

*Happy Thanksgiving!*



*from everyone at the Ledger*

**THIS SATURDAY  
NOVEMBER 23**



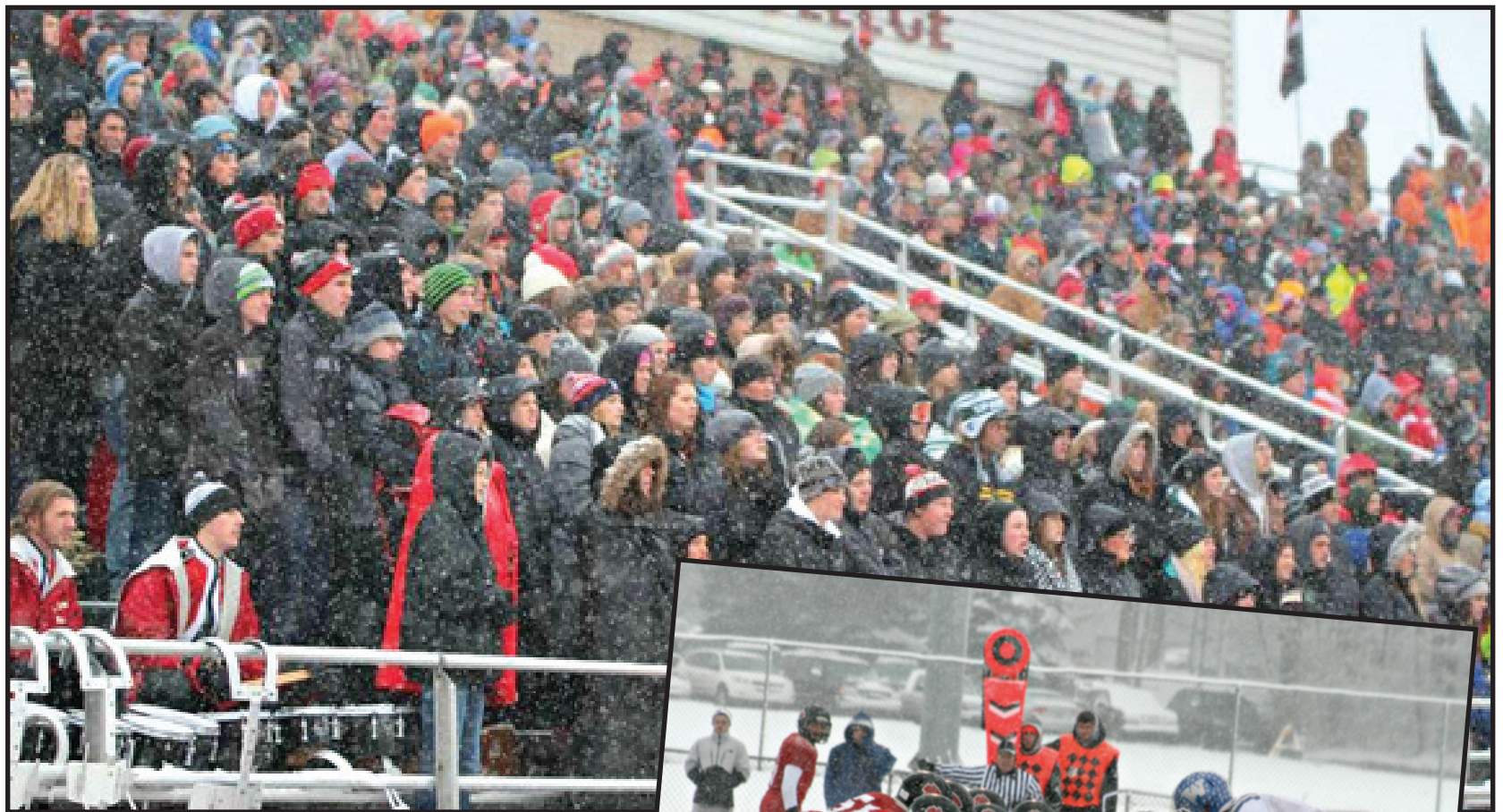
**special section  
starts on  
page 7**

**helping  
wildlife  
feast too**



**page 3**

## Lowell fans fill the stands for snowy game that sends Red Arrows to Ford Field



by Kathryn Atwood  
contributing reporter

The road to Ford Field was covered in snow for the Lowell Red Arrows last Saturday afternoon when they topped Walled Lake Western (WLW) 49-36 in the Division II state semifinal at Alma College's Bahlke Field.

Red Arrow fans packed the stands under blustery conditions with steady snow for the game.

A 1 pm kickoff was followed by an immediate touchdown from WLW. The

**Arrows headed to Ford Field, continued, page 11**

## Christmas Through Lowell creatively launches the season

by Tim McAllister  
contributing reporter

The 24th annual Christmas Through Lowell event took over the town last weekend. Hundreds of local artists had their creations on display and for sale at 45 homes and

businesses throughout the area last Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Attendance was exceptional despite the season's first significant snowfall on Saturday.

A huge number of crafters and vendors were in the Grand Volute Ballrooms,

655 Lincoln Lake SE. Kathy Donaldson from Fort Wayne, Ind., had jewelry for sale, as well as clocks made out of old LP records by classic artists like Elvis Presley, Bon Jovi and Van Halen.

"I take old vinyl records and we turn them into clocks," Donaldson said. "We haven't damaged them at all. It's a repurposing, to bring back nostalgia. We get the records from various flea markets or garage sales, wherever we can find them. Albums from the 70s and 80s are the best sellers; that's really what the public wants."

Joe Zeigler, a Christmas Through Lowell first-timer, was in the Grand Volute selling "bullet pens," ink pens that he made out of old, spent bullets.

"These bullets were shot from a .308 machine gun," Zeigler said. "I've been selling a lot of them."

Kit VanHaitsma, a retired mechanic from Falmouth, Mich., was selling intricate wood art

called 'intarsia' in designs such as dragons, birds, dogs, horses and fish in the Grand Volute.

"It's all little, separate pieces of wood," VanHaitsma said. "I cut them, fit them together, make sure they all fit good and then I glue them to a backing. It's kind of like a puzzle, except I glue them down so you don't lose the pieces."

This year's featured artist was Cathy Razmus. Razmus, her mother, her four sisters and about 20 other crafters were selling upcycled furniture, vintage goods, handmade knit items, Christmas ornaments, snacks and lots more at "Home for the Holidays" in her sister Brenda Clark's



**Featured artist Cathy Razmus, second from left, with her mother and sisters.**

**Christmas Through Lowell, continued, page 16**

**50  
CENTS**



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# Lowell Police Department October stats

Lowell's police and fire departments had a very busy October.

According to statistics released recently, Lowell police made 30 arrests during October. These arrests included 11 for drug violations, one for drunk driving, seven for outstanding warrants, three for alcohol violations and seven that are described in the police department's information as "other arrests." That adds up to 264 arrests by Lowell police during 2015 so far.

The police department responded to a lot of misdemeanors during October as well. There were seven larceny calls, two instances of breaking

and entering, three dog complaints, one malicious destruction complaint and four assaults. Lowell police wrote 42 citations and notified one resident about an ordinance violation. They were involved in 63 assistance calls and were dispatched to 11 accidents. Out of 136 traffic stops they let 117 drivers go with just a warning.

