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laughing it up in lowell



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Lowell Expo all set for this weekend

by Tim McAllister
contributing reporter

The Lowell Expo, which will take place at Lowell High School from 9 am until 3 pm on Saturday, March 26, is your chance to explore a ton of local businesses all at once without having to drive all over town. Last year over 5,000 people attended the Expo, where they interacted with over 100 local businesses and organizations who were there showing off their wares, handing out samples and doing demonstrations. This year's Expo will be even bigger and better than that.

“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,” said Liz Baker, executive director of the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce.

“The Expo is a great place where local businesses



can come and talk to folks in the community about what they have to offer and what they can bring [to] the table,” said Josh Bruwer, owner of Arrowhead Golf Course and one of the people in charge of organizing the Expo. “Sometimes folks will just come to the Expo

because it's something to do on a Saturday and they'll stumble upon a service that they're in need of. It's a great way for them to get some questions answered and if they've got a lot of things going on there's a lot of folks they can meet up with and talk to there.

It's a great way to see a lot of local vendors all in one place. It's a way to get a lot done in a short period of time all in one place.”

Greenridge Realty's Lowell office is not new to the Lowell Community Expo. In fact, they are only one of two businesses that

have participated with a booth for all 20 years since the Expo's inception.

“It just seemed like the right thing to do,” said Rick Seese, broker, manager and owner of Greenridge Realty.

Expo, continued,
page 2

Citizens at packed city council meeting listen to discussions of lawyer's bills, endowments, trails and construction

by Tim McAllister
contributing reporter

There was another packed house at city hall Monday night for the Lowell city council meeting. The meeting lasted over an hour and a half and included discussions of legal bills, the LCTV endowments, local trails and some pricey construction projects.

The first order of business was the hefty legal bill the city received from special counsel Katherine Henry. The attorney billed the city for \$9,900, which included 11 charges from before she was hired by the council on Jan. 19. Since mayor Jeff Altoft was absent due to illness, the council tabled the issue until their next meeting.

“From my understanding, this was a one time deal,” said councilor Alan Teelander. “She was not going to be our city attorney. She

wouldn't be involved in anything other than this [firing former city manager Mark Howe]. The mayor called the Municipal League and they suggested that we hire an outside attorney because we didn't want to subject our city attorney to the issues involved.”

During citizen discussion, the council heard from parks and recreation commission chair Perry Beachum, who suggested a joint meeting between the council and that body. Beachum, who also sits on the Lowell Light & Power board, also noted that none of the city councilors has attended that board's meetings for the past two months. He went on to point out that the city did not secure a booth at the upcoming Lowell Expo.

“As of this week, talking to the director of the chamber [Liz Baker],

the city is not participating in a booth at the Expo,” Beachum said.

LowellArts! executive director Lorain Smalligan asked the council to extend the deadline for LCTV fund grant proposals.

“From my understanding, there was only one notice that was put in the Lowell Ledger to announce this,” Smalligan said. “I missed the deadline. Also, I talked to Betsy Davidson with [the Lowell Area Recreation Authority]. They had every intention of applying. They did not apply because they did not know about the application deadline. I talked to Jessica Marks at the fairgrounds; she also did not know about the deadline. I imagine there are other nonprofits in the community that probably would have applied for

City Council proceedings,
continued, page 7



Lorain Smalligan from LowellArts! asked to have the deadline for LCTV fund grants extended but the council refused.

Expo, continued

"If you have a business in Lowell, then supporting the chamber of commerce and meeting and greeting people is a natural fit for us."

"This year we're going to have a lot of entertainment," Bruwer said. "We always have a lot of great local acts, whether they're elementary kids, high school kids or folks in the community that will perform in the main gymnasium. A lot of the groups that will be performing will be student-led groups, like a garage band situation."

This year is the 20th anniversary of the Lowell Expo.

"We started out really small," Baker said. "People like Larry Milkulski and Dick Korb, who used to be the superintendent of Lowell Area Schools, were on the committee then. The school headed up a marketing plan back in 1995 or so and the Expo kind of grew out of that plan. I was relatively new to the chamber then and some of the business[es] on Main St. then said that they go to home and garden shows and they asked how come we don't do something like that. I thought, 'Well, why don't we start an Expo?' I talked to the school people about it and they thought it sounded like a great idea. It's a win-win for everyone. We were one of the first community expos in this area. I think we had about 50 vendors the first year. We did it in May the first year and we thought it was too late in the season. The weather was very good and we found that people don't want to attend an event indoors when the weather is so beautiful, so we decided to do it on the fourth Saturday in March."

"We had just built a brand new high school and

part of that first Expo was wanting to show off the new school," said Larry Milkulski, who is still involved in organizing the Expo every year. "It has continued to grow. When we first started we didn't have very many booths, we just had 15 or 16 booths. From there it's been quite a jump each year. Vendors were interested right away because every year we'd get more people coming. It's been gradual, but there's been growth every year. We've never had a year where we didn't grow."

This year's Lowell Expo will have participation from over 40 new businesses. The new companies range from farms to clothing stores to assisted living facilities. New businesses and organizations come to the Expo to meet people who might otherwise be unaware of their existence.

"We have over 40 new participants this year," said Baker. "We sold out way ahead of schedule; we have no spots left for vendors. We're anticipating a big crowd again."

"We were looking for more exposure for our farm and the specialty vegetable production that we do," said Deane Brengle, owner of Chimney Creek Farm. "We're excited for our first year at the Expo. We hope to help people eat healthier."

You can think of Chimney Creek Farm as sort of a co-op or a farmer's market that delivers.

"We grow vegetables, but we market them in a very unique way," Bringle said. "It's called a CSA or 'community supported agriculture.' You can think of it as subscription farming. All winter and all spring we sign up people to become a member of our CSA, then

for 20 weeks during the summer we pick whatever's ripe and give it to our CSA members. They can either pick it up here at the farm or we actually deliver to businesses and homes. You have to be kind of a foodie. You have to enjoy different kinds of food. We grow all the usual ones: potatoes, carrots, beans, peppers, sweet corn. We also grow some of the more unusual ones, such as turnips, kohlrabi, arugula. It might be out of your comfort zone, but we give them to you in small amounts with recipes so you learn to like eating seasonally. Eating

"I think it's a great place for people to learn about what we have available here."

~ Liz Baker

seasonally is what we're really all about. We've been doing the CSA since 2010. We are not certified organic, but we use organic standards. No chemical pesticides, no chemical fertilizers and we're a sustainable farm. Besides the vegetables, we also do meat chickens and pigs. That's not part of the CSA though, that's an add-on."

For more information about the farm, attend the Lowell Expo and check out their website at chimneycreekfarm.com.

Black Hawk Canoe Rental will be offering ten percent off all trips booked at the Expo.

"This is our first year in business, so really we're just kicking things off, trying to get our name out there," said Patrick Schoenborn, owner of Black Hawk Canoe Rental. "We'll have some prizes to give away. We're also going to be offering ten percent off any rental if anybody signs up at the Expo. We want to get involved in the community a little bit. We live in Lowell and we love the town, so we're hoping to get to know everybody a little better. We've been open just about a year. This is going to be our first big season. We spent the winter ramping up, stocking up on boats and tubes and things like that. We've got all types of vessels. We've got canoes, kayaks, tandem kayaks, tubes. All together we could get about 40 people on the river at the same time."

To set up a canoe trip or a trip on one of their many water crafts, you can contact them by email at bhcr2015@gmail.com, by telephone at 616-581-4265 or visit their website, blackhawkcanoerental.com.

One new local business, Tap House Bo, has only

had a location for four months, but they're already expanding.

"We came into town Thanksgiving weekend," said Tap House Bo owner Martha Davis. "I've had the business for a year, but it's mostly been online. We're moving just up the road to where Glass House Designs is now. The space that we're in right now is very tiny and we wanted something bigger so people could walk around and explore the store more. They are going to be more of a workshop and they're giving up their retail space. We're going to be in there and we're going

will be putting on some Easter activities," Josh Bruwer owner of Arrowhead Golf Course and one of the people who helps put the Expo together said.

Many of the businesses at the Expo will be offering special sales and discounts that will only be available to people who come to the Expo.

"This year most of the businesses are offering an 'Expo special,'" Baker said. "For instance, 10 percent off a purchase, things like that. Not everybody's doing it, but you'll see there's quite a long list of things that are happening. For example, one of the new businesses this year is Universal Roofing and Gutters. They're right here in Saranac and they're doing free gutters with a new roof purchase. It pays to shop at the Expo."

"If you're out looking for a job, come out to the Expo. Manpower and Compositex are looking for employees. There are opportunities to talk to people who are hiring. They're looking for people to fill positions."

Looking to buy or sell your house? You can take care of that at the Lowell Expo.

"Right now the housing market in Lowell is booming. The inventory here is extremely low, but people want to buy. They've got buyers, but there are no homes to buy. If you're thinking of putting your home up for sale, there will be a lot of realtors at the Expo that you can talk to about that."

There will be so much going on at the Lowell Expo, one little article simply can't contain it all.

"There will be entertainment throughout the day on the stage," Bruwer said. "Each hour of entertainment is sponsored by one of the businesses."

