

**HAPPY
NEW
YEAR!**
*from
everyone
at*
the lowell
ledger



**A Year
2014
in
REVIEW**

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CENTS**



Lowell community leaders comment on the past year, contemplate 2015

By Tim McAllister
contributing reporter

As 2014 ends, we take this opportunity to look back. We also look forward to 2015 and everything it will bring to Lowell and the surrounding communities. To facilitate this, we contacted a list of local luminaries for their thoughts on last year and next year.

Frank Martin

Lowell's fire chief, was all over the place in 2014.

"We taught fire prevention and education at our schools and churches," Martin said. "We held a open house and gave away smoke alarms, which we have done all year long. We were involved at the Lowell Expo, the Sizzlin' Summer Concerts, and gave talks on fire education at several community groups in the area."

Martin also added a nice, new piece of equipment to Lowell's 'safety arsenal.'

"A new pumper/rescue vehicle was purchased to allow us to do an even better job for our community," Martin said.

Martin said that his goal

Steve Bukala

Lowell's police officers were very busy gentlemen last year.

"The Lowell Police Department brought back the community policing style that involved the community," said Lowell police chief Steve Bukala. "I think back to the early days when I helped assemble the playground behind the old Runciman School building.



Steve Bukala

I wanted the department to have community involvement. This year we started with the Valley Vista Trailer Park clean-up

"Let's not also forget our viral Santa Cop YouTube video with the help of Up-TV and producer Rob Bliss, formally of the Ada/Lowell area," Bukala said. "I'm not sure we will ever be able to top that one, but it won't be from the lack of trying. We were able to bring back our 'shop with the cops' program from all the donations we received because of that video. This



Liz Baker

"2014 has been somewhat of a whirlwind, starting with the Expo and ending with Santa visits on the Lowell Showboat," said Liz Baker, the chamber's executive director. "We feel that all the events and activities helps to carry out the Chambers mission which is to promote the commercial welfare of the Lowell area, making the area a desirable location for capital investment and residence, also to promote the quality of life and harmony among the business and residential communities. Many of the events that are sponsored and presented by the Chamber bring visitors to the community, in turn adding to the economic growth. 'Christmas Through Lowell' was a perfect example of how an event had positive economic impact on many of the businesses in Lowell."

"2015 looks to be a promising," Baker said. "We, of course, set our standards high, expecting more participation from businesses through membership or by taking our events and activities to the next level. One of the nice things the Chamber does for the community is the Lowell Area Farmers' Market, look for positive changes coming your way. Starting out the year with the annual Lowell Community Expo is a great way for the community to meet the businesses, organizations and churches and what your

community has to offer. We look forward to a new year [of] collaborating with our businesses, the various organizations and Greater Lowell Community."

Lowell's surrounding communities were quiet in 2014, a situation not expected to change.

"There hasn't really been anything that was happening in the township this past year," said Bowne Township supervisor Christian Wenger. "It's been a pretty quiet year, there haven't been many activities. It's just been very quiet. We used to have some housing developments going in, but that's been pretty slow. We put a few people in the cemetery, that was our big excitement I guess."

Greg Pierce

Lowell Light & Power nearly finished their biodigester project in 2014.

"Probably the most significant thing is that the biodigester is almost finished, and that will help the community in the long run to keep our rates low," said LL&P chairman of the board Greg Pierce. "I would expect that it will be pretty consistent in terms of being able to continue to provide the services that we provide."

Pierce said he welcomes all new businesses and residents to the area.

"Hopefully have the second combustion turbine close to ready for
Community leaders reflect, continued, page 2



Frank Martin

for 2015 is to continue down the same path.

"[I want] to continue to give the highest priority service to all of the community that you would expect from a well trained and educated group of firefighters," Martin said. "We are there to serve all of you 24 hours a day, 7 days a week."

project. We had department members volunteer their time along with other community members, and the help of FROM clean up the trailer park. The second phase became a community wide cleanup during the Harvest Festival.

Undoubtedly, the police department's biggest event last year was their "Santa Cop" video that went viral in December.

Bukala's vision for 2015 is optimistic, and includes some big projects that are on the horizon.

"In 2015 I would like to see the community wide clean-up project continue and also get back into Valley Vista Trailer Park and continue to help better improve that area along with help from FROM," Bukala said. "I would also like to help continue economic development in the downtown Business District. With the construction project with MDOT on Main Street scheduled for 2015 and the addition of the mid-block crossing near the Riverwalk Plaza, I feel this will make downtown even more inviting and bring even more businesses to the downtown area. More business means more people coming to visit our city."

Liz Baker

Lowell's Chamber of Commerce put on special events all year long.

Community leaders reflect, continued



Greg Pierce

operation in 2015 and be looking forward to any new customers that we get in Lowell and try to provide service for them," Pierce said. "We're looking forward to being able to help them with their energy needs."

Casey Brown

Lowell Airport had a management change late in the year when Jim Sowle resigned and Casey Brown took over as manager. Brown said his goal for the airport is to use as many locally-sourced goods and services as possible.

"There have been a lot of changes at Lowell

Airport in the last year," Brown said. "The Lowell Airport provides a lot of service to the community, and I'm taking a lot of strides to try and utilize the Lowell community, using local services within Lowell to provide service and support to the Lowell Airport, to try and help the local community as much as possible. That is one of the biggest things that I am working towards currently.

For example, we use Vergennes Broadband as our Internet provider instead of using AT&T or Comcast or what have you."

Brown is enthusiastic about Lowell in 2015.



Casey Brown

"I think Lowell is a fantastic community," Brown said. "I've lived here probably 90 percent of my life and I'm trying

to make strides to help continue to support Lowell and help Lowell grow. We do everything we can to support the community. I believe the community is going to continue to grow and grow well. It's a good, deeply-rooted, community-type city, and very social. I like all the things that Lowell is able to do. I'm looking forward to trying to do some of that with the airport as well."

Mayor Jim Hodges and city manager Mark Howe were contacted for this story but did not respond.



along main street

the parlor desk. **Laughter Circle** – Tues., Jan. 27, 4-5 pm. Come exercise your laughter muscles! Join Lindsay Jousma for this wellbeing workout that encourages laughter for no reason. No yoga mat or experience is required. Please wear comfortable clothes and prepare to leave happy, healthy and energized. **Valentine Crafting** – Tues. Jan. 27, 4-5 pm. Join Mary Shipley at the Lowell Clubhouse for an afternoon of crafting! Mary will teach us how to create a Valentine craft that you will love to create and take home. Supplies are provided and no experience is needed. Please register in advance. Lowell Clubhouse, 314 S. Hudson St. For more information call 897-8600 or visit www.gildasclubgr.org/pinkarrow

FROM VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION

Volunteer orientation at Flat River Outreach Ministries (FROM) will be Jan. 7 at 6 pm. Please call 897-8260 for additional information.

AUDITIONS

LowellArts! Players will be holding auditions on Thurs., Jan. 8, 7-9 pm and Sat., Jan. 10, 4-6 pm for the production *Cookin' With Gus*, February 20-28, 2015. They are seeking two male actors and two female adult actors. Amy McDaniel will direct a hilarious comedy by Jim Brochu about Gussie, a famous food columnist and cookbook author, that gets a chance to star in her own television show. To pick up an audition script, visit LowellArts! Tuesday-Friday 10 am – 6 pm. Auditions held at LowellArts! 149 S. Hudson St., www.lowellartsmi.org, 897-8545.

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.

ARTPRIZE: SECOND GLANCE

From Jan. 6 to Feb. 15 there is an opportunity to get a second look at artwork by artists that live within 20 miles of the city of Lowell who had artwork in ArtPrize 2014. Free. LowellArts!, 149 S. Hudson St. Gallery Hours: Tues-Fri 10 am-6 pm. and Sat 1-4 pm. www.lowellartsmi.org

COFFEE WITH COUNCIL

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

GILDA'S

CLUBHOUSE EVENTS

Board Games & Fun – Tues., Jan. 6, 1-3 pm. This will be an open time for members to come in and play board games together. We hope you join us!

Adult Cancer and Grief Support Group – Tues., Jan. 6, 6-7:30 pm. A one-time group for members on a cancer journey and members on a grief journey to come together and spend time sharing.

Breast Cancer Support Group *at LowellArts – Tues., Jan. 6, 6:15-7:30 pm. A monthly support group for those impacted by** breast cancer to learn and share together. We will meet the first Tuesday of every month at Lowell Arts. Please join us for supper at Gilda's Club Lowell at 5:30 pm prior to the group meeting. **Family Night Workshop** – Tues., Jan. 6, 6-7:30 pm. Kids in the youth program, grab your adults and join your friends from Gilda's Club Lowell for our monthly Family Night! **Movie Matinee** – Tues., Jan. 13, 3-5 pm. Join your friends in Lowell for an afternoon movie! **Book Club** – Tue., Jan. 20, 4:15-5:15 pm. Join Kathy Mieras for a relaxing and cozy book club. This month the book club is reading *Sharp Objects* by Gillian Flynn. Pick up a book to borrow at

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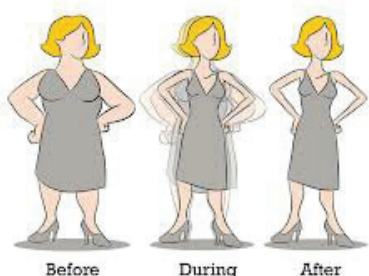
Wednesday lunch at 11:30 am OR Wednesday evening at 6:00 pm



We are located at **6809-A Cascade Rd** in the United Bank of Michigan plaza, next to Heffron Farms. Classes WILL fill quickly - so contact us today!!!

Call **616-957-0017** or email class@nutrimentsofcascade.com

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Murray Lake Elementary Staff Member of the Month

Murray Lake Elementary reading teacher, Dianna Meijer was named Staff Member of the Month for November. Meijer has worked for Lowell schools for the past five years with the past three being at Murray Lake.

“Dianna is so quick to step in and help out in anyway she can no matter what the situation is. She is a wonderful colleague to have in our building. She truly

cares about each and every student she works with,” commented second grade teacher Nancy Russell.

Meijer and her husband Rob have a daughter Brooke who now attends Lowell Middle School. They moved to Lowell seven years ago from Traverse City. “Three years ago I came to Murray Lake and began as a reading Interventionist. I love my job and the kids I work with every day! I learn so much

from the kids here and they make me a better person,” says Meijer.

When Meijer is not at work, she enjoys reading, sailing, and MSU college football. In the summer you can find her on her kayak on the Flat River. “Lowell is a great place to raise a family and we are so lucky that we found such a wonderful community to live in,” added Meijer.



Staff member, Dianna Meijer with Murray Lake students Rylei Weller, Haley Haywood, Makya Stevens and Andrew Johnston.

New location for Lowell's farmers market

The Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce is excited to share with their customers and vendors some progressive changes that will be taking place at the Lowell Area Farmers' Market in 2015.

The market will be moving to a new midtown location as of June 11.

Vendors will be setting up for shopping in the shaded public parking lot at the corner of Monroe and Avery Streets, one block north of Main Street, right behind Lowell City Hall. This location will offer people the added attractions of the Riverwalk, the Englehardt Public Library, and a

nearby playground, as well as the downtown stores and restaurants. Other key features will be safe, off-street parking which includes handicap parking and restrooms close by.

With new market hours of 12 noon to 5:30 pm, The Lowell Area Farmers' Market will be more accessible to those who work. The 2015 market season will run from June 11 thru September 24. Bonus Market Day will take place on Saturday, October 10, during the annual Harvest Celebration.



At Your Local Library

Kent District Library programs at Englehardt Branch, 200 N. Monroe St. For additional information call 616-784-2007.

Winter Snow Party
Celebrate winter wonderland indoors with crafts, games and activities! For ages 6 and younger. Thurs., Jan. 8, 10:00 am.

The Pirate's Life
Climb aboard, mateys! Learn to look like a pirate, talk like a pirate, play pirate games and fill your treasure chest. For all ages. Mon., Jan. 19, 1:00 pm.

Gluten-Free Lifestyle
For those who have been diagnosed with celiac disease, advised to go gluten-free or just want to learn more, chef Terri Rees will share tips, techniques, substitutes and recipes. Wed., Jan. 14, 6:30 pm.

KD aLe: Beer Tasting
Pauly's brew guru Stacey Fabia will share tastes of four of her favorite Michigan craft beers. She'll explain how not to be intimidated by those mile-long brewery beer lists -- and how in the world you choose. Pre-registration is required -- each attendee must register separately. Participants must be 21 or older. Wed., Jan. 28, 6:00 pm.

Happy New Year!

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MONDAY: Cheese quesadilla, refried beans, fruit & veggie bar: spinach & romaine side salad, broccoli, applesauce, pear.

TUESDAY: Sweet & sour popcorn chicken over brown rice (served at Cherry Creek, Murray Lake & Alto), popcorn chicken w/roll (served at Bushnell), seasoned green beans, fruit & veggie bar: spinach & romaine side salad, cucumber coins, sliced apples, grapes.

WEDNESDAY: Cinnamon glazed French toast w/eggs (served at Cherry Creek, Murray Lake & Alto), w/sausage (served at Bushnell), hashbrowns, fruit & veggie bar: spinach & romaine side salad, baby carrots, applesauce, orange slices (served at Cherry Creek, Murray Lake & Alto), peaches (served at Bushnell).

THURSDAY: Chili dog (served at Alto, Cherry Creek & Murray Lake), hot dog (served at Bushnell), French fries, fruit & veggie bar: spinach & romaine side salad, cherry tomatoes, pineapple, apple slices.

FRIDAY: Tony's pepperoni pizza on WG crust, baby carrots, fruit & veggie bar: spinach & romaine side salad, baby carrots, mixed fruit, juice.

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NEW YEAR

financial focus



Christopher C. Godbold

Consider these

New Year's financial resolutions

Now that 2015 is upon us, you may be thinking about making some New Year's resolutions. Perhaps you'll decide to take up a musical instrument, or hit the gym more often, or even learn a new language. All these are worthy goals, of course — but you could also gain some key benefits by working to achieve some financial resolutions.

Here are a few to consider:

- *Fill "gaps" in your investment portfolio.* From time to time, you — or possibly your financial advisor, if you work with one — might identify "gaps" in your investment portfolio. For example, you might find that you are making insufficient progress on a key goal, such as saving for a child's college education. Or you might discover that you need to place additional resources in a particular asset class to achieve proper diversification, which can help reduce the impact of market volatility on your

portfolio. (Keep in mind, though, that diversification, by itself, can't guarantee profits or protect against loss.) So, put "filling portfolio gaps" high on your list of New Year's financial resolutions.

- *Boost your 401(k) contributions.* If your salary has gone up with the New Year, consider boosting your contributions to your 401(k) or similar employer-sponsored retirement plan. You may not be able to afford to contribute the maximum annual amount — which, in 2015, is \$18,000, or \$24,000 if you're 50 or older — but if you increase your contributions every year, you can greatly speed your progress toward your retirement savings goals. You can put this New Year's resolution into effect by contacting your human resources or benefits department as soon as you get back to work in 2015.

- *Eliminate "unhealthy" investment habits.* As part of your

general New Year's resolutions, you may have decided to cut back on "carbs" and sugar-laced soft drinks, with the expectation that these moves could help your overall health. But you can also make "unhealthy" financial moves, such as chasing after "hot" stocks (which may already have cooled off by the time you find them) or selling quality investments just because their price has temporarily dropped. Strive to focus more intently on your long-term investment strategy, as opposed to reacting to short-term stimuli.

- *Review your estate strategy.* During any given year, you might experience major changes in your life — marriage (or remarriage), new child, new home, etc. — and these changes will have profound effects on your estate plans. But whether or not you encountered any of these events in 2014, it's a good idea to look over your estate planning documents* — such as a will, living trust, power of attorney, and so forth — to make sure they are still current with your wishes. It's especially important to update beneficiary designations on your insurance policies and retirement accounts, so that they are aligned with the wishes you have expressed in your will. And if you haven't drawn up your estate plans* yet, make a New Year's resolution to do so in 2015 — because it's never too soon to take the steps necessary to protect your loved ones in the future.

Unlike some New Year's resolutions, these financial ones won't require a big shift in your lifestyle. But if you can stick to them, they can make a big difference in your life.

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

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People who embrace a lifestyle that revolves around the outdoors must continually reconsider how they spend their days. Significant changes in weather conditions directly and indirectly influence outdoor activities. Golfers who live here are going to have to wait awhile to get back on the links. Those who fish and hunt must do so within designated seasons which are partially determined by the life cycles of wildlife; which in turn are related to weather.

Even though the four seasons are a closed loop

system, I consider the beginning of a new year a good time to review the previous year and look ahead to the next. Time moves quickly and new opportunities are already at hand. Winter may offer fewer recreational opportunities compared to other seasons, but it certainly is far from a washout. Those who own snowmobiles are closely watching the weather reports for signs of cold temperatures and lots of snow. Cross country skiing affords the opportunity to experience Michigan's back country in

Christmas card like settings while providing mid-winter exercise. Seasons are open for taking certain predators, small game, and fish.

Looking ahead, it is not too early to plan for future activities. Outdoor shows occur after the first of the year. The hunting and fishing shows feature all kinds of equipment, resorts, outfitters, and often seminars on a variety of related topics. Now is a good time to repair and replace gear that might otherwise be forgotten before needed for a future outing. Planning for habitat management projects may

require some research so set aside some time to prepare and be ready when milder weather arrives. Reserving camp sites, resorts, charters, outfitters, and airlines early allows maximum choices for when and where that next adventure will happen.

Although the dead of winter in Michigan may be perceived as dreary and confining, there are plenty of opportunities to stay active and enthusiastic about the future. It's time to shift gears and rev-up the engine for the trip through the New Year.

Another year over. Wow! I know it isn't just me because every third person I talk to is telling me how fast 2014 flew by. It didn't help that we'd already experienced a deep-snow winter by November and when December arrived, we'd lost all the snow and it appeared spring was on the way. I like winter, I'm not complaining, I'll take the warmth but, it added to the feeling that time was moving way too fast.

Maybe the speed of life and death is the real reason we stop for a moment and celebrate the years passing. We take a short break to realize that 365 days have gone by and clearly, the mere thought of what we didn't get done, sends thousands into a drunken stupor. I understand the impulse - kind of "that was fun, now let's forget about it." You know, wipe the slate clean and start anew.

It would be nice if collectively we remembered a few things to assist us in the coming year.

Remember how lovely these low gas prices are (were). Believe it or not, this too shall pass. Gas is a limited, nonrenewable resource. The price will go sky high again and if we don't conserve and invest in renewable fuels, we will, once again, be in a sorry state when prices inevitably go up. And here comes that complaining again - I can almost hear it now.

