go online to apply for benefits from your home or office.

The advantages of having a mySocialSecurity account don't stop after you retire. Once you start receiving benefits, you can manage them with a mySocialSecurity account. You can get an instant benefit verification letter, check your benefit and payment information, change your address and

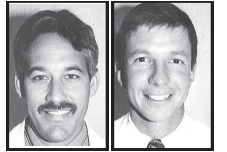
phone number, and start or change your direct deposit information—all online.

Setting up a mySocialSecurity account is quick, secure, and easy. Millions of Americans already have accounts. In fact, someone opens one about every 6 seconds. Join the crowd and sign up today at [www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount).

It's the stuff dreams are made of.

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

# health



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

## febrile seizures in children

Febrile "fever" seizures are the most common type of seizure in children. They most commonly occur in children under the age of five. While they may appear very frightening to the observer or parent, they generally are harmless to the child. They do not cause brain damage or put the child at risk of swallowing their tongue. Febrile seizures usually last only a couple minutes, then go away on their own. Having a febrile seizure does not mean the child necessarily needs to be hospitalized, but they should be seen by their doctor the same day to determine the need for further testing or treatment.

A fever is the body's natural defense mechanism to fight off an infection. By raising its internal temperature, the body creates an inhospitable environment for the virus or bacteria infecting it. Having a fever less than 101 degrees Fahrenheit is probably beneficial and may not necessarily need to be

aggressively treated with fever-reducing medicines. Fevers above 101 should be treated acetaminophen (Tylenol) and/or ibuprofen (Motrin). If a fever ever gets above 104 degrees or will not get below 101 degrees with medicines, then you should contact your doctor. There is no set temperature that will trigger a seizure in children, but in general, the higher the temperature, the greater the risk.

If you happen to witness a child having a seizure you should:

- put the child on their side so that they won't choke on their saliva.
- do not put anything in their mouth.
- do not restrain their movements.
- remain calm and monitor a clock (most seizures last only a minute or two).
- call 911 if the seizure lasts longer than five minutes.
- contact their doctor for further instructions.



## Family is why we do it all.

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11827 Fulton St E  
Lowell, MI 49331  
Bus: 616-897-9237  
[dwwilks@deborahwilks.com](http://dwwilks@deborahwilks.com)

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

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

# happy birthday!

<b>DECEMBER 24</b> Jeffrey Pfaller.	<b>DECEMBER 27</b> Mark Nyp, Jay Clark.
<b>DECEMBER 25</b> Scott Shindorf, Chris Woolfenden, Chris Treglia, Jeni Clouser, Peggy Hayes, Star Daverman.	<b>DECEMBER 28</b> Lisa Stormzand, C.J. Sokolowski, Matt Francisco, Randy L. Smith.
<b>DECEMBER 26</b> Margaret Gasper, Shay Hacker, Stephanie Peel, Butch Landman, Kaitlyn Callihan.	<b>DECEMBER 29</b> Amanda Martin, Donna Baker, Lauren Malone.
<b>DECEMBER 30</b> Stacy Thomas, Ben Hodges, Kyle Triplett, Joe Hunt, Stacey Craig, Joshua Gee, Maliree Trierweiler, Matthew Trierweiler.	

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# area churches

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

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

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

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**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

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

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

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

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



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865 Lincoln Lake Ave SE 616.897.5906

**Sundays 10am**

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

**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

**ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
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[www.stmary-lowell.com](http://www.stmary-lowell.com)

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Saturday confessions: 3-4:30 PM  
Prayer & adoration each Wed. 8:00 AM - 8 PM  
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# Kissinger retires after 29 years with Lowell schools

by Kathryn Atwood  
contributing reporter

After 29 years of service with Lowell Area Schools, administrative assistant Maureen Kissinger left her post at the main desk of Cherry Creek Elementary this past Friday to enjoy retirement. Superintendent Greg

Pratt and Roger Bearup were on hand for the special occasion. Kissinger was crowned, adorned with roses and a sash and dubbed "Queen of Cherry Creek" as part of a special going-away party thrown by staff and students.

Kissinger, a mother of three and grandmother of

nine, is well-loved by the thousands of students and parents she has worked with over the years, including parent Jennifer Johnson.

"Maureen is such an inspirational, positive person. She's leaving a loving legacy behind at Cherry Creek," said Johnson.

Fellow staff member Martha Hayden shared a similar sentiment when speaking of her friend and former coworker, "She is one amazing person who has touched so many lives."



Maureen Kissinger leaves in royal style.

## KCTC Students of the Month



Jonathan Anible



Abigail Downing



Gavin Palmer

Three Lowell High School students have been named Student of the Month at Kent Career Technical Center. Jonathan Anible, 11th grade, is enrolled in the auto collision repair program, Abigail Downing, 12th grade; and Gavin Palmer, 12th grade; are both enrolled in the graphic communications program.

### LEGAL NOTICE

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
PROBATE COURT  
COUNTY OF KENT

NOTICE TO  
CREDITORS  
Decedent's Estate

FILE NO. 14-196580-DE

Estate of DONALD  
DELBERT MCGREGOR,  
deceased. Date of birth:  
09/10/1926.