"We'll have a farmer's market there, great

entertainment on the stage by the school kids and groups and concessions will be available and we're giving away over \$1,000 in gifts," Baker said. "You can sign up for the prize drawing at the booths."

Among its many delights, the last Lowell Expo had live music, \$5 haircuts, a fashion show, free massages, free blood pressure checks, tons of free candy and snacks, and various demonstrations and samples.

"It's always an exciting time of year and we're looking forward to another great year," Bruwer said. "I think this is going to be the biggest and best Expo to date."

"If you're new to the area, you could spend two or three hours at the Expo and there's so much going on you wouldn't realize you just spent two or three hours there," said Bruwer. "It's a great way to get your thumb on the pulse of the community. You can really gain a lot of information about what's going on in our community. It's a great way to see what organizations and churches you can get involved with, as well as what businesses are out there. It's a great way to get an idea of what our community is all about and what we have going on. I've been to other expos and it's hard to top the Lowell Expo. It's fun, we're looking forward to it and we're looking forward to another 20 years at least."

"I think it's a great place for people to learn about what we have available here," Baker said. "If you're new to our community it's a great opportunity to talk to everybody about Lowell. Even if you've lived here your entire life, like I have, there's always something new to learn about Lowell and about the businesses, organizations, schools and churches."

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Maple Syrup Fest held at Wittenbach/Wege Center

by Tim McAllister
contributing reporter

Maple Syrup Fest was held Saturday morning at the Wittenbach/Wege Center, 11715 Vergennes. There was a pancake breakfast and demonstrations of historic syrup cultivation techniques and historic games.

Local American Indian tribes didn't make maple syrup, they made maple sugar, which they would eat during the winter when other food wasn't available. Wittenbach/Wege staff members Rachel Johnson and Shannon Goodwin demonstrated how maple sugar was made.

"They could store the maple sugar in birch bark baskets and it would last," Johnson said. "The birch bark actually contains



A group learns how American Indians made maple sugar.

antifungal and antibacterial properties because of the essential oils in the bark. They could store it for up to a year that way and it would stay fresh. Forty pounds of sap makes two pounds of maple sugar."

When Europeans showed up they introduced the consumption of syrup to the new world. At the old cabin in the woods, a group including Gary Blough of Heidi's Farm Stand served fresh doughnuts with maple syrup and dill pickles. That's right, pickles.

"The dill pickles were because, all through the season you'd have all this

steam in your building and you'd be in the steam," Blough said. "That steam had traces of sugar in it. It would get in your body, you'd absorb all that sugar. They thought a dill pickle would counteract that."

The pancake breakfast was a success, where over 150 attendees enjoyed pancakes, eggs, sausage and several types of maple syrup.

"I thought it went great," said Wittenbach/Wege director Courtney Cheers. "We had a good turnout. People were here early. It was a great day for it."

North Grand Riverfront Park plans to extend walking trails

by Tim McAllister
contributing reporter

The new North Grand River Riverfront Park in Lowell Township includes plans to extend local walking trails.

"We're moving forward with a combined effort with the Lowell Area Recreation Authority to make the trail connection from Gee Dr. to our park," said Lowell Township supervisor Jerry Hale. "It's a community effort. We're working together with the city of Lowell, LARA and Vergennes Township to make this happen."

"It's the Lowell Area Trailway that currently goes from Lowell High School down Alden Nash and then onto Gee Drive to Cherry Creek Elementary," said LARA treasurer Betsy Davidson. "The extension is less than a mile."

The new park has always included a plan to extend and connect local trails.

"When Lowell Township started working on their new park, they came to us and said, 'Let's

get this extension done,'" Davidson said. "We're all for it because we had the study done, but we've been focused on the rail trail. This helps us move forward with the extension. It's going to benefit the whole community of Lowell. Connecting to the new Lowell Township Park as well as connection to the west end businesses, the dog park, Stoney Lakeside Park, and ultimately the fairgrounds if you kept going down Bowes Rd."

"It was always LARA's long range plan to make that connection," Hale said. "It'll be on the east side of Alden Nash. We need to do the engineering and get permission from the people who own the property there and get easements to get through there. It's all privately owned. Michigan Wire owns a big chunk of it. There are two or three homes in there that own the rest of the property."

The project will be funded completely by donations and grants.

"It will cost approximately \$300,000," Davidson said. "The money will mostly come from donations and local grants. We've been working on this extension for a couple years. We did a study a couple years ago and from that study we found that we could go down the east side of Alden Nash and connect to the west end businesses. Our focus has been on how we can do that and how we can raise the money."

The trail extension is intended to literally connect three local communities.

"It's going to be a great connection for the city of Lowell, Lowell Township and Vergennes Township," Davidson said. "This is a great opportunity for our communities to connect."

"We need to start thinking about our community along those lines," Hale said. "When we do projects like this we're all working together to make it happen."

If you want to donate, you should call the Lowell Township office at 616-897-7600 or LARA at 616-293-3206. Beyond the trail extension, the next step in creating the new park is to install some equipment.

"This summer we want to get the disc golf course, the bathrooms, the gaga pit and the top lot finished," Hale said. "We have all the equipment, we just have to get it installed. Our plan is to do that this summer if we can get the money."



Josie Stoller demonstrates historic maple syrup gathering techniques.

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CITY OF LOWELL PUBLIC NOTICE

Look Memorial Fund Board is now accepting grant applications for 2016. Applications are available at Lowell City Hall.

Grant applications should be submitted to Susan Ulery, City Clerk, 301 East Main Street, Lowell, MI 49331. The deadline for submitting 2016 applications is 4:00 p.m. on Friday, April 29, 2016.



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outdoors

follow the sun

Dave Stegehuis

Golf is a weather dependent activity. Those who play golf have enjoyed early season opportunities due to milder weather this year. To play golf year around one must follow the sun to faraway places. Fishermen are also watching the weather because it affects fish activity though the seasons.

As ice disappears from our many lakes and streams, fishermen anticipate multiple opportunities of their own. Water temperature in particular determines

the location of fish as it relates to feeding habits and spawning schedules. These conditions are of special interest to fishermen in determining when, where, and how to catch the sought after species.

Steelhead will gather in rivers which empty into the Great Lakes. When water temperature warms, the fish move up-stream to spawn. Steelhead fishermen will be closely watching and waiting for this to occur so as not to miss the narrow window of opportunity.

Later in the spring, bluegills will move from cooler deeper water in inland lakes to establish spawning beds in shallow water, which of course, warms up faster. Walleyes draw fishermen's attention to spawning rivers first, and then are followed to flats and reefs in open water after spawning. As the days of summer heat up, bluegills, perch, and other panfish move back to cooler water and are fished in the deeper areas of a lake.

Salmon and lake trout are found off shore in the Great Lakes in the summer. During the fall season, salmon return to their home rivers where they were planted or hatched and become available to small boat anglers and waders. When autumn leaves turn a brilliant array of colors it is again time to go hunting for small game and deer.

As the sun drifts south and hunting seasons wind down, lakes start to freeze up and ice fishing resumes. This closes the loop for Michigan fishermen.

For many of us, our lifestyle is significantly influenced by the habits of fish and game and the seasons which affect their behavior. Being aware of wildlife life cycles and becoming personally involved creates a true bond with nature. Follow the sun.

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kidsView



by Sierra Hieshetter

Seasonal sports are great. During the fall I can surely count on attending quite a few football games and in the winter I can depend on basketball. That is the beauty of them. You get through the season and then you have another

whole year to prepare for the next one. But as we get older, more and more sports are becoming what seems like year-round. My brother has played football since he was five or younger. This year though, even after the end of the football season,

he goes to weight lifting on Tuesday and Thursday mornings and offensive training on Wednesday mornings. I also have a friend who plays on an all-year baseball team. Baseball is a great sport and fun to watch, but all year might be a little too much. If boys and girls want to dedicate themselves to a sport, that is fine. But doesn't everyone deserve a little break after the traditional season is over?

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viewpoint

to the editor

lovely afternoon tea

Dear Editor,
Beautiful tables were set. The water was hot for tea. The treats skillfully set on their doily covered trays. The brochures were laid out. Everyone was ready. It was a lovely afternoon tea.
Friends of the Library and the Lowell Historical Society did an outstanding job presenting Ladies of the Lights. The speaker was

wonderful. Her photographs and stories were well done and engaging.
It was a delightful afternoon for all that attended. A missed opportunity for those who didn't.
Thank you for a fine presentation.
Heather Dilly
Lowell

a caring friendly community

Dear Editor,
I love Lowell. Some have called it "Where Two Rivers Meet" or "The Showboat City" and others "The Next Place to Be." What I call it is "A community of caring and friendly people." Our chamber of commerce is the envy of other communities and is the catalyst for all the wonderful and fun activities

throughout the year. The service organizations, like Flat River Outreach, Pink Arrow and all the rest are something we all need to be proud of. If you missed it, stop, slow down and experience its love. "Lowell Is the Greatest Place to Be."
Mike Sprenger
Forward Lowell co-founder
Ada

move past the pain

Dear Editor,
I would like to respond to last week's letters to the editor. Mostly John Erickson, accusing myself, amongst a few others being "determined to make this council look so bad, stirring up trouble and making the town look bad."