One thing we can all dread together - a year in advance - is that 2016 is a presidential election year. So, 2015 will be full of commercials and propaganda and information. Hopefully, we can filter it all and try to glean the wheat from the chaff. It would be nice if we remembered who got us into trouble and who got us out, when we actually go to the polls. And while we're on the subject of voting, it would be helpful if more

people remembered to vote at all. It seems to me a lot of people complain about government but very few remember - we are the government. We really do have the power to facilitate change. Clearly more people complain than vote.

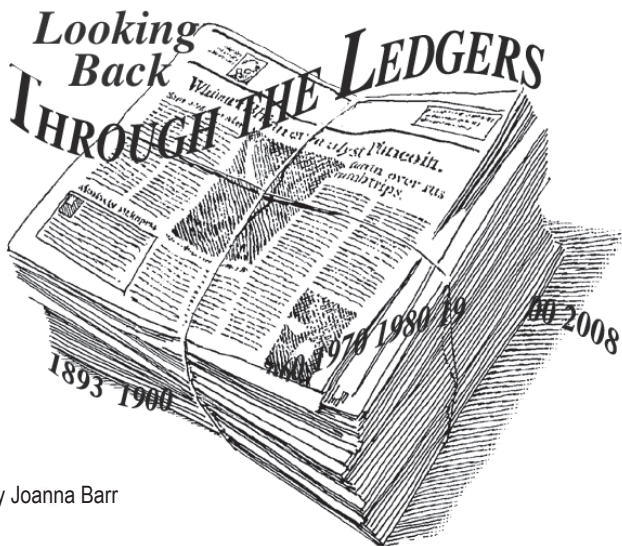
It would also behoove us if we remembered the cost of violence in our society. We relish our weapons but refuse to honor our history by paying them the respect they deserve and limit their use. We continue to make them cheap and plentiful and then blame people for using them. Maybe if we didn't make them as affordable as chewing gum, the decay they produced wouldn't be so prevalent in our society.

Feeling like it is an uphill battle to conquer some of the everyday woes can and does lead to complacency and apathy. But it doesn't have to. Remember that men and women of peace still exist and kindness still pays off. Shake a hand, reach out, smile, care and don't stubbornly stick to an idea out of habit or society's pressures. These things can grow and spread as easily as the stuff we all waste too much time complaining about.

Looking forward to something exciting does make the time drag on. Think of being a child waiting for Santa or a teenager waiting for that first license. Wouldn't that be nice? While we're anticipating all the changes we could help facilitate, taking time to think before we speak, making the effort to organize and vote, learning and caring about the environment, getting to know our our neighbors and planning and executing those plans... Whew! We could really enjoy our time and maybe it wouldn't seem to pass so quickly.

It is all about perception, awareness and appreciation. Enjoy your life.

Happy New Year!



By Joanna Barr

75 years ago The Lowell Ledger January 4, 1940

The famous bird, the stork, made a good showing for itself in Lowell township, outside the village, in 1939, there being 19 births and only three deaths recorded. In the village the clerk's records show that there were 18 births in 1939 and 22 deaths, as compared with 36 births and 25 deaths in 1938.

Every reader of good fiction appreciates and enjoys the romantic love stories of Kathleen Norris and the Ledger is glad to announce that a full length novel by this talented author begins this week in this paper.

The weather is favorable for the opening of spearing season which begins New Year's Day. There are fifteen shanties on the ice which is at least four inches thick. Fish were running good and several were speared the first day.

50 years ago The Lowell Ledger December 31, 1964

Passing motorists noticed a brightly-lighted Christmas tree standing in the yard of Elmer Layer on East Main Street early last week. But by Christmas the tree lights had disappeared. Police reported that someone apparently stole 30 Christmas lights from the tree.

25 years ago The Lowell Ledger January 3, 1990

Lowell Airport hangar project now in full flight. Construction on the Lowell Airport's new six-place aircraft hangar has not been a fun project so far.

Lowell Fire Station project near completion - Lowell's new five stall (holds 10 vehicles) \$500,000 fire station is scheduled to be completed by the end of January. Donating funds toward the project were Lowell Township, Vergennes Township, the city of Lowell, The Helen Look Daley Fund and the Steelcase Foundation. The balance will be paid over a five-year plan. The construction of the fire station is being done by J.W.K. Construction. Landscaping for the fire station will be completed in the spring by Horrocks Nursery out of Ionia.

125 years ago Lowell Journal January 1, 1890

The high wind last Saturday night and Sunday morning laid the bill boards, east of Train's Hotel, low and no more the gaudy pictures of Uncle Tom catches the roving eye.

The following sign stares at the pedestrian out of countenance as he crosses the bridge, "Bathing here prohibited by order Common Council."

Fred and Frank Noyes leave this week for Juneau, Alaska, to join their elder brother there and "dig gold."

The Canadian Pacific Railway had an exhibition car at the D. G. H. & M. Depot, last Tuesday and a large number of people availed themselves of the opportunity of seeing what grows in the great north-west. The car was tastily arranged and all visitors were warmly received.

E. Y. Hogle, of Hastings, has rented Hill's store and will open a boot and shoe store as soon as the building can be prepared..

100 years ago The Lowell Ledger December 31, 1914

The Lowell High School class of 1914 held their annual reunion at Floyd Oliver's Tuesday evening. Eleven members were present and letters from the absent ones, most of whom are on the Pacific coast, pleasantly completed the class circle.

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 105 N. Broadway • Lowell, MI 49331

happy birthday!

DECEMBER 31

Marcie Page, Bill DeHaan, Charles Boerema.

JANUARY 4

Nicholas Knonenwetter, Donna Johnson, Ruth Wood.

JANUARY 1

Tory Abel, John Wenger, Alice Hesche, Carolyn Yonker, Amanita Fahrni, Bea Hoekstra.

JANUARY 5

Ryan Sauber, Craig Carpenter, Pauline LaDue, Genie Southwick, Jody Ann Young.

JANUARY 2

Rose Nead, Helen Kuiper, Angie Sloan.

JANUARY 6

Don Green, Mary Ellen Miller, Bob Kinsley, Bobbi Jo Young, Terri Stuckey, Norann DeLoof.

JANUARY 3

Jon Vezino, Audrie Olszewski, Lloyd Callihan, Jane Lally, Rick Fyan.

health

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



salt in the diet

As you may be aware, high sodium intake is linked to high blood pressure, which is known to cause heart attacks and strokes. Current dietary guidelines recommend that adults eat no more than 2800mg of sodium a day – about 1 teaspoon of salt. Furthermore, for about half of all Americans – those aged 51 or older, African Americans of any age and people with high pressure, diabetes or chronic kidney disease – recommended maximum intake of sodium is 1500mg a day. Currently, in spite of these recommendations, us adults consume an average of 3400mg of sodium a day.

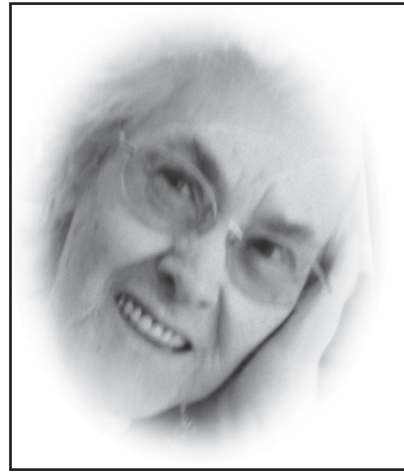
When we counsel our patients on salt intake, we usually discuss table salt first. If you cook with it, don't salt at the table. If you don't cook with it, you may use a small amount on your food. We also discuss the fact that most salt in the diet is "invisible" and is contained in processed and restaurant foods. Therefore, salt intake can be decreased by eating out less often (especially at fast food restaurants) and eating less prepared or packaged foods. High salt foods include deli meats, microwave food, TV dinners, canned soups and canned vegetables. Become a good "label reader" so you can limit your intake of dietary salt.

When we counsel our

obituaries

CODLING

Elnora "Maxine" Codling, age 84 of Sheridan, formerly of Lowell, went to be with her Lord on Monday, December 29th. She is survived by her husband of 64 years, Floyd W. Codling; her children Mike (Chris) Codling, Karen (Mike) Kehoe, Carl (Teresa Bills) Codling, Bill (Cindy) Codling, Steve (Cathleen) Codling, Gail (Ernie) Blanchard and Sue (Bill) Green; her brother Donald (Roberta) Mathews; her sisters Donna (Clayton) Norman and Carol Wilson; 22 grandchildren; 29 great-grandchildren. A funeral service will be held Friday 11:00 a.m. at Roth-Gerst Chapel, 305 N. Hudson, Lowell. Pastor Paul Arnold, of Faith Baptist Church in Greenville, officiating. Interment Chapel Hill. The family would like to meet with friends and relatives Wednesday 1-4:00 p.m. at the Chapel. Memorial contributions may be made to the American Heart Association, 3940 Peninsular Drive Southeast, Grand Rapids, MI 49546.



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...
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~ Anna Quindlen (1953 -)

area churches

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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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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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Robert Holmes, Pastor
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WEDNESDAYS:
Family Night (for all ages): 7:00 p.m.
"The Source" Youth: 7:00 p.m.
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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

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621 E. Main Street
897-5936
www.lowellumc.com
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Sunday School.....9:30
YOUTH GROUPS (JR. & SR. HIGH).....6:00 p.m.
Pastor Brad Brillhart

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(Nursery available)
Sunday School.....9:15 A.M.
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NOTICE OF ORDINANCE ADOPTION
ORDINANCE NO. 14-03
BOWNE TOWNSHIP
At a regular meeting of the Bowne Township Board held on December 15, 2014 Ordinance No. 14-03 was adopted. The ordinance amended the Bowne Township Zoning Ordinance. A summary of this Ordinance is as follows:
Amend Section 3.41 to delete certain sections and to amend certain sections that regulate design and development standards and regulations along minor arterials as defined in the Bowne Township Zoning Ordinance.
This Ordinance shall become effective seven days after publication.
Ordinances No. 14-03 is 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 616-868-6846.
Sandra Kowalczyk, Clerk
Bowne Township

Red Arrow - BASKETBALL SPORTS

Godwin beats out Lowell by 2 points

by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

After three incredibly close quarters the Lowell Red Arrows boys varsity basketball team fell short of victory last week against undefeated Godwin Heights High School.

Following a game opening two-point basket from Godwin, Junior Gabe Steed was the first Arrow to score in the game landing a three point swisher to put his team up 3-2. Godwin answered quickly running the court for a series of baskets that propelled them to a seven-point lead.

Steed and sophomore Matt Beachler combined forces to break that streak when Beachler added two and Steed offered up another three pointer to put Lowell

within three points of the lead. Junior Carter Noskey answered that need earning three from the outside to give Lowell the lead 11-10 with just over a minute remaining in the quarter. Beachler and Steed each added two points as the closely matched teams alternated successful baskets as the clock ran down but it was Lowell who came out on top 15-14.

The Red Arrows came out strong in the second quarter putting four points on the board quickly to extend their lead to 19-14. Godwin answered with four of their own, but baskets from Austin Branagan and Ryan Stevens kept the Arrows in the lead for much of the quarter.

With three minutes

left to play in the half the momentum began to shift back toward Godwin as they reclaimed the lead on a seven point scoring streak. A three from Beachler, who earned seven points in the game, and two from A. Branagan, who led the team in scoring with 14, put Lowell back within striking distance just in time for Steed to take to the line on a foul and land both attempts to give the Red Arrows a one-point lead moving into halftime, 30-29.

Another big three-point shot from Steed, who earned 13 in the game, opened up a back and forth third quarter that kept the teams within five for the duration. Branagan, Marcus Mailing and Avery Buckius



Josh Branagan, the only senior player on the young varsity team, maneuvers around double Godwin defenders last week.



Ryan Stevens takes the ball from baseline to baseline for a two-point layup.

all contributed points to the board but it was Godwin who ended up on top at the end of the quarter after several fouls called on the Arrows gained the team enough points from the line to take over 41-44.

The Red Arrows lost their competitive edge in the fourth allowing Godwin to dominate the ball and achieve another huge scoring run. Godwin racked up an impressive 13 points before the Arrows

were able to answer and then added two more in the waning seconds of the game to put them up by 20 points. A two-point basket from Stevens closed out the game leaving the Arrows with a hard fought loss 45-63.

After holiday break the team will hit the road to face non-conference competitor Cedar Springs and then take on East Grand Rapids in their first OK White match up of the season.

Go Red Arrows!

Catch Up On Lowell High School Sports

the lowell **ledger**

Red Arrow SPORTS

Lowell wrestlers chalk up three wins in three days

by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

Lowell's no. 1 ranked varsity wrestling team have been grappling their way through their school's holiday break chalking up three successful competition appearances over three days last week.

First up for the squad was a long haul to Indiana for an individual competition against Mishawaka High School whom they defeated by a score of 38-25. Twenty wrestlers took part in the decisive win, including wins from Zeth Dean and Kyle Washburn and pins from Lucas Hall, Josh Colegrove and Logan Wilcox.

The following day the Red Arrows took part in the inaugural Kent County Wrestling Championships held at Davenport University. The premier event was developed by Forest Hills Central wrestling coaches Brad Anderson and Jake Mills along with Davenport University coach Jamie Boyd in an effort to showcase and award the top talent in Kent County.

Grand Rapids Catholic came out on top at the tournament with 206 points followed by Rockford (170), Forest Hills Central (167), Byron Center (128.5) and Middleville Thornapple Kellogg (128) to round out the top five. Lowell placed 13th overall coming in with 52 points and had five of their six participating members receive medals.

The Arrows took on state power houses Davison and Hudson High Schools in their final match ups of the

week. After a commanding victory over no. 2 ranked Division 4 contender Hudson with a score of 56-7, the squad faced rival and host Davison.

Highlights of the match up include Danny Kruse offering up the first win of the night gaining the victory by decision after a huge comeback putting Lowell up early, and permanently, 9-5. Logan Blough followed that up with a pin just as his time expired to extend the lead to ten, 15-5. Two additional pins from Josh Colegrove and Keigan Yuhas brought the Arrows out front 21-5.

The Arrows continued to excel in the competition when Logan Wilcox earned a 5-2 decision for Lowell followed by a pin earned by Sam Russell to put the score 30-5 in Lowell's favor. Another win from Hall mathematically won the dual for the Arrow squad 36-15 with three matches still remaining. Lowell earned 12 additional points in those matches while no. 2 ranked Division 1 team

Davison earned only three to give Lowell the victory 48-21.

Overall Lowell's Russell (103-pounds), Hall (119), Zeth Dean (135), David Kruse (145), Yuhas (152), Danny Kruse (171), Colegrove (215) and Wilcox (285) all went 2-0.

Hall had an extremely successful outing earning his 2-0 over the Division 1 and Division 4 state champions whom he pinned in the first period.

"I am extremely happy with the way we wrestled," Lowell coach R.J. Boudro said. "I was worried about

both duals and to do it decidedly was relieving. Our guys have been focused on going there and giving our best. I think our team felt great and confident."

Lowell travels to the Detroit Catholic Central Invitational on January 3 and take part in their first OK White match of the season when they face East Grand Rapids January 7 on the road.

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CITY OF LOWELL HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

Lowell City Hall, Department of Public Works, Police Office and Light and Power office will be closed on 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 and recycle picked up on Friday, January 2, 2015 due to the New Year's holiday.



Betty R. Morlock
City Clerk

business matters

Greenridge Realty announced that Ryan Heschke received Realtor of the Month in December.

This award recognizes Heschke for his outstanding success and achievements.

NOTICE OF ORDINANCE ADOPTION ORDINANCE NO. 14-02

BOWNE TOWNSHIP

At a regular meeting of the Bowne Township Board held on December 15, 2014 Ordinance No. 14-02 was adopted. The ordinance amended the Bowne Township Zoning Ordinance. A summary of this Ordinance is as follows:

Delete Sections 2.82, 2.83, 3.32, 3.33, 14.01 W., and 14.05 V. that regulate and define telecommunication towers and antennas;
Amend Section 3.14 to include terms proposed under new Section 3.33;
Delete Sections 5.01 D. and 6.04 H. which permit telecommunications towers and antennas in the AG-Agricultural District and the R-1 Rural Residential District respectively;
And add new Section 3.33 that regulates wireless communications equipment and support structures.

The proposed amendments provide for the regulation of wireless communication equipment and support structures according to current State of Michigan and Federal laws.

This Ordinance shall become effective seven days after publication.

Ordinances No. 14-02 is 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 616-868-6846.

Sandra Kowalczyk, Clerk
Bowne Township

NOTICE OF ORDINANCE ADOPTION ORDINANCE NO. 14-04

BOWNE TOWNSHIP

At a regular meeting of the Bowne Township Board held on December 15, 2014 Ordinance No. 14-04 was adopted. The ordinance amended the Bowne Township Zoning Map. A summary of this Ordinance is as follows:

An Amendment to rezone the following described portion of a parcel from R-1Rural Residential district to C-2 Commercial District:

Parcel Number: 41-24-03-300-001
Property Address: 6520 ALDEN NASH AVE SE
Area rezoned, generally:
The West 660 feet of the North 100 acres, except the South 66 feet, and except that area already zoned C-2 Commercial, of the Southwest 1/4 of Section 3, Town 5 North, Range 9 West, Bowne Township, Kent County, Michigan.

This Ordinance shall become effective seven days after publication.

Ordinances No. 14-04 is 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 616-868-6846.

Sandra Kowalczyk, Clerk
Bowne Township

NOTICE VERGENNES TOWNSHIP

A Public Hearing will be held and a Special Exception Use Permit will be considered at the regularly scheduled meeting of the Vergennes Township Board on January 19, 2015, at 7:00 pm at the township offices located at 10381 Bailey Dr., Lowell.

Nugent Builders is requesting a Special Exception Use Permit and Temporary Dwelling Agreement for owners Joe and Marybeth Susnak, to build a home behind their existing home at 11804 4 Mile Rd, in the NE 1/4 of Section 4 in Vergennes Township. They will remove the existing home after the new home is complete. The request is permitted as a Special Exception Use under Section 201.415 B, Temporary Residence, of the Vergennes Township Ordinance.

A copy of the application is available for public inspection at the township offices on Mondays and Wednesdays from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm, and Thursdays from 9 to noon. Comments will be received at the Public Hearing or in writing by forwarding to the Clerk at the township offices or by e-mail at clerk@vergennestwp.org. Written comments should be received by 7:00 p.m. on the date of the meeting.