TO ALL CREDITORS:

NOTICE TO  
CREDITORS: The  
decedent, Donald  
Delbert McGregor, died  
10/25/2014.

Creditors of the  
decedent are notified  
that all claims against  
the estate will be  
forever barred unless  
presented to Kimberly  
Sue Fosburg, personal

representative, or  
to both the probate  
court at 180 Ottawa  
Avenue NW, 2nd Floor,  
Grand Rapids and the  
personal representative  
within 4 months after  
the date of publication  
of this notice.

December 8, 2014

Mary L. Benedict  
(P45285)  
4519 Cascade Rd. SE  
Ste. 14  
Grand Rapids, MI 49546  
616-942-0020

Kimberly Sue Fosburg  
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## CITY OF LOWELL

### KENT COUNTY, MICHIGAN

The City of Lowell Planning-Citizens Advisory Commission will conduct a public hearing at Lowell City Hall, located at 301 East Main Street, Lowell, MI 49331 on Monday, January 12, 2015 at 7:00 PM concerning a proposed amendment to the City's Zoning Ordinance. The following provides a summary of the proposed amendment and its regulatory effect:

The amendment represents the creation of a new zoning district in the City of Lowell called Mixed Use. The Mixed Use district contains dimensional regulations, land use regulations and site development requirements. This amendment also contains a modification to the City's zoning regulations pertaining to nonconformities, parking, and signage as they pertain to the new Mixed Use district. The amendment also establishes key street segments, which are used to aid in the regulation of buildings within the proposed Mixed Use District. This proposed Mixed Use district is located generally along Main Street between Monroe Street and Jackson Street, and also on the west side of Monroe Street South of King Street, as illustrated in the map below.



In addition, the amendment rezones properties generally along Main Street between Monroe Street and Jackson Street from C-3 General Commercial, I General Industrial and PF Public Facilities to MU Mixed Use. It also rezones 300 High Street and 238 High Street from PF Public Facilities to MU Mixed Use. The properties that will be rezoned to MU Mixed Use are illustrated in the map below.

At the above time and place, all interested parties will be given an opportunity to be heard. Written comments concerning the proposed amendment may be mailed or delivered to the Lowell City Deputy Clerk, 301 East Main Street, Lowell, MI 49331 up to the date of the public hearing. Copies of the proposed ordinance amendment may be viewed at City Hall at the address noted above during normal business hours. The City will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services to those with disabilities planning to attend upon three (3) days' notice to the Deputy City Clerk. Individuals who require such services should contact the City at the address listed above or by telephone at 616-897-8457.



Susan Ullery  
Deputy City Clerk



# Christmas Memories



The Jacobs Family



Cody & Casey Oster



Jim & Ruth Wood, Troy, Angie, Nate, Lyndsey, Bry & Lynsey Sloan; Jeff, Candi & Skylar Bowne



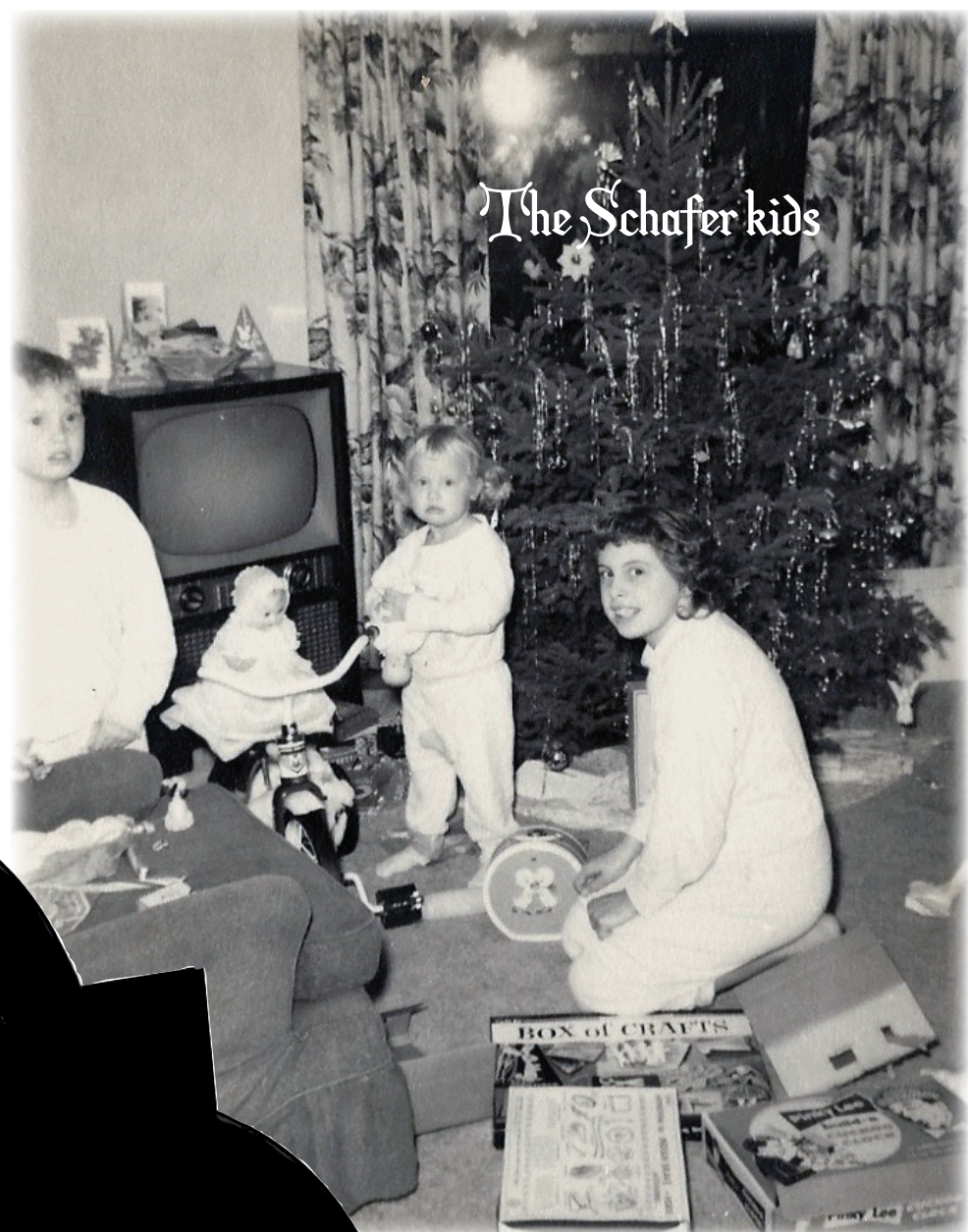
Jim & Ruth Wood, Troy, Angie, Nate & Bry Sloan; Jeff, Candi & Skylar Bowne