A small group can't move past the pain of the union campaign. That's history, we can't go back and Mark Howe is gone. Let's move forward. As in Forward Lowell.

Forward Lowell is a group of people who care about the community and its future. The turnout of about 100 persons at the meeting following Howe's termination/execution was probably 90 percent critical and 10 percent supportive of the new council's performance. The council graciously listened to about a dozen, mostly critical comments and thanked citizens for the input. The next meeting had less attendees with the council against taking input from

citizens and actually making good decisions for the future of Lowell. The last meeting was very pleasant, with citizen questions and answers, per Jeanne Rockwell's letter.

There are far more people involved than the few listed. The turnout for the council meetings shows the concern of the silent majority over the direction that we go from here. Go to ForwardLowell.org and look at the members as we grow. This is a good group of people, not troublemakers. As Gary Dietzel said, "With patience and respect, it will be positive." Asking others to sign letters that someone else wrote to further their agenda is not positive. We are not determined to make this council look bad, we are attempting to help them make better decisions from this point forward, for the good of Lowell.

Respectfully,
Greg Canfield
Lowell

off the cuff

Jeanne Boss

To date, I have now heard from a few people who quite frankly, seem a bit paranoid to me, who believe in ghosts - well, ghostwriters.

Let me make something very clear to our readers. If you walk a letter into the Ledger office and that letter is signed by you, has your address and phone number on it, it may (depending on what it says, space available etc. etc.) be printed in the Ledger.

A question for the folks concerned about ghosts. If someone were to hold your hand while you wrote that letter, or if you, yourself were unable to write that letter but you sign your name to it - is it your letter? The answer is yes. I'm not a lawyer but I think I would have a difficult time explaining why I signed something and vouched for it with my personal information if I didn't agree to it.

Now if someone writes a letter and signs your name to it and you do not verify that these are your opinions - the letter will not appear.

And believe it or not, not all letters, even though I desperately try to get all sides involved, appear in the paper.

Let it be said that if a person is holding a gun to a person's head and making

them write a letter, that is a police matter.

In the voice of everyone's mother and as a public service to someone who just might sign their name to an opinion they don't agree with - "Would you jump off a cliff if your friends asked you to?"

What exactly is being suggested here? Are they asking if the feeble minded or infirm are being led astray? Are they implying it is the Ledger's job to second guess everyone's motive? That is a two-way street, people.

Locally and nationally we seem to be having difficulty with a few misconstrued concepts of a polite society. Mainly truth versus fact, bullies are to be respected, rudeness is a fact of life and freedom means you can do or say anything.

I ask readers to keep a few thoughts rattling in their minds to help ward off those pesky, suspicious, negative ones - a person's freedom ends when their freedom takes away the freedom of others; the bigger they are the harder they fall and the truth will out.

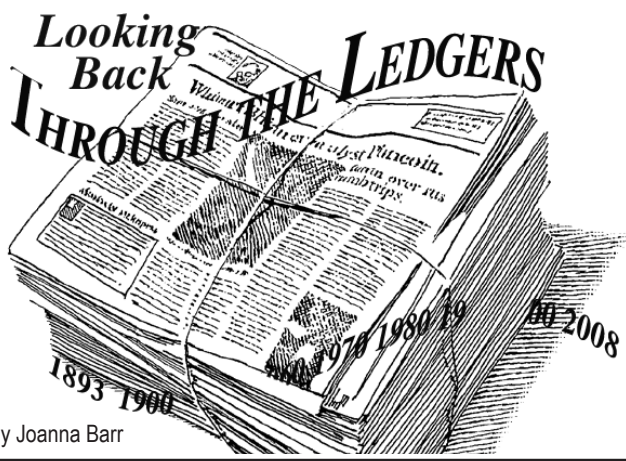
Fight for your cause, speak your mind, get your facts straight and remember, if you can't take it - don't dish it out.

We love to hear from you!

The Lowell Ledger welcomes your Letters to the Editor.

Letters are required to bear the author's signature, phone number and address (for verification purposes only, not for publication). Letters will be published at the discretion of the publisher, duplicate comments/authors within a short period may be dismissed. Opinions expressed in "To The Editor" are not the views of the Ledger employees or the publisher. All letters are subject to editing. Thank you letters and advertising will not be printed.

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



By Joanna Barr

125 years ago Lowell Journal March 25, 1891

Surely spring has come. The infallible harbingers have put in their appearance and spring will soon be with us. The blackbirds came Saturday and Monday the "sucker" fisherman, two of him, was on the deck—or rather on the dam. Surely spring has come.

The Signal Service weather signals are now displayed over the Postal Telegraph office, and we can now know when it is necessary to turn up our coat collars without waiting for the cold to numb our sensibilities.

Last Thursday afternoon Conductor John D. Kelley, while coupling cars, at the L. & H. depot, got his shoulder pinched, necessitating his taking a lay off for a few days. Luckily there were no bones broken, just a sort of a grizzly squeeze.

Lawrence Barrett, the most widely known actor and second only to the great Booth—with whom for the past three years he has been associated, died in

New York last Friday morning of pneumonia, after a sickness of only forty-eight hours. His loss is one that the American stage can scarce afford, as he has done more to build up the drama than any other actor or manager in the country.

D. V. Denick presented to the Pardon Board a numerous signed petition, last Thursday, asking for executive clemency for his son, Jared Denick, who was sentenced from Cadillac, five years ago, for a term of eight years, for assault.

Clark & Winegar have bought out the Boot and Shoe business of Robertson & Son. Robertson & Son have been in trade here for seventeen years, and have a large number of friends who are sorry to see them leave, but James' health is so poor that it is necessary for him to get outside.

100 years ago The Lowell Ledger March 30, 1916

Flood danger past. High water reached crest — receding now. After an anxious day or so, the people of Lowell were relieved this morning to find that the combined waters of the Flat and Grand had reached their crest during the night and had begun slowly to recede. In the business section, flooded basements necessitated much labor in removing goods to upper floors; but this was the extent of the loss to merchants. Messrs. Gould and Storey, Overland and Ford, salesmen, vacated their garage on the east side. Kinyon's greenhouse was flooded; but his furnace fire was not reached, and by using wading boots he continued to supply his patrons. Homes in the Cutter factory and lumber yard district were surrounded by water and boats and wading boots were resorted

health



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

glaucoma

Glaucoma occurs when there is too much pressure in the eyeball. The increase in pressure is caused by too much fluid in the eyeball, which can eventually damage the optic nerve.

Glaucoma affects more than 70 million people in the world. It is the leading cause of permanent blindness. People who are older than 60 years or have a family history of glaucoma are more likely to develop glaucoma.

Depending on the type of glaucoma (open angle vs angle closure glaucoma), symptoms may include eye

pain and redness, visual changes, loss of vision or "tunnel vision."

If you are tested for glaucoma and are diagnosed with it, you should see an eye specialist (ophthalmologist) to start treatment. The goal of treatment is to maintain a patient's vision-related quality of life. Although glaucoma cannot be reversed once nerve damage is done, there are treatments that can slow the progression of nerve damage. These include several different types of eye drops or, in severe cases, eye surgery.

engagements

Carney/Mayer



Kelli Carney and Matt Mayer

Kelli Carney and Matt Mayer, both of Lowell, are pleased to announce their engagement.

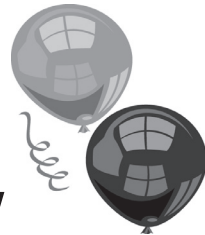
Parents of the bride-to-be are Ron and Jan Carney of Lowell. Parents of the future groom are Robert and Rosemary of Grant; formerly of Dafter.

Kelli is a 1999 graduate of Lowell High School. She is the office/marketing manager for a large property management

firm in Grand Rapids and formerly served on the Planning Commission for the city of Lowell. Matt is a 1996 graduate of Sault Area High School. He manages Bernard's Ace Hardware in Lowell and formerly served on the Lowell City Council.

They plan to exchange vows before God and their families on June 25, 2016, at St. Mary's Church in Lowell.

happy birthday



MARCH 23

Brian Gabrion, Richard King, Brendan Lally, Caleb Koeppel.

MARCH 25

Chris Yeiter, Shirley Carigon, Sari VanKeulen, Andy Quada, Troy Sloan.

MARCH 24

Joe Vezino Jr., Candy Speerstra, Titcombe, Rutherford, Angela Marian

MARCH 26

Margaret Hoats, Carol Maynard.

MARCH 27

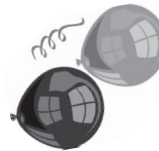
Joel Roudabush, Kelly Geldersma.

MARCH 28

Amie Thaler, Aaron Kastanek, Beck Butler.

MARCH 29

John Ellison, Sandra VanWeelden, Judith Schafer Eiseman, Laura Rasch, Robin Burns, Casey Yonker, Brianna Homrich, Priscilla Nearing.



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college news

John Casey, of Ada; and Jacob Anderson, of Lowell; have been named to the dean's list for the fall 2015 semester at Marquette University in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Hannah Anderson, Miriam Brooks and Melissa Henry, all of Ada, were named to the dean's list for the fall 2015 semester at Saint Mary's College.