Mari C. Stone
Vergennes Township Clerk

2014 A Year In Review

JANUARY 1 Holiday ice storm leaves many in West Michigan without power

Amid toppled-over trees and ice-covered power lines, many families were left without power on Christmas. Consumers Energy reported that Michigan was one of the most heavily hit states, along with Maine and New Hampshire, where more than 150,000 homes remained without power early Christmas Day. By day's end, repair crews had reduced that number to the tens of thousands. However at its peak, the storm last Saturday affected more than 500,000 homes and businesses in Michigan. J-Ad Graphics, which is located in Hastings, is the parent company of the Lowell Ledgers/Buyers Guide. They ended up losing power and only partial power was back on Christmas Eve. In a given week, J-Ad Graphics prints and publishes 30 different newspapers. "We are still playing catch up on all of our printing," said Jon Jacobs. "The latest update from Consumers Power is that they are hopeful to have power restored for all of Barry County by Dec. 30."

New healthcare laws may affect higher income families and businesses at tax time

One factor that the majority of American citizens will have to take into consideration come



tax season will be the Affordable Healthcare Act. Linda Todd, owner of D & L Tax Service which is located on 220 W. Main St., said she has already begun to tell her clientele what they can expect in the coming years. "It's going to change quite a bit," said Todd, who has been doing taxes since 1980 at both her store and at H&R Block. "It could have a big impact because the people who don't have insurance will be penalized."

Snyder signs bills allowing driverless vehicles in Michigan

Gov. Rick Snyder

recently signed legislation allowing the testing of automated motor vehicles on Michigan roadways. The governor called for the measures in his 2013 state of the state address.

Bed and breakfast finds an edge in wedding venues

Things changed for Bill and Brenda Schreur in a big way last year. Bill originally started work on the River Edge Bed and Breakfast & Gathering Place in October 2012, while capping off the finishing touches with the addition of the Whirlpool this past month.

JANUARY 8 Snowpocalypse 2014

A record-breaking storm blanketed Lowell in snow as temperatures plummeted. People were calling it "Snowpocalypse" and "Snowmageddon," although its official National Weather Service name was the "2014 North American Polar Vortex." The storm started Saturday, January 4 and continued through the beginning of the week. It covered half of the United States and Canada. Between four and six inches of snow fell each day. Winds were between 15 and 25 mph. Temperatures were between 14 and four below zero and the wind chill got down to 30 below zero, breaking the last record set in 1994. Snow accumulation was almost 16 inches deep in spots. Over 360 closings of schools, businesses and other organizations were reported. Thousands of airplane flights were cancelled or delayed.

New corner station will offer more amenities and job openings

The corner of Main and Hudson will soon be the site of a brand new and largely expanded BP gas station and convenience store. The location has been owned by Merle Boes Inc. (MBI) since the summer of 1994. They purchased it from the Stuckey family who had previously operated the station under the Amoco name.

City manager Howe clears the air on real estate transactions

Since last fall one of Lowell's biggest sources of contention, rumors and hearsay has been 'Proposal III,' which was defeated in November's election. The resolution would have amended the city charter, allowing the city council

to "enter into contracts" up to 99 years long. Contract lengths are currently limited to 10 years.

Mayor reappointed at combative city council meeting

Lowell confirmed its mayor and mayor pro tem and the public had a lot to say at a city council meeting Monday, January 6. Jim Hodges and Sharon Ellison were reappointed to their positions as mayor and mayor pro tem. The meeting was sparsely attended, but the five who made it through the snowy weather had an interesting evening.

January 15 MDOT discusses bridge slide method at last Lowell Township public meeting

The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) will be using the new "bridge slide" method on an upcoming construction project in Lowell Township. Details about the project were revealed at a public meeting at Lowell Township Hall on Wednesday, Jan. 8. The bridge on M-50 (Alden Nash Rd.) goes over I-96 in Lowell Township. MDOT plans to make it a bigger, better bridge.

Rescheduled winter celebration enjoyed at Bushnell

Kindergarten students at Bushnell Elementary put on their pajamas, grabbed their best stuffed friend and hopped aboard *The Polar Express* this past Friday in a winter celebration centering around the popular book. The day's activities, which were rescheduled due to weather closings before the holidays, kicked off with a snack of hot cocoa and sugar cookies.

Flooding at Lowell fun center

A worn fitting on a

fountain pop dispenser caused considerable water damage to the Roll Away Fun Center this past Friday afternoon. The problem was discovered around 3:30 pm by the building's maintenance man, reported longtime owner Bob VanNoller.

Treasures Thrift Shop to get face lift this February

The Treasures Thrift Shop at Flat River Outreach Ministries (FROM) has been a staple of affordable shopping in Lowell for years. Lowell bargain hunters will be saddened to find out that the store will close its doors on February 1, but they will be gladdened to learn that when it reopens it will be better than ever.

Lowell enjoys stunning victory over Rockford

An almost four-point win in gymnastics may not



seem like a lot, but because they score in tenths, it equates to about a 20-point win in basketball and that's how much the Lowell Red Arrows' gymnastics team beat powerhouse Rockford on Wednesday - 134.0-130.50.

January 22 Governor laments negativity during last week's State of the State address in Lansing

"The last decade was a bad decade," said Michigan Governor Rick Snyder in his 'State of the State' address on Thursday, January 16. "We've become the comeback state," Snyder

continued, next page

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Lowell Family Medical Center

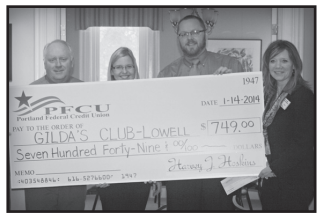
• Paul R. Gauthier, D.O. • James C. Lang, D.O. • John G. Meier, D.O.
• Wayne A. Christenson, D.O. • Tracy L. Lixie, D.O.
• Kaili M. Walker, P.A.-C. • Laura E. Kass, P.A.-C

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2014 A Year In Review

said. Snyder, a Republican, made remarks early in the speech that seemed to echo recent events in Lowell. "In recent days, in recent months in the state of Michigan, we've had people make comments that were derogatory, that were negative towards other people," Snyder said. "Publicly tonight I'd like to make a call to all citizens of Michigan to ask us to have a greater degree of civility and respect towards others of different backgrounds and different views."

Credit union gifts Gilda's Club of Lowell



was the recipient of a generous monetary gift from the employees of Portland Federal Credit Union (PFCU) on the afternoon of Jan 14.

Cable TV fund accepting applications for this year

The Lowell Cable TV (LCTV) Endowment Fund board is now accepting grant applications for 2014. The LCTV Endowment Fund supports and promotes projects that benefit a broad segment of the Lowell area community, enhances the quality of life in the area, encourages cooperation among the communities and qualifies as a one-time capital improvement.

Budget surplus could help Michigan's crumbling roads

Higher than expected state revenue creates an opportunity for the Michigan Legislature and Gov. Rick Snyder to take another step in addressing Michigan's chronic underfunding of

road maintenance. Recent projections estimate an additional \$971 million in state revenue, the majority of which is one-time money.

Englehardt Library branch hosts brewery tours

Englehardt Library was one of the Kent District Library (KDL) branches involved in putting on a free tour of Rockford Brewing Company as part of KDL's "KD aLe" series. The tour was led by Jeff Sheehan, one of Rockford Brewing Company's owners and its head brewer.

Elderly man jumps in the river, dies

A Lowell man jumped into the Flat River and died early Wednesday afternoon, January 15. "An 85-year-old Lowell man that was diagnosed with dementia jumped off into the dam yesterday about 2:30," Lowell police chief Steve Bukala said.

Gilda's Club and the Lowell YMCA team up to "Livestrong"

Gilda's Club Lowell and the Lowell YMCA hit



the ground running on Jan. 7 when they teamed up for the first of four sessions of the LIVESTRONG at the YMCA program which focuses on the physical and emotional health of adult cancer survivors.

The Dog Sled Man visits the Alto Library

The Alto branch of the

Kent District Library hosted a fun interactive family event



featuring Dan "The Dog Sled Man" Anderson and five of his Siberian Husky sled dogs on Saturday, Jan 18, appropriately titled MUSH!

January 29 New roomier vehicle for Lowell's patrolmen

Lowell Police Department has purchased a brand new police car. The department bought a 2014 Ford Police Interceptor, a large "utility" vehicle with a \$25,283 base price. The larger car will improve the health of officers who are on long shifts.

Wind chill warnings keep kids out of school and may be responsible for water main break in Lowell

Lowell, as well as the rest of the state, continues to be menaced by the sub-zero temperatures this week, as residents learned why scientists call it "climate change" instead of "global warming." The winter of 2013-2014 has been one of the harshest on record, with major snow events rivaling even the "Blizzard of '78." Michigan has gotten more snow than any other state. The entire state is covered in snow, anywhere from 10 to 40 inches and as high as 60 inches in parts of the Upper Peninsula. The National Weather Service issued a "Winter Weather Advisory" and a "Wind Chill Warning" and local law enforcement agencies asked people to

stay indoors. Lowell Area Schools have been closed for six days so far during this long bout of winter weather. The cold weather could have had something to do with a water main break on Wednesday, Feb. 28, although one city official is skeptical.

Lowell Area Schools working to assimilate common core curriculum into classrooms

Since Michigan's State Board of Education adopted Common Core State Standards (CCSS) for Mathematics and English Language Arts (ELA) in June of 2010, Lowell Area Schools (LAS) have been hard at work adapting to the curriculum that is scheduled to go into full effect by the 2014-2015 school year.

Thebes presents The Princess and the Pea

LowellArts! Thebes Players will present the classic Hans Christian Andersen story of a prince's quest to marry the perfect princess in two public theatrical performances of the fairy tale *The Princess and The Pea*.

February 5 Howe delivers "State of the City" address

Howe's speech to an audience of about 20 residents highlighted Lowell's achievements in the recent past, offered advice for the present and revealed some plans for the near future. "We balanced a budget that was a half million dollars in deficit," Howe said. "We saved more than a million dollars by refinancing our debt." Howe's future plans included more reductions in tax rates. "We have identified as a long-term goal to encourage property value growth in order to enable future millage rate reductions," Howe said. Howe continued by, "demanding civility in public discourse." "What unites us is greater than what divides us," Howe said. "We cannot let the discussion overshadow what unites us."

February 12 Second fact finding report on union negotiations released

Another fact finding report has been released in the ongoing union

negotiations between the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) and the city of Lowell. The IBEW has been negotiating its initial contract with the city since 2011. The report, dated Jan. 22, was prepared by impartial mediator Edward F. Hartfield, executive director of the National Center for Dispute Settlement and vice president of the Detroit chapter of the Labor and Employment Research Association. "The language sought by the city does nothing to rebuild trust, restore confidence and return the parties on the path to focusing on advancing the interests of the city," Hartfield said in the report.

Lowell chamber names person of the year, honors local business at annual gathering

The chamber has been awarding the Person of the Year award since 1986. Greg Canfield will be this year's recipient for his dedication, above and beyond his profession, to the community. The chamber board selected Laurels of Kent for this year's Business

continued, page 14

Happy New Year

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2014 A Year In Review

If you could grant a New Year's Wish to someone what would it be?

I would grant my Dad better hearing in his left ear.

*Malia
Murray Lake Elementary*

I wish everyone would be in a nice, warm house. I want everyone to be with family, or friends. I would want everyone to be safe because I want ploice to enjoy New Years.

*Kelsey
Murray Lake Elementary*

For people who served in the military. For those who risk there lives. To have a great new year.

*David
Murray Lake Elementary*

Elyse 7 yrs old has CF that stans for cistics fibroses and she has to do a vest, and take's three pills everyday. When I am over Eylse does not like to do anything.

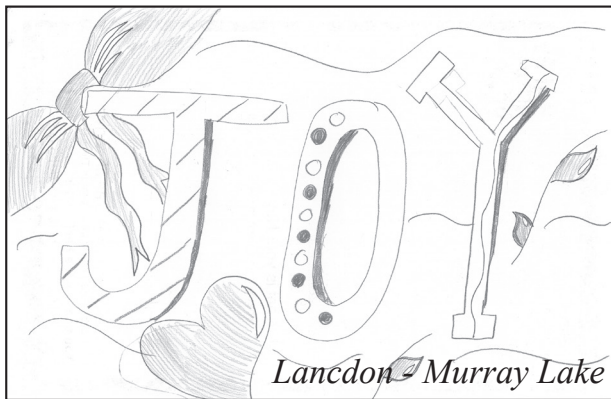
*Olivia
Murray Lake Elementary*

I wish that peoples parents that can't afford toys can get money to get toys for the children that don't get toys for christmas every year.

*Lanndon
Murray Lake Elementary*

To make all the starving people in Michigan food for a year. (Or for life!)

*Emma
Murray Lake Elementary*



My New's Year's wish would be to give away food and donate cloth's to shelter's and every cande food or clothing will help kid's or adult's in need of food or cloth's. Think of the people who don't have cloth's or food. But when we give them what they need, they will feel happy.

*Makayla
Murray Lake Elementary*

I would give it to my family and it would be to git any one iteam you wanted for free.

*Josh
Murray Lake Elementary*

I want my cousins hand to heal.

*Owen
Murray Lake Elementary*

To stop all sickness around the hole world. Or help the ophins and the poor.

*Cole
Murray Lake Elementary*

To have peace to stop sickness help poor.

*Roman
Murray Lake Elementary*

I would grant the wish to the world. The wish would be to free the world of hunger, racism, and diseases including cancer, ebola, and lung disease. And of all the other world's problems.

*Aaron
Murray Lake Elementary*

To help people who has cancer. To have peace in the world, to stop killing.

*Alexis
Murray Lake Elementary*

I would grant the wish to the world. The wish would be every one 10 yrs & older to have a phoun.

*Sam
Murray Lake Elementary*

I would grant a wish to my grandma Lucy who is very ill for her to have a great Christmas.

*Mika
Murray Lake Elementary*

for every wone to have a house.

*Bryson
Murray Lake Elementary*

Kira B – help he rais some money for her house.

**Macy – have good Happy New Year.
Alexis – have good Happ New Year.
Will – have good day's in Murray Lake.
Teven – have good day's in Murray Lake.**

*Emma
Murray Lake Elementary*

My New Year's wish is for people to donate food to the people who are poor. Think of people who have ipods and tablets. Then think of the people who are starving themselves. Donating food would make their New Year's Magical.

*Kennedi
Murray Lake Elementary*

It would probably be for cures such as cancer and ebola. and lots of other diseases. Why because it is the feeling of helping and curing. Honestly I would make wish to help the world. A lot of kids don't get a chance to open gifts or have Thanksgiving or roast Chestnuts. and relax in there home.

It is sad and they need a home and food to eat and a place to sleep we need it and that is my New Years wish.

*Ethan
Murray Lake Elementary*

To have the best life they every had.

*Tyler
Murray Lake Elementary*

My wish is for pappy to get wealthy.

*Kyra
Murray Lake Elementary*

I would grant a wish to a homeless person and wish for them to have food and water with clean clothes and shelter.

*Kylie
Murray Lake Elementary*

I would grant a wish for somebody who wants to change their complete lifestyle like if somebody wanted to lose weight or I would let a homless person have food, and clothes.

*Brianna
Murray Lake Elementary*

I would give them a lot of money to get them-selves food for a year.

*Skye-Ann
Murray Lake Elementary*

My wish is for my cousin who is in the navy. I wish the two more years, he is in the navy would go by faster. I hav'nt seen him in almost a year. I wish I could see him.

*Laiken
Murray Lake Elementary*

I would wish for my grandma because he just went thru knee surgery so i wish for her to get beder.

*Mitchell
Murray Lake Elementary*

For my dog Sadie that really hurt her leg. I wish her leg would get better by new years day.

*Zach
Murray Lake Elementary*

I wish that all kids with cancer and heart conditions could be well so they don't have to worry about this being their last Chistmas.

*Hayden
Murray Lake Elementary*

I wish all kids could spend christmas with a family and be happy.

*Jacob
Murray Lake Elementary*

My one wish is that my frend's dad would get better and get out of the hospital by christamse.

*Aiden
Murray Lake Elementary*

I wish that my aunt can have her baby and she can come see some of her family.

*Brooklyn
Murray Lake Elementary*

I would wish that my ant's mom's cancer and all people that have cancer could get better and not be so painfull.

*Emily
Murray Lake Elementary*

I wish for my Grandpa to get out of the nursing home and be home by christmas and celebrate christmas with my family.

*Macy
Murray Lake Elementary*

AULD LANG SYNE • AULD LANG SYNE • AULD LANG SYNE • AULD LANG SYNE • AULD LANG SYNE • AULD LANG SYNE • AULD LANG SYNE • AULD LANG SYNE • AULD LANG SYNE • AULD LANG SYNE

2014 A Year In Review

If you could grant a New Year's Wish to someone what would it be?

I wish for all the of the poor kid's or family's will get food and be safe and happy for christmas. I also wish that, my sister will feel better and won't be sick anymore for christmas.

*Jaymie
Murray Lake Elementary*

If I could grant a new years wish I would say, "I wish that my could have a great year of 2015. And my dad could hang out with me more in the summer time.

*Tyler
Murray Lake Elementary*

My dad could run the famly busienss.

*Cole
Murray Lake Elementary*

I would give a home to anyone who doesn't have one.

*Marcus
Murray Lake Elementary*

I wish that my sister's boyfriend Joe got better, and he would not have to do therapy, because he broke his neck. So whenever he come's to our house he has to leave somtimes to go home and then go to therapy.

*Brody
Murray Lake Elementary*

I wish my grandma did not have any health issues or as in not in the hospital all the time. I wish mom would not have to do the laundry, dishes or cleaning of any sort (but are house would stay clean).

*Moe
Murray Lake Elementary*

One new years wish that I could grant to someone would be to people who have breast cancer to recover.

*Madalin
Murray Lake Elementary*

If I were going to grant a wish it would b my mom. Because she loves, cares about me, and creative.

*Zach
Murray Lake Elementary*

I wish my Uncle Glen didn't have Down Syndrom. I wish that my parents and I had more money to do things together.

*Alex
Murray Lake Elementary*

I would wish for my Mother to hapilly find a nice boyfriend. I wish for my grandma to no longer have foot issues.

*Brody
Murray Lake Elementary*

My wish is for my dad to be out of the hospital by cristmas because he has been in there for a long time.

*Leonardo
Murray Lake Elementary*

To my dad so he can get out of the hospital well before Christmas and for him to get through with physical therapy.

*Mia
Murray Lake Elementary*

I wish that my baby sister Kiersten will grow up healthy, strong and beautiful.

*Olivia
Murray Lake Elementary*

My wish is for my dad to get better after a bike accident.

*Sean
Murray Lake Elementary*

I would grant my parents a sports car for the New Year.

*Ethan
St. Patrick's*

If I could grant a New Year's Wish to someone it would be that they would be happy even if they don't have a lot.

*Emily
St. Patrick's*

If I could grant a New Years which to my grandparents, it would be a puppy who would keep them company and give them love.