The Lowell Area Fire and Emergency Services Authority went on 17 fire runs in October. Among the runs were two structure fires, six "miscellaneous" fires, five accident scenes and four false alarms. They were also called to 41 medical emergencies during October.

# Santa comes to Lowell Saturday, Dec. 5

by Tim McAllister  
contributing reporter

Santa Claus himself will be appearing in Lowell next weekend. The "Who-ville" Christmas festivities and the Santa Parade will both take place on Saturday, Dec. 5.

The day will start bright and early with the Rogue River Artisans' 32rd annual Fine Art and Craft Holiday Show at Lowell High School, 11700 Vergennes. Over 100 artists will have unique gift ideas available starting at 9 am. Most regular businesses in Lowell will be offering special sales that day as well.

Santa will be busy throughout Lowell Saturday afternoon. First he'll be at Lowell's historic Showboat for visits with kids from 2:30 pm until 4 pm. There will also be hot cocoa and cookies to help combat the cold weather. The suggested donation to meet Santa is \$2.

Your next chance to hang out with Santa that day will be at the pancake supper in the King Memorial Center

at the fairgrounds at 4:45. The meal costs a suggested donation of \$5 for grown-ups or \$3 for kids.

Finally, Lowell's famous Nighttime Santa Parade will be at 6 pm. The parade will start at the fairgrounds and make its way through downtown.

"The Lowell Walgreens is going to sponsor a new event this year called Sweet Tooth Jubilee," said Liz Baker, executive director of the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce. "They will be handing out candy to the children along the parade route 15 minutes prior to the parade. We feel this [is] a great way to satisfy those who are upset that we don't allow candy throwing in the parade. It's always good to remind people that we don't allow this because children are a very precious commodity. Their safety is a priority with the chamber."

Saturday won't be the last time Santa makes an appearance in Lowell this holiday season, however. He will be visiting with



locals at the Showboat every Wednesday from 5:30 pm to 7 pm; Saturdays from 10:30 am until 1 pm; and during "A Nite of Christmas Cheer" on Friday, Dec. 11 from 5:30 pm to 7 pm. The "Nite of Christmas Cheer" festivities will include fresh roasted chestnuts, hot cocoa and cookies, hot dogs, horse and carriage rides, fires, ice sculpture carving and free pictures with Santa.

"Visit with Santa in his special room on the magical Lowell Showboat," Baker said. "Enjoy hot cocoa and cookies in the second-level Cookie Room. The Lowell Showboat will be decorated to enchant and delight young and old. A memory will be waiting for you this holiday season."

For a complete schedule of events go to [discoverlowell.org](http://discoverlowell.org)

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USDA Commodities Distribution at Flat River Outreach Ministries on Dec. 3, 9-11 am at 11535 Fulton St. E. Free food for those in need.

**JURIED FINE ART & CRAFT HOLIDAY SALE**  
Rogue River Artisans 33rd Annual Juried Fine Art & Craft Holiday Sale will be held Saturday, Dec. 5 from 9am -4pm at Lowell High School, 11700 Vergennes Road. A holiday lunch is available. \$1.00 Admission: Proceeds to Red Arrow Special Activities [lowellholidayartshow.com](http://lowellholidayartshow.com)

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**Volunteers must attend either BOTH December sessions OR BOTH January sessions. Tax preparation will be done on Tuesdays at FROM, beginning in February.**

IF INTERESTED...  
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## LEGAL NOTICE

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
PROBATE COURT  
COUNTY OF KENT

NOTICE TO CREDITORS  
Decedent's Estate

FILE NO. 15-198395-DE

Estate of BEVERLY A. QUADA, deceased.  
Date of birth: June 24, 1954.

November 17, 2015

TO ALL CREDITORS:  
Mary L. Benedict (P45285)  
4519 Cascade Road SE Ste. 14  
Grand Rapids, MI 49546  
616-942-0020

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Beverly Ann Quada, died October 19, 2015.

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be

forever barred unless presented to Cynthia L. Boyce, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 180 Ottawa Avenue NW, Suite 2500 Grand Rapids, MI 49546 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

Cynthia L. Boyce  
2295 Fallasburgh Park Drive  
Lowell, MI 49331  
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# Wildlife center works to supply comfort throughout the holidays

by Kathryn Atwood  
contributing reporter

A small, nonprofit on the north side of Lowell has been rescuing and rehabilitating thousands of abandoned, abused and injured animals for 22 years. This Thanksgiving season, volunteers and supporters of the Lowell Farm & Wildlife Center are working to give back to the facility by supplying comfort and a feast for the holiday season and beyond.

Sjana Gordon, the center's founding board member, began rehabilitating animals after happening upon an abandoned and nearly hypothermic fawn at a family wedding in West Olive. Gordon took the animal, later named Peepers, to her home and sought assistance in rehabilitating the young deer. The rest, as they say, is history. Soon she had a house full of wayward animals and the inspiration to start her own rehabilitation center.

The center is now licensed

by the Department of Natural Resources and takes in over 2,000 wild animals per year and also works with domestic, farm and exotic animals. Animals are either released back to the wild or 're-homed' when well. The center is privately funded and completely run by Gordon and a growing staff of volunteers.

One family of volunteers, The Lavalees, became aware of the center after working with Gordon to adopt a rehabilitating goat. "My family, including my husband, two boys and myself were inspired to volunteer and help when needed at the center after we purchased our first baby goat from the owner Sjana. We wanted this goat so our son could begin 4H as an Explorer for a few years," explained mom Tashia Lavalee.

The family began feeding animals, cleaning pens and offering their general

assistance on a regular basis. "They help whenever I need them," said Gordon.

The Lavalees latest effort to support the center is to provide a Thanksgiving feast for the animals that will last well through the winter. The volunteers are calling on the community to donate to the center, working off a wish list, that will ensure full bellies for the rescued animals.

"The wildlife center survives on donations so I launched this fundraiser to help the animals feast and because my son Ceagan wanted to help the animals over the winter," said Lavalee.

The food drive runs through November although donations are accepted year round. Some of the items needed are chicken pellets or crumbles, goat feed, chicken scratch, cracked or whole corn, hay and straw. Monetary donations or gift cards to Tractor

Supply Company are also encouraged.

Donations can be made at the center located at 12494 Vergennes, in the collection barrel located at the Lowell TSC or by contacting the Lavalees at Tashialavalee@gmail.com

Another supporter, Dana Gill and the team at ZooRehab out of Lansing, came to the center last Friday armed with supplies to refurbish the partially collapsed goat paddock and the fawn runs at the center utilizing grant funds awarded for that purpose.

Gordon said she is more than thankful for the assistance of like-minded volunteers and organizations as they prepare for the long winter months.

"We are very fortunate to do what we do and to have what we have. We want to continue to do this and do it the right way. We are so appreciative of the help," concluded Gordon.



Center volunteer Ceagan Lavalee works with a fawn named 'Baby.'



## At Your Local Library

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

**Super Why** – Join us for stories, music, crafts and activities during this special storytime celebrating the PBS characters of Super Why. For ages six and younger. Thurs., Dec. 3 at 10 am.

