

and hilarity ensued



page 9

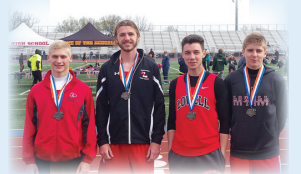
tree planting



page 16



l's sports



pages 10 & 11

50 CENTS



Annual CROP walk seeks to raise awareness to hunger

by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

Hunger was the enemy last Sunday for eleven area churches and organizations that took to the streets of downtown Lowell to participate in the annual CROP Hunger Walk kicking off at the Lowell First United Methodist Church on Main Street.

The church provided a small soup lunch for participating parishioners from Alto United Methodist, Bowne Center United Methodist, Calvary Christian Reformed, First Congregational, Good Shepherd Lutheran, Snow United Methodist and Vergennes United Methodist churches. Local organizations Flat River Outreach Ministries, Lowell Senior Neighbors and the Rotary Club of Lowell also took part in the fundraising event.

According to organizer Matt Stoll of the Vergennes United Methodist Church the event raised approximately \$9,000 thus far which will be distributed both locally



Eleven area church groups and organizations took part in the annual CROP Hunger Walk last Sunday in downtown Lowell.

and abroad. "25 percent of this money will stay locally, 20 percent going to Flat River Outreach Ministry and five percent going to Senior Neighbors food programs. The remaining 75 percent will be distributed through

Church World Services (CWS) around the world to alleviate global hunger."

The CROP Walk is a national event created by CWS that raises more than \$12,000 annually used by the agency to provide food

globally, as well as medical care and disaster aid. Stoll said that the event walks in line with the teachings found in the Bible. "In the Bible, from beginning to end, it is clear that God has a special place in his heart

for those who are poor and vulnerable. God desires to protect and provide for them and commands his people to do the same. For me, to follow Jesus means I must

CROP walk, continued, page 7

New public works director introduced and citizens speak out over recall disagreement

by Tim McAllister
contributing reporter

Lowell city council met the new public works director, listened to citizen comments and had a discussion about next year's

budget during their meeting at city hall on Monday, May 2.

Council chambers were about three quarters full of spectators. Several citizens

spoke during the meeting, which lasted just under an hour. Peggy Covert gave a ten minute speech about the ForwardLowell group that is intent on removing mayor Jeff Altoft from the council.

"A new council is simply trying to investigate and clean up a mess that was created over years of misspending and abuse," Covert said. "They can't win. They do what the majority of voters voted them in for; you yell and scream. They do what you want them to do; you yell and scream. This sure looks like plain vindictiveness to me. I would hope that anyone joining this group would look at their true motives. It certainly looks like it's just part of the good old boys establishment that lost their power to the voters in the last election and now they're just mad and picking fights with everyone who doesn't agree with them."

ForwardLowell member Maryalene

LaPonsie said that the city council wanted to have a say in who would be hired as Lowell's new public works director.

"Some of our councilmembers were

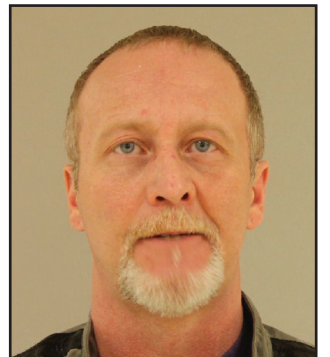
City Council meeting, continued, page 2

Wyoming man arrested by LPD

by Tim McAllister
contributing reporter

On Monday, April 25, Daniel Richard Young, 48, of Wyoming, pleaded no contest to "indecent exposure by a sexually delinquent person." Young was arrested in Lowell in March 2015. His victims were a 16-year-old girl and an 18-year-old woman.

"The crimes were committed in Lowell," said Lowell police detective Gordy Lauren. "He is from Wyoming, but he was staying at the house of a friend of his in Lowell. He was just visiting. He would visit on the weekend sometimes. The girls eventually told their mom and their mom told us, so we started an investigation." Young sent pictures



Daniel Richard Young

of his genitals to the girls via text message and exposed himself to them in person. In 2004 Young was convicted of second degree sexual conduct and served 15 years. He was released in 2012. He was on probation for a 2013 drunk driving arrest.

Young will be sentenced on June 2. He could get up to life in prison.



Lowell's new public works director Richard LaBombard was introduced at the meeting.

City Council meeting, continued

trying to influence who our new [department of public works] director was," LaPonsie said. "I don't know that I can trust the council's going to give me a straight answer. Dave [Pasquale, Lowell city manager], I hate to put you on the spot, but I know you're as honest as the day is long, so I'm wondering, were you approached by city councilmembers and told who you should hire?"

"I was approached, but I'd rather just keep it that way," Pasquale said.

Forward Lowell member Roger LaWarre announced that his group has collected all 274 signatures they need to recall Altoft from the council. Once the recall is approved by Kent County officials, Altoft will appear on November's ballot as an incumbent and any Lowell resident will be able to run against him.

"This is an opportunity for you, I believe, Mr. Mayor, to become a better leader, as you hopefully have started to, [do] by letting go of the past,



Peggy Covert said ForwardLowell is being "vindictive" because the council fired former city manager Mark Howe.

bringing positive vision to our community, to build a positive and forward looking approach to your work with this council and to lead with respect, accountability and professionalism that grows out of strategic planning and action," LaWarre said. "Your leadership between now and election day will be a key to the citizens' desire to vote for you or to vote for someone to take over your position of the council."