McKenzie, Savannah, Abigail, Tyler and Lara



Grandma Acker & Santa



The Schaffer kids



Iam Reese



The Barr Family



Joanna



# Red Arrow SPORTS

- BASKETBALL

## Boys are one and one in competition last week

by Kathryn Atwood  
contributing reporter

Two non-conference matches leading to one victory and one loss were on the schedule for the Lowell varsity boys basketball team last week.

Tuesday on the road the Red Arrows faced the Wildcats of Northview who dominated the court for most of the game, outscoring Lowell in all but the fourth quarter to propel them to a huge 70-47 win over Lowell.

The Arrows started out strong earning a small early lead but excellent rebounding and shooting led the way for Northview to reclaim the top spot and eventually carve out a first half lead of 32-20. Northview held onto that lead throughout the second half. The Wildcats earned 25 points to Lowell's 11 in

the third leaving the Arrows too far behind to catch up in the fourth.

Despite the 23-point deficit loss, the Arrows did have some individual successes with eight players putting points on the board for the team overall. Sophomore Matt Beachler finished with 15 points to lead in scoring, followed by Ryan Stevens who added 12 and Austin Branagan who earned six.

Head coach Kyle Carhart said the game's results will lead to some extra effort at upcoming practices, "As a team we have to get tougher. We will focus a great deal of effort in practice on defense and finding ways to get stops as a team."

Friday in the main gym at LHS the team welcomed Greenville for their second

match up of the week. The Arrows started off strong taking the lead early 13-3 on the back of several successful shots from Stevens, who led his team in scoring with 11 points total. The first ended with a 18-7 Lowell lead.

In the second, Lowell continued to run the court with senior Gabe Steed and Beachler each opening up scoring for the Arrows with three-point swishers from the outside. Continued aggressive defense and offensive power from Stevens, Beachler and Austin Branagan helped the Arrows outscore Greenville by 27 points moving into the second half with a score of 40-13.

After a special halftime presentation from the Lowell varsity gymnastics team, Greenville came back



Junior Ryan Stevens faces double Greenville defenders during the Arrow's victory last Friday evening.



Sophomore standout Matt Beachler is currently averaging 21 points per game for the Red Arrows.

to the court and offered up their strongest quarter of the game earning 16 points. Their effort was not enough to propel a comeback though and the Arrows continued to lead at the close of the third 56-26.

Only 15 points were scored total during a slow final quarter for both teams, but Lowell sealed the victory, 62-35, when the game buzzer rang. Beachler and A. Branagan each added ten points to the victory while Josh Branagan, the team's only senior, and

Steed each added eight. Carter Noskey, Marcus Malling, Avery Buckius and Alex Anschutz also contributed to the board.

Despite an early winning record of 3-1, Carhart said that the team has a long road ahead

of them heading into conference competition.

"Our conference is very tough. We will have to play extremely well against great coaches, players and teams to be successful in conference."

**The team will face Godwin Heights at home this week before enjoying holiday break and will be back on the court the second week of January.**



# Red Arrow -WRESTLING SPORTS

## Lowell's wrestlers start the season on top

by Kathryn Atwood  
contributing reporter

A strong opening week of competition for the Lowell varsity wrestling team propelled them to a successful 5-1 record thus far on the season.