**Hour of Code – Celebrate Computer Science Education** – Learn and practice computer coding. Beginners welcome. Registration required. BYO laptop spots available. Please note if you will bring your own or use a library laptop. For ages six and older. Mon., Dec. 7 at 6 pm.

**Gingerbread Lane** – Stroll down Gingerbread Lane and enjoy tasty gingerbread stories. Each child will make a simple gingerbread house. Pre-registration is required and participant spots are limited. For all ages. Thurs., Dec. 10 at 10 am.

**Star Wars: KDL Awakens the FORCE** – Families can experience crafts and games related to Star Wars, practice Jedi training and see if they have the FORCE within. For all ages. Tues., Dec. 22 at 1 pm.

**KDL Lab: littleBits: Learn and Invent with Electronics** – Explore, tinker and innovate with littleBits, the ultimate electronic building tool. Circuit modules snap together to help you build your ultimate electronic

innovation. Create a music synthesizer, a robot or even a Mars Rover. Great learn-by-doing activity for kids who may be interested in a future in engineering and robotics. For ages six and older. Wed., Dec. 23 at 1 pm.

...

"I have always imagined that Paradise will be a kind of library."

~ Jorge Luis Borges

### WRWW WEEKLY SCHEDULE

WRWW will broadcast 'live' the Lowell vs Detroit Martin Luther King, Division 2, football state playoff game final at 1:00 p.m., this Friday, November 27<sup>th</sup>. 92.3 or [www.lowellradio.org](http://www.lowellradio.org) "Go Arrows"

# CITY OF LOWELL

## THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY NOTICE

Lowell City Hall, Department of Public Works, Police Office and Light and Power will be closed on Thursday, November 26 and Friday, November 27, 2015 in observance of Thanksgiving.

City of Lowell residents who use the City's blue trash bags and yard waste bags will have their trash and yard waste picked up on Friday, November 27<sup>th</sup> due to the Thanksgiving holiday.



Susan Ulery  
City Clerk



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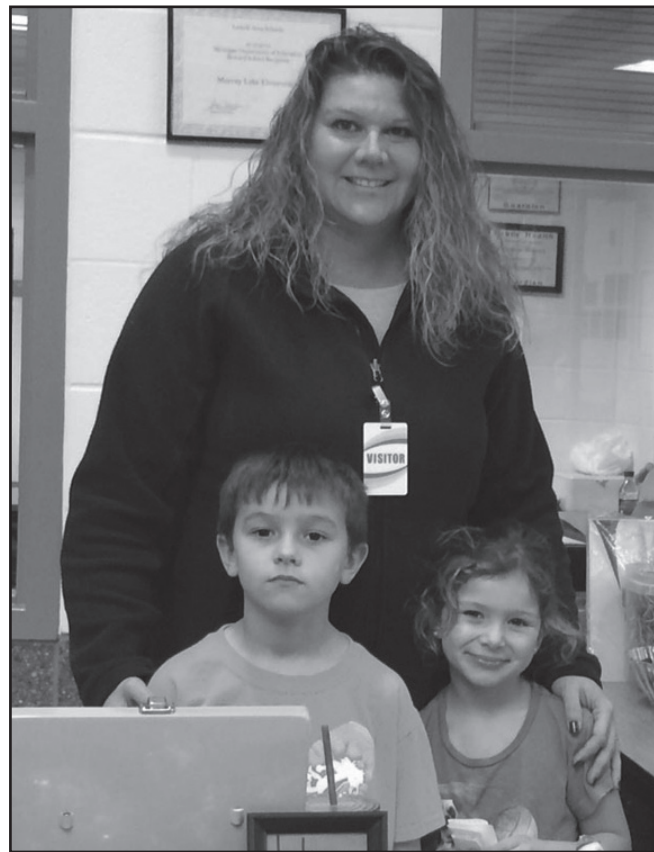



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## Volunteers of the Month

Laura Judge and Deanna Mears were named Murray Lake's Volunteers of the Month for October. "These two ladies are here almost every day. They are leaders within our Family Links group and spend countless hours on our *Mustangs on the Move* fundraiser. They are two of the most caring and unselfish people I know," commented principal Brent Noskey.

Mears and husband Scott have lived in Lowell for eight years with their children: Alyssa, Kyra, Trevor, and Maya. "I volunteer because I like to spend time in the schools my children are at. I also like to help the teachers. They work so hard for our kids and I just want to help them," commented Mears.



When Mears is not volunteering, she enjoys watching her children at their sporting events and spending time with family.

Judge is married to husband Chris and have three children: Thomas, Annalyne and Lila. Judge said, "I enjoy volunteering at Murray Lake because it allows me to be a part of

my children's education. It is important to me to feel connected to my community and as a result, I get to know many incredible people. I enjoy walking, reading, playing games with my kids, and of course, meeting new friends. I am also a proud MSU alumni. Go green!"

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# viewpoint

## to the editor

### Timpson's vision still serves the entire community

To The Editor,

Every so often a person comes along who leaves a big mark in a quiet way.

A recent article in the Ledger pointed out that the new park being built behind Walgreens was a vision of

John Timpson Sr. when he was the township supervisor. While the existing park on Grand River Drive is a wonderful facility, John had the foresight to see there was much more that it could

become when the time was right for expansion.

Several years ago, John was serving as the Lowell Township supervisor during the time our school district was planning to build a new high school. A large part of the decision on where to build at that time rested on being able to access public water and sewer.

The district was

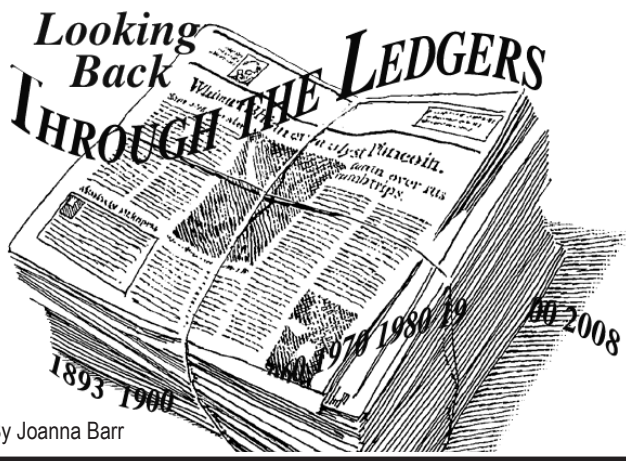
considering property outside of the areas where these public utilities were available. When John learned about this he partnered with the district as he saw the opportunity to provide sewer and water to the school as a win-win situation. The school would have the necessary utilities (paid for out of the

bond issue and not township funds) and the township could expand these same utilities in an area of their township that was underserved at that time and in the future. In addition, he worked with Vergennes Township where the school property was located. It is not always easy for public institutions to work on

joint projects, but John's determined vision made it happen.

Even though John passed away a few years ago his vision for making the community a better place for all lives on. John Timpson – a visionary and a Rotarian.

Jim White,  
Lowell



By Joanna Barr

### 125 years ago Lowell Journal November 26, 1890

Wm. Murphy, our genial highway commissioner, put in last week in Chicago taking in the fat stock show. You should hear him talk about the "World's Fair" City, greatest on earth, why, you would want to go and see for yourself the wonders he describes.