To earn academic honors at Saint Mary's, a student must achieve a grade point average (GPA) of at least 3.6 on a 4.0 scale, have at least 12 graded credit hours, no incompletes and no grades lower than a C.

University officials have announced that more than 4,763 students received academic honors for the semester that ended in December 2015 at Ferris State University and Kendall College of Art and Design.

To be eligible for academic honors, the minimum requirements for full-time students each term are a 3.5 GPA and completion of 12 FSU credit hours or more of graded course work at the 100 level or higher. The minimum requirements for part-time students each term are a 3.5 GPA with completion of at least 12 accumulated FSU credit hours of graded course work at the 100 level or higher.

Local students are, of Ada: Brad Streu, Annabel Tadic, Cheryl Hamaker Miller, Casey Newberg, Lindsey Murray, Charles Alm, Olivia Brewer, Maria Amato, Jill Gilson, Zachary Sturgeon, Nichole Dziadosz, Scott Teliczan, Joseph Detzler, Erin Duma, Rajeshree Sawant, Kyle Stalsonburg, Julia Todd, Bryanna Dunston, Alexander Krejci, Michelle Facer, Brendan Mcrae, Angela Ditmar, Mitchell Bredberg, Justin Buczek, Peter Firlik, Kristen Paap, Matthew La Fave, Robert Van Dyke, and Cameron Eidenier; of Alto: Caitlyn Bailey, Kimberly Hoholik, Joel Shuman, Brandon Mcculfor, Shannon Reil, Tyler Santiago, Steve Yonker, Alexander Farhadi, Tyler Hoogterp, Lauren Yonker, Donovan Bassuener, and Katherine Vandenbrook; of Lowell: Lucas Stephens, Ryan Denbraven, Kyle Meyer, Parker Reed, Taylor Whaley, Brittney Heikkila, Emily Schreur, Cody Gibbons, Spencer Lyon, Quincee Denault, Blake Bochert, Daniel Ruland, Alexander DeVries, Paul Crosby, Parker Liu, Cassandra Warners, Bailee Emelander, Matthew Proefke, Jennifer Sytsma, Patrick Vogel, Samantha Ritchie, Sarah Weaver, Marissa Baker, and Katherine Weaver.

Area churches will again host a

Good Friday CROSS WALK

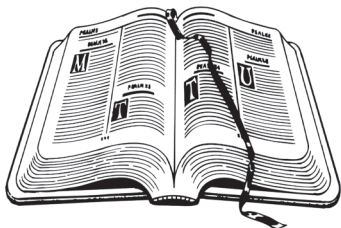
MARCH 25, 2016

A cross will be carried from Lowell United Methodist Church, 621 E. Main St., to Oakwood Cemetery. There will be various stops along the way for hymns, scripture readings and prayer.

The walk will begin at 12 noon. Programs will be provided. Rides will also be available for those unable to walk the route. In case of inclement weather, a program will be held inside Lowell United Methodist Church.

Questions? Call Dave Deans (897-9186), or Dave Pasquale (897-5044)

area church



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Sunday School.....11:20 A.M.

Evening Worship.....6:00 P.M.

Nursery available at both services

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(Nursery available)

Sunday School.....9:15 A.M.

Joseph Fremer, Pastor 897-8307

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Pastor Phil Zeeman - Pastor of Health Ministries

Christi Baska, Director of Children's Ministries

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SUNDAY School.....9:45 am (Nursery Adult)

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Worship & High School - In school year: 7 pm

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SUNDAY WORSHIP.....9 & 11 a.m.

SUNDAY SCHOOL.....11:15 a.m.

Pastor Brad Brillhart

Laughfest comedian performs in Lowell

by Tim McAllister
contributing reporter

Comedian Michael Palascak appeared at the Grand Volute Ballroom at 8 pm on Friday, March 18 as part of the sixth annual LaughFest comedy festival. Palascak did about an hour of material on subjects such as his penniless girlfriend, the perils of airline travel, strange things that happen at hotels and the total worthlessness of T-Mobile.

The opening act for the show was local comic Stu McCallister, who was in charge of LaughFest's "Dirty Comedy Show" in Grand Rapids last week. McCallister's self-deprecating material focused on topics like racism, his cheap shoes, donating blood plasma and marriage equality.

"Gay marriage is legal," McCallister said. "I don't know how you people feel about it. I'm cool with it. Straight people get married, gay people get married, everybody get married. Just have an open bar at your wedding and I will drink for free with everybody, I don't care, I'll drink with anybody for free. That's awesome."

Palascak, a native of Wabash, Ind., is most famous for his appearances on Last Comic Standing, but he has also performed on the Late Show with David Letterman, the Tonight Show with Jay Leno, the Late Late Show with Craig Ferguson and Conan. He performed for one hour.

"I drink a lot of water to stay healthy," Palascak said during the show. "My friend said, 'Michael, you

can actually drink so much water that it's unhealthy.' I was like, 'Yeah, that's called drowning.'"

Palascak also joked a little about his religion.

"I'm a practicing Catholic; I haven't been in any games yet," Palascak said. "I was at mass and there was a couple there renewing their vows after 65 years of marriage. I didn't know they expired."

"I loved it, it was really fun," Palascak said after the show. "The audience was great. I had a lot of fun. It's always great to come to Michigan."



Last Comic Standing finalist Michael Palascak poses with a couple of Lowell fans after his performance at the Grand Volute.

City Council proceedings, continued

funding if they had known about the deadline."

The council refused to consider extending the deadline to accommodate more grant requests.

"We'll do a better job of getting that advertised and promoted, but remember, the cycle is always the same on most of these various endowment boards," councilor Jim Hodges said.

The LCTV fund will pay a total of \$52,590 to the

city of Lowell for various projects. \$27,600 will go to a sidewalk replacement program, \$15,990 will go toward Creekside Park and Stoney Lake asphalt maintenance and repairs, \$5,000 will be spent on 2016 spring and fall tree planting and \$4,000 will be used for LCTV fund administration expenses. The fund also gave \$41,830 to the Lowell area Fire and Police departments for a portable communications upgrade.

The council approved a \$688,971.85 bid from C&D Hughes Inc., who will take on several quite expensive but essential projects.

"The name of the project is the 'South Monroe Parking Lot Street and Utility Improvement Projects,'" said Williams & Works engineer Dave Austin. "It contains four separate sections. The first section is the installation of new utilities down S. Monroe

behind the new barbecue area. Those buildings are all served undersized water and sewer lines that are sized for single residents. We've got six buildings on that, so those utilities are going to be replaced. A new 58 unit parking lot, paid parking lot, is planned for behind that facility. Second, the street that we all drove on tonight to come here is finally going to be repaired. Monroe St. from Main to Avery, just one block back. A new water main will be placed in it and the street will be resurfaced. All the sidewalk ramps will be brought up to code. Then Avery St. between Main and Washington will be resurfaced as well, similar to what we did last year. The third component is on E. Main, on the north side of the street between Grove and James; we have an undersized water main. We're choosing to upgrade that at this time because

MDOT, if you haven't heard already, is going to come through in late May and early April and resurface M-21 all the way from Valley Vista to the east edge of town. This is an area that had some problems with the water main freezing, so it's going to be replaced at this time. The fourth section is a replacement of the sanitary sewer on Riverside at the corner there where Springrove is back to the parking lot. There's about 100 feet of sewer that is undersized and there's been some back ups and cost to those buildings."

Representatives from LARA gave a lengthy presentation about local trails, including information about a new trail that will snake through town. See the separate story, on page 3, in today's Lowell Ledger for more details about the trail project.

"This project is underway," Austin said. "It's going to be designed soon and you're going to see some fundraising opportunities. [...] We have a tremendous opportunity from an economic development standpoint. We're building bars and restaurants, that's great. But we have some destination opportunity and the trails are the foundation of this."

James Reagan of the arbor board presented the council with information about their activities.

"To date the arbor board has authorized the installation of about 701 trees of various varieties throughout the community," Reagan said.

Reagan said the arbor board will have a tree planting ceremony on April 25, at the Health & More store at 835 W. Main.

The council's next meeting will be at city hall at 7 pm on Monday, April 4.



Arbor board member Jim Reagan said his organization has planted 701 trees in Lowell.



lend a hand

volunteering opportunities

FROM VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION

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

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For the first time Expo will host a blood drive

This year will be the first time there has ever been a blood drive at the Lowell Expo. The blood drive is in honor of a Lowell resident who passed away recently.

"We've never done a blood drive before," said Baker. "Their booth will be located in Gym B. There's a hallway behind the gym and that's where the blood drive will be."

"We're going to be in the school, right outside of the auxiliary gym in the hallway," Kyle Graham of Michigan Blood said.

The Expo blood drive

will benefit a very special local charity.

"This blood drive is for Shelby Tomczak Offrink," said Graham. "We are donating \$5 to the Shelby scholarship for everybody that attempts to donate. There's an opportunity for quite a bit of money to be donated toward that scholarship."