*Michael
St. Patrick's*

I would like to giv poor families food, drink, and games to play.

*Quinn
St. Patrick's*

If I could grant a wish to someone, I would go to third world countrys and help the people with whatever they need. I wish I could do this so they would have a better life. I would help them get more resources.

*Anna
St. Patrick's*

If I could give a New Year's wish I would help the poor, I would give them clothes, a new house with a nice bed and heating and cooling, I would also give them fresh food, and clean water, I would also help animals.

*Jared
St. Patrick's*

If I could grant a New Year's wish to someone, it would be an invention to help people who fall on the ground.

*RJ
St. Patrick's*

If I could grant a New Year's wish to someone it would be a homeless person, that they have a home and be safe New Year's.

*Madison
St. Patrick's*

If I could grant a New Years wish to someone, it would be complete health.

Ella - St. Patrick's

I would grant them the gift of happiness by giving them a trip to the U.S.A. and in a five star hotel.

*Gage
St. Patrick's*

If I could give a New Year's to someone, it would be to a poor person in Haiti. I would give them food, fresh water, and seven plane tickets to the USA and four nights, five days in a penthouse.

*Anna
St. Patrick's*

If I could grant a New Year wish to someone I would wish them a New Year and tell them to go have fun and not just sit home all alone.

*Carra
St. Patrick's*

If I could grant a new year wish to someone I would say I hope you can spend time with your family and laugh with the people you love!

*Isabella
St. Patrick's*

I wish you would have a Happy New Year. Also hopefully you would have fun!

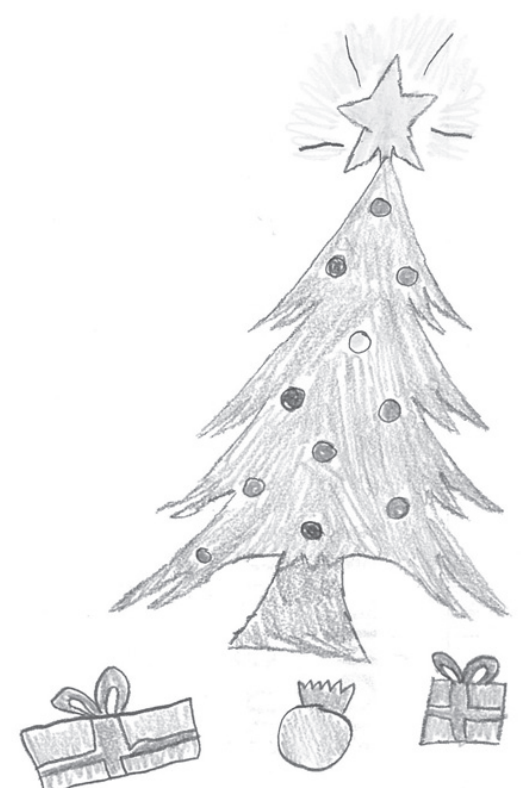
*Norah
Alto Elementary*

If I could grant a New Year's wish to someone I'd wish that they have a better and greater year than 2014. I would also wish they will have the best Christmas this year.

*Sedona
Alto Elementary*

What I'm going to do this year, 2015, is get to know some new friends. And I would like to try is tennis in 6th grade.

*Sedona
Alto Elementary*



Anna - St. Patrick's

2014 A Year In Review

Appreciation award. The two Brick Award recipients this year were Builders Fireplace Co. and Vergennes Broadband.

Embracing the snowy fun at winter fest

Snow was celebrated and enjoyed by community members at the Wittenbach/Wege Center (WWC) this past Saturday, Feb. 8, from noon to four when they



hosted their annual Winter Fest event.

February 19 Lowell Middle School acquires presidential portrait
Lowell Middle



School (LMS) celebrated President's Day with the unveiling of a portrait of our nation's first president George Washington and an American flag that once flew over his home, Mount Vernon, in North Virginia. The painting and flag were gifted to the school by a national grant provided by Washington's estate in order to return his likeness to

schools across the country to inspire both staff and students.

Groundbreaking tomorrow for new anaerobic digester facility

Lowell Energy AD, LLC, (LEAD) is beginning a new chapter in sustainability for the city of Lowell with a formal groundbreaking ceremony Thursday, Feb. 20, for its anaerobic digester waste-to-energy facility that will generate 800kW of renewable energy for Lowell Light and Power. LEAD announced earlier



state championship beating St. Johns 34-34 on third criteria.

City officials hold cow pie slinging ceremony for Lowell's new energy facility

The city of Lowell held a groundbreaking ceremony

this year, the completion of financing with a private investor.

Cherry Creek Elementary hosts regional spelling bee

Cherry Creek Elementary (CCE) welcomed 16 of the areas' top spellers to the Greater Grand Rapids Regional Spelling Bee on the evening of Feb. 11.

February 26 Wrestlers crowned State Champs!

In an epic battle against Lowell's biggest rival in the past several years, the Lowell Red Arrow wrestling team brought home the gold from Battle Creek in the 2014 team

for Lowell Energy AD's (LEAD) Anaerobic Digester at the future home of "the waste to energy facility," located at 625 Chatham, on Feb 20.

City council discusses fate of Riverwalk sugar maple

The city council meeting at city hall Tuesday, Feb. 18, was uneventful. There were no citizen comments from the audience of five. The sugar maple tree in front of Englehardt Library will be removed. The city has been working to save the tree for five years. "It's been a grand and wonderful tree, but all things must pass," said mayor James Hodges.

The city will spend \$7,950 on a new garage door at city hall. After exactly one hour the meeting adjourned to a closed session to discuss the union negotiations. Councilperson Jeff Altoft voted against the closed session, while councilperson Chris Schwab abstained.

Record snow affects school calendar

Lowell Area Schools' superintendent Greg Pratt issued a letter to parents on Feb. 19 regarding changes in the school calendar. This year we experienced an unprecedented season of inclement weather that caused a total of nine full day cancellations and a single two-hour delay. State law regulates the minimum amount of days and instructional hours students are to receive during each school year. "Under the state school code, as of today, our district will be required to make up two days," stated Pratt in the letter.

Chamber Winter Gathering celebrates and says goodbye to a longtime fixture on Main Street

On February 20, the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce celebrated its 2014 Annual Winter Gathering of the membership at Grand Volute Ballrooms in which Lowell persons and businesses were honored with a variety of awards. Chamber executive director Liz Baker welcomed the audience and gave special thanks to the 2014 chamber board of directors, office manager Catherina Bek and volunteers Carol Briggs

and Barb Zandstra, and the staff of Grand Volute, April McClure for decorations and Litehouse for dressings. The Person of the Year award was awarded to Greg Canfield for his work with Canfield Plumbing. "Lowell is still a wonderful community," Canfield said. The final award of the night was a bouquet of flowers that Liz Baker presented to Karen Hale who will retire this year after 30 years of business with Cousins' Hallmark and River Hollow. Hale had to fight her way to the stage because of



the standing ovation that greeted the mention of her name.

Cousins' Hallmark closes after 30 years of business

Cousins' Hallmark will close its doors this spring. Cousins' Hallmark is named for the four cousins who founded the store, husband and wife, Joann and Jerry Hale; and husband and wife, Karen and Mike Hale. This year, Karen and her husband have decided to retire. It was a tough decision for Karen. So much of her family life had transpired in or alongside the shop and she'd developed deep relationships with her customers and employees, many of whom had become true friends. "I know I won't be bored," Hale said. As for the retail space,

Karen and Mike expect to put it up for sale as soon as March. "I don't want it to stay empty," Hale said. Much like Cousins' filled in where Lipperts once was, Hale is positive that some entrepreneur will be able to fill in where Cousins' had been.

March 5 LaughFest comes to Lowell this weekend

LaughFest returns to Lowell this weekend with a performance by former 'Blue Collar Comedy' star P.J. Walsh at Lowell High School Performing Arts Center on Saturday, March 8, at 7 pm. The all-star comedy event LaughFest, now in its fourth year, is a benefit for Gilda's Club, an organization dedicated to supporting people with cancer.

Tower Barn is "Barn of the Year"

The Fallasburg Historical Society's (FHS) Tower Barn preservation work, in part funded by a Lowell Cable TV grant, has earned the recognition of the Michigan Barn Preservation Network (MBPN). The Tower Barn has been named "Barn of the Year" for 2014 in the "Non-profit Agricultural or Adaptive Use" category. The barn is located across the Fallasburg Covered Bridge on Covered Bridge Road NE.

Expo to feature a prize-packed game show

On Saturday, March 22, the Lowell area celebrates the 18th annual Lowell Community Expo, which allows businesses, churches and schools an opportunity to come together and showcase their organizations. Josh Bruwer is the chairman for this year's expo.

Council goes into closed session to further

continued, next page



POP

It's A New Year!

We're exploding with gratitude for all the great people we've had the opportunity to get to know this past year, and we can't wait to see you all again next year. Here's to you, and to many wonderful times ahead. Happy New Year!

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auld lang syne

At the close of another year, we're singing the praises of our neighbors and friends who have helped to make this past year a noteworthy one for us. We're hoping the New Year hits all the high notes for you and your kin ~ thanks!



Deborah Wilks, Agent
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2014 A Year In Review

discuss union negotiations

The regular city council meeting at city hall on Monday, March 3, lasted 35 minutes and was attended by eight residents, none of who addressed the council during the opportunity for public comment. The council discussed the city's "strategic plan" for over ten minutes. Councilperson Jeff Altoft brought up Don DeJong, a city employee in the public works department who has been digging graves by hand because the city does not own a backhoe. "I don't think that... he might [not] have all the safety equipment he needs to do that by hand in this day and age," Altoft said. "It came to my attention that the cemetery sexton [Don DeJong] was digging graves by hand," said city manager Mark Howe. "That was his choice." The meeting went into a closed session to discuss union negotiations. Councilperson Chris Schwab was alone in voting against the closed session.

school are volunteering in our community, other cities and helping address needs



across the world. They are using their creativity, knowledge and generosity to help the community, as well as the less fortunate in other countries.

Gymnasts qualify for state for the first time

The Lowell gymnastics' team shattered the school record yet again at the perfect time – the regional meet which is the meet they had to do well at in order to move on to state. The top three teams qualified and Lowell came in third, just beating out powerhouse Rockford by one point.

its latest exhibition, the West Michigan Regional Art Competition, on Feb. 26 in their King Gallery. The juried competition, now in its 28th year, focuses on the art of lower West Michigan residents and awards a



grand total of \$2,000 in prize money to the top five finishers.

Lowell claims 3 state champs/9 all-staters

For the second year in a row, Lowell had a great showing at the MHSAA individual wrestling state championships with nine placers, three of which were champions in their weight class. This year's champions were Lucas Hall (112), Max Dean (171) and Josh Colegrove (215).

as a hairstylist, most of them spent here in Lowell, Julie Heimer decided that it was time to open her own salon. She also decided that the endeavor was an amazing opportunity to honor a young woman very close to her heart, Tara Beran. Beran, a graduate of Lowell High School, passed away in September 2010 in a tragic car accident at the intersection of Cumberland Ave. SE and Bennett St. at the young age of 21. Jultara Salon, comprised of both Heimer's and Beran's first names, opened its doors early this February at 505 W. Main St. in Suite C.

March 12 Relay For Life official kick-off celebration

Relay For Life of Lowell officially kicked off their fundraising season on Thursday, March 6, in the Lowell Middle School cafetorium. Team A1 Laser

was honored during the night's presentation.

Dave Dean leaves a wrestling legacy in Lowell and moves onto college-level coaching

Wrestling coach Dave Dean will be heading to Cornell University.

March 19 The Lowell Cable Television money will not be used for street repairs

The Lowell Cable Television (LCTV) money will not be used for street repairs. The Lowell city council denied the LCTV grant recommendations at the city council meeting on Monday, March 17, at city hall. About 27 people attended the meeting. Six citizens addressed the council during "public comment." Two people, Barb Barber and Peggy Covert, spoke against using LCTV money for street

repairs. Three people, Tyler Kent, Jim Salzwedel and Greg Canfield, spoke in favor of using the money to repair streets. City attorney Richard Wendt gave a speech summarizing the history of the LCTV fund, leading up to a resolution, "clarifying [the] composition of [the] LCTV endowment board." The council then voted down the proposed LCTV grants. Councilpersons Sharon Ellison and Jim Hodges voted "yes." Councilpersons Jeff Altoft and Jim Hall voted "no." Councilperson Chris Schwab was absent. Three "yes" votes are required for a measure to pass. This means that \$50,000 of the LCTV money will not be used to repair streets in the city of Lowell, as was proposed. "I made a motion to put that [money] into the streets and in the equipment fund," Altoft said, referring

continued, page 18

Capstone students defy stereotypes by showing initiative

Groups from the senior Capstone class at the high

Regional art competition on display at King Gallery

LowellArts! unveiled

New salon's name honors memory of young girl

After thirty-plus years

Warmest wishes from our House to Yours

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As we count down to the big day, there's one more thing we'd like to say:
HAPPY NEW YEAR!
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Hank Shuring (CFO) and Fred Jacobs (CEO)

DEDICATED TO OUR MISSION AND COMMITTED TO SERVE, SMALL BUSINESS IS ABOUT COMMUNITY

Most of us work in different offices, miles from each other. Some of us haven't even met. But when we get together for a holiday greeting on these pages, we all feel proud of and a little overwhelmed at how large a family we really are. J-Ad Graphics, Inc. feels like family because, no matter how far we may be from each other, we all are committed to the mission of delivering news to our individual communities. We try to do that in informative and entertaining ways. Wherever we do it, we do it as a reflection of the communities in which we live.

We are a family because we share a passion for communities and for the business of delivering news. Sprinkled among us are still members of the Jacobs family that founded J-Ad Graphics, Inc., but the rest of us also carry an average tenure of 25 years with the company. Our responsibilities and the roles we play in the integrity of delivering news make us all members of the larger J-Ad family.

In the pages of this week's Reminder you'll see that same commitment and dedication from businesses throughout Barry County. Whether new to the community or an established presence, our county businesses carry that same theme of longevity and passionate connection to community. That's the beauty of small business in America and, today, we celebrate it throughout Barry County.



Print Plus



Carrie Larabee (Store Manager), Deb Ruder (Photo Processing) (Missing: Mike Krueger (Design))

Hastings Office



Front row (from left): Nancy Goggins (Office Manager), Linda Boyce (Accounting), Denise Case (Telemarketing), Back row (from left): Bobbie Wilkins (Human Resource), Dani Echlinaw (Bookkeeping), Bruce Fuller (Circulation Manager), Michelle Pixley (Front Desk), and Julie Kline (Telemarketing)

Battle Creek Shopper News



Front row (from left): Judy Morey (Sales), Shelly Sulser (Editor), Stefanie Gibson (Telemarketing), Cheryl Johnson (Telemarketing) and Joan Reed (Telemarketing). Back row (from left): Mike Gilmore (Sales), Sue Camburn (Sales), East Kennedy (Accounts), Marlene Adkins (Circulation Manager), Ann Pulsipher (Copy Editor), Doug Allen (Assistant Editor), Jodi Shafer (Bookkeeping), Julie Simmons (Sales), and Donna Hazel (Office Manager)

Marshall Ad-Visor/Chronicle



Front row (from left): Lois Zuehlke (Telemarketing), Kathy Miller (Front Desk), Helen Sykora (Columnist), Corinne Harter (Reporter), Back row (from left) John Hendler (Editor), Val Isham (Telemarketing), Mary Tinsley Young (Lifestyle Coordinator), Donna Daines (Reporter), Theresa Chaney-Huggett (Office Manager), Randy Lake (Sales). Side Photos (top) Joyce Furu (Sales) and (bottom) Marcia Furu (Circulation)

Lowell Buyers Guide-Ledger



From left: Cathy Acker (Design), Scott Kooistra (Printing), Queta Reynolds (Design/Printing), Sierra Hieschetter, Kurt Hieschetter, Dillon Hieschetter, (Sales), Jeanne Boss. (Editor/Design), Tammy Janowiak (Office), and Jon Jacobs (Publisher)

Charlotte Lithograph



From left: Robyn Jones (Design), Brian Rayner (Office Manager) and Sue Lyons (Office). (Missing: Gina Fry (Office))

Press Room Production



Front row (from left): Don Coleman, Lori Silsbee, Shirley Hook, DJ Holmes, Todd Rogers. Back row (from left): Larry Wallace, Barney Silsbee, Marty VanHouten, Nick Hobart, Dan Goggins, Dave Hawkins, Tim Sutton, Matt McMann, Phil Hurless (Missing: Mike Block, Kim Barton and Mike Krueger)

Art Department



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Hastings Newsroom



Newsroom staff (from left): Shari Carney, Connie Cheeseman, Brett Bremer, Doug VandrLaan (Editor), Julie Makarewicz, Sandy Ponsetto and Kathy Maurer (Copy Editor) Side photo: Fran Faverman and Bonnie Mattson

Press Room Production



Front row (from left): Samantha Spaulding, Steve Roscoe, Bill Justice. Second row (from left) Gary Smith, Mike Sims, Todd Livingston, Jeff Schroll. Third row (from left): Matt Linderman, Tom Westbrook, Yancy Hobart, Bob Westbrook

2014 A Year In Review

to when the LCTV fund was originally conceived, "and now there's two people sitting on this board that voted against it. And now after we went through all this to get this all set up so that it would be nice for the city, now you want to start raping this fund for the streets." "If we'd have spent that money on the streets it would have

been gone," Ellison replied. After nearly an hour, the meeting adjourned for a closed session to discuss union negotiations.

Benefits questioned at light and power board meeting

The light and power board met last Thursday, March 13. Five residents

attended the board meeting, which lasted just over an hour. Two citizens spoke during the opportunity for "public comment." Peggy Covert asked the board for an update on transformers that were damaged in the flood last spring. Covert then asked if any of the city's linemen would be eliminated. Pierce said

this would not happen. City maintenance worker Ralph Brecken gave a brief presentation in which he said light and power employee Tom Russo has been using a company vehicle for personal business and has spent the night in the light and power building.

March 26 2014-2015 city budget presented at budget workshop

Lowell city council held a "budget workshop" meeting at city hall Monday, March 24. The workshop, which was attended by seven citizens, lasted two hours. The council used the workshop to go over its budget for the next fiscal year, as well as have discussions about the Lowell Cable Television (LCTV) fund. The council revisited the issue of what to do with this year's LCTV money. "I think we've strayed a little bit from the fund agreement," councilperson Sharon Ellison said. "You know, that it's supposed to be the

furtherance of public health, safety, welfare, benefiting the residents of the city of Lowell." Another sticking point was whether to use the money only in Lowell, or to continue allocating some of the funds to projects in nearby townships whose residents paid into the fund back when it was their local cable provider. "If we are going to take 75 to 100 percent of the money every year, we might as well tell them [the townships] that they're not going to get anything," councilperson Jeff Altoft said. "If we weren't spending money in this city to fight our city workers then we would

have in excess of \$70,000 to fix streets," said Lowell resident Barb Barber.