Next Wednesday evening, Dec. 31, will be held a Camp Fire. During the evening a unique thing will take place, in the shape of a wedding. A literary program will also be given, and refreshments consisting of pop corn and apples — will be served. Admission to all, 10c, proceeds to go to the newly wedded couple.

L. H. Wilkinson, of Rockford, and Dep. Sheriff Powers were in town last Wednesday looking after some stolen property which they expected to find here. Their trip was a failure, for after finding the party suspected and giving him a thorough search they were compelled to give it up.

If you are going to get married, or if your daughter, sister or cousin is about to get married, have your wedding invitations printed at the JOURNAL Office.

### 100 years ago The Lowell Ledger November 25, 1915

The young men of Grattan have arranged an athletic association and are practicing basket ball. They met Saturday and elected Renis Donovan president and Harold Story secretary and treasurer. Games can be arranged by writing C. E. Pelter, R. 3. Belding, Mich.

Moving picture theatre patrons who desire meritorious productions, will be interested in the announcement that one of the big producing companies has obtained the right to reproduce the works of Mark Twain. Our old friends Tom Sawyer, Indian Joe, Huckleberry Finn and Pudd'n' Head Wilson may soon be seen in their native haunts and the old life on the Mississippi will be portrayed to a stranger generation.

Charges of extreme immorality among the high school girls and boys of Chicago are to be investigated by grand jury. Which goes to show that the most

expensive educational equipment that money can buy, is no substitute for good moral training in home and school. Further, there is more than fancy in the thought that education which neglects the moral and religious nature of the child is worse than none.

### 75 years ago The Lowell Ledger November 28, 1940

Window Night December 11 – Although it was announced in last week's Ledger that annual window night would be held on Wednesday, Dec. 4, it has been made necessary to change the date to Wednesday, Dec. 11. The main reason for changing the date was the fact that the ladies in the W. P. A. sewing room are no longer able to make the garlands that are strung across the Main street because of new government regulations.

The first snowfall of the season came Tuesday and by bedtime the white carpet left in the wake of the storm was 4½ inches deep. Slippery roads delayed trains and buses and airplanes were grounded. Conditions were much better Wednesday morning with some sunshine, but in the afternoon, wet snow began falling and traffic conditions were none too good Thursday morning.

Mrs. Charles Doyle, chairman of the Red Cross roll call, has announced that Lowell made a 70% gain over last year's call, the total amount subscribed this year being \$269.

### 50 years ago Lowell Ledger November 25, 1965

Operation Santa Claus. The 1965 "Operation Santa Claus" project sponsored by the Moose Civic Affairs Committee, of the local lodge, is progressing, and the chairman, Mel Lewis, foresees a happier holiday for needy area youngsters. But, usable toys and clothing are still needed to make the project a complete success. Operation Santa Claus has reached the homes of over 100 Lowell residents in past years, and with the need increasing, the committee seeks more support. An all-out effort is made by the committee to package food, clothing and toys and distribute them to the less fortunate families in the area.

Headline: Basketball team hard at work for opening games December 3 and 4. The Red Arrow basketball team is hard at work under the direction of Coach Jack Kempker to get ready for their opening game with Sparta on Friday, December 3, followed by the first home game on Saturday, December 4, with Ionia. Two last year letter winners are on this year's squad, Dave Wessell and Brad Fonger.

One of the largest wrestling squads have turned out this year at Lowell High School, Coach Gary Rivers and Assistant Coach Don Kelly revealed this week. There are 52 boys undergoing a strenuous

conditioning program; 23 boys are freshmen with no previous experience. Lowell's last year's wrestling team finished the season 2nd in the conference with a 9-1 league record.

### 25 years ago The Lowell Ledger November 28, 1990

Soviets have newfound openness; but still struggling with economy. Dale Posthumus was a long way from the Soviet Union, but he was glad to be back home, visiting the Alto area. Posthumus, the son of Alto's Earl Posthumus, and the brother of Republican Caucus Senate Majority Leader, Richard Posthumus, spoke to the Lowell Lions Club last Tuesday night about the changes taking place in the Soviet Union. "The invitation to speak before the Lion's Club came while I had a drill in my mouth (Dr. Bob Reagan's office), but it pleases me to be able to say that the first Lion's Club was organized in the Soviet Union late last year," Posthumus said. The Soviet Union, is an empire made up of different types of ethnic groups, according to Posthumus. "For years some ethnic groups were depressed and now they want out of the Soviet Union. President Mikhail Gorbachev wants to save the Union, but I don't think that is possible."

The Lowell Area Jaycees, along with Access 6, are sponsoring the project, "Everyone Should Be Warm At Christmas."

## We love to hear from you!



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



# First Congregational Church will, once again, offer community Thanksgiving dinner

by Tim McAllister  
contributing reporter

First Congregational Church, 865 Lincoln Lake SE, is having its eighth annual free Lowell Community Thanksgiving Dinner from noon until 3 pm on Thursday.

“We’re serving a traditional Thanksgiving meal,” said Shannon Hanley, First Congregational’s director of religious education.

“We’ll have turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes, squash, green bean casserole, corn, rolls, fresh baked pies and cookies.”

The dinner is put on by volunteers from the church and others from around the area.

“Over the course of the week we’ll have more than 50 volunteers,” Hanley said. “Planning starts in September, but we start

preparing the food starting Tuesday night at 6 pm and then all day Wednesday and Thursday morning.”

The meal has become popular over the years and Hanley said the church expects to serve a delicious, homemade Thanksgiving dinner to over 200 people.

“We do it to meet the physical and emotional needs of people around the holidays,” Hanley said.

“Sometimes it’s tough for people to be alone or to cook meals. It’s just nice to come together as a community. We like the companionship of being together and sharing a great meal together. Everyone is welcome.”

They are looking for volunteers and financial donations, but they cannot accept donations of food. If interested, call 897-5906.

# Library science night at Alto Elementary



Alto Elementary PTO recently hosted more than a hundred students and parents at their first Library Science Night inside the school’s media center. The night focused on teaching students how to properly

utilize and enjoy the many resources of the library.

According to PTO president Cindy Johnston, “Because there is no longer budget to properly teach kids how to use the library in school, we made a night

of it. We covered what is available and the methods behind how it is organized. Everything we learned as kids.”

The library lesson covered the specifics of the Alto library as well as

the software used at the Kent District Libraries. The evening was part of the ongoing mission of the schools PTO to support and inform the area’s students and families.

# health



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

## influenza vaccine

The Center for Disease Control is once again recommending annual influenza vaccination for everyone over the age of six months. It is especially recommended for people that are elderly, have a chronic medical condition and during pregnancy.

The vaccine has been shown to be effective in preventing influenza caused by the most common circulating strains of the virus. By preventing the flu we also reduce the risk of secondary pneumonia, hospitalization and death.

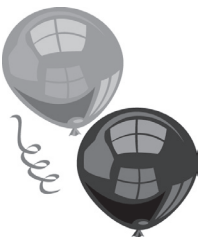
The vaccine can be administered as inactivated viral particles given in shot form or as live attenuated vaccine given as a nasal mist. Both appear to have the same effectiveness although some groups have recommended the live attenuated virus in young healthy children.

There is a high dose

vaccine that is recommended for adults 65 or older. Older adults tend to have a lower antibody response after vaccination and their antibody levels decline more rapidly. Studies have shown that the high dose vaccine induced significantly higher immune response and was more effective in preventing the flu.