Matches began on December 10 for the squad when they faced Meridian High School on the road. The Arrows won the match 64-4 to seal their first victory decisively.

The following day the team took on Carson City Crystal, the no. nine ranked team in Division 4, with similar results. This time the Arrows racked up 46 points to Carson's 19 to claim victory. Double winners that night were Tyler Lynch, Kyle Washburn, Lucas Hall, Louie Hart, Jordan Hall, Danny Kruse, Eli Boulton and Logan Wilcox.

In their third match in as many days, the team traveled to Illinois to take on a tough squad in Marist High School. Lowell's Hall scored a notable victory over no. one ranked Nick Lukanich by a score of 9-6 to help the Arrows secure a 36-30 win, their first win over the rival team.

The Red Arrows remained in Illinois on

Saturday to compete in the Lockport Mega Duals. Lowell went 2-1 on the day overall, earning wins against host Lockport 39-32 and Wheaton North 32-23. The team took their first loss of the season against Oak Forest, ranked no. three in Division 2A, by a score of 30-27.

Despite the loss the team did gain some

individual successes from Zeth Dean who beat no. one ranked Danny Swan of Oak Forest and both Hall and

Josh Colegrove who went undefeated each earning 4-0 records over the weekend's competitions.

**The team will compete five more times on the road before their first home match against conference competitors Grand Rapids Christian on January 14.**

### - BASKETBALL

## Red Arrows outscore Greenville to claim victory

by Kathryn Atwood  
contributing reporter

Red Arrow varsity girls basketball team suffered a loss on the road and enjoyed a successful home match up last week in non-conference competition.

A pair of successful free throws with just five seconds remaining on the clock propelled Northview to a slim 47-46 win over Lowell on Tuesday, their first loss of the season.

After leading at the half 24-18 the Arrows were outscored by the Wildcats in both the third and fourth quarter. The down to the wire loss can ultimately be contributed to the final game-winning free throws from Northview, as well as Lowell's failure to capitalize from the line where they only scored on 8 of 21 attempts.

Sophomore Bridget Garter led her team in scoring 14 points. Senior Katie Holzhueter followed with 12 points, which included three three-point baskets, "Katie is a great threat from the outside," said head coach Jake Strotheide, "She works hard every day to help contribute to our team." Four-year varsity team member Kate Montgomery followed with nine points.

Garter led her team in scoring in Friday's at home match up, this time earning nineteen points in the Arrow's victory over Greenville High School.

Lowell started aggressively launching three shots on the glass in the first thirty seconds of the opening quarter, but it was Greenville who came out with an early



**Katie Holzhueter moves toward the basket during the team's home win against Greenville last Friday.**



**Senior Catherine Stump earns one of her eight points against Greenville from the line.**

lead. The Arrows grabbed the lead back when senior Catherine Stump grabbed up a rebound and scored two and then landed a three-point basket to put the team up 7-6. Bailey Reitsma followed Stump with two points, Montgomery earned one at the line, Garter scored a huge two-point layup and senior Kennedy Coxon nabbed two at the buzzer to earn the Arrows a 14-9 lead moving into the second.

Lowell outscored Greenville again in the second half earning 16 points to their 10 while maintaining the lead

throughout. Coxon opened up the scoring, followed by Ally Frederickson who added three points: a two-point basket and one from the line. Frederickson also had nine rebounds and four blocks on the game, leading her team defensively. The Arrows moved into halftime with a commanding 30-19 lead.

Though Greenville did manage to put up 33 points in the second half, it was not enough to overcome the Arrows early lead giving Lowell the game by a 12-point margin, 64-52.

Overall eight members

of the Arrow squad put points on the board for the win. Along with Garter's 19, Montgomery and Stump each added eight, Holzhueter came in with seven, Coxon and Reitsma earned six and Coxon and Frederickson claimed five.

According to Strotheide this great group effort is a sign of the growth the team has already experienced, "We continue to increase our energy on defense and on the offensive glass. Our goal is to outwork every team that we play. We believe if we are able to do that we can be successful."

**The Lady Arrows, now 4-1, will welcome Traverse City West following holiday break. The game will take place at 2:30 pm on Saturday, January 3.**

**Sophomore Bridget Garter led her team in both of their non-conference match ups this week and also shined defensively.**





# Looking Back, continued

Here's the sequel to the story in last week's Ledger about the 'possum that Officer Eugene Carr discovered in the City Hall one night while eating his midnight lunch. "That's my 'possum," declared Marshal Fred Gramer when his eyes say the story, "and 'Gene Carr knew it all the time – darn him!" Fred says he got the little animal "up north" – Meaning Fred Blaser's place.

Work has started on an ice skating rink on the school playground and it is expected that it will be ready for use the latter part of this week or the first part of next week. Parents may feel safe in sending their children to the school rink to skate, for it will be absolutely safe and will be supervised day and night by WPA Recreation leader, James Topp, who announces that flood lights are being placed so as to make night skating possible.