Offrink, a Lowell native, died from cancer last summer, leaving her husband and two daughters behind. Offrink's husband Ben, who is also suffering from cancer, is expected to

make an appearance at the Expo to promote Michigan Blood's bone marrow donor program.

"On top of the blood drive, we're bringing the bone marrow program with us," Graham said. "That program is basically just a swab test and it costs \$100 per test. We are giving that for free for everybody who signs up that day. We don't give the test there. What they'll do is, they'll sign up and we'll mail them a swab test in the mail. It comes with five swabs. You do the swabbing of the mouth, put

it right back in the package and send it back. It's really simple. We're hoping to get a lot of people that just don't like needles and don't donate blood, because that test is just quick and painless. It's very hard to be a match. You can only be 18 to 44 years old. I've been in the program for a couple years myself and I've never gotten a call. The chance of you being a match for someone are so slim, that's why they're trying to grow their donor base."

They're opening the blood drive early and closing it late in order to accommodate people who are working at the Expo.

"We're anticipating and hoping for a very successful and large drive," Graham said. "The drive is from 8

am to 4 pm on the day of the Expo. We're starting an hour before the Expo and staying an hour after the Expo, hoping to get the people who also have booths, because you know they're going to be busy during the Expo."

To avoid long lines, Graham suggests Expo attendees make an appointment ahead of time.

"We're encouraging appointments," Graham said. "We're expecting a lot of walk-ins and that can sometimes make the process longer for people. If you get 50 people walk in at the same time, obviously we can't process that many donors all at once. If people are able to make appointments, they should call Michigan Blood at 866-MIBLOOD or they

can go to michiganblood.org"

Graham, a 1998 graduate of Lowell High School, said that Lowell tends to give more blood than most local towns.

"Lowell is one of the best communities we have," Graham said. "There's another blood drive at the high school four days after the Expo. If you live or work in Lowell, you know the type of community it is. It's very tight-knit. Most of the blood drives we have there are very successful. Gilda's Club of Lowell does a couple drives a year where they collect over 100 pints of blood. The high school does four blood drives a year. They collect probably 300 or 400 pints of blood. They collect a lot."

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Have you been "struck" by a Red Arrow?



Perry and Teresa Beachum along with their dog Gracie, were surprised Tuesday morning when they looked out on their front lawn to find they'd been "struck". For a \$25 donation to the Lowell Academic Boosters, according to

one of the signs, you too can surprise your friends and have their yard covered in Red Arrow signs. Don't be concerned, the sign also says they'll come and remove them within 24 hours!

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CITY OF LOWELL

PUBLIC NOTICE

The offices of Lowell City Hall, Lowell Police, Light and Power and the Department of Public Works will be closed on Friday, March 25, 2016 in observance of Good Friday.



Susan Ullery
City Clerk

Dean wins second NCAA championship

by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

Decorated Lowell High School alumnus Gabriel Dean returned to the pinnacle of college wrestling competition last Saturday winning his second consecutive National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) wrestling title for Cornell University at 184 pounds.

Dean's win came after a tense match up between he and Nebraska's TJ Dudley that came down to a 5-3 decision victory in favor of the former Arrow making him the fourth grappler to multiple medal in Cornell Big Red history.

Dean controlled the action much of the first period causing Dudley to retreat repeatedly until given a stall warning. Starting on top in the second, Dean saw Dudley score the first points of the bout with an escape. Dean countered with a take down later in the round which was contested, then

confirmed for two points. Keeping things tight Dudley was also awarded a second escape tying the pair at two moving into the third and final period.

Adding a point with an escape to open the third, Dean soon earned a second take down to move him into a lead he maintained until the clock ran out, earning him his second trip to the top of the podium in as many years.

"I remember coming into Cornell when I was a kid, getting my butt kicked every day by Cam Simaz. I guess it's great to be on the other end of that now and not getting my head shoved into the bleachers every day," said Dean to the Cornell Chronicle following his victory. "But the point was these kids, not just me but my whole class, we kept coming back and didn't take no for an answer. And you know what, we didn't

have the perfect NCAA tournament, but we've got a lot of fighters on our team and a lot of support. I'm just happy to be a part of it."

The former Lowell wrestling and football state champion, who led the Arrow football squad to three finals appearances and one state title, finishes his junior season with a record of 34-1 and an impressive overall collegiate record of 117-6.

Younger brother and current Red Arrow Max Dean, soon to follow in his brothers Big Red footsteps, took to Twitter to congratulate his brother after the championship match. "I remember when me and Gabe used to sit at the NAAs together as little kids and watch. Back then it seemed so far away. Today I am proud to call him a two-time NCAA champ. Still seems unreal. So proud of you Gabriel."



Red Arrow alumnus Gabriel Dean won his second consecutive NCAA wrestling title last Saturday.

Students create community mosaic at Cherry Creek

by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

Cherry Creek Elementary will soon greet guests with a colorful art installation titled "Community Works!" thanks to the hard work of several generous

community collaborators and about 1,000 small and eager hands.

The mosaic clay work will make its public

Mosaic, continued,
page 10



Students at Cherry Creek put the finishing touches on the mural with artist Cara O'Brien.

Lowell Community Expo In Honor of Shelby Tomczak-Offrink



Lowell Pink Arrow Pride



Photo provided by Charlene Honey

Be somebody who saves lives.

Give Blood

Saturday, March 26, 2016

8:00 am – 4:00 pm

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For everyone who attempts to donate blood, Michigan Blood will donate \$5 to Shelby's Scholarship Fund.



Bushnell students celebrate reading with ReadQuest

Students at Bushnell Elementary took part in ReadQuest, a nationwide reading event on Friday, February 26, 2016. They joined more than 12,000 educators and tens of thousands of students in Renaissance Learning's annual one-day reading celebration that encouraged K-12 students to read and share their discoveries.

Students read books, nonfiction articles and took Accelerated Reader comprehension quizzes on what they had read to contribute to the national reading effort. On the ReadQuest website, students were able to see their quizzes count toward the national books-read ticker, the top books and articles read in each state, prize winners, and user-submitted posts, tweets and photos.

About 21 students from Tara DeRuiter's class took part in the shared effort.

DeRuiter's first-grade class passed 85 percent or 148 correct tests. All participants received a Certificate of National Participation.

"ReadQuest was a great event for our students," said DeRuiter. "They loved seeing their Accelerated Reader quizzes count toward the national books-read ticker. ReadQuest supported our mission of promoting reading growth and our students gained valuable reading practice. We're so proud of all our students."

Renaissance Learning's Accelerated Reader 360 is a K-12 program that engages students in personalized reading practice and close reading of nonfiction articles. The web-based program provides over 175,000 independent reading quizzes and 1,200 high-interest nonfiction articles.



Mosaic, continued

debut next Tuesday when the school, located at 750 Foreman, welcomes students and families to their annual Celebrate Learning open house from 6-7:30 pm, but the process started way back in the fall.

Art teacher Dawn Price began readying the students for the artistic adventure by introducing the students to the concept and technique of mosaics, murals and artistic cooperation on a smaller scale in the classroom.

In the meantime, she simultaneously worked with guest artist Cara O'Brien, Cherry Creek's principal Shelli Otten, five building teachers and LowellArts! executive director Lorain Smalligan to fully develop the concept of the pending project.

After all the meetings though, it was ultimately the students who were the decision makers when it came to the mural submitting original drawings and voting

on the work of their peers in the process of determining the composition of the mosaic. Following the theme "Community coming together and working together in the spirit of cooperation," students selected one drawing from each of the school's twenty classrooms, which were later narrowed to five based on popular vote. The final image features the combined works of three separate but complimentary proposals.

Students then worked with Price and guest artist O'Brien to create the nearly 1,500 pieces needed to execute the work using newly learned techniques, including methods of relief sculpture, glazing and layout and design.

The unique project was

funded through grants from the school's own Parent Teacher Organization, the Lowell Education Foundation and the Michigan Council For Arts and Cultural Affairs who kicked in 80 percent of the funding request written and presented by Price.

Each student had a hand in the creation of the now nearly finished project according to O'Brien who explained that they created their pieces during their regularly scheduled class time. "Now that it is all coming together they are really excited. It has created a sense of ownership for the students and will be a point of pride for them as artists and for their school in the future."

college news

Nearly 700 students completed the requirements for certificates, associate, bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees at Ferris State University and Kendall College of Art and

Design during the semester that ended in December 2015.

The following are local graduates, their degrees, majors and honors, of Ada: Chelsea Broekema, music industry mgt. and hotel mgt., Bachelor of Science, magna cum laude; Marc Cauchi, quality technology, certificate and manufacturing engineering tech., Bachelor of Science; Joseph Detzler, business administration, Bachelor of Science, magna cum laude, and leadership and supervision, certificate; Nichole Dziadosz, art history, Bachelor of Science; Justin Hall, info. security and intelligence, Bachelor of Science, summa cum laude; and Daniel Mooney, biology education, Bachelor of Science; of Alto: Alexandria McIntyre, elementary education, Bachelor of Science, cum laude; Nicole Prins, nursing, Bachelor of Science in Nursing; Joshua Vrona, nursing, Bachelor of Science in Nursing; and Sherrie Winchester, nursing, Bachelor of Science, cum laude; of Lowell: Thomas Alberts, marketing, Bachelor of Science; Arinzechukwu, adv. studies mgt. tools concepts, certificate, and master business administration, Master of Business Administration; and Patrick Vogel, manufacturing engineering tech, Bachelor of Science, and quality technology, certificate.