Side effects from the vaccine are minor. Some soreness at the injection site may be present for a day or so. Muscle aches have also been reported. You can not get the flu from the vaccine. People vaccinated with the live attenuated vaccine may shed the virus for a few days, but person-to-person transmission is extremely rare. Persons who care for immunocompromised patients should not receive the live vaccine or avoid contact with the patient for one week after receiving the live form.

# happy birthday



- NOVEMBER 25**  
Pat Vezino, Melissa Peterson, Amy Swift, Shawn Ayres, Megan Myers, Hazel, Lorri
- NOVEMBER 28**  
Shelly Hildenbrand, Lee Miller.
- NOVEMBER 29**  
Gail Thomet, Kelly Sauber, Scott Swanson, Tara Propst, Ethan Pearson.
- NOVEMBER 30**  
Jason Craig, Todd Ryder, Joe Kiczanski, April McClure.
- DECEMBER 1**  
Travis Briggs, Nate Schoen, Deb Anchors, Denny Brenk II, Joyce Watrous.

# area churches

**SNOW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
3189 Snow Ave. SE, Lowell  
Pastor Tony Brumby  
9:45 A.M. .... Sunday School  
10:30 A.M. .... Fellowship  
11:00 A.M. .... Worship  
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Worship Programs Provided  
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10305 Bluewater Highway (Missouri Synod)  
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www.goodshepherdlowell.org  
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(Nursery available)  
Sunday School.....9:15 A.M.  
Joseph Fremer, Pastor **897-8307**  
All facilities are wheelchair accessible

**CALVARY CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH OF LOWELL**  
897-7060  
Pastor Rod Galindo  
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Morning Worship.....10:00 A. M.  
Sunday School.....11:20 A.M.  
Evening Worship.....6:00 P.M.  
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Rev. Jan Pickens & Pastor Phil Severn  
Sun. Worship Service.....8:30 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 West, during summer)

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Barrier-free entrance  
SUNDAY WORSHIP.....9 & 11 a.m.  
SUNDAY SCHOOL.....11:15 a.m.  
Pastor Brad Brillhart

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# Shop Independant • Shop Local • Shop Small SHOP SMALL SATURDAY, NOV. 28

## On the ground “floor” it’s important to do the best possible job

Beachum Flooring, 924 Riverside Dr., has been selling, repairing and installing floors in wood, vinyl, laminate, carpet and tile for over 35 years. Company owner and Lowell native Perry Beachum said that small, local businesses are superior because of the personal touch they offer.

“Bottom line, I think small business owners take things more personally than large companies,” Beachum said. “They’re more in tune with what best meets the needs of their customer. It helps the customer, it’s easier for a small company to service them than a large company. With a large company it becomes

numbers instead of personal. A small business is more personal and hands-on.”

Beachum said that great entrepreneurs aren’t afraid to take risks and try different things, while larger companies are more timid and take much longer to service their customers.

“A great entrepreneur is somebody that thinks outside the box,” Beachum said. “They’re more willing than a large company to take risks to benefit their customers. It’s also somewhat easier to manage a small business. You can service your customers in a more timely manner. As the owner, we have to be

willing to put in a lot of hours, but it’s what we enjoy. We like doing that. We like providing that service. A big company can put you on a three or four week waiting list.”

The key to success, Beachum said, is simply to do the best possible job.

“As a small business, you try to give the best service and the best product at the best price,” Beachum said. “You do what’s best for your customer and you do it right and it will pay dividends down the road. That customer is going to remember you. I’m a big believer in word-of-mouth advertising.”

Small Business Saturday isn’t a big deal for

a company like Beachum Flooring, because they strive to offer exceptional service year-round.

“I think it’s ‘small business day’ 365 days a year, not just one Saturday,” Beachum said. “That’s the approach that I take.”

Beachum is passionate about going above and beyond for his customers.

“Small business people have a passion for what they do,” Beachum said. “If you have a passion for something, you’re going to go the extra mile and make sure it’s done right, and then you become successful.”



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<p><b>Fleet Charge 50/50</b> #FCA0B3 6.99*</p>	<p><b>Global 50/50</b> #PKA0B3 8.59*</p>	<p><b>Fleet Charge 50/50</b> #FCA0B3 7.49*</p>						

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# Shop Independent • Shop Local • Shop Small SHOP SMALL SATURDAY, NOV. 28

## Local repairman says service is most important



Caverly Repair, 135 S. Center St., is Lowell's newest appliance repair service. They repair all brands of dishwashers, refrigerators, ovens, ranges, microwaves, disposers, washers, dryers and whatever other appliances you can think of. Owner Steve Caverly used to live in Detroit and had an appliance repair business there, but "life changes" caused him to move to Lowell and start a new company here.

"I do major appliance repair, and it's very enjoyable to be self-employed," Caverly said. "I get to set my own schedule. I get to take

time off when I need to for family matters.

He's been in business for a year and a half so far and says he enjoys working in Lowell much more than he did in Detroit.

"I'm enjoying getting to know the local folks," Caverly said. "It gets me around, and I get to know a lot of different people locally."

Since his company is usually only used by people with appliance repair emergencies, Caverly said he hasn't noticed much of an impact from "shop local" events like Small Business Saturday.

"It hasn't affected me," Caverly said. "My thing is kind of on an as-needed basis, being that it's appliance repair, so no, I've never gotten involved in it. I didn't even know Small Business Saturday existed, actually."

Caverly said that prompt, honest labor is the key to staying in business and being a great entrepreneur.

"In my view, the most important thing is service," Caverly said. "You must provide what you say you're going to provide, when you're going to provide it, and do so in a professional, quality manner."

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# Shop Independent • Shop Local • Shop Small SHOP SMALL SATURDAY, NOV. 28

## Business is just “natural” for this local entrepreneur

Cindy's Suds has been around since 2007, when company owner Cindy Hanson needed specific products for her sick child and couldn't find them anywhere.

“We started our company because one of my sons had really bad eczema when he was little and because I didn't want to use traditional steroid

creams and things like that on his skin,” Hanson said. “I started making our 'healing salve' and our soap and our body butter for his skin because it was so sensitive. We started giving our soap away as gifts to family and friends, and they suggested that we make a business out of it. That's how Cindy's Suds was born. I've been

a physician's assistant by trade since 1996, so I've got a medical degree. My medical background helps me formulate different soaps and the different products in a way that I know is beneficial to the skin and to the body.”

Cindy's Suds has a whole line of natural products with which to wash your body.

According to Hanson, soap made from natural ingredients is healthier than the chemical soap sold in grocery stores.

“Because they're all natural, they actually can help heal the skin and keep the skin healthy,” Hanson said. “If you buy a bar of soap over the counter it's actually detergent, like what you would wash



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*Celebrations*

your clothes in. They just add something to make it soft. It's actually very, very drying, and it pulls the oils out of your skin. It gives you a false sense that your skin is clean because of all the detergents they put in it, but your skin actually ends up being super dry because it's been stripped of all the oils. When you use a natural soap, because it's made with all natural plant oils, it actually replenishes the oils that your body is supposed to have in the outer layer of skin. In doing so, it keeps your skin healthy.”

The company started with a few bars of soap in the kitchen but has now taken over the entire basement of Hanson's home.