Under the federal law which became effective Jan., 1, 1939, all state officials and employees, all public school teachers, all county, township, city and village employees must make an income tax return if their earnings are large enough. This is expected to add several thousand Michigan people to the list of those required to file returns and to produce considerable more money for our government at Washington to spend.

## 50 years ago The Lowell Ledger December 24, 1964

Flares were stolen from the school busses parked at the junior high school Saturday night and later used in an attempt of arson on three Lowell homes. The burning flares were placed on the porches of the Don Mullen home, the Frank Smith home and the Charles Ellis residence. All attempts by the arsonist failed.

Adding sparkle on Main Street is the traditional holiday décor in the windows. A lovely Christmas scene in Speerstra Insurance is the work of Mrs. Peter Speerstra. A similar nativity scene in the Lowell Bakery is the work of Mrs. Barbara Fluger. Ball Floral Shop on East Main Street depicts the holiday season with their annual display, while the other merchants add that special touch to the Christmas spirit. The newest addition this year was the colorful street decorations put up by the Chamber of Commerce.

At Christmas time this year, William P. Laux will be celebrating his 22nd year of retirement as a letter carrier for Rural Route 3, Lowell. He had served this route for 34 years and 8 months. For the first 8 years he drove horses; the next 5 years horses were used during the winter months and model T Fords during the summer months. Altogether he used a total of 12 horses, 4 model Ts, one Chevrolet, 1 Whippet, 5 Plymouths and 2 Oldsmobiles. The horses traveled a total of 60,000 miles and the autos for a total of 326,000 miles.

## 25 years ago The Lowell Ledger December 27, 1989

Headline: Area man burned seriously in propane tank explosion. Mark Edward DeGrote was filling a

100-pound propane cylinder (Tuesday, Dec. 19) from the back of his LP Dependable Gas Co. truck when the cylinder ruptured and gas escaped into the air where the central heating ignited the propane fuels. "DeGrote took off running," said Lowell Police Chief Frank Martin. "A couple of guys from Michigan Wire Processing ripped his clothes off and helped put the fire out."

Headline: Lowell students surprise MEAP forecast. Michigan school districts were warned prior to administering the new Michigan Education Assessment Program (MESAP) reading test that the scores would probably be lower than in the past. That's was unsettling to administrators and teachers because of how it might reflect on the school in the eyes of parents..."The numbers simply state that we were happy with the results and the students did better than what was projected and than we anticipated," [Lowell's Director of Curriculum and Special Education Jim] White said.

Collins has met & exceeded the challenges at each bus stop. "My first day on the job, John Voss gave me a set of keys and said, 'Your first stop is Lincoln Lake.' There was no training or route list. You stopped where kids were waiting," smiles Dode Collins, supervisor of Lowell Schools Transportation. Her laugh and vivid recollections of such anecdotes make them as fresh as the morning news. "When I started out as a part-time bus driver there was no training. All a person needed was a chauffeur's license," Dode says. "How things have changed." That a mother of four, employed at a part-time job (making \$3.25 an hour) that would allow her to bring her youngest child, is now a grandmother of seven and is in her 24th and final year with Lowell School's Transportation Department. Collins spent the first five years as a bus driver and has spent the last 19 as a supervisor.

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING BOWNE TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION

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

Amend Section 3.24 Roads-Private to delete certain sections and amend certain sections that regulate design and standards for private roads in Bowne Township.

To provide design regulations for private roads that provide access to not more than two and not less than two legally created lots, parcels, or condominium units.

To amend regulations for private roads that provide access to six or fewer parcels, and to amend regulations for private roads that provide access to seven or more parcels.

To require that regulations for private roads shall not be waived or varied within a Planned Unit Development (PUD).

The amendments may be recommended for approval by the Township Board following the public hearing.

**The hearing will be held as follows:**

**WHEN: THURSDAY, JANUARY 8, 2015**

**TIME: 7:00 P.M.**

**WHERE: BOWNE TOWNSHIP HALL  
8240 ALDEN NASH AVENUE SE  
ALTO, MI 49302**

The proposed amendments are available for review at the Bowne Township offices, 8240 Alden Nash Avenue, SE, Alto, Michigan, 49302 during normal office hours on Wednesday & Thursday from 9 AM to Noon and 1 PM to 5 PM and on Friday from 9 AM to Noon or by calling 868-6846.

Sandra Kowalczyk, Clerk  
Bowne Township

## PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

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B	U	X	O	M		O	A	K		A	B	O	V	E
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7	4	8	6	3	1	2	9	5
9	8	2	3	1	7	5	4	6
1	5	3	4	8	6	9	7	2
6	7	4	2	5	9	1	8	3

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# classifieds

## for sale

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

**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.<sup>TFN</sup>

**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.

**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.

**SLEEP NUMBER BED** - Why pay for the name, advertising & mall rent. Queen P-5 Harmony \$1,499; king, \$1,899. Other models at similar savings. All brand new. Can deliver. Air & Water Bed Store, 616-682-4767.