Cemetery sexton hoping for a backhoe in the future

Lowell cemetery sexton Don DeJong has been digging graves by hand with a shovel because the city's 28-year-old backhoe is a broken down pile of antique spare parts. A new backhoe would have a heavy price tag. "Between \$70,000 and \$90,000 for a new one," DeJong said. "Not cheap." DeJong has selected what he feels would be a good backhoe for Lowell; all he needs now is a small fortune in money.

April 2 Workers reject latest proposal from city

Both sets of unionizing workers, those with light and power as well as the workers from the department of public works, unanimously rejected proposed union contracts on Monday, March 31. The two groups of workers voted in



continued, next page

FLAT RIVER OUTREACH MINISTRIES

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2014 A Year In Review

Cherry Creek Elementary trekked to Creekside Kingdom Park for a community-service cleanup. Students participating were from Wendy DeBoer's third-grade class, fourth graders from Jill Connor and Lisa Camfferman's class and Karen Latva's fifth-grade class. Students worked together, in teams of two or three, across grade levels to gather as much trash as could fit in their 18-gallon bag.

Chess champions crowned at Murray Lake Elementary



Elementary held their 10th annual chess tournament over the past several weeks. Forty-five third- through fifth-grade students entered the double elimination tournament. The finalists pictured are: fourth grader, David Kaczanowski was crowned the champion (middle); third grader, Drew Veldman (at right) second place and (at left) third-place finisher, fifth grader Jacob Bauer.

May 7 Sunny skies shine on annual CROP walk

Members of nine local churches gathered in Lowell for the 20th anniversary of the local CROP Hunger Walk on Sunday, May 4 at the First United Methodist Church (UMC). More than 100 people took part in the annual fundraising effort.

City council discusses land purchase and union negotiations

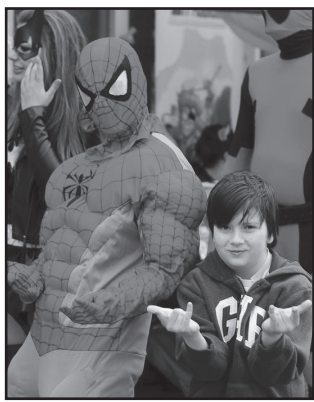
Lowell city council discussed union negotiations and bought some land during a relatively peaceful meeting at city hall at 7 pm on Monday, May 5. The city will spend \$2660.07 to purchase a parcel of land on Bowes Road between the Light and Power substation and Walgreens. The council unanimously passed a resolution that will cease Lowell's participation in the "Urban County Community Development Block Grant" program, "pursue participation in the State of Michigan's Rental Rehabilitation Program" and "ensure participation with Hope Network in the North Kent Transit Services program."



Women's club supports wildlife center

Lowell Women's Club presented one of their yearly community donations to Lowell Farm and Wildlife Center. Pictured, left to right: Nancy Wood, Sjana Gordon, owner of Lowell Farm and Wildlife Center, and Lori Ingraham.

More fans than ever at Rookies' Free Comic Book Day



For years, Free Comic Book Day (FCBD) was celebrated in obscurity as a geek holiday of the highest order. In the last few years, with the increasingly popularity of geek culture due to popular TV shows like Big Bang Theory and the like, FCBD has made an impact on the greater culture of America. The summer movie blockbuster season used to begin without fail, on Memorial Day weekend, but with the advent of the first Iron Man in 2008 it now begins weeks earlier during FCBD weekend.

Longtime Lowell postal worker will be missed

Lowell is losing a community fixture to retirement. Nancy Roth has



been a clerk at the post office downtown since the late 70s. "I've been here 36 and a half years," Roth said. Roth's last day was Thursday, May 1. She decided not to have a retirement party to commemorate the occasion.

May 14 VFW awards Clark for his years of service

The VFW recently gave an award for 50 years of service to Dave Clark.

Lowell Middle School chess champions

For the second year in a row, Mitchell Haff has taken first place in the



Lowell Middle School chess tournament.

May 21 Volunteers clear the way for trails to connect

Volunteers gathered at Fallsburg Park over the weekend for the Pathway of the Pioneers Expedition to begin clearing the way for a new trail that will connect to the large North County Trail a little more than three miles away. Members of the Fortune Bay Expedition Team were joined by Jeff McCusker from the National Park Service and several volunteers from the North County Trail Association.

Vacant Unity High building sold

Lowell Area Schools just made \$350,000 by selling off a vacant building. The "Riverside/Unity" building, 320 N. Monroe St., was sold to a developer on Wednesday, May 14.

New flagpole installed at Oakwood Cemetery

Mike Larkin, whose 2014 Chili Cook-off provided the funds for the new pole and flag, is pictured holding the top of the old pole. "I just wanted the profits to go for something worthwhile and we felt the American Legions' project to redo the Civil War Memorial in Oakwood Cemetery was a



perfect fit," said Larkin, a U.S. Marine Veteran.

City council approves budget, purchases new police car

The council unanimously approved the

2014 - 2015 budget and voted to purchase a new police car at its regular meeting Monday, May 19. Half of the \$36,700 cost of the new Ford Police Interceptor utility vehicle will be provided by the Lowell Community Fund. Jim Sowle, manager of Lowell City Airport, gave a presentation to the council explaining that a new J&H Oil gas station under construction at the intersection of Vergennes Street and Lincoln Lake Avenue could be too high and therefore would be dangerous for airplane flights. City manager Mark Howe said the 2013 - 2014 winter was the worst Lowell has had for 15 years. Howe said the city had 116 inches of snow, used 360 tons of road salt and plows spent 627 [hours] clearing streets. "It was a record winter and we made it through it," Howe said.

Drive Your Tractor to School Day celebrates Lowell's farming roots

Students at Lowell High School (LHS) celebrated life on the farm with the annual "Drive Your Tractor to School day" on the morning of May 16.



May 28 Lowell marks Memorial Day with pride

Hundreds of local citizens came together along Main Street for Lowell's Memorial Day parade. As the parade drew to a close, spectators became part of the parade joining the procession and following it down Washington Street toward Oakwood Cemetery for a special ceremony featuring the rededication of the Civil War Memorial installed there over 100 years ago in 1900. The rededication ceremony, lead by Lowell American Legion commander Dave Thompson, opened with some brief words and a performance of The National Anthem by the Lowell High School band.

Freshman service project reaches out to help community

Members of the class of 2017 spread out in teams throughout the Lowell community last Friday to lend a helping hand to local

organizations and parks as part of the 10th annual freshman service learning project.

June 4 LAS celebrates 136th commencement

City council votes to change firework's ordinance

At the heart of the city council meeting on Monday, June 2, was a 20-minute debate about a firework's ordinance, which passed 4 - 1. The new ordinance would make it illegal to use "consumer fireworks" on all but 30 days of the year. The 30 days include 10 national holidays, plus one day immediately before and after each holiday.

Tree belatedly placed for Arbor Day

Eric Pifer of Scholten Landscaping planted a Bradford pear tree at the new BP Merle Boes gas station to celebrate Arbor Day. The celebration was delayed until the gas station was ready for landscaping. In attendance were, from left to right: Lowell's city manager Mark Howe, Diane LaWarre, Mike Boes, Dalane Vandenberg, Sue Ullery, Steve Bukala and Jack Brown.

Lowell merchants are "Kickin' It on Main Street"

Eight merchants on Main Street in Lowell are working together to benefit Lowell Schools with a new co-operative promotion called "Kickin' It On Main Street." The program is designed to benefit one school or one school club or sport each month. During that month members and supporters of the school or club can earn 10 percent for their group by shopping at any of the eight participating merchants.

Seniors "give back"

The fourth annual Senior Give Back Day was held on May 20 throughout the greater Lowell community with the members of the class of 2014 participating.

June 11 Alumni football game gives fans a chance to see some favorite sons play another home game

Red Arrow fans were treated to an early kickoff to the football season when Bob Perry Memorial Field hosted the first-ever Lowell Legends Alumni football game last Friday in front of a crowd of thousands. Alumni team coach Matt Dood, who coordinated



the event along with Mike Curtis, said that this event was another brain child brought to the community from varsity football head coach Noel Dean.

Lowell Odyssey of the Mind teams perform at world finals

The Lowell Middle School and Murray Lake Odyssey of the Mind teams on the campus of Iowa State University, front row, left to right: Cole Beach, Nate Cleaver, Hayden Lowrie, Luci Foreman, and Phoebe Looman; middle row, left to right: Brady Johnson, John Lothian, and Parker Davis; back row, left to right: coach Ryan Lothian, coach Joe Davis, Jake Cleaver, Chloe Looman, Krin Beach, coach Mark Looman, Addison Mallindine, coach Heather Looman and Jared Sweet.

Community plus schools equals student success

We all know it to be true that Lowell is "the next place to be," and there is one more reason to add to our long list. Amy Pallo, principal of Lowell High School (LHS), stated that she has a unique class, Senior Capstone, where students have designed and implemented projects to benefit communities locally, nationally and even internationally. For the 2014-2015 school year, State Farm has provided a grant of \$6,000 to LHS for the Capstone class.

Lowell grads hiking North Country Trail

While both James Dyer and Tyler Barkacs have experience hiking they said neither of them have ever taken on a challenge the size of the one they are embarked upon now. The total length of their intended trek is 1,150 miles and will take them to the peak of the lower peninsula, across the upper and into Wisconsin. They expect the trip to take about seven more weeks.

Local businessman heads to D.C.

Local businessman goes to D.C. to discuss

continued, next page

2014 A Year In Review

New gas station and restaurant nearing completion

After a brief halt in construction, the new J&H Family Stores gas station and accompanying restaurant, located on the south east corner of Lincoln Lake Ave and Vergennes St., is nearing completion. The location will be open seven days a week and will eventually evolve into a 24-hour location. Hoppen reports that the business will create 25 new jobs between the store and the restaurant.

First load of wheat arrives at King Milling

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

July 30

Primary election to be held Tuesday, August 5

The "primary" election is Tuesday, August 5. There are also three proposals on the ballot, all three of which involve taxation. The first

drama to area children with disabilities.

Fun myth-busting science at Englehardt Library

The Englehardt branch of the Kent District Library recently presented "Bust that Myth," a fun science-based program for teens based on the popular Discovery network television show MythBusters.



Community Day 2014 at Gilda's Club

Lowell's Pink Arrow Pride season officially kicked off on Tuesday when Gilda's Club hosted the Lowell Community Wellness Pink Arrow health fair. The day featured the public's first opportunity to purchase the seventh version of the Pink Arrow Force

August 6 Annual Quiver 5k Run & Walk

Cancer crusaders strapped on their running shoes for the Pink Arrow Quiver 5K Run & Walk Tuesday at the close of Pink Arrow Community Day held at Gilda's Club.

Have fun at the fair all week long

A sky full of lightning and a torrential downpour were not enough to dampen the spirits as the 2014 Kent County Youth Fair got into full swing this week. The theme this year is "Go Hog Wild!"

Mayer appointed to city council, free ice cream and biodigester open house

Lowell has a new city councilor. At their meeting at city hall on Monday, August 4, the city council appointed Matt Mayer to a vacant seat. Mayer was the write-in candidate in the last election and was appointed to the vacancy left by Chris Schwab. July is the 25th anniversary of Lowell's "contract operations" with United Water, which of course means free ice cream. "To celebrate the occasion several folks from the city council and Mr. [Mark] Mundt will be giving away free ice cream novelties at the Sizzlin' Summer Concert on August 21," Howe said. There will be an open house at the Lowell Energy Center, a.k.a. the Newell Building, a.k.a. the biodigester, August 14 at 6 pm.

Survivor Celebration brings people together

LIVESTRONG at the YMCA is a physical and emotional wellness program designed specifically for adult cancer survivors. The program recently wrapped up their second session last week with their first "Survivor Celebration."

Meeting held to discuss class action lawsuit concerning trail area property owners

According to a recent class action lawsuit, people who own property, "located between railroad milepost 81.5 in Greenville, Michigan and milepost 103.2 in Lowell" might have some money coming to them. The lawsuit was filed against the United States government by a law firm called "Arent Fox." In this lawsuit, property owners are suing the government for converting a defunct private railroad into a public trail. Property owners across the country have gotten money

from the government in the past from class action lawsuits exactly like this one.

August 13 South Carolina based Compositel planning to add 50 jobs to Lowell area



Business is going so well at Compositel, 683 Lincoln Lake Ave. SE, these days that it can be hard to find a parking spot outside their building. Compositel is part of Industrial Services Group, Inc. (ISG), a group of companies that plans to add 50 jobs to Lowell's workforce.

Successful Grattan TwiLight Cancer Walk continues to grow its participation numbers

Residents of the neighboring community of Grattan gathered last Thursday evening for the sixth annual Grattan TwiLight Cancer Walk to benefit Gilda's Club of Lowell.

"Cheers" to the new Wittenbach/Wege Center director

Master naturalist Courtney Cheers was recently named the new director of the Wittenbach/Wege Agriscience and Environmental Education Center (WEC). Cheers, a



native of Iowa, moved to the Lowell area with her husband in 1996 after a brief stint in Montana and said she quickly fell in love with the flora and fauna of the Great Lakes State.

2014 Kent county Youth Fair comes to a successful finish

Thousands of people made their way to Lowell this past week to "Go Hog Wild!" at the 80th annual Kent County Youth Fair

held between August 4-9. The fair focuses entirely on the efforts, talents and achievements of the youth in Kent County. This year nearly 1,000 young exhibitors participated in the live and still exhibit competitions and



public to the Riverwalk Plaza this Friday, August 22, for the red carpet "premier" of free outdoor movies in the Lowell community.

Reunion celebrated by the LHS class of 1940

The Lowell class of 1940 celebrated its 74th reunion at Lowell Area Historical Museum on Aug. 7. Lunch was served to four classmates and six guests by Backwater Grill. The class had 77 members and six are still living.

WRWW-FM set and ready to broadcast this fall

In a few weeks Lowell will have its own FM radio station. Al Eckman, station manager of 92.3 WRWW-FM, said equipment is being put in place and the final technical preparations are being made.

August 27

Lowell's superintendent has a few changes in store for the school year

Lowell Area Schools will be doing a few things differently this school year. "We're starting out here with a strong school year," said Lowell Area School's superintendent Greg Pratt. "We're excited about it. Pink Arrow is a big event coming up. A lot of our buildings will have open houses and of course 'smart starts' are going on right now. That's where kids are coming into the buildings, getting their schedules, getting pictures taken and things like that. All that is happening." A lot of the changes this year will involve staffing. "We had a busy summer," Pratt said. "We had quite a few retirements and a few resignations, so almost 20 new staff. It's great to have new faces and high energy coming into the district and replacing those people that have served so well and selflessly over the past several years. We're all set. Staff is hired and we're looking forward to a great start to the school year."

Man killed while testing ultralight at Lowell Airport

According to the Kent County Sheriff's office, just before noon on Sunday,



proposal would reduce the "state use tax" and replace it with "a local community stabilization share of the tax." The second proposal is a simple millage "for the purpose of planning, evaluating and providing services to persons age 60 years or older." The last proposal is a 10-year millage to provide funds to the Kent District Library system. Some of the money raised will go to the Englehardt Library.

t-shirt. The shirt serves as admission to the Pink Arrow football game, scheduled to be held on Sept. 5 when the Pink Arrows will again be playing against Chicago Hubbard.

State parks celebrating 40 years of Endangered Species Act

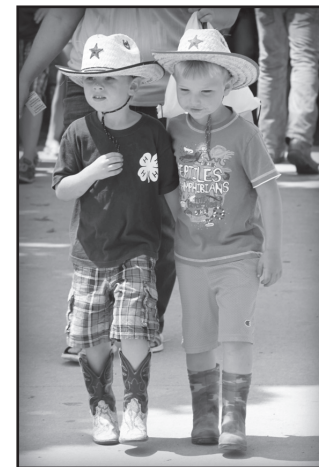
This year marks the 40th anniversary of Michigan's Endangered Species Act, the legislation that has been critical to the recovery of many different species.



Arts in Motion at LowellArts!

LowellArts! wrapped up a six-week collaboration with Arts in Motion, a Grand Rapids based nonprofit organization, to bring classes in music, dance and

participated in the various knowledge and talent showcases. Event organizer and fair vice president Bruce Doll said that the fair went great this year boasting a record-breaking auction total and "lots of smiles."



August 20 City council is in the pink with paid kayak launch and new councilmember

They passed this year's Pink Arrow resolution and swore in a new member at this week's city council meeting. After Matt Mayer was sworn in, Lou Jean Stickney and two members of her Girl Scout troop opened the meeting by leading those assembled in the Pledge of Allegiance. The council, all wearing brand new Pink Arrow shirts, adopted a resolution proclaiming Friday, September 5, "Pink Arrow Pride Day - Arrow Force VII" in the city of Lowell. Residents are encouraged "to participate in this event by purchasing pink t-shirts and attending the game."

The council also made Friday, September 19, "Prisoner of War/Missing in Action Recognition Day."

Grease will be first outdoor movie on the Riverwalk

LowellArts! and The Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce are inviting the

2014 A Year In Review

Aug. 24, deputies were dispatched to the Lowell Airport, 730 Lincoln Lake Ave SE, to assist with an ultralight plane crash. When deputies arrived on scene they were assisted by Lowell Fire Rescue and Lowell Ambulance. Bryan R. Bowker, 67, of Edgewood, New Mexico, had apparently driven to Lowell to purchase the ultralight plane. Bowker had successfully taken the ultralight for a short test flight and landed safely. He then attempted a second take off and lost control of the aircraft. The ultralight left the ground and crashed approximately 350 feet south of the runway.

Bigger and better 2014 Pink Arrow Pride is going strong as game day approaches

Pink Arrow Pride gets bigger and better every year and 2014 will be no exception. "Basically we



have the same event but there will be some new additions, [including] a different halftime show," said Teresa Beachum, one of the event's organizers. They added fireworks to the event last year and Beachum promised something new in that department. "This year we plan to work out some additional pyrotechnics," Beachum said. "We will welcome the community onto the playing field after the game to have the best vantage point for the fireworks at the end."