Hanson said that profit cannot be the only reason for starting a business.

“I believe the first step in being an entrepreneur is having a story and a reason why you're doing what you're doing. Your goal cannot be just financial. You've got to believe in it with your heart and soul. You've got to have a solid reason behind what you're doing. You've got to have a lot of vision. You need to have a good team of people with you that can help you get from your current position to where you envision yourself in the future, and you need a lot of perseverance.”

Hanson said that events like Small Business Saturday are a great way to bring customers to local businesses.

*Celebrations*  
GOLD

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# Shop Independent • Shop Local • Shop Small SHOP SMALL SATURDAY, NOV. 28

## Owner says be driven and love what you do

Cheryl Pratt started home at 201 Montcalm Fandangled Custom Ave. two years ago and Apparel & Gifts in her has been busy ever since.



"I do custom embroidery, custom vinyls, dye sublimation, all kinds of personalized products," Pratt said. "I also have a brand new direct-to-garment printer, so we're offering a whole lot of different things. Every day is a little bit different, with all different jobs from different customers."

Local people doing business with local companies is good for the local economy.

"I like all my small town customers," Pratt said. "My main thought when I started this business two years ago was that I wanted to be able to give individuals customized products. Right now I'm designing a couple shirts for a

family to wear because their daughter plays basketball. They wanted to personalize something individually. I've done large orders of a couple hundred with company or team logos. It's nice that I can do something that's individual, and I can give the customer exactly what they want. That's what I'm doing and why I'm doing it. I have such a passion to help an individual to get what they want, because it's exciting to get something like that, that's personalized."

Pratt said that a good entrepreneur is driven and passionate.

"Having a drive and a love for what they're doing. Honesty and providing a good product at a fair price. Being fair

and timely, giving the customer something they need in a timely fashion. Being willing to give up a lot of time of doing anything else besides the job. For the past couple years, because it's a new start-up business, I've spent a lot of time on getting my name out. It takes a lot of time. Word of mouth is very important. The focus of my business is to provide a good, quality product at a reasonable price in a timely manner with good customer service. I hate when you have to wait forever for something, and so many stores you go to, the employees act like you're bothering them."

Pratt said that Small Businesses Saturday has helped remind people

to use local businesses instead of blindly pointing and clicking.

"Absolutely, I believe it has," Pratt said. "It's really made a difference to my business because it reminds people to shop local, and to shop from small businesses. I like to always really thank my customers who do shop with me. It's such a competitive world out there, and there are so many places to shop online, so I always let my customers know that I appreciate it so much when they come to us and I hope that they see that one-on-one, personalized service that they get from a small business, rather than just a website."



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Red Arrow

- FOOTBALL

# SPORTS

## Arrows headed to Ford Field, continued

Warriors' Javon Gabriel returned the first kickoff of the game 90 yards to the end zone to put his team on top early. Unfortunately the huge play did not set the stage for what was to be as the Warriors ended their perfect 12-0 season at the hands of the Arrows.

Combined with a 25-yard field goal, the Warriors did hold the lead at the end of the first quarter 10-7 after Lowell quarterback Ryan Stevens put the Arrows on the board with a 20-yard rush. Lowell dominated the second quarter with Stevens scoring the second of three touchdowns on a quick one-yard run and fellow senior Alex Anschutz grabbing a 15-yard pass in the end zone with under a minute left in the half. Anschutz also claimed two important interceptions in the game and led the team's defense. The Warriors went scoreless leaving the Arrows out front 21-10.

WLW scored twice in the third but a touchdown from Sawyer Olesko off a 35-yard pass from Stevens kept the Arrows on top by a slim four-point margin of 28-24 moving into the final action packed stanza of the game.

Thirty-one points were scored in the fourth, including three scores from the Arrows. Gabe Steed picked up his only touchdown of the game, less than a minute in, cruising down the field for a 70-yard touchdown; followed six minutes later by Stevens third touchdown, a 15-yard rush. Stevens had a stellar game passing for 188 yards and three touchdowns and rushing for 73 yards to score three of his own.

WLW quarterback Kyle Thomas ran in a score at 3:24 to close the gap to 42-31 but the Arrows answered seconds later as Nate Stephens returned the ensuing kickoff 50 yards for a score. Ahead 49-31 the Arrows saw the Warriors kick a futile field goal at the two minute mark before celebrating their 49-34 victory.

On offense, the Arrows' top rushers in the game were seniors Max Dean, who also picked up a sack; and Derek Massey, who combined for 33 carries 161 yards. Stevens' rushing effort placed him third on that list. Top receivers were Steed (3/112), Anschutz (2/27) and Avery Buckius (2/14).

Sophomore kicker George Gonzales had a perfect 7/7 in extra point kicks.

Defensively, the team was led by Anschutz and Dean who each contributed three solo tackles and five assists. Danny Kruse, Stephens, Steed and Matthew Cooper also

performed well for the championship squad.

This is the first time that the Arrows have earned their way to the state championship game since 2011 when they fell to Birmingham Brother Rice. Their last state title was earned in 2009.



Coach Keith Houston congratulates Arrow quarterback Ryan Stevens who passed 188 yards for three touchdowns.



Senior Alex Anschutz reaches up for a 15-yard scoring catch in the end zone during the second quarter.



Quarterback Ryan Stevens makes the hand off to fellow senior running back Max Dean.

The Division II state final, against 13-0 Detroit Martin Luther King, will be played this Friday at Ford Field in Detroit with kickoff scheduled for 1 pm. Lowell will be the home team and be seated in sections 101-104. Tickets and game day shirts, both \$10 each, are available for purchase from 9-3 pm on Wednesday in the high school main office and will also be available at the gate. Parking is \$6 per vehicle.

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# Life



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	Walled Lake	Lowell
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First Downs	16	21
Rushing Attempts	25	49
Net Yards Rushing	93	232
Net Yards Passing	246	188
Total Net Yards	339	420
Pass Attempts	25	15
Passes Completed	13	8
Interceptions	2	1
Total Offensive Plays	50	64
Average Gain Per Play	6.8	6.6
Fumbles: Number/Lost	2/2	0/0
Penalties: Number/Yards	5/53	5/56
Number of Punts/Yards	0/0	2/52
Average Per Punt	0	26
Punt Returns: Number/Yards	1/6	0/0
Number of Kickoffs/Yards	7/242	8/273
Average Per Kickoff	34.6	34.1
Kickoff Returns: Number/Yards	8/172	7/100
Int. Returns: Number/Yards	1/1	2/5
Fumble Returns: Yards/TD	0/0	0/0
Possession Time	20:16	27:44
Third-Down Conversions	6/10	7/14
Fourth-Down Conversions	0/1	3/3