**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.<sup>TFN</sup>

**2006 GMC SIERRA 2500 HD** - 4 x 4 crew cab, pewter with black cloth interior. ARE utility cap, \$10,400. Call 616-299-4567.

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

**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, search for NanaHannahs. 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.<sup>TFN</sup>

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

## for sale

**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.<sup>TFN</sup>

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

## help wanted

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

**HELP WANTED** - My beloved spouse & dancing partner for 60 years died. I'm a fairly active 81-year-old who loves dancing & would like to find a 70+ dancing partner. I'm 6'3" so need a partner 5'7" or taller. Actually I'd even pay \$17/hour for a younger dance partner. 676-9734.

**EXPERIENCED OIL CHANGE TECH** - Full & part-time positions available. Apply at Quality Express, 11729 Fulton St., Lowell.

**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.<sup>TFN</sup>

## wanted

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

## for rent

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

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

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

**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 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.<sup>TFN</sup>

**TAXES, PAYROLL, QUICKBOOKS, & ACCOUNTING SERVICE** - by certified Quickbooks advisor. Call Kathy 897-0686.<sup>TFN</sup>

**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.

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

## services

**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.

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

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

## services

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 Ph. 897-9261  
 Fax 897-4809  
 email:  
 ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com

# Coming Events

**PLEASE NOTE** - Coming Events are for non-profit organizations. If you are charging admission for an event - it is considered an advertisement. Coming events are 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, by mail: PO Box 128, Lowell, MI 49331 or in person: 105 N. Broadway, Lowell.

**THE WONDERFUL WATER-COLORBOT** - 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.

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

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

**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. Ages 11 and up or completing 5th grade. Call Scoutmaster Don Aversano at 847-571-8373 or Del Rockwell at 897-6814.

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

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

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

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

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

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

**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.

**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

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

**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.

**BATTLE OF THE BOOKS** - Thurs., March 12, 2015. Teams of

4 participants read four specific books between now & March for a final battle of fun trivia. Teams need to be registered no later than Dec. at Alvah N. Belding Library, 302 E. Main, Belding, 616-794-1450.

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

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

**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.

**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.

**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.



# Starting Feb. 1, Recreation Passport needed for Belle Isle vehicle entry

## Recreation Passport holders get year-round access to Michigan state parks

February marks the one-year anniversary of Belle Isle operating as Michigan's 102nd state park and also ends the gradual phase-in of the Recreation Passport at the island park. Beginning Sunday, Feb. 1, all vehicles entering Belle Isle will need a Recreation Passport – \$11 for vehicles, \$5 for motorcycles. The Recreation Passport will provide vehicle entry not only at Belle Isle, but also at other state parks throughout Michigan.

Belle Isle became a state park in February 2014 under a 30-year lease agreement between the city

of Detroit and the state. The park offers an abundance of outdoor recreational activities, including fishing, hiking, biking, picnicking, kayaking, canoeing, swimming, cross-country skiing, birding, golf and more.

During the past year, vehicles could access the island without a Recreation Passport until the vehicle owner's next registration renewal date. Starting Feb. 1, Belle Isle visitors driving a vehicle without the Recreation Passport will be required to purchase a window sticker at the park. This requirement applies only to vehicles – not individuals. Pedestrians, bicyclists and those using public transportation can,

as always, enter the park for free.

"The gradual introduction of the Recreation Passport during the past year mirrored the initial introduction of the Recreation Passport at all Michigan state parks back in 2010," said Ron Olson, DNR Parks and Recreation chief. "We wanted to employ the same soft transition at Belle Isle. When the first full year of state management has cycled – in February – all vehicles will need the Recreation Passport for entry to the park."

## Passport to statewide outdoor recreation

Belle Isle is one of hundreds of recreational opportunities available to residents and visitors

through the Recreation Passport, which grants vehicle entry to Michigan state parks and recreation areas, state forest campgrounds, boat launch parking and non-motorized trail head parking.

"Purchasing the Recreation Passport not only gives visitors vehicle access to the island," Olson added. "It also gets them into many other state parks in the Detroit area and across Michigan."

State parks and recreation areas in the Detroit area include Bald Mountain Recreation Area, Dodge 4 State Park, Highland Recreation Area, Island Lake Recreation Area, Maybury State Park, Milliken State Park and

Harbor (no Recreation Passport required), Proud Lake Recreation Area and Sterling State Park.

## Shelter reservations update

Also beginning in February, all visitors (and their guests) who rent Belle Isle picnic shelters, facilities and green spaces must have a Recreation Passport for vehicle access to the island. This includes smaller, private events such as weddings, reunions and birthday parties. During the transition to state management, waivers were given to visitors who reserved events through the city of Detroit prior to 2014.

All Belle Isle shelter reservations are now taken through the DNR's Central Reservation System and can be made up to one year in advance. Reservations can be made online at [www.midnreservations.com](http://www.midnreservations.com) or by calling 1-800-44-PARKS.