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LAS Elementary Lunch Menus week of 3/28/16

MONDAY: Grilled cheese sandwich, tomato soup, Bushnell: cheese pizza, quesadilla, refried beans; fruit & veggie bar; spinach & romaine side salad, celery sticks, applesauce, pineapple; Bushnell: mandarin oranges.

TUESDAY: hot dog on bun, golden corn; Bushnell: hot dog on bun, seasoned broccoli; fruit & veggie bar; spinach & romaine side salad, baby carrots, banana, mandarin oranges; Bushnell: juice.

WEDNESDAY: Pancakes & sausage, hashbrowns; fruit & veggie bar; spinach & romaine side salad, baby carrots, juice; Bushnell: grapes, juice, apple slices.

THURSDAY: Hamburger on bun, baked beans; Bushnell: Hamburger on bun, seasoned corn; fruit & veggie bar; spinach & romaine side salad, jicama, grapes, kiwi; Bushnell: broccoli florets, mandarin oranges, applesauce.

FRIDAY: Enjoy spring break!

Red Arrow - BASKETBALL SPORTS

Red Arrows end best season since 70s

by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

Ending their best season since the late seventies, the Lowell Red Arrow varsity basketball team lost their regional championship bid to the Eagles of Hudsonville last Monday 51-36.

Lowell lead 15-13 after the first quarter at the Class A semifinal held at Caledonia High School last Monday evening. The squad lost that advantage by the halftime buzzer which left the teams tied at 22 headed into the locker room.

The third quarter stayed as close with the lead shifting a handful of times until the Eagles caught a late three pointer from senior Cooper Cecchini that changed the back-and-forth nature of the game to a dominant 15 point victory for Hudsonville.

Trouble from the three point range and an oppressive Eagle offense

kept the Arrows to just two points in the fourth quarter earning Hudsonville their fourth consecutive regional final appearance.

Lowell point guard Ryan Stevens led Lowell in scoring netting ten, followed by Matt Beachler with nine, Austin Branagan with five, Alex Anschutz and Carter Noskey with four and Gabe Steed and Avery Buckius with two.

Though it is always difficult to end on a loss, the Arrows have quite a bit to be proud of as the season closes. At 18-6 the team finishes with the best season record for the school since 1977-1978. Junior Beachler earned his 1,000th point on the court as an Arrow and the squad claimed a district championship after a 28 year drought for the school.

Head coach Kyle

Carhart said he was proud of the team's accomplishments, especially earning the long elusive district title. "It was a great hard fought win. Our players have been working together for a long time to get to that point so it was great to see them rewarded for their hard work. I was proud of how they battled back and stuck together. They are a tight knit group and have taught me a lot."

Lowell graduates a slew of talented seniors this season, including captain Stevens, Steed, Buckius, Anschutz, Noskey, Marcus Malling, Mitchell Davis and Ethan Bates. According to teammate Beachler, who will likely lead the team next season alongside Branagan, the seniors have tread a great path for them to follow. "The seniors that are leaving have left an incredibly high expectation of work ethic. They did an outstanding job of leading our team this year and it shows with our first district title since 1984," said Beachler.

Beaclar added that the team has one milestone they intend to achieve next season after just missing out against Grand Rapids Christian for the top spot in the OK White this season. "The goal for our team remains to achieve a conference title."



Senior Carter Noskey leaps up for the rebound during last weeks' regional game.



Senior Avery Buckius puts up two against the Hudsonville Eagles.



Junior Matt Beachler tries to keep the Eagles at bay.



**Great
Job
Arrows!**

obituaries

BURNETT

Evelyn Viola Burnett, a long-time resident of the Saranac and Lowell area, died Friday the 11th of March at the Laurels of Kent Nursing Home. With her family by her side, she passed away into eternity into the Kingdom of Heaven. Her strong will to live, unwavering faith in God and the love and prayers of family, friends and many supporters carried her through many months of congested heart failure. Evelyn "Vi," daughter of Henry and Henryetta Smith, was born on July 27, 1927, in DeKalb, Texas. She was the youngest of four children. She worked many years as a proofreader for the Wall Street Journal and as a switchboard operator for Bell. She thoroughly enjoyed crossword puzzles to pass the time. She also never missed a Sunday of watching her church services on television. She is survived by her three children, Debbie, Roy and Vicky; and numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren. "A Celebration of Life" was held Saturday, March 19, 2016, at the Saranac Housing Commission.



COLLINS

Dolores (Dode) June Collins passed into the loving arms of the Lord on March 17, 2016, after a brief battle with cancer. Dode was preceded in death by her father, Clarence Dollaway; her mother, June Covey; and her beloved husband, Rex. Dode was born August 4, 1929 and began studying music at age five, beginning with the Hawaiian steel guitar and the clarinet. At age eleven she was the youngest member of the Lowell High School band, first chair which she held through her high school years. At age twelve, her family formed a dance band called "Swing and Sway with the Dollaways," with her mother on the piano, father on drums and Dode on the clarinet and saxophone. They played two nights a week through her high school years. At age thirteen she started dating Rex Collins and they were married when she was eighteen. From that loving marriage they had four children, Steve Collins (Kay), Jody McMahon (Mitch), Chris Collins (Mary Ann), and Tina Collins; grandchildren, Brent Collins, Eric Collins, Annie Whitlock, Kara Carwell, Alex McMahon, Devon McQueen, Dustin Chlebana, Leah Whorley, and Zeke Johnson; and ten beautiful great-grandchildren. Dode was the Lowell township clerk in the 60s, maintaining the office in her home and running all the elections for the township. She was also in charge of the Oakwood Cemetery. With a move, she needed to give up the township position. She started driving a school bus for Lowell schools in 1966 and after three years was promoted to transportation supervisor, recruiting and training drivers, planning routes and giving road tests for the state of Michigan. In 1990, she retired and the two of them started going to Florida for three months in the winter. They had wonderful times travelling the US in their motorhome. Florida was very special time for them, considering her Florida friends her second family. They made many wonderful friends and had great times. Rex passed away in 2003 and she continued driving to Florida, pulling her car behind, until she was diagnosed with macular degeneration. She still went to Florida with daughter Tina driving her down and son Steve driving her home. She enjoyed her Lakeland, Florida winters for twenty-six years. Dode had a tremendous love for music and at age eight-six years she was still dancing, organizing the Mardi Gras parade in the Lakeland park, never letting her poor eyesight slow her down. She was also an avid quilter, making a quilt for each child and grandchild. A memorial service was held. Memorial donations may be made to Gilda's Club, 314 S Hudson St, Lowell, MI 49331. "God saw you getting tired and a cure was not to be, so He put his arms around you and whispered, "Come to Me." With tearful eyes we watched you, and saw you pass away, and though we loved you dearly, we could not make you stay. A golden heart stopped beating, hard-working hands at rest. God broke our hearts to prove to us, He only takes the best."



DALSTRA

Clara Patricia Dalstra, 85 of Lowell, passed away Wednesday, March 16, 2016. She was preceded in death by her husband Clifford. She is survived by her children Joan (Ron) Denman, Gerald (Beth) Dalstra and Ted Dalstra; as well as her great-grandchildren Nikole and Donovan. Clara was a loving wife and mother, an avid Detroit Tiger fan and a very active member of her church, Snow United Methodist. A funeral service was held. Interment Snow Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Disabled American Veterans, 4809 Eastern Ave SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49508 or Mel Trotter Ministries, 225 Commerce Ave SW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503.



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CITY OF LOWELL NOTICE

Pursuant to subsection 25-334 (a) of Article VI of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Lowell and applicable federal regulations, the following industrial user was found to be significantly violating applicable pretreatment standards or other pretreatment requirements of the City's sewer use ordinance during the previous 12 months:

Lowell Energy AD, LLC
CITY OF LOWELL
Dated: March 14, 2016
By Mark Mundi, Superintendent
Lowell Wastewater Treatment Plant



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GRATTAN TOWNSHIP

Regular Meeting 7:00 p.m.
Synopsis of Minutes March 14, 2016

Budget Amendments:
Move 1,000.00 from Treasurers Training and Education 101.253.720 to Clerk Training and Education 101.215.720 (800.00) and Mileage 101.215.861 (200.00)

Motions Approved:

- To hire a Forester for possible timber clearing for sewer property 3-2
- Resolution 2016-010 New Fire Dept. Vehicle
- Resolution 2016-011 CDBG Handicap Door Grant request

Our next Township Meeting will be March 28, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. The approved minutes may be reviewed on our website at www.grattantownship.org

Governor adds legal fees to list of current expenses

by Tim McAllister
contributing reporter

There has been quite a bit of activity over the past few weeks as the Flint water crisis continues to unfold.