# obituaries

## CARR

James Carr, age 76, of Ada, died Monday November 16, 2015, surrounded by his family. Jim was preceded in death by his parents, Fred and Matilda; brother, Clare; sister-in-law, Caroldean; and his nephew, Jack Carr. He is survived by

his loving wife of 54 years, Jill; children, Stacy (Carl) Kloosterman, James "Jimbo" (Renee) Carr and Taryn (Bradley) Frey; grandchildren, Kolby, Nicholas and Kambry Kloosterman, McKenna and Olivia Carr and Miles and Kyler Frey; brother, Fred Carr; sisters-in-law, Susie Carr, Judy (Cal Hannink) Kinsman, Debra (James) Riegling; and many nieces and nephews. Jim worked as the golf pro at Indian Trails Golf Course and retired from the Grand Rapids City Parks Dept. A memorial service was held on Monday at 2 pm in the Metcalf & Jonkhoff Chapel. The family suggests memorial contributions be sent to The First Tee. The family is being served by Metcalf & Jonkhoff Funeral Service, 4291 Cascade Rd SE at Kenmoor, E of I-96; www.metcalfandjonkhoff.com



## WEBER

Mark Gregory Weber, age 70 of Lowell, passed away after a brief illness Saturday, November 21, 2015. Born July 3, 1945 in Highland Park, MI. He was preceded in death by his parents, Delmar and Ruth (Honsinger) Weber. He is survived by his wife of 38 years Virginia "Ginny" Thome Weber; daughters, Bethany (Preston) Saenz, Erin (Kyle) Hines; granddaughters, Sydney and London; brother, Scott (Barbara); sister, Sue (Mark) Turner; mother-in-law, Mary-Ellen (Quinlin) Thome; many brothers and sisters-in-law; nieces; and nephews. Mark dearly loved his family and enjoyed taking his granddaughters on adventures. He was also passionate about education for all. He worked as a teacher and administrator in the Lowell Area Schools from 1968 to 2001. The family will meet friends and relatives in a Celebration of Mark's life Saturday 2-4:00 pm and 6-8:00 pm at Roth-Gerst Chapel 305 N. Hudson, Lowell. In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to the Lowell Education Foundation, 300 High Street, Lowell, MI 49331.



**ROTH GERST**  
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# Programs exist to help if you become disabled

For many of us, you might be covered if preparing for winter you are disabled at www.socialsecurity.gov/planners/disability. involves pulling out heavy coats from the closet and making sure our vehicle is ready for intense weather.

Whether your winter brings snow, ice, or flooding, you need to be prepared.

Preparing for a possible physical or mental disability is the same. Many people don't think of disability as something that could happen to them. Statistics show the chances of becoming disabled are greater than most realize. Fifty-six million Americans, or 1-in-5, live with a disability. Thirty-eight million Americans, or 1-in-10, live with a severe disability. A sobering fact for 20 year-olds is that more than a quarter of them will become disabled before reaching retirement age. Disability can happen to anyone. But who is prepared?

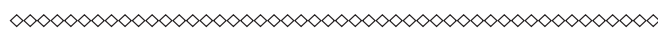
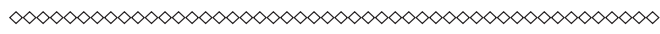
When disability does happen, Social Security can help people meet their basic needs. Our disability programs provide financial and medical benefits for those who qualify to pay for doctors' visits, medicines, and treatments. You can learn more about how

you are disabled at www.socialsecurity.gov/planners/disability. Social Security pays benefits to people who worked and paid Social Security taxes, but who can no longer work and whose medical condition meets the strict definition of disability under the Social Security Act. A person is considered disabled under this definition if he or she cannot work due to a severe medical condition that is expected to last at least one year or result in death.

The person's medical condition must prevent him or her from doing work that he or she did in the past, and it must prevent the person from adjusting to other work based on their age, education, and experience.

Supplemental Security Income (SSI), our other disability program, is a needs-based program for people with limited income and resources.

You can find all the information you need about eligibility and benefits available to you by reading our publication, *Disability Benefits*, available at www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs.



**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING  
LOWELL CHARTER  
TOWNSHIP  
PLANNING COMMISSION**

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

1. An amendment to the definition of Front Lot Line which will read as follows: The lot line separating the lot from a public or private street.
2. An amendment to the definition of Road Frontage which will read as follows: The contiguous length of the front lot line.

The hearing will be held as follows:

**WHEN: MONDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2015**  
**TIME: 7:00 P.M.**  
**WHERE: LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP HALL  
2910 ALDEN NASH AVENUE SE  
LOWELL, MI 49331**

Any person is welcome to attend this meeting and to offer comments or ask questions regarding the proposed amendments. The proposed amendments are available for review at the Lowell Charter Township offices, 2910 Alden Nash Avenue, SE, Lowell, Michigan, 49331 during normal office hours on Monday, Tuesday, & Thursday. Phone 616-897-7600.

The amendments may also be viewed on the Township web site at [www.twp.lowell.mi.us](http://www.twp.lowell.mi.us)

Tim Clements, Secretary  
Lowell Charter Township  
Planning Commission

**PUZZLE SOLUTIONS**

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**PUBLIC NOTICE  
BOWNE  
TOWNSHIP**

**Notice of Adoption of  
Amendments to the Natural Resource  
Renewal Licensing Ordinance**

On November 16, 2015, the Township Board for Bowne Township adopted several amendments to the Bowne Township Natural Resource Licensing Ordinance (being Ordinance No. 2001-7). Specifically, Subsection 5F of that Ordinance was amended regarding license renewals; a new and additional Subsection G was added to Section 5 of the Ordinance regarding public hearings; a new and additional paragraph was added at the end of Section 7 of the Ordinance regarding extended licensing renewals (i.e., renewing every three years rather than every one year); and a new and additional Section 12a was added to the Ordinance regarding Bowne Township zoning requirements. A copy of those amendments can be inspected, purchased or reviewed at the Township offices at 8240 Alden Nash SE, Alta, Michigan 49302 during normal business hours (Friday 9-12:00; W-T 9-3). The Ordinance amendments will become effective upon the expiration of 30 days after this notice appears in the newspaper. Please contact the Bowne Township Clerk at (616) 868-6846 if there are any questions.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Sandra L. Kowalczyk  
Bowne Township Clerk



**STATEPOINT CROSSWORD**

**THEME: HOLIDAY SONGS**

**ACROSS**

1. Boreal bursts
6. Soldier's bed
9. Microbrewery product
13. "We all will be together if the fates \_\_\_\_"
14. Romanian money
15. Plural of pupa
16. Stupid and silly
17. Eyeball shape
18. Bornean ape
19. "Feliz \_\_\_\_"
21. "...with your nose so \_\_\_\_, won't you guide my sleigh..."
23. Gourmet mushroom
24. Windows to the soul?
25. "Hee \_\_\_\_" variety show
28. Persian backgammon
30. Knowledgeable
35. Shining armor
37. Oriental ware, pl.
39. One of seven dwarfs
40. St. Louis' Gateway
41. "Mele Kalikimaka is the \_\_\_\_ to say"
43. Singer-songwriter Amos
44. Scout's mission
46. End of line
47. Mint product
48. Mrs. Potts of "Beauty and the Beast"
50. Falling-out
52. Lamb serving
53. Thomas the Engine's warning
55. Plays for pay
57. Part of a flower, pl.

CROSSWORD														
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71						72				73				



**NOVEMBER 18 - NOVEMBER 24**

- There are now only three northern white rhinos left on Earth. Nola, a northern white rhinoceros, was put down after suffering a bacterial infection and other age-related health issues, at the San Diego Zoo Safari Park. She was 41. Rhinos are among the largest land animals on Earth. The northern white rhino is a subspecies of the white rhino and has been extinct in the wild since 2008.
- Brussels will remain in a heightened state of security until at least Monday, the country's prime minister Charles Michel said. Authorities have been carrying out raids attempting to stop suspected terrorist attacks. The government has detained 21 people in more than 20 raids across the country.
- British singer Adele's new album "25" has sold a record 2.3 million copies in the United States in the first three days of its release.