"We worked hard to make Belle Isle's transition to a state park as seamless as possible," said Jason Fleming, chief of the DNR Parks and Recreation Division's resource management section. "Visitors making reservations for 2015 are being informed of the Recreation Passport requirement and are given the chance to ask questions and purchase the Passport. The best value is to purchase it when you renew your registration. Eleven dollars for a full year of access comes out to three cents a day. Purchase of the Recreation Passport provides a great opportunity to enjoy Belle Isle while supporting state and neighborhood parks."

## Recreation Passport purchase, pricing and benefits

Ten percent of Recreation Passport revenue is available to neighborhood parks through the Recreation Passport community grants program. In fact, just a few years ago the city of Detroit received a \$30,000 grant to fund

improvements at Lorwyn E. Peterson Playfield. Recreation Passport grant application materials and eligibility information are available at [www.michigan.gov/dnr-grants](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr-grants).

The Recreation Passport is available for purchase through the Secretary of State during license plate registration renewal (just check "YES" on the renewal form) and is valid for state park entry until the next registration renewal date. Residents who purchase the Recreation Passport through the Secretary of State get entry to state parks for a full year, as well as access to the Passport Perks retail discount program.

The Recreation Passport also can be purchased as a window sticker at Michigan state parks and recreation areas, including Belle Isle. Visitors to the island park can purchase the Passport between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. daily at the White House (administrative building), located on Inselruhe Avenue across from the Belle Isle Aquarium. When purchased at a park, the Recreation Passport is valid until the holder's next license plate registration renewal date.

The Recreation Passport is \$11 for Michigan-registered vehicles, \$5 for motorcycles and \$16.10 for buses. Vehicles not registered in Michigan will require a \$30.50 nonresident Recreation Passport for entry. This can be purchased at the park or online by visiting [www.michigan.gov/estore](http://www.michigan.gov/estore) and clicking on State Park Recreation Passport in the left-hand menu.

Learn more about the Recreation Passport – a creative way to sustain Michigan's state parks and outdoor recreation opportunities – at [www.michigan.gov/recreationpassport](http://www.michigan.gov/recreationpassport). Learn more about Belle Isle – including the events calendar, partnerships, vendor information and frequently asked questions – at [www.BelleIslePark.org](http://www.BelleIslePark.org).

# 2015 Wedding Guide

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**Jan. 18**

## Advertising Prices

1/8 page - \$65.02

1/4 page - \$125.72

1/2 page - \$245.64

full page - \$459.65

1 color - \$50 • full color - \$90

Deadline is

5 pm, Thurs., Jan. 15

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**THEME:  
ANCIENT MYTHS**

**ACROSS**

1. Greek letter and ancient symbol of death
6. First prime number
9. \_\_\_\_ of March
13. Curvaceous, as in a woman
14. Common furniture wood
15. "\_\_\_\_ and beyond"
16. September stone
17. E in BCE
18. Downy duck
19. \*Remus' twin
21. \*The first woman, Greek mythology
23. \*Chinese zodiac animal
24. Engage
25. Adherent of Taoism
28. Additionally
30. Central vein of a leaf
35. \*Viracocha worshipper
37. Smidge or scintilla
39. \*Roman goddess of the hunt
40. South American monkey
41. Lowest Hindu caste
43. Give the cold shoulder
44. Improve or rectify
46. Theater section
47. At this point
48. \*Hegemone and Chloris were \_\_\_\_\_ deities
50. Clinton's #2
52. Moray, e.g.
53. "The \_\_\_\_ have it"
55. Foe of illegal aliens
57. "With a rumbly in his tumbly, but not even a \_\_\_\_\_ of honey..."
61. \*Half man, half horse
65. Leisurely walk

CROSSWORD														
1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8		9	10	11	12	
13						14				15				
16						17				18				
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65						66	67			68				
69						70				71				
72						73				74				



DECEMBER 17 - DECEMBER 23



• Joe Cocker died Monday at the age of 70 of lung cancer. He died in Colorado, where he has lived for the past two decades.

• North Korea is denying they are responsible for the cyber attack against Sony and saying, "the whole U.S. mainland, that cesspool of terrorism." The movie, "The Interview's" plot focuses on the assassination of Korea's leader Kim Jong Un.



• A 34-year-old man purchased a 2015 Dodge Challenger SRT Hellcat and within an hour totalled it on a stretch of road in Colorado.



• Every once in a while someone hooks a bunch of helium-filled balloons to a lawn chair and heads for the clouds. It happened again when Eric Roner lifted 8,000 feet toward the heavens with the assistance of 90 balloons filled with 50 tanks of helium.