On March 8 governor Rick Snyder asked the State Administrative Board to approve \$1.2 million to cover his legal bills related to the scandal. The \$1.2 million includes \$400,000 for Detroit civil attorney Eugene Driker and up to \$800,000 for Grand Rapids criminal defense attorney Brian Lennon. In addition, Attorney General Bill Schuette asked the board to approve a \$1.5-million contract with Royal Oak attorney Todd Flood, who will investigate the issue.

Under Michigan law, state employees who are hit with a civil suit for actions related to their job are entitled to legal

representation at taxpayer expense. However, the state is not required to pay legal bills generated from a criminal suit, although there is no law that says they can't use taxpayer money for this.

House Minority Leader Tim Greimel, D-Auburn Hills, said in a news conference on Monday, March 7 that Snyder should have to raise the money through a legal defense fund instead of making taxpayers pay his bills. Greimel said the \$800,000 criminal defense attorney bill was "the most egregious part" of the entire Flint water crisis.

Last Thursday, March 17, Snyder testified before the U.S. Congress, whose House Oversight Committee held three days of hearings about Flint. The hearings became heated at times with several members of

Congress calling for Snyder to resign and included an apology from Snyder.

"Not a day or night goes by that this tragedy doesn't weigh on my mind," Snyder said to the congress. "I'm going to have to live with this for the rest of my life."

"You have to live with it, but many of these children will never be what God intended them to be when they were born," replied Maryland congressman Elijah Cummings.

On Monday, March

21, Snyder released a \$232 million dollar "action plan" that focuses on subjects including health and human services, infrastructure, education and jobs.

"We are committed

to addressing immediate concerns and finding long-term solutions to improve the quality of life for the people of Flint," Snyder said in a statement accompanying the plan.

Looking Back, continued

to; but no floors were flooded, as on prior highwater occasions. Numerous furnace fires were drowned out, causing discomfort and inconvenience. In one such home is our old townsman, Frank U. Ecker, who is very ill. At one time it was feared he would have to be removed, but stoves were put up and the difficulties passed. Superintendent McMahon and his assistants had an anxious time, when the Belding dam at Smyrna—three miles above the Lowell plant—went out Tuesday night. A hundred feet of that dam was carried away and the effect of the rush and jamb of water, ice and debris was feared. However, all passed safely; and at that point has receded ten inches since Wednesday noon. The workmen were on duty there all Monday and Tuesday night and saved our plant

from damage except the carrying away of "slush" boards and walk by the jammed ice, which may cost \$100 for repairs. Two or three inches of water covered the fire room and gymnasium floors of the new school building and some damage to the maple floor will probably result. The King Milling crew was on guard over its property. The Cutter company's lumber piles will require some overhauling; but manufactured stock was well cared for. The Lumber company reports its stock safely housed above damage. Thanks to exceptionally favorable circumstances, lack of rain and snow, Lowell escapes serious loss at a time when the threat was greatest since the big flood of 1905, when dams were carried out, Main street bridge swept away and buildings wrecked. Let us be thankful.

ticket and summons to appear before himself. This is exactly what happened to Justice F. Earle Haner last Friday when Marshall Fred Gramer ticketed the Haner car for over-parking and not knowing whose car it was had the summons read for the owner to appear before Justice Haner. Haner appeared and sentenced himself to suspended sentence and \$1.00 costs which he took from one pocket and put in the other.

Four bales of cotton, each weighing 500 lbs. or more, are being held at the Runciman elevator for use in the mattress making program now under way in Kent County. Probably not many local people have ever seen a bale of cotton so Mr. Runciman is going to put them on display for the benefit of the public. Looks as though a lot of people hereabouts are going to learn how to go to bed.

50 years ago Lowell Ledger March 31, 1966

Wes Clemenz has quit turning his back on customers at Smith and Clemenz Used Cars. Last Thursday while he was having lunch, someone stole a 1958 Chevrolet from in front of the building. He told police he was only out of the office for 45 minutes. The car had not be recovered on Tuesday.

L W. Precious reported to police that someone had thrown peanut butter all over the side of a barn on Bowes Road, where he stores his bee frames and supplies. Several bee frames were also broken. Upon investigation, Chief Avery Block said, the scattered destruction to the barn, Look like human or animal remains.

25 years ago The Lowell Ledger March 27, 1991

Negotiations fail; condemnation hearing set to begin. Two days after receiving a letter of denial on its bonafide offer for the Qua-Ke-Zik property, Lowell Schools hand delivered a complaint and demand letter to the Kent County Circuit Court for a jury trial. The letter, delivered on Wednesday (March 20), also included a notice of taking, a statement of estimated compensation, and an order of hearing on the complaint. "My understanding is the City's Attorney for Grand Rapids, John Huff, has 21 days to respond as to whether the club will contest the statement of necessity," Lowell Superintendent Fritz Esch said. "I was told by the Michigan United Conservation Clubs staff attorney, Carol Bambery, that the club would not contest the statement of contest and was only interested in getting the maximum value for the land." Since then, though, the club has hired Huff as its attorney. The way Qua-Ke-Zik looks at things has become much more focused and cohesive.

With help from the Community Development Fund, Lowell Township will help Seniors. The Lowell Township Board agreed to give \$3,000 to the Lowell Senior Neighbors Center provided the funds could be obtained through the Community Development Fund. "The project meets the requirements," Lowell Township Supervisor John Timpson said. The money would be used to enclose the porches at the former George Hale house on 314 S. Hudson St. The work is being completed so that the center can utilize the space in case of bad weather. The Township received money from the Community Development Fund to help the Center remodel the bathrooms.

75 years ago The Lowell Ledger March 27, 1941

This parking ticket business is coming to a pretty pass when the judge himself gets a

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BOWNE TOWNSHIP

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Bowne Township Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing to consider a request for a variance from the Bowne Township Zoning Ordinance as follows:

Applicant: Rich and Karen Williamson
Address of Variance: 13200 100th Street SE, Alto, Michigan 49302
General Location: South side of 100th Street, generally one-half mile east of Wingeler Avenue
Zoning Property: AG Agricultural

Variance Request: Section 5.05 of the Bowne Township Zoning Ordinance requires that the maximum lot area of a non-farm lot is 5.0 acres. Currently, the applicant's dwelling is located on a lot consisting of 80 acres. An adjacent vacant lot to the west is composed of approximately 54.58 acres.

The applicants wish to divide their occupied parcel so that the resulting parcels consist of 9.57 acres and 1.5 acres. The applicants also wish to divide the adjacent vacant parcel into two parcels so that the resulting parcels consist of 8.88 and 45.7 acres.

The variance requested is 4.57 additional acres in the case of the first occupied parcel, and 3.88 additional acres in the case of the second parcel.

The applicant is proposing that the boundary of the land divisions in both cases follow the centerline of Tyler Creek. The proposed division on the westernmost parcel would result in one lot without access from a public or private road. Any land division of these parcels can only be approved upon the condition that access will be provided via an approved public or private road.

The hearing will be held as follows:
WHEN: THURSDAY, MARCH 31, 2016
TIME: 7:00 P.M.
WHERE: BOWNE TOWNSHIP HALL
 8240 ALDEN NASH AVENUE SE
 ALTO, MI 49302

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

Sandra Kowalczyk, Clerk
Bowne Township

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

**THEME:
AMERICAN
AUTHORS**

ACROSS

1. *Science fiction author Asimov
6. Baby's apron
9. Arctic floater
13. Mexican revolutionary
14. Victorian, e.g.
15. Teeny-_____
16. Worry or cause anxiety
17. *Bradbury of "The Martian Chronicles" fame
18. Perform on a dais
19. **"The Call of the Wild" author
21. **"A Good Man Is Hard to Find" author
23. Andrew Cuomo's title, for short
24. Angler's decoy
25. Refuse to comply
28. Late Scalia's garb
30. Type of coat
35. Dwarf buffalo
37. Vietnam's neighbor
39. Rosetta Stone, e.g.
40. Negatively charged particle
41. External
43. Skater's jump
44. Bert's best friend
46. "____ Mia!"
47. Confident answer
48. Old time playground staple
50. Reduced Instruction Set Computer
52. Limit, to some
53. **"Ten Days That

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MARCH 16 - MARCH 22

- Tuesday, at an airport and subway in Brussels, likely terror explosions killed 30 people and injured over 100.
- An overdue library book was recently returned to the University of Dayton. The "History of the Crusades" was returned along with an apology from the former freshman student who borrowed the book in 1967 before joining the U.S. Marines. The late fee charges of approximately \$350 will be waived.



the U.S. Marines. The late fee charges of approximately \$350 will be waived.

- The opening ceremony for the National Cherry Blossom Festival in Washington is this Saturday. The good news is the expected bloom dates have not been affected by near-freezing temperatures and the peak bloom period is expected on or about Wednesday of this week.



- Sunday, north of Mexico, on the steps of the Pyramid Sun, visitors celebrated the spring equinox and caught the first rays of sunlight. Representing the ancient culture of Mexico, built around 80 AD, the Pyramid of the Sun is thought to be a fertility symbol.