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60. \*The weather is frightful but this is so delightful
  64. Natural talent
  65. Nightcap rocks
  67. Run \_\_\_\_ of the law
  68. Full of curd
  69. "Jolly Old Saint Nicholas, Lean your \_\_\_\_ this way"
  70. First light, pl.
  71. Algonquian people
  72. Dashboard acronym
  73. Wipe it clean to start fresh
- DOWN**
1. No this without pain?
  2. Longer forearm bone
  3. Member of people of eastern Europe
  4. Second T in T&T
  5. ABBA's home
  6. Doofus
  7. "\_\_\_\_ the fields we go laughing all the way"
  8. Short and plump
  9. Town
  10. Sashimi choice
  11. "\_\_\_\_ Buy Me Love"
  12. Liquor store pony
  15. Composed and self-assured
  20. Like exes
  22. Christian minister, abbr.
  24. Most avant-garde
  25. "It" in "...but the very next day you gave it away"
  26. Come to terms
  27. Neopagan religion
  29. German industrial valley
  31. Drilling group
  32. Thread holder
  33. Chill-inducing
  34. "The fire is slowly \_\_\_\_, and my dear, we're still goodbying"
  36. Do this until you drop?
  38. Finger move
  42. Charted record
  45. "You better watch out! You better \_\_\_\_"
  49. Beneficiary of holiday toy drives
  51. Found on a tire
  54. Basketry stick
  56. Butcher's refuse
  57. Its out of focus
  58. Like pink steak
  59. Assistant
  60. 4 years to a President
  61. Caucus state
  62. Litter member
  63. Someone \_\_\_\_
  64. TV monitor, acr.
  66. Part of graduate's ensemble

*Puzzle solutions on page 12*

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

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NOVEMBER  
27 & 28





# Shop Independent • Shop Local • Shop Small SHOP SMALL SATURDAY, NOV. 28

## Family business has changed but still here

Rookies Sportcards Plus, 106 W. Main St., is not just Lowell's best comic book store, it's one of the best in the whole Grand Rapids area. The bulk of Rookies' inventory is regular \$4 comic books, but they also carry board games, trading cards, statues, toys and tons of other merchandise, including some very rare items.

"We've been here almost 24 years now, so I've got a lot of great regulars that come in," said owner Jack Reedy. "A lot of the local collectors know us, and there are just a lot of good people in Lowell and the

surrounding area. I love it."

Reedy inherited the store from his father, Don Reedy.

"My dad started the store in 1992," Reedy said. "He was a real estate agent, but for health reasons he wanted to get out of real estate and do something a little more laid back. He collected sports cards, so he opened this store. My dad was a big risk taker. He already owned the building, so he thought, 'What the heck, why don't I try my own store?' I started helping him when I was right out of college, and it's 23

years later and I'm still here, and now it's my store so it worked out well."

Owning and operating your own small business can be time consuming, but it's rewarding.

"You have to do your time," Reedy said. "We open at 10 am most days, but I'm here about 8 o'clock, just getting things started. We're open seven days a week, so I've got a couple part time guys that help me, Matt and Flynn."

The way business is done has changed a lot since 1992.

"So much is on social media now," Reedy said. "We have a huge e-mail

list, probably the biggest in the area for collectors, and then it's Facebook and all that kind of thing. We don't do Yellow Pages anymore."

Small Business Saturday is big at Rookies, so expect a good sale there this weekend.

"It definitely has a positive impact," Reedy said. "It brings people out, for sure. The last few years we've made a bigger push for specials and sales for Black Friday, and we carry it over to Small Business Saturday. Last year I had \$10 comic bricks. You got 50 comics for \$10. People loved that, so I'm going to do it again. We'll have specials on board games, graphic novels and everything."



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# Christmas Through Lowell, continued

house at 2465 Gee Dr. The house was stuffed with merchandise and packed with shoppers.

“We have a whole group of friends and family who get together and makes stuff,” Razmus said. “We get together as a family and have fun; that’s the whole reason we do it. After hours we break out the wine. It’s a fun family tradition for us. We’ve been doing this for about 20 years. My mom and I started out with just a booth at the Lowell United Methodist Church. We moved to my girlfriend’s house until we outgrew that. Then my sister built this house. It was her idea to have it here. If it wasn’t for her we could never do this big of a show.”

Razmus said the snowy weather had little, if any, impact on sales.

“Business is good, considering the weather,” Razmus said. “Last year was our best year ever and I think we’re on track, if the weather holds off, to at least equal last year.”

They leave all the decorations up through the holiday season and have a great big family Christmas party.

“We have a great big family, like 40 people, so we have the parties out here,” Razmus said.

Much of the art at the various stops, but not all of it, was holiday themed.

“It is all sorts of different art,” Liz Baker, executive director of Lowell



Kit VanHaitsma with an intarsia dragon, which he said was made from seven different types of wood.



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in there. It’s just amazing, what they do.”

Ada resident Michelle Buckner was impressed by all of the merchandise she saw for sale at Christmas Through Lowell.

“A group of friends invited me out,” said shopper Michelle Buckner. “This is actually my first time coming here. I love it. It’s great. There are so many people out today. I like to support the local community, rather than buy from some big retail shop.”

LeAnn Merrills from Rockford had her shopping route all planned out.

“We come every year,” Merrills said. “We go through downtown first and hit our favorite shops there and then we go to the church and the ballroom. We do it every year.”

Krista Nummer offered interesting furniture, art and other decorative items made out of recycled wood pallets at “Once Upon a Pallet” in the home at 10816 Woodbushe SE. It was her first time participating in the event.

“If we don’t have it, I can make it,” Nummer said. “I take special orders. It was very stressful getting ready for it, but now that it’s here, it’s not too bad. It’s been enjoyable. I just think of things that I would like to have. Everything I do, I really want to keep. I really have a hard time parting with stuff.”

Baker said the event is very good for the local economy, even for businesses that don’t participate.

“You have three days of bringing people into Lowell,” Baker said. “It has a huge economic impact, not just on people that are participating but [also] the businesses that don’t, like your gas stations, your fast food places. They all see commerce from this event. It’s huge. It has such an impact in Lowell and on the businesses that participate. It’s just a great event, a great way to spearhead your Christmas shopping.”

Stores downtown were packed with shoppers who braved the cold and snow in

search of special gifts and bargains.

“Each stop is unique in itself,” Baker said. “I think the cool thing is, although you’ll find duplication, it won’t be the same because it’s all handmade, so everybody will have their own twist on items. They’re all wonderful. Every one of them is so different. I think for the participants it’s kind of like a treasure hunt. The homes, I have to say, are amazing. These homes take a tremendous

amount of time to create a destination for shoppers.”

Baker stressed that, despite the event’s feminine origins, everybody was welcome to participate



Kathy Donaldson creates clocks out of old record albums.



Homes throughout Lowell were full of holiday-themed displays of merchandise like this.



The Grand Volute was mobbed with shoppers all weekend.