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66. \*Pandora's box was actually this
68. High wave caused by tidal flow

69. "Home Improvement" star
70. Exclamation of surprise
71. Tapestry
72. Not to be confused with "want"
73. Small dog's bark
74. Doled out, as in cards

**DOWN**

1. Kind of ski lift
2. Designer Boss
3. Test
4. Add
5. Female aviation pioneer
6. Little piggies?
7. \*The Trojan \_\_\_\_
8. Giraffe's cousin
9. In the same place, when citing a reference
10. Popular symbol of extinction
11. \_\_\_\_ after
12. Plural of serum
15. \*An epic by Virgil
20. a.k.a. tangelos
22. \*Greek mythology tells that humans originally had four of this
24. Ballpark staples
25. \*Cronus or Ocea-
- nus
26. True inner self
27. The kids in "Eight is Enough," e.g.
29. \*Psyche, Greek goddess of the \_\_\_\_
31. DIRECTV competitor
32. Hindu queen
33. Habituate
34. Confusion of voices
36. Hokkaido native
38. \*Jason's vessel
42. Eagle's home
45. \*To be slayed by a knight
49. \*On Cyclops' forehead
51. \*Group of nine deities in Egyptian mythology
54. Relish
56. Don't take one's eyes off
57. Bridge, e.g.
58. Stag
59. A small island
60. Act
61. Weather may affect its yield
62. City of Taj Mahal
63. Caspian basin river
64. One R in R&R
67. "Bingo!"

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	7	4			9		8	

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

Puzzle solutions on page 12

**THIS WEEK'S  
ONLINE  
POLL**

**Did Santa bring you what you wanted for Christmas?**

- YES
- NO
- ALMOST EVERYTHING
- I GOT A HUNK OF COAL

**TO VOTE IN  
THIS WEEK'S  
ONLINE POLL**

**WWW.  
thelowellledger.com**





Tony Dommer

**Position:** I.T. professional  
**Education:** Bachelor's degree in biology from Western Michigan University  
**Experience:** 12 years at Amway, 2 years at Henkel Chemicals, over 10 years at Addorio Technologies  
**Interests:** Boating, hunting, fishing  
**Family:** Wife, 2 children



## Siblings handle the information tech together in family business

by Tim McAllister  
contributing reporter

Addorio Technologies is a family-owned technology company based in Lowell. Tony Dommer is one half of the brother/sister team behind it.

"We offer a wide range of services," Dommer said. "We do computer repair, networking, server set-up, web design, all that, so we're pretty busy. Information technology work for businesses. We do some residential, but not much. We do a lot for the township offices, a lot of government. It keeps us busy."

Addorio Technologies has been in business since 2000. The company has no office. Instead, each sibling keeps an office in their home.

"It's just my younger sister Betsy [Davidson] and I," Dommer said. "She started the whole thing. I've been working with Betsy for a little over ten years now, I think. We've always gotten along together really well.



That's never been a problem. She has her little world; I have my world. It all works out. It combines and we make it work. I'm five years older, so I've always been sort of the instigator, picking on her and stuff. Not as bad as some brothers do. I've heard stories! We get along great. We communicate a lot. Once in a while if it's a big job we'll work directly with each other, but for the most part we're kind of doing our own thing, just making sure everything gets done."

Dommer is a Lowell native. Betsy and their parents live nearby.

"I graduated from Lowell High School in 1985," Dommer said. "I went to Western Michigan University and got a biology degree with a chemistry minor. I worked in the labs at Amway for 12 years, then I did chemical sales at a place called Henkel Chemicals for two years."

Dommer got his start in I.T. by simply fixing his own home computer.

"Computers I owned would break and I'd fix them myself," Dommer said. "Then I took some classes. You've got to read a lot because technology,

you know how it changes, boom boom. Every week something is different."

A great deal of Dommer's time is spent removing viruses from computer systems.

"I do a lot of virus removal and malware removal," Dommer said. "The hackers are always out there putting out stuff. It goes through phases. You want to have anti-virus [software], but the hackers change things so fast it's hard for the anti-virus companies to keep up with the changes. They keep up the best they can, but it's a challenge. There's a virus out there called 'CryptoLocker.' It'll get through and it'll just encrypt all your files and the only way you can get it decrypted is if you send this company \$500."

Dommer enjoys refereeing sporting events for Lowell Area Schools.

"I do a lot with the Lowell football program," Dommer said. "I do a lot of reffing. I ref football. I used to do varsity. I got into officiating after I graduated in '85 and I've just always done it. I do Saturdays down

at the Rocket league and I officiate basketball as well."

Dommer is on the board of the Lowell Area Historical Museum. He has fun hunting, fishing, boating and playing pool, but said his family is what's most important to him.

"My son is 15," Dommer said. "He gets his driver's license in January. He does golf and basketball. My daughter is nine and she's in third grade. She's a dancer. My wife is involved a lot with the school, helping and volunteering and stuff."

As an I.T. professional, Dommer said the most important advice he can give is to back up your data.

"You have to back up your data," Dommer said. "I hate when people get viruses. If the hard drive fries or a virus gets in it, that data is gone. There's no getting it back. If you have a back-up, you just reformat the computer, pull your data back and you're back and going. A lot of people have pictures, family stuff, genealogy stuff on their computers. It hurts to lose something like that."



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The entire staff at FROM wants to wish you and your loved ones a Blessed and Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year filled with love, laughter and peace!

Thanks to all of our faithful shoppers in the Treasures Thrift Shop and to all of you who have donated your time, talent and treasures this year to us!

(Watch for the big, store-wide sale after the New Year)

**Without you we couldn't do what we do in the community!**

**God Bless You All!**

## 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.