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- Shook the World" author
55. Café alternative
57. **"Go Tell It on the Mountain" author
61. **"The Executioner's Song" author

64. Greeting from Don Ho
65. Give it a go
67. Gigantic wrestlers
69. Kick back
70. Longest division of time
71. *Wharton of "The Age of Innocence" fame
72. Auction off
73. DNA transmitter
74. River in Hades

DOWN

1. I have
2. Outer layer of Earth's crust
3. Kind of sax
4. *James Patterson's "____ Came a Spider"
5. Open book?
6. Capital of Switzerland
7. Retirement investment
8. Louisiana swamp
9. *Woodrow Wilson Rawls' "Where the Red ____ Grows"
10. Meat quality
11. Upon
12. Observer
15. Woman's suitors
20. Convex molding
22. Tube in old TV
24. Jane Fonda's 1980s garb
25. **"The Turn of the Screw" author
26. Habituate
27. Trailblazer Daniel
29. *Oz Creator
31. Greek H's
32. Connection in a series
33. Court employee
34. **"Roots: The Saga of an American Family" author
36. Short for Anisette
38. Big rig
42. Haile Selassie's disciple
45. Canal junk
49. Yellow river tributary
51. Michelangelo's tool
54. Come in
56. Dodge
57. Criminal's barrier
58. Away from wind
59. Bum around
60. Lentil soup
61. Tropical Asian starlings
62. Do like exhaust pipe
63. **"Portnoy's Complaint" author
66. Weasley of "Harry Potter"
68. Pronoun for George Eliot

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Puzzle solutions on page 12

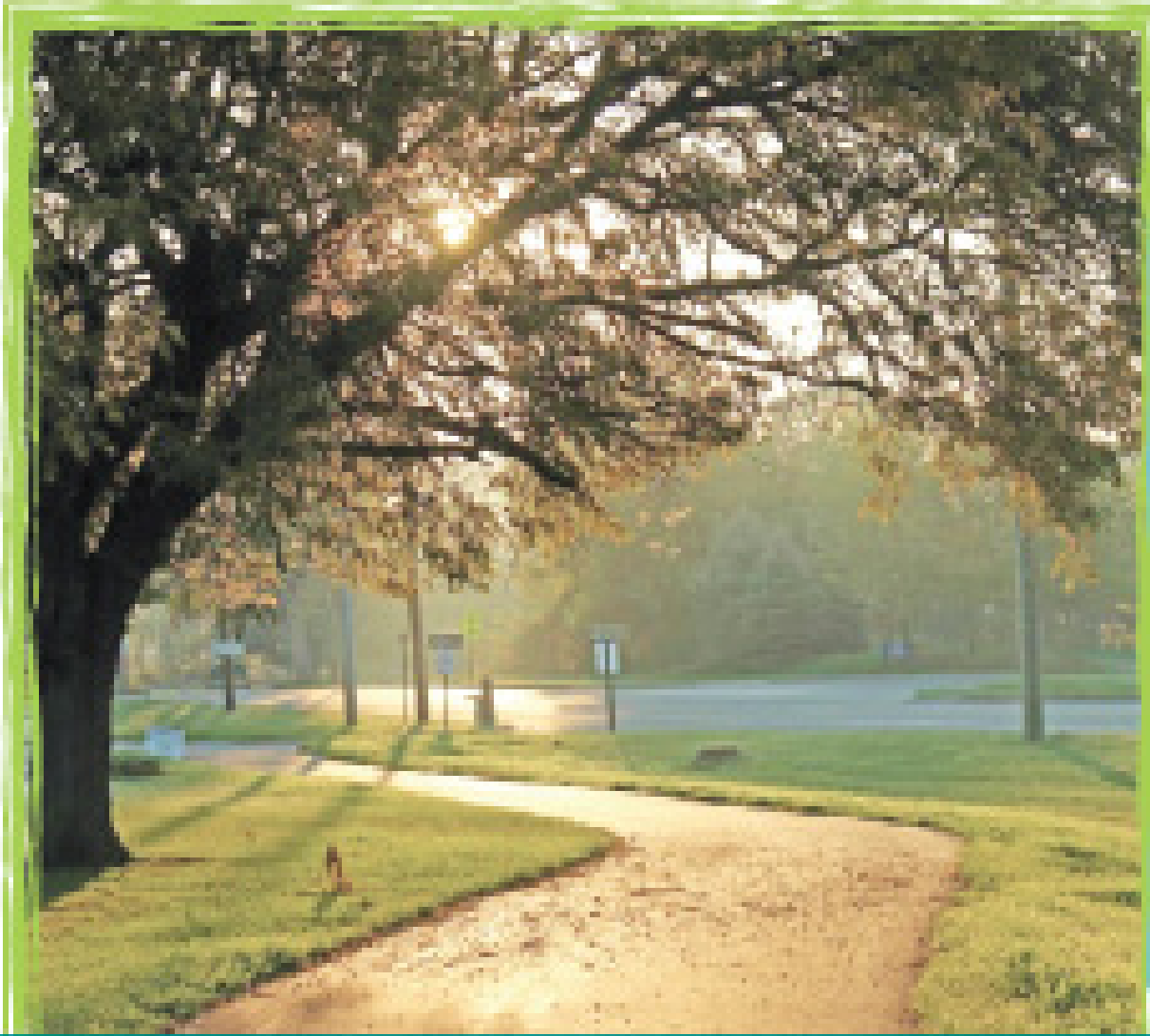
**LAST WEEK'S
ONLINE
POLL
RESULTS**

Have the recent, violent events around the world altered your travel plans?

- No - Makes no difference
- Yes - I'm scared to travel
- I never travel anyway
- We can't give in to fear

TO VOTE
GOTO

**WWW.
thelowellledger.com**

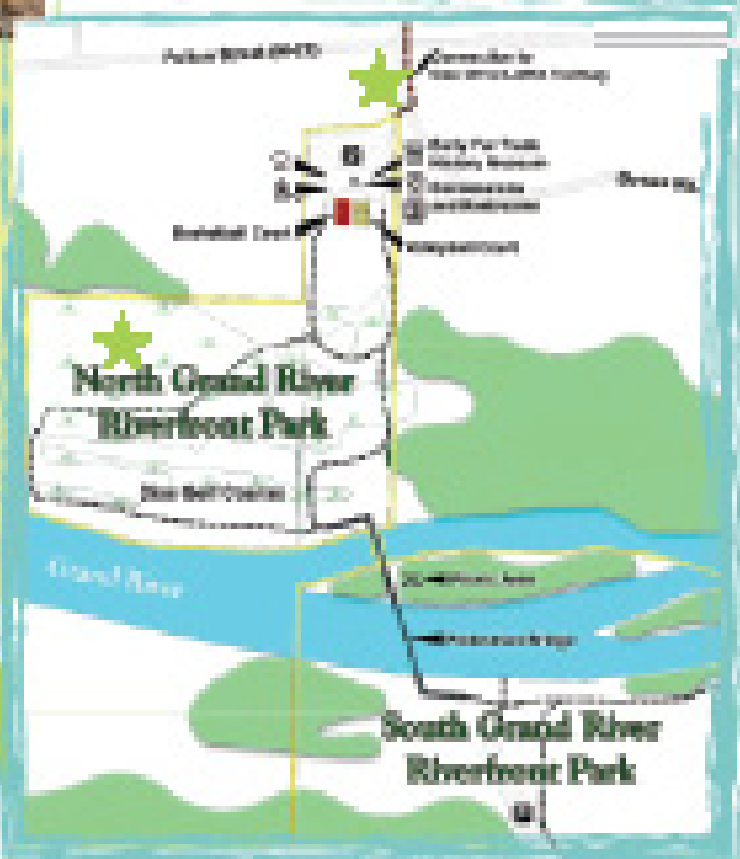


The Lowell Area Recreation Authority (LARA), which is made up of the City of Lowell, Vergennes Township and Lowell Charter Township, is extending existing paved trails from Gee Drive to Fulton St (M-21) along Alden Nash in the City of Lowell.

This extension will connect to the new Lowell Township North Park (behind Walgreens on Bowes Rd), businesses on the West End of Fulton Street, Stoney Lakeside Park, the Dog Park, the Kent County Fairgrounds and the future bridge across the Grand River to the current Lowell Township Park on Grand River Dr.

PLEASE CONSIDER HELPING US HELP OUR COMMUNITY OF LOWELL AS WE EXTEND OUR EXISTING PAVED TRAILS AND BUILD THE NEW LOWELL TOWNSHIP PARK.

LARA and Lowell Charter Township are seeking funding with sponsorship opportunities from local businesses and private donors to help reach our goal of \$600,000. There is no donation too small for this fundraising effort.



The new Lowell Township North Park, which will connect to the extended trailway, was designed to provide the community with different recreational opportunities than our current community parks offer. Lowell Township North Park will boast over 30 acres of recreation such as Frisbee Golf, a Gaga Pit, Volleyball Courts, Basketball Courts, the Lowell Area Historical Museum Early Fur Trade Building, Concessions and a paved trail throughout.

Donations can be mailed to: Lowell Area Recreation Authority, PO Box 98, Lowell, MI 49331 or Lowell Charter Township, 2910 Alden Nash, Lowell MI 49331. Please contact Betsy Davidson at 616-293-3206 or Jerry Hale at 616-897-7600 with questions or visit www.lwtp.lowellmi.us and www.lowellareatrailway.org.