September 3 Parking still an issue as DDA meeting seeks public input on downtown planning

Lowell's Downtown Development Authority had a "vision" meeting on Tuesday, August 26, at city hall. The meeting was led by Lynee Wells, an urban planner from the engineering company Williams & Works and Trevor Bosworth, an architect with the Viridis Design Group. About 30 local residents attended. The purpose of the meeting was to seek public input about what improvements to make to the downtown area. Wells and Bosworth presented several different options and plans. Residents were

encouraged to speak up and ask questions throughout the presentation. It didn't take long for the meeting to turn into a debate about downtown parking options.

"The city administration is not really reacting to the merchants' needs for parking," said Greg Canfield, owner of Canfield Plumbing & Heating, 411 E. Main. "There was talk of a parking lot behind the Moose building for a couple years. It was almost a sure thing. We invested in the Moose building thinking that was coming. We have a city council that couldn't even put it on the ballot for the voters to approve extending lease options." "I don't know that anybody ever said it was a 'done deal,' because it's certainly far from it being a 'done deal,'" Howe said. "It is a very complicated process. A lot of pieces have to be put together and we are working on it." Topics other than parking were discussed. The meeting also touched on ways to get pedestrians across Main Street. "One of the important things that we heard a lot from a lot of people at the last meeting was the ability to cross [M-21] at the Riverwalk," Bosworth said. "It's kind of hard to cross three lanes of traffic as it is right now."

September 10 Storms threatened, lightning cracked as Pink Arrow Pride fans persevered throughout inclement weather

This year's Pink Arrow Pride football game was as big as ever, despite some nasty weather before the game. The event was nearly canceled or postponed due to a severe thunderstorm. The first raindrops fell at exactly 5:53 pm. Once lightning was spotted, the stands and field were immediately evacuated. People found shelter under the big tent behind restaurant row or at the high school. The cafeteria at the high school was the place to be during the rain delay. The kids from Lowell and the kids from Chicago socialized together and had a good time. Smaller kids were content to slide around outside in the rain and mud. Once the rain, thunder and lightning dissipated, organizers decided to cancel the 'survivors walk' and proceed directly to the honoree introductions at the field. Lowell beat Hubbard 45 - 6 in the game, but the Hubbard players were all smiles as they left the field. Hubbard senior and quarterback Jacquelle

Smith scored his team's sole touchdown, but like everybody else, he was more interested in talking about Pink Arrow than about the football game. "I like this because we get to support cancer," Smith said. "And playing a great team like Lowell, it makes us better in life. I think it's a great thing."

September 17 Council honors airport manager's service

The city council meeting Monday, September 15, was a low-key affair, nearly devoid of conflict. The council discussed Whites Bridge, union negotiations and recognized a long-term employee who is retiring. Jim Howard of Lowell was the only resident out of the 17 in attendance to use the opportunity for "citizen comment." Howard spoke to the council about the still unresolved union negotiations. "I believe the city council has failed to do their job as a public servant in the contract negotiations between the city and the union that represents the employees in the Department of Public Works," Howard said. Nancy Stroosnyder, the treasurer of the Whites Bridge Historical Society, asked the council to approve their request for a "charitable gaming license" and a "general letter of support" from the council. The group needs \$475,000



to rebuild the bridge. They have applied for a \$275,000 grant. To raise the remaining \$200,000 the group plans to hold a raffle. The raffle's grand prize will be two tickets to tour the Mackinac Bridge. The council unanimously approved Stroosnyder's requests. Matt Mayer, the newest city councilor, was appointed to the Fire Authority board. After the meeting a ceremony was held to honor Jim Sowle. He has been the manager of Lowell City Airport since 1992. "I loved every minute of it. I truly did," Sowle said.

Last minute touchdown seals Red Arrow victory over EGR

Perennial rivals East Grand Rapids Pioneers and

the Lowell Red Arrows battled it out on rain-soaked gridiron last Friday night. The Arrows won the classic match 30-25.

September 24 Crowds flocked to enjoy annual Fallasburg Fall Festival of the Arts

The 2014 Fallasburg Fall Festival for the Arts was held last weekend. The weather was beautiful on Saturday and the park was still full of people even on a rainy Sunday.

Lowell grad inducted into Great American Rivalry Series Hall of Fame

Keith Nichol, a 2007 Lowell High School graduate, was inducted into the Great American Rivalry Series Hall of Fame at the football game on Friday, Sept. 12.

Alto residents enjoy annual harvest festival and car show

Alto residents ushered in the fall season recently when the community hosted their 34th annual Harvest Festival and Car Show



October 1 Lowell student wins second rodeo championship

For the second consecutive year, Lowell High School junior Austin Grim and his roping partner have claimed the top spot at the Michigan Ropers Association State Championship finals as members of the Little Britches Rodeo Association of Michigan.



New exhibit opens at Lowell Area Historical Museum

The Lowell Area Historical Museum has announced their newest special exhibit "The Sixties



a Decade of Change." Opening Oct. 4 the exhibit explores the politics, fashion, music and events that shaped this turbulent decade in our nation's history. It explores what was happening in Lowell in the 1960s and how national and world events were experienced here.

City council holds special work session meeting to discuss upgrade to lift station

Lowell City Council held a special 'work session' meeting in a conference room on the second floor of city hall at 6 pm on Monday, September 29. The meeting lasted over two hours. In addition to city leaders and police officers, the meeting was attended by five members of the public. The first topic of debate at the work session was an upgrade to the 'lift station.' Put simply, a lift station is the pump through which raw sewage flows. According to Brian Vilmont, an engineer with the Grand Rapids company Prein & Newhof, Lowell's current lift station is badly in need of upgrades. These upgrades will be very expensive, but Vilmont said the pipes are designed to last 75 years. "What's it going to do to rates?" councilor Jeff Altoft asked. "There's no way I can predict that," city manager Mark Howe replied. The next topic on the agenda was the wastewater treatment plant. Councilmember Altoft suggested that the city run the plant itself, rather than having the company United Water operate the plant. Next on the agenda was a discussion about saving some money by cutting police services. The consensus was not to do this because the financial savings would not be enough to justify the reduction in police coverage. The council then turned their attention to winter parking. "I hope I've at least given you the impression that we're working on a lot of things," Howe said. "We have a lot of things on our plate."

Equestrians win reserve champions at district finals

Equestrian team members Olivia Hock, Henneh McMillian, Sara Kloosterman, Andi Reynolds and Hannah Draigh pose with their regional win trophy last weekend in Midland.

October 8 If you remember it, were you there?

Lowell Area Historical Museum opens 60s exhibit

There's a groovy new exhibit at the Lowell Area Historical Museum called "Flashback to the 60s: A Decade of Change."



LHS class of '64 celebrates

Pictured: Erwin Barton, Lola Shaler, Bonnie Adrianse, Alice Tower, Frank David Thompson, Patrick Troy, Sherry Miles, Terry W. Dawson, Linda Brady, Bruce Rittenger, Jan Marshall, Dick Treviso, Ella Zink, Vic Weeks, Gay Carey, Carol Wisner, Shirley Biggs, Susan Bryant, Jean Stormzand, Ron Hostetler, Jim Jastifer, Jancie Fosburg, Sharon Seeley, Diane Blazo, Margaret Laux, Dave Armstrong, Joyce Fosburg, Judy Fairfield, Sherry Johnson, Keith Anderson, Ron Thomet, Barb Adams, Kay Dawson, Jan Chittenden, Judy Fairchild, Chaz Kiel, Bud Rogers, Karen Wingeir, Bill Weiland, Jim Boyd, Pat Murphy, Martin Flynn, Alex McPherson, Olen Miller, Mary Kay Phillips, Craig Walters, Tom Tompkins, Susan Schroeder, Maureen Priebe, Ty Reminga, Rich Wassink, Gary Gage, Bob Jacobi, Gordie Myers, Jon Alexander, Tari Zahm, Dan Dabakey, Ty Wessell, Doug Hunter, and Delva Burton.

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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.^{TFN}

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 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.^{TFN}

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

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.^{TFN}

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

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

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.^{TFN}

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

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

services

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

W-2'S AND 1099'S PRINTED - C & J Tax Service www.cjtaxsvr.com or 1-888-480-9571. Setup fee \$19.78 plus 50¢ per set. Online security by Citrix.

I LIKE TO FIX TECH PROBLEMS - Fast, affordable, technical help \$25 per hour. Wifi, routers, networks, virus etc. 987-0269 or visit lowelltechguy.squarespace.com

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Coming Events

PLEASE NOTE - Coming Events are for non-profit organizations. If you are charging admission for an event - it is considered an advertisement. Coming events are ran on a space available basis & ARE NOT GUARANTEED TO RUN. If you would like to make sure your event is placed in the paper, please call our office & place it as a classified ad. We will not run ANY Garage or Rummage Sales as a coming event. All Coming Events or changes to coming events should be submitted by fax: 897-4809, email: classifieds@lowellbuyersguide.com, by mail: PO Box 128, Lowell, MI 49331 or in person: 105 N. Broadway, Lowell.

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 GAR-

DEN 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, meet 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.

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

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

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

THE PIRATES LIFE FOR ME! - Mon. Jan. 19, 1 p.m. Learn to look like a pirate, talk like a pirate, play pirate games & fill your treasure chest. For all ages at Englehardt Public Library, 200 N. Monroe, Lowell. Ph. 784-2007.

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

FOOD PANTRY - First Friday of month at Lakeside Community Church, 6201 Whitneyville Rd. Free frozen, perishable food. Registration 1 p.m., distribution 4 p.m. Bring own containers. 868-6402.

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

FREE SMOKING CESSATION CLASSES - offered at Lowell Family Medical Center. Call 616-446-7058 to register. The class runs for 8 weeks. Evening & weekend sessions are available. Time & dates will be determined by those registered.

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

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

2014 A Year In Review



Class of '64

"Zombie Chick" themed GNO set for October 16

The undead will roam the streets of Lowell this Thursday, Oct. 16 from 5:00 to 10:00 pm during the "Zombie Chick" themed fall Girls' Night Out.

Vergennes club celebrates 100th anniversary

There is something very special about a women's group that is still meeting a hundred years after its beginning. The first Vergennes Cooperative Farm Women's Club was held on October 29, 1914. The reason may be found in their purpose: The object of this club shall be the promotion of cooperation among the farm women of the neighborhood in the social enlivenment and betterment of the farm homes and of this community.

Council discusses policies and underground wires

Lowell's city council held their regular meeting at city hall on Monday, October 6. The council voted to use Lowell Cable Television (LCTV) money to repair city streets and to provide a "cost of living adjustment" of 1.7 percent for Lowell Light & Power retirees. The highlight of the meeting was a long argument about underground power lines.

60th class reunion for 1954 LHS grads

Pictured, left to right: Jenett McPherson Patrick, Nancy Smith Thornton, Lois White Tomasiewicz, Donna Geelhoed VanderLaan, Nola



Bedell Bryan, Arleen Bryant Irvin, Helen Bryant Kuiper, Janet Clinton VanWyck, Carole Parsons Anderson, Nancy Potter Hicok Porter, Jeanne Marks Serne, and Sharon Potter Miles.



Pictured, left to right: Rev. Bernard Dawson, Dr. Stephen Myers, Dr. James Davis, George Anderson, Richard Bryan, Dr. Raymond Hoag, Ron Winks, and Arnith Stahl.

MacNaughton bests ArtPrize jazz category

For the second time, Lowell native Roger MacNaughton has taken home the winning prize for his entry in the ArtPrize Jazz Music category.



Fire department debuts new fire engine at annual open house

Lowell Area Fire Department debuted their massive new fire engine at their annual open house on Wednesday, October 8.



October 22 M-50 bridge slide installation completed

In northern states, the issue of road repair is a costly and annoying difficulty. Backups caused simply by constricting a highway to one lane for the sake of filling in potholes can make drivers late for appointments or even delay their return home after a long day of work. In the past, bridge repairs have closed down large sections of busy thoroughfares. This was not the case, however, with the reconstruction project for the M-50 bridge over I-96 in Lowell Township which has been going on for the past few weeks. Using a new technique popularly called the "bridge slide" civil engineers embarked in an endeavor that has only been practiced a couple of times in the past. The process is simple. Construction crews assemble a new bridge adjacent to the old bridge that they are replacing. In this instance, the old M-50 bridge was over fifty years old, built during a time when John F. Kennedy was still alive and nobody had ever listened to a Beatles record. Once construction is completed, the old bridge is demolished and the new bridge is slid into the place the old bridge once occupied.

Councilmember seeks to add items to meeting agenda, citizens voice opinion on buried cable and dead trees

This week's city council meeting started off with some interesting disagreements over the meeting's agenda and included a long presentation by a representative from "The Right Place." At the beginning of the meeting, councilor Matt Mayer attempted to have items added to the meeting's agenda. "Under 'new business' I would like to add, 'the potential disciplinary action of the city manager,'" Mayer said. "Uh, maybe I need to refer to the city attorney on that one because there's an issue," said mayor

Jim Hodges. "I would also like to add, under the closed session..." Mayer continued. "Excuse me," said city attorney Richard Wendt. "Let's first address this item," Hodges said. "That's improper matter to add to the agenda," Wendt said. According to a "rules of procedure" document on the city council's website, "Any councilmember shall have the right to add items to the regular agenda before the meeting commences." However, instead of simply adding the items to the agenda, they took a vote to decide whether or not to add the new items. Councilors Sharon Ellison, Jim Hall and mayor Jim Hodges voted not to add them. The items were not added. "Can we talk about the agenda?" Mayer asked. "Can we do that now?" "Well, if there's any additions or corrections to that agenda," Hodges said. "I have some questions about it," Mayer said. "Not any more additions, but questions." "Well, maybe you and I can talk about that another time," Hodges said. "I think we can bring it up now," Mayer said. "I don't think so," Hodges said. About 23 citizens attended the meeting, which lasted an hour and 25 minutes.

Zombies roam the streets on Girls Night Out

More than thirty Lowell retailers participated in last Thursday's zombie themed fall Girls' Night Out sponsored by the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce. Main Street was flooded with the undead as customers decked out in costumes roamed the streets in search of bargains, snacks and fun at the annual celebration of local shopping.

Scots top Arrows for the first time since 1990

The playoffs still lie ahead. The Red Arrows can still clinch at least a share of the OK White conference championship with a win over Forest Hills Central Friday. The Lowell varsity football team's undefeated season came to an end Friday though in Ralph E. Myers Stadium in Caledonia with a 33-0 loss to the Fighting Scots.

Chili proceeds go to Lowell Senior Neighborhood Center

Larkin's Restaurant presented a \$2,825 donation to the Lowell Senior Neighborhood Center on

Monday, October 20. The funds were raised at a chili cook-off held during the Harvest Festival last week. The check was presented to the center by Larkin's manager Deb Apol.



October 29 Lowell Community Fund accepting requests

The deadline to request funds from the Lowell Community Fund is noon, Friday, Dec. 5, 2014. To receive consideration and approval, all requests must be for funds that will aid local organizations in providing help to persons in the Lowell area.

Ballot initiative to ban fracking supporters to protest in Lansing

The Committee to Ban Fracking in Michigan, a statewide ballot initiative campaign (www.letsbanfracking.org), will gather outside the Lansing Center (in downtown Lansing) Wednesday, Oct. 9, to protest the Michigan DNR's twice-annual auction of state-owned mineral rights. The event takes place Wednesday from 7:00 am to noon. The auction begins at 9:00 am. The committee to Ban Fracking in Michigan is a ballot question committee that collected over 70,000 signatures in 2013 for a statewide ban on fracking and frack wastes. The Committee's proposal is not on this November's ballot. The group is working on placing it on the next statewide ballot in 2016.

November 5 Local artists and crafters prepare for annual Christmas Through Lowell

The 23rd annual "Christmas Through Lowell" will take place on November 14, 15 and 16. Local artists in homes and businesses throughout Lowell will have their

2014 A Year In Review

creations on display and for sale that Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

Water distribution supervisor retiring early, citizens address city council

At this week's city council meeting it was revealed that water distribution supervisor Bob Robinson will retire on Dec. 26. Two of the 13 citizens in attendance addressed the council. Tony Ellison thanked Bob Robinson, the police department, the department of public works and Lowell Light & Power board chairman Greg Canfield for helping him with various unstated issues that he has apparently had. Ellison is the husband of city councilor Sharon Ellison. The council voted to extend the city's lawn care contract with Clean Cut Lawn Care, a Lowell company, for one more year.

Lowell's first "Bark for Life" raising funds for a cause

Lowell's first "Bark For Life" fundraising event welcomed cancer crusaders and their canine best friends to the Kent County Fairgrounds for a fun afternoon of activities, sales and contests that benefited the Lowell Relay For Life this past weekend.



November 12 LHS student speaks at United Nations Rotary event

Annually Rotarians, Rotoractors, Interactors, foreign exchange students and group study exchange groups from all over the world gather at the United Nations in New York City to talk about peace and health issues that affect people everywhere. This year Hayden Sutton, a junior from Lowell High School, was asked to speak to the assembled masses on a hunger program that his interact club at Lowell High School runs. His focus

was not necessarily based on the size of the interact project, but on the ability of everyone to do the same sort of thing no matter where they live.

Preservation of rare, untouched ecosystem in Lowell Township

Huckleberry Hills is a rare, untouched ecosystem located at 2910 Alden Nash SE in Lowell Township. A local man, Michigan State University botanist Jesse Lincoln, wants to preserve this unique wild space. Even though the land might not serve a purpose to people, it is important to preserve natural spaces like Huckleberry Hills. Lincoln and a team of volunteers have been working to return the land to its original state. "We've been working on it for about a year," Lincoln said. "We're getting the trails installed, we're removing invasive species and we're going to take a step back over the winter and see what we need to tackle next year."

November 19

Cold snowy weather ushers in 23rd annual Christmas Through Lowell. Last weekend was the 23rd annual "Christmas Through Lowell" event. Business was good all over town, despite some bitter cold and snowy weather.

Museum presents military program

Last Wednesday night at the Lowell Performing Arts Center the Lowell Area Historical Museum presented a special military history program entitled Vietnam Veterans Tell Their Stories - Send In The Marines.



All are invited to annual Community Thanksgiving dinner

Lowell citizens are invited to The First Congregational United Church of Christ located on Lincoln Lake to dine and celebrate at the sixth annual Lowell Community Thanksgiving Dinner. Last year, more than 150 attendees consumed a total of 14 turkeys, 75 pounds of potatoes and nearly 15 pies all prepared or provided by volunteers. This year the event anticipates serving its milestone 1000th meal.



6,030 cookies prepared for veterans

The 7th annual Cookies for Veterans of the Grand Rapids Veterans Home was held on Saturday, Nov. 8 and a total of 6,030 homemade cookies were delivered to a delighted group of happy veterans.

Lowell mom opens local chapter of Mending Little Hearts

Lifetime Alto resident, businesswoman and community supporter



Jennifer Dougherty has always had a big heart. So it was no surprise to those who knew her that after her son Caleb was born with a life-threatening congenital heart defect she took the initiative to help others facing her situation. She created a local chapter of Mended Little Hearts (MLH), a charity that provides both help and hope to childhood heart patients and their families.

Two new Lowell Eagle Scouts take the oath

Two Lowell Boy Scouts, Nick DeVito and Josh Theisen, celebrated their recent achievement of becoming Eagle Scouts. They were honored on Saturday, Nov. 8, in a formal Eagle Scout Court of Honor ceremony held at the Boy Scout Cabin.

November 26 Holiday Market offers unique shopping opportunity



Each winter the King Gallery at LowellArts! converts to an exclusive holiday shopping destination that features the unique and varied works of more than forty carefully selected local artisans. The gallery is jam packed with artfully displayed goods ranging from glass to metal work and from photography to pottery.

City work session creates lively conversation and few solutions

Lowell's city council had a three-hour 'work

session' at city hall on Monday, Nov. 24. Councilor Jeff Altoft had heated arguments with city manager Mark Howe about various topics. Mayor Jim Hodges and councilors Sharon Ellison and Jim Hall tried to keep peace with Altoft while at the same time supporting Howe. Councilor Matt Mayer was absent.

Roger MacNaughton and Friends to perform award-winning compositions

LowellArts! presents ArtPrize award-winning composer Roger MacNaughton. In addition to taking home the 2014 ArtPrize Jazz award for his song "5 Mile Mountain," MacNaughton was also awarded the 2012 Jazz award for the composition "Grand Traverse Bay" from the CD "Michigan Morn."

2015 LCTV grant to be used for city street repair

It's official, the Lowell Cable Television (LCTV) fund will spend the entire 2015 grant on street repairs in the city of Lowell.

While this was decided at a city council meeting in Oct., it was finally presented at the LCTV board meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 18.

P-Were you pulled over by Lowell's Secret Santa?

If you happened to notice an increase in police activity last week, that's because Rob Bliss was in Lowell playing an elaborate "Secret Santa" game for a television show. "He [Bliss]

approached me about doing a 'Secret Santa' type situation through Lowell," said Lowell chief of police Steve Bukala. "He was working with 'Up TV,' a Christian-based TV station." How the game worked was, Bukala was the "spotter." Then one of two other Lowell police officers would make the stop. That's when the fun started. "Officer Scot VanSolkema or detective Gordy Lauren would stop people for very minor traffic violations that we probably normally wouldn't have time to do," Bukala said. There were low-profile camera men stationed in the area filming it from the outside and as the officer was talking to that person at the traffic stop, they would ask questions like, 'Well, did you get all your Christmas shopping done?' or 'Kids need anything for Christmas?' We had people from Up TV stationed at Meijer. They would run through the store, grab the item, pay for it, wrap it while driving back from Meijer or whatever store they were buying it from and stick it in the trunk of the officer's car so that when he got out he could go to the back of the car and get it out and say, 'Can I put these gifts in your car?' and they would film peoples' reactions." Bliss and his crew ended up giving thousands of dollars worth of merchandise to dozens of local people.

December 3 Lowell businesses experience a good turnout with the official start of Christmas shopping

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

LPD officers have body cameras in use

The unrest in Ferguson, Mo., has brought into focus the issues surrounding

continued, next page



2014 A Year In Review



JANUARY 15 – JANUARY 21

• A shooting was reported Tuesday in the electrical engineering building at Purdue University in Indiana. Students and faculty were told to seek shelter while police searched the scene. One suspect was taken into custody and it is unknown whether or not there were any injuries.

• Another blast of cold air has hit the Midwest and will spread to the Northeast. From Virginia to New England are preparing for snow up to a foot deep.

• Two Mexican citizens were arrested at the border in connection to the Target security breach.

• With less than three weeks to go there are still a lot of seats to be filled at the Olympic games in Sochi, Russia. Thousands of tickets remain unsold for Russia's first Winter Olympics. It is thought that foreign fans are staying away because of concern over terrorist threats, expensive flights and hotels, long travel distances and a shortage of tourist attractions in the area.

JANUARY 21 – JANUARY 28

• The unusually snowy, cold weather has closed Lowell schools and most schools in Kent County, as well as colleges and some businesses. The wind chill factor is the main reason for the closings.

• Teen heartthrob Justin Bieber has been arrested for DUI after racing down a neighborhood street. He is also in trouble for egging his neighbor's house.

• Paul McCartney and Ringo Starr perform at the 2014 Grammy Awards. Yoko Ono and son Sean Lennon were in the audience dancing along to their performance.

• Eric Lawson, who portrayed the Marlboro man in cigarette ads during the late 1970s, has died of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). He was 72.

FEBRUARY 5 – FEBRUARY 11

• Shirley Temple Black, child actress and icon of the 1930s and diplomat in later life died Monday night at her home near San Francisco. She was 85.

• Jay Leno said his goodbyes for the last time to the Tonight Show and passed the baton to Jimmy Fallon. Fallon's first show will air February 24, 2014.

• Apparently guns don't kill people, bacon does. A Grand Rapids' woman is accused of firing a gun at a McDonald's restaurant. Apparently she didn't get bacon on her sandwich.

FEBRUARY 26 – MARCH 4

• The 86th annual Academy Awards were held and the best picture Oscar went to "12 Years A Slave." Best actor went to Matthew McConaughey for his role in "Dallas Buyers Club" and best actress went to Cate Blanchett for her role in "Blue Jasmine." During one bit the show's hostess Ellen DeGeneres grouped together some award-winning stars for a selfie to break a Tweeting record and actually shut down Twitter briefly online.

• Russia invaded Ukraine and took control over the Crimean Peninsula. Russia's foreign minister said that Russian troops are in Crimea to protect Russian citizens and that they will remain "until the normalization of the political situation."

• Disney plans to stop its funding to the Boy Scouts of America beginning in 2015 because of the Scouts' ban on gay leaders.

• The world's oldest person, Misao Okawa, a Japanese woman who just celebrated her 116th birthday, has some simple advice for a long life. She says, "Eat and sleep and you will live a long time. You have to learn to relax."

MARCH 5 – MARCH 11

• A tagged great white shark named Lydia has become the first known white shark to swim across the Atlantic Ocean. The 2,000-pound shark was tagged by Ocearch scientists last March off Jacksonville, Florida and crossed the mid-Atlantic ridge last Sunday.

• Despite a rocky start the rate of uninsured Americans is falling. Only Hispanics are still lagging behind in signing up. Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index said the proportion of Americans who are uninsured is on track to drop to the lowest quarterly level it measured since 2008, before Obama took office.

• The fate of a Malaysia Airlines Boeing 777 is still unknown. It has been learned that two persons on the flight were traveling with stolen passports but still no wreckage has been found from Saturday's disappearance of the flight bound from Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, to Beijing with 239 people on board.

• The trial of famed "Blade Runner" and accused murderer, Oscar Pistorius is still underway. The accused was throwing up in a bucket as the pathologist described the damage his "Black Talon" bullets caused to his girlfriend Reeva Steenkamp's body. This type of bullet is designed to cause maximum tissue damage.

MARCH 12 – MARCH 18

• President Obama joined the EU (European Union) in imposing sanctions on Russia over Crimea vote.

• GM recalls another 1.5 million vehicles involving faulty ignition switches. Models include 08-13 Enclave Acadia, 09-13 Traverse and 08-13 Outlook.

• 'Tonight Show' favorite David Brenner dies at 78.

• 4.4-magnitude earthquake hits Los Angeles area, bringing no reports of damage.

• Jett Webb, a hunter in North Carolina, killed an 8 foot, 500 pound boar. Veteran hunter tagged the boar with a single shot .308 caliber rifle.

• Some 26 nations are now involved in the massive international search for Malaysia Airlines Flight 370.

MARCH 19 – MARCH 25

• Malaysia's prime minister announced on Monday that according to new data, flight MH370 ended in the Southern Indian Ocean. Families were notified via text, that there would be no survivors.

• A commuter train arriving at O'Hare Airport jumped the tracks injuring 32 people.

• After a massive mudslide in Washington, eight people are confirmed dead and 108 people are still missing.

MARCH 26 – APRIL 1

• With close to 7 million citizens signing up, public support for the Affordable Care Act narrowly notched a new high in the latest ABC News/Washington Post poll, while criticism of Barack Obama's handling of the law's rollout has eased.

• After nine seasons, 208 episodes, eight slaps, dozens of plays and hundreds of high-fives, the show "How I Met Your Mother" ended its run with the ending many fans had already guessed – with Ted getting back together with Robin. And many fans upset with the ending.

• A Michigan high school student says he's been forced to leave his track team simply because of his hair. Mike Barker, a 17-year-old junior at West Iron County High School, was sporting a bright pink Mohawk to support his mother, who is battling breast cancer. When authorities allegedly told him to choose between his hair, which violated school policy, and the team, Barker says, "I picked family."

APRIL 2 – APRIL 8

• Mickey Rooney, a film star whose career spanned 10 decades died Sunday at the age of 93. Rooney was Hollywood's top box office draw between 1939 and 1941. He was born Joe Yule Jr. on Sept. 23, 1920, in Brooklyn, New York. Rooney married eight times but had been married to his current wife since the 1970s.

• Little Prince George took off with his parents, The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, for his first official three-week trip to New Zealand and Australia.

• The final game of NCAA March Madness pitted the University of Kentucky Wildcats against the University of Connecticut Huskies. The Huskies won the national championship with a 60-54 victory over Kentucky.

APRIL 9 – APRIL 15

• The one-year anniversary of the Boston Marathon bombings was marked by various tributes and speeches from Massachusetts governor Deval Patrick to vice president Joe Biden. Between 2:30 pm and 3 pm, a flag-raising ceremony and moment of silence was held at the finish line to mark the time and place where two bombs went off on April 15, 2013.

• In Pretoria, South Africa, Oscar Pistorius has been contradicted several times during his trial for shooting his girlfriend Reeva Steenkamp as the prosecution has clearly tried to cast doubt on his insistence that he killed Steenkamp when he mistook her for a burglar. The prosecutor told Pistorius his version of what happened the night he killed Steenkamp was "so improbable that nobody would think it is reasonably true." The defendant continues to cry on the stand.

• The first total lunar eclipse (the Blood Moon) of 2014 occurred in the wee hours of April 15. Over the next 18 months there will be four back-to-back total lunar eclipses.

APRIL 16 – APRIL 22

• In a 6-2 ruling the Supreme Court upheld Michigan's ban on using race as a factor in college admissions saying that Michigan voters had the right to change their state constitution in 2006 to prohibit public colleges and universities from taking account of race in admissions decisions. The justices said that a lower federal court was wrong to set aside the change as discriminatory.

• Mount Everest climbing season has been abandoned to honor 16 sherpas killed in an avalanche while they performed essential tasks for the upcoming season last week.

• The first American in 31 years has won the Boston Marathon. Meb Keflezighi, 38, won the men's race with a time of 2:08:37. Rita Jeptoo of Kenya, once again won the women's title with a time of 2:18:57, a new course record.

• An Ohio woman found a bird leg in a bag of fresh Dole spinach. She was happy she didn't actually have any of the spinach. A statement from Dole read: "Thank you for contacting us about the issue. We appreciate that you have given us the opportunity to respond. Dole Fresh Vegetables prides itself on its high product quality standards and takes consumer concerns very seriously. We have already spoken to the consumer and our Quality Assurance staff is investigating the incident."

APRIL 23 – APRIL 29

• An armed package handler in Kennesaw, GA, opened fire Tuesday morning at a FedEx station outside Atlanta. Six were wounded and the suspected gunman was found dead from an apparent self-inflicted gunshot. The gunman worked for FedEx as a package handler.

• A French tourist saw a man digging in the trash while she was on her first trip to New York City. After eating dinner in New York's Little Italy neighborhood she saw the man and gave him her "doggy bag" of pizza. The man replied, "God bless you" and she went on her way. The next day she saw her picture on the news. It turns out she had stumbled upon the set of Richard Gere's latest movie and it was Gere, playing the part of a homeless man that she had given her dinner to. She had no idea saying that he clearly was a very good actor.

• Tens of thousands of people were without power in Alabama, Mississippi and Kentucky after several tornados and severe storms cut a swath through the south. At least 30 have died.

• The NBA commissioner Adam Silver has banned team owner Donald Sterling, of the LA Clippers, for life and fined him 2.5 million dollars for his racist remarks.

MAY 28 – JUNE 3

• Emmy Award-winning actress Ann B. Davis, died Sunday at 88. She was best known for her role as housekeeper on "The Brady Bunch." She died after a fall at her home.

• Bowe Bergdahl was captured by the Taliban June 30, 2009, after he walked away from his remote base, leaving his weapon behind. Close to 20 Taliban surrounded Bergdahl, as the 28-year-old was released during a prisoner exchange, after five years of captivity, and was hustled into a waiting helicopter this week.

• Author and poet Maya Angelou, 86, has died. The family statement read: "Dr. Maya Angelou passed quietly in her home before 8:00 a.m. EST.

JUNE 4 – JUNE 10

• Comedian Tracy Morgan was injured when a Walmart truck hit his chauffeured vehicle after a show. One person was killed.

• Another campus shooting at a high school in Portland, Oregon. This after a man and a woman shot and killed three people including two policemen then killed themselves in Las Vegas.

• Shaina Brown was working a night shift at a Waffle House on Mother's Day in North Carolina and received a \$1,000 tip. But apparently it is not in Waffle House's policy to let her keep such a generous tip and large tips charged on a credit card are automatically returned to the customer.

• The price of coffee is going up – way up – due to the abnormally wet weather in Central America that has caused a fungus called "coffee rust" to destroy harvests and droughts in Brazil have wiped out crops.

JUNE 11 – JUNE 17

• The San Antonio Spurs are the NBA champs beating the Miami Heat in five games straight. Tim Duncan now becomes the second active player with five championship rings. The other is Kobe Bryant. Kawhi Leonard was awarded the series MVP.

• Cancer claims the life of Hall of Famer Tony Gwynn at age 54.

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2014 A Year In Review



- The Army has begun an investigation into the circumstances surrounding the disappearance and capture of Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl.

- George H.W. Bush took one last sky dive to celebrate his 90th birthday.

- Radio personality Casey Kasem has died at the age of 82.

JUNE 18 – JUNE 24

- Star goalkeeper Hope Solo was arrested for assaulting her sister and nephew at a party. She faces domestic violence charges.

- A dog named Peanut, a two-year-old mutt, was crowned the “World’s Ugliest Dog” over the weekend. He was an abused animal and now his owner hopes to raise awareness about animal abuse.

- Television news personality, Katie Couric, married John Molner.

- Padres pitcher Alex Torres donned a new baseball cap designed to protect pitchers from dangerous line drives.

JULY 9 – JULY 15

- Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl will take a desk job at Army post in Texas.

- Costa Concordia: Wrecked cruise ship floating again. Investigators hope to find the one missing victim.

- Germany kicks out CIA station chief after U.S. continues to spy on German officials.

- Free agent LeBron James announced his plans to return home and play for Cleveland Cavaliers.

- In World Cup finals Germany battled through 90-plus minutes to win 1-0 over Argentina.

- In a recent You/Gov poll two-thirds of republicans think impeaching Obama would be justified.

- Citigroup will pay \$7 billion to end department of Justice mortgage investigation.

JULY 23 – JULY 29

- Charles Mozdir was charged with child sexual assault in 2012 and disappeared. A television broadcast helped find him in New York City where he was killed in a gunfight with police. Three officers were injured.

- Israeli airstrikes continue in the latest three-week conflict slamming Gaza with the heaviest bombardment yet. The Gaza Strip’s only power plant was hit and shut down.

- On the ABC show the Bachelorette finale, Andi Dorfman chose Josh Murray. Apparently, the runner-up, Nick Viall, was “stunned and heartbroken” upon hearing he wasn’t chosen.

- Whale watchers off the coast of Boston were stranded overnight when the boat they were on got its prop entangled in a lobster pot line. 160 people waited all night for the vessel to be cut free.

JULY 30 – AUGUST 5

- A Chinese fisherman caught a massive whale shark in the waters off Fujian province. The animal is illegal to catch and sell. The 14-and-a-half-foot, two-ton endangered animal was being transported to market through the streets and caused a bit of a stir. According to local media reports, the captain claims his fresh catch was an accident. He said the giant shark became stuck in his net and died while the crew was trying to release it.

- Former White House press secretary, Jim Brady has died. Brady was shot in the head in 1981 during an assassination attempt on then President Ronald Reagan. An advocate of gun control, he authored the “Brady Bill” and supported the assault weapons ban which was in effect until Congress allowed it to expire after 10 years.

AUGUST 6 – AUGUST 12

- Comedian Robin Williams has died of an apparent suicide at the age of 63. Williams suffered from alcoholism and depression for decades. Worldwide condolences have been pouring in to social media sites and makeshift memorials have been popping up at movie sights and his star on Hollywood Boulevard.

- A 29-year-old gym teacher was swimming in Izmir on Turkey’s west coast when she discovered the body of a two-headed dolphin. It was estimated to be about a year old. The animal was brought to a university to be studied.

AUGUST 13 – AUGUST 19

- Famous perennial announcer, Don Pardo, has died at the age of 96. He was the announcer on Saturday Night Live for nearly 40 years.

- Tensions are still running high in Ferguson, Missouri, after an independent autopsy on slain teenager Michael Brown, shows that he was shot six times, twice in the head. The medical examiner also said the sixth shot was likely the

one that killed him. Brown’s mother is calling for the officer who shot her son to be arrested.

- Olympic champion ice dancers Charlie White and Meryl Davis were asked to be grand marshals for Sunday’s Pure Michigan 400. But the gold medalists, both Michigan natives, were booed by the Michigan International Speedway crowd for their less-than-rousing rendition of the famous line.

- Pope Francis has endorsed the use of force to stop Islamic militants from attacking religious minorities in Iraq.

- Texas governor Rick Perry has assembled a team of high-powered attorneys to fight the two felony counts of abuse of power against him.

AUGUST 20 – AUGUST 26

- On Sunday morning a 6.0 earthquake – the biggest since the Loma Prieta quake in 1989 – rocked Napa and Northern California. Napa community and business members say they will band together and bounce back fast.

- A 7-year-old Colorado boy was served a vanilla milkshake tainted with chemical cleaner after a Dairy Queen employee mistakenly filled a cleaning bottle with syrup.

- A Maine lobsterman says he and his 14-year-old daughter caught a one-in-two-million crustacean: a blue lobster. LaPlante and daughter Meghan were hauling traps when she discovered the bright blue critter.

- Seth Meyers hosted the 2014 Emmy Awards with Bryan Cranston. Jim Parsons, Julia Louis-Dryfus were a few that took home awards along with shows Modern Family and Breaking Bad.

AUGUST 27 – SEPTEMBER 2

- Comedian Joan Rivers, 81, was rushed to Mount Sinai Hospital and put into an induced coma after she stopped breathing during a throat procedure last Thursday.

- Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt finally got married while their six children looked on. Her wedding dress was adorned with embroidered pictures the children had drawn.

- US military targets strike extremists in Somalia; six were killed. Al-Shabab’s top leader was traveling in one of two vehicles hit and is not certain whether Somali Ahmed Abdi Godane, the rebel leader, was among those killed.

- More than 30 juveniles escaped a Tennessee detention center Monday, by Tuesday 17 were still on the run. The escaped teens range in age from 14 to 17 and have at least three felonies but none had been detained for homicide.

SEPTEMBER 3 – SEPTEMBER 9

A Virginia man has one of the longest commutes to work – 220 miles round trip – much higher than the average America’s 25-mile commute. Thurmond Alford drives every day, from Richard, Virginia to Washington, D.C. He says it’s his dream job and he does it to stay near his family.

- Kate Middleton and Prince William are expecting their second little prince or princess.

SEPTEMBER 10 – SEPTEMBER 16

- A record 4 million first-day pre-orders were placed for the new iPhone – double the number for the iPhone 5 two years ago. Demand had outstripped supply of the new iPhone 6 and iPhone 6Plus. Deliveries of pre-orders will begin on Friday and will continue through October.

- After the Vikings decision to reinstate Adrian Peterson, despite his indictment for allegedly abusing his 4-year-old son, the Radisson hotel chain announced it is suspending its sponsorship of the Vikings.

SEPTEMBER 17 – SEPTEMBER 23

- Multiple airstrikes in Syria and Iraq are just the beginning as the U.S. and fifty allies address the fight against ISIS.

- Former President Jimmy Carter and his wife Rosalynn, helped to celebrate the 100-year anniversary of GRCC when they were the first in the lineup of speakers at the college’s Diversity Lectures series.

SEPTEMBER 24 – SEPTEMBER 30

- Actor and sworn bachelor, George Clooney marries Amal Alamuddin in Italy.

- The University of Michigan’s football team was having a rough season already, when head coach Brady Hoke allowed quarterback Shane Morris, to stay in the game after taking a hard hit and clearly being woozy. On Monday, Hoke continued to defend his position.

- Images from NASA’s Terra satellite have revealed that Earth’s fourth-largest lake is almost completely dry. The Aral Sea in Kazakhstan was once the fourth-largest lake in the world.

OCTOBER 8 – OCTOBER 14

- Apparently, new Jersey Gov. Chris Christie is pretty sure he doesn’t want to be a senator. He was quoted as saying, “When I say I’m never running for public office in New Jersey again, I mean I’m never running for public office in New Jersey again,” Christie said during a speech at the annual conference of the New Jersey NAACP Saturday. “The

only job left for me to run for is United States Senate and let me just say this: I would rather die than be in the United States Senate.”

- John Hawkley, 56, won this year’s Safeway World Championship Pumpkin Weigh-off in Half Moon Bay south of San Francisco. The gourd weighed 2,058 pounds. The runner-up was beat by more than 300 pounds.

OCTOBER 15 – OCTOBER 21

- Millions of cars are being recalled due to faulty air bags. The bags are exploding and injuring and killing passengers when metal fragments fly out as the bags are deployed in crashes. Toyota, General Motors and Honda vehicles are all included in the recall.

- Bladerunner Oscar Pistorius has been sentenced to five years in prison for the killing of his girlfriend Reeva Steenkamp. It is possible he will be able to be out in less than a year in prison and then be on house arrest.

- Oscar de la Renta, fashion designer to the stars has died at the age of 82.

OCTOBER 22 – OCTOBER 28

- South Korea’s spy agency says North Korean leader Kim Jong-Un, was missing for nearly six weeks because he had surgery to remove a cyst from his ankle. Other theories for the absence of the overweight, heavy smoking leader include a long list of possible illnesses and ailments including broken ankles, gout and diabetes.

- More stupid criminals. Two people were arrested in Roswell, New Mexico, after they pocket-dialed 911 after burglarizing a home and talking about the crime during their getaway. The call was being recorded by authorities.

NOVEMBER 12 – NOVEMBER 18

- Adrian Peterson has not played in the Vikings’ past nine games after being charged in Texas with committing reckless or negligent injury to a child. The felony charges stem from injuries Peterson’s son sustained when Peterson disciplined him with a switch. The NFL ruled on Tuesday morning that Peterson will be suspended without pay for at least the remainder of the 2014 season. The Vikings running back will not be eligible for reinstatement before April 15, 2015.

- Oxford Dictionaries picked “vape” – the act of smoking an e-cigarette – as their new word of the year. The use of the word has doubled in 2014 compared to 2013.

NOVEMBER 19 – NOVEMBER 25

- A St. Louis county grand jury has reached a decision on whether to charge Ferguson police officer Darren Wilson in the shooting death of Michael Brown Jr. The officer who fired 12 bullets into an unarmed offender will not be charged. Horrific violence ensued on Tuesday night in spite of the victim’s family and President Obama calling for a peaceful response. “To those in Ferguson, there are ways of channeling your concerns constructively,” he said. Progress can be made, he said, but “that won’t be done by throwing bottles; that won’t be done by smashing car windows,” said Obama.

- Defense secretary Chuck Hagel has resigned under pressure amid criticism of the president’s national security team on a series of global issues, including the threat posed by the militant group known as ISIS.

- One of the most unwelcome Thanksgiving developments is a huge, wintery storm to ruin your travel plans and it might be on the horizon. Rain is expected for the entire East Coast, with rain changing to snow from northern Virginia to New England.

NOVEMBER 26 – DECEMBER 2

- Elizabeth Lauten, communications director for Republican representative Steven Fincher of Tennessee, has resigned over her Facebook post where she made comments that had many accusing her of cyber bullying the president’s daughters. She has since apologized.

- The NFL will not sanction players who walked out onto the field in a “hands up” stance to show solidarity with the people of Ferguson, MO.

DECEMBER 3 – DECEMBER 9

- The “royals” Prince William and Kate Middleton visited New York city for the first time. Among other things, they went to a Brooklyn Nets-Cleveland Cavaliers basketball game and met LaBron James.

- President Obama made an appearance on the Colbert Report, taking over Colbert’s role for a bit.

- A funeral for former Washington D.C. mayor Marion Barry was attended by thousands. Barry died Nov. 23 at the age of 78.

- In a report of CIA practices, senate investigators accused the Central Intelligence Agency of inflicting pain and suffering on al-Qaida prisoners far beyond its legal boundaries and then lying and saying that important information was gained from the torture when it was not.

2014 A Year In Review

What is your New Year's Resolution?

- What is your New Year's Resolution?
Or what are you going to decide
to do in the new year?**
**My New Year's Resolution would
be to be nicer to my brother.**
Malia
Murray Lake Elementary
- My New Year's Resolution
is to help people more.**
Kelsey
Murray Lake Elementary
- To be kind to all kids, parents,
and even workers**
David
Murray Lake Elementary
- People to have a home.**
Olivia
Murray Lake Elementary
- My new years resalution is to donate
money to kids and parents that don't
have money or very poor.**
Lanndon
Murray Lake Elementary
- To stop playing to much video games. And
to stop watching alot of T.V.**
Emma
Murray Lake Elementary
- My News Year's Recoultion is to stay fit
and eat helthy and pin every kid I wrestle.**
Makayla
Murray Lake Elementary
- I'll try to play less video games
and try to save up money.**
Josh
Murray Lake Elementary
- I am going to work on my
lacrosse skills.**
Owen
Murray Lake Elementary
- To have the best new year
with friends and family.**
Cole
Murray Lake Elementary
- To have fun with and famly.**
Roman
Murray Lake Elementary
- Since I take theatre classes at the Grand
Rapids Civic Theatre, I was hoping to go
back, do more classes, and be in another
play (was in a play in August).**
Aaron
Murray Lake Elementary
- To help charitys for sickness.**
Alexis
Murray Lake Elementary
- Stay up all night until 5:00 AM.**
Sam
Murray Lake Elementary
- for my futsal team to win the futsal
league and to get to know someone
on the team who is shy.**
Mika
Murray Lake Elementary
- to make the world not to
do new years resolution.**
Bryson
Murray Lake Elementary
- Spend time with my family
have a good time with my gp.**
Emma
Murray Lake Elementary
- My New Year's resolution is to be
heathier. Push the chocolate, candy,
ice cream etc aside. Eating more fruits
and veggies is way heathier than that.
Exercising is another thing. Doing sports
and exercising keeps your heart heathly.
Let's get this year going with being heathly!**
Kennedi
Murray Lake Elementary
- Well I'd say my new years resolution
would be to be "happy and enjoy and love,
life and what I have." Well why because
I think we all need to be happy and enjoy
life but the reason I need to is because I
will appriciate and sometimes not but I
think I should infact I think we all should
we should get together this should be
everybodys new year resolution.**
Ethan
Murray Lake Elementary
- In joy family time. And I manged to do
every I want in my life.**
Tyler
Murray Lake Elementary
- I have decided to voulenter
at a local animal shelter.**
Kylie
Murray Lake Elementary
- I would be a voulunteer at a animal to
help the neglected animals to become
healthy again. Merry Christmas and a
Happy New Year.**
Brianna
Murray Lake Elementary
- I want to spend it with my mom, Avree,
my dad, Gene, and my brother, Mason.**
Skye-Ann
Murray Lake Elementary
- My new years resolution is to work on
cursive hand writing. I also want to try to
read a book every week.**
Laiken
Murray Lake Elementary
- I am going to decide in the new year for
me to stop stelling my mom's phone and
waching you tube at knight.**
Mitchell
Murray Lake Elementary
- I am going to work on my hand
writing skills. When this happens,
I would like to be an Author.**
Zach
Murray Lake Elementary
- My New Year's resolution is
to go to the Y more often and get
up off the couch more too.**
Hayden
Murray Lake Elementary
- My new years revalution
is to start exercising.**
Jacob
Murray Lake Elementary
- Is that I can teach my
littel brother to read.**
Aiden
Murray Lake Elementary
- What I want for the new year
is to get good grade's and help my
grandpa stop smoking.**
Brooklyn
Murray Lake Elementary
- My new year resolution is to help
my mom out more, take care of the
animals and start baby sitting.**
Emily - Murray Lake Elementary
- I will work really hard in
school and try to get all A's.**
Macy
Murray Lake Elementary
- My new years resolution is to not eat so
much candy. Another one of my new year
resolution, is to remember to wear my
glasses more often.**
Jaymie
Murray Lake Elementary
- I am going to help my mother to stop
smoking. So she can't get lung cancer.**
Tyler
Murray Lake Elementary
- Help more with my famly.**
Cole - Murray Lake Elementary
- My New Years Resolution is
to try harder in writing.**
Marcus
Murray Lake Elementary
- I'm going to try to improve my basball
skills, so the next year I will be better.**
Brody - Murray Lake Elementary
- My new years resolution
is to read more often.**
Kyra
Murray Lake Elementary
1. **I will try to stop chewing my hair.**
 2. **Start listening better.**
 3. **I will try to stay organized.**
Moe
Murray Lake Elementary

2014 A Year In Review

What is your New Year's Resolution?

One thing that I want to accomplish in the next year is to be more organized.

*Madalin
Murray Lake Elementary*

In the new year I will run more. Play out sidd more.

*Zach
Murray Lake Elementary*

I am going to study for my tests harder. I'm going to try to get straight A's in school.

*Alex
Murray Lake Elementary*

My new years reselution is to be more enviromentaly healthy.

*Brody
Murray Lake Elementary*

My New Years resolution is to read more often.

*Leonardo
Murray Lake Elementary*

To be organized.

Mia - Murray Lake Elementary

My New Year's Resolution is, to stay healthy, kind, and help out with anything.

*Olivia
Murray Lake Elementary*

My New Years Resolution is to work harder in school.

*Sean
Murray Lake Elementary*

I am going to decide to grow a moustache named punee (poo-nee) because moustaches are very fuzzy.

Ethan - St. Patrick's

One thing I am going to decide to do in the new year is to do something

Emily - St. Patrick's

In the new year, I am going to go to Kings Island to ride the Beast.

Michael - St. Patrick's

On New Year's Eve I am going to play games and go to bed and get up at 11:59 pm for the new year then go back to band.

Quinn - St. Patrick's

My New Year's Resolution is to try more sports besides basketball and dance. I want to do this so I can have more fun after school.

Anna - St. Patrick's

In the New Year I will help endangered species in our county: the Indaina bat, the snuffbox, the Eastern Musas kie, and the Karner Blue butterfly.

Jared - St. Patrick's

In the new year, I plan to spend my time with my new dog.

RJ - St. Patrick's

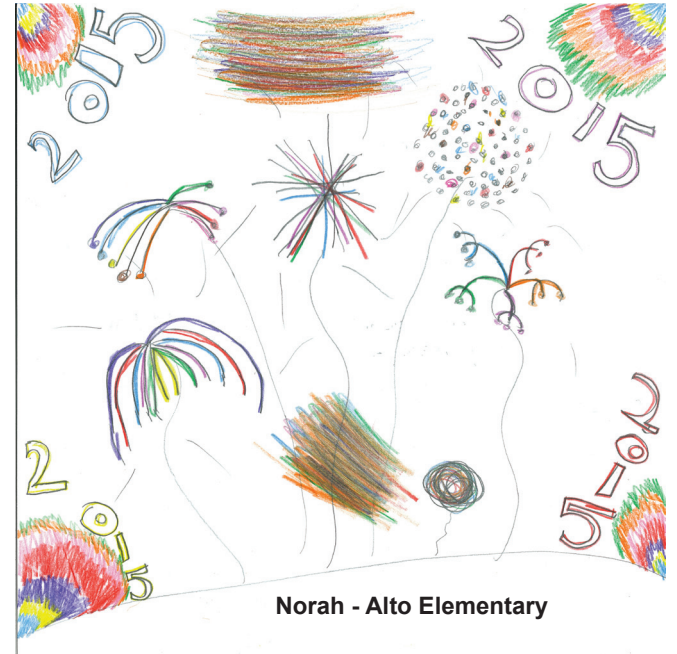
My new Year's Resolution it would be to help all the people that are in need. I would like to bake them cookies! This is my New Year's Resolution because many people in the world are at War.

Madison - St. Patrick's

What I'm going to do in the New Year is play hockey instead of Basketball.

Gage - St. Patrick's

When the new year comes, I am going to try harder in school and do better in Basketball. This will help me because



Norah - Alto Elementary

I would get better grades and better Basketball skills.

Anna - St. Patrick's

I'm going to act more mature, be more independent and, obey what my parents say to do.

Carra St. Patrick's

In the new year I am going to cook for my family.

Isabella - St. Patrick's

Skate Into A New Year!



As another year comes skating in, we'd like to extend our best wishes for a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year to all of you. For your continued support and friendship, we are deeply grateful ~

thanks!



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<p style="text-align: center;">Two Medium Pizzas</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Three toppings each</p> <p style="text-align: center;">\$13.99</p> <p style="font-size: small;">Plus tax • Delivery available. Not valid with any other specials. Lowell location only. Excludes extras. Expires 1/10/2015</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Two Large Pizzas</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Up to 3 toppings each, order of breadsticks</p> <p style="text-align: center;">\$21.99</p> <p style="font-size: small;">Plus tax • Delivery available. Not valid with any other specials. Lowell location only. Excludes extras. Expires 1/10/2015</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Two X-Large Pizzas</p> <p style="text-align: center;">up to 5 items</p> <p style="text-align: center;">\$24.99</p> <p style="font-size: small;">Plus tax • Delivery available. Not valid with any other specials. Lowell location only. Excludes extras. Expires 1/10/2015</p>	<p style="font-size: x-small;">Late Night Special - 9 p.m. - Close</p> <p style="text-align: center;">PICK UP SPECIAL</p> <p style="text-align: center;">10" Pizza</p> <p style="text-align: center;">One topping... \$5.00</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">DELIVERY SPECIAL</p> <p style="text-align: center;">2-10" Pizzas</p> <p style="text-align: center;">2 toppings each... \$10.00</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">Plus tax • Delivery available. Not valid with any other specials. Lowell location only. Excludes extras. Expires 1/10/2015</p>
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Amelia -Alto Elementary

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2014 Elliot Awards

THE NOW WE GET TO RAISE TAXES AWARD

goes to -

All the big winners in the mid-term elections

THE "I KINDA LIKE WOMEN" AWARD

goes to

Mayor Hodges for stating what should go without being stated

THE PURE MICHIGAN AWARD

goes to -

our Great Lake State for bringing us a huge surprise winter in November then a lovely green Christmas

THE SARAH MCLACHLAN ARMS OF THE ANGEL AWARD

goes to -

Olympian Gus Kenworth for rescuing dogs in Sochi

THE DEAD-EYE DICK AWARD along with an HONORARY MENTION FROM THE NRA

goes to -

Oscar Pistorius for mistaking a screaming, terrified girlfriend in the bathroom for a big scary burglar

THE WICKED STEPMOTHER AWARD

goes to -

Casey Kasom's widow for the loving way she cared for her dying husband and his grieving children

THE TOO SAD, WE ALL HOPED IT WAS A JOKE AWARD

goes to -

Robin Williams

THE BUILD A BETTER BRIDGE AWARD

goes to -

New Jersey governor, Chris Christie

THE DIG IT DEEPER AWARD and the CLOSE ONLY COUNTS IN HORSESHOES AWARD -

goes to Lowell Light & Power for their measuring skills .

THE DAMNED IF YOU DO AND DAMNED IF YOU DON'T AWARD

goes to -

The Lowell City Council and The Lowell Ledger for doing their jobs.

THE NEVER SAY DIE AWARD

goes to -

Ralph Brecken for his dogged pursuit of the facts.

THE TO WRITE OR NOT TO WRITE, OH, I'LL JUST GO AHEAD AND WRITE AWARD

goes to -

Jim Howard

THE GOT IT ALL ON TAPE AWARD

goes to -

Ledger reporter Tim McAllister for being able to back up his reporting



THE SPIRIT OF THE SEASON AWARD

goes to -

The Lowell Police Department for pulling unsuspecting drivers over and granting Christmas wishes

THE HAIL TO THE VICTORS AWARD

goes to -

Jim Harbaugh as the University of Michigan signs him as their next football coach - *Go Blue!*

Hat's Off To A New Year!

—And to all of our customers & friends who have given us much cause for celebration this year! We thank you for your patronage and look forward to seeing you in 2105!

*Happy New Year.
See you next year!*

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NEW YEAR'S EVE
AT NOON**

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