At their next meeting on May 16 the council will have

a public forum reviewing the 2016-2017 budget. Then, after receiving citizen input during the public forum, they will have a workshop about the budget the following evening, May 17. Pasquale described the "major points" of the 2016-2017 budget to the council, which includes some badly needed street repairs.

"Our millage rate is 15.70 mills, which is the same as last year," Pasquale said. "A major [street repair] project that we're looking

at, and in keeping with your streets master plan, is to look at a resurfacing project for Jefferson St. This will go from Avery to Fremont. This is going to be costing \$450,000, which is a major investment into this community, but it does follow our plan. Jefferson St. is a major street. It is a truck route and it needs to be kept up. Local streets, we're going to be continuing with some crack sealing according to a schedule that was approved by the city council."

Pasquale announced two new hires by the city. Richard LaBombard of Grandville was hired as the new public works director. He will replace interim director Ron Woods on Monday, May 9.

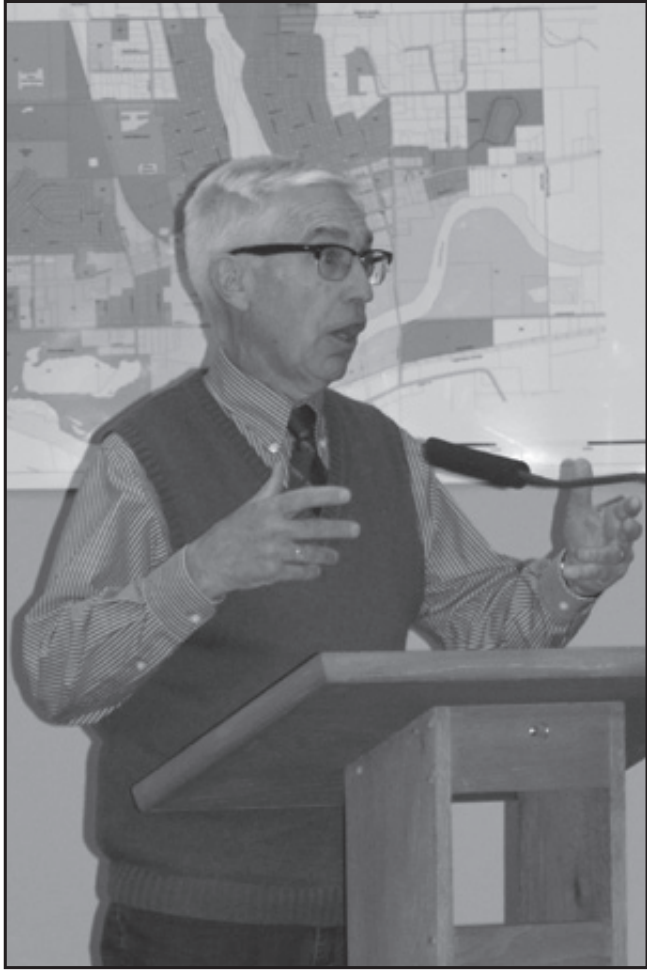
"He possesses a bachelor's and master's degree in administration from Central Michigan University," Pasquale said. "He's had 14 years working in local government in engineering and facility management positions. LaBombard has worked in a variety of public works projects ranging from street improvements, sidewalk replacement, utility, water distribution and sewage management. In his current role as facility operations manager of Allegan County he oversees parks, facilities,

parking lots, water quality and water distribution, snow removal and ground maintenance."

Ron VanOverbeck was appointed the new fire chief. He replaces Frank Martin. Councilor Mike DeVore, who works as a paramedic and firefighter, seemed quite relieved by VanOverbeck's appointment.

"We're pretty lucky here in the city to have Mayor Altoft and Matt Mayer sit on that fire authority board because there's 20 something odd guys out there that get up in the middle of the night and train and work," DeVore said. "We do it all. We'll do anything that anybody asks us to do. The leadership and the knowledge from the township members of that fire authority board came dangerously close to leaving us in a bad spot. Jeff and Matt stepped up, got with every guy who goes out there and does that job and took everything that they had to say into account and we got ourselves a fire chief who can send us home safe every single day."

The council's next regular meeting will be at city hall at 7 pm on Monday, May 16. They will also have a budget workshop on Tuesday, May 17 at 7 pm.



ForwardLowell member Roger LaWarre said that mayor Jeff Altoft has until November to improve his leadership style.



along main street

GILDA'S CLUBHOUSE ACTIVITIES

Garden with Gildas
Tues., May 10, 1-3 pm. Come on over and join us in the gardens, the 2nd Tuesday of each month! There are a variety of ways to help maintain and enjoy the beautiful gardens here at Gilda's Club Lowell. We welcome your help!

Laughter Circle
Tues., May 10, 4:30-5:30 pm. Join Lindsay Jousma, LMSW as she teaches us about the impact Laughter can have on our emotional health and walks us through a fun time of laughter and learning.

Chitchat Readers Book Club
Tues., May 17, 4:15-5:15 pm. Join other members of Gilda's Club in discussing a great book. Stop by the Clubhouse to borrow a book.

Volunteer Celebration-"Just Desserts!"
Tues., May 31, 6-7:30 pm. Our volunteers are invited to get their "Just Desserts." Volunteers will be treated to a sundae bar with delicious toppings and root beer floats. Members, please join in as we celebrate our volunteers that allow us to keep the Gilda's Club red door open! Please RSVP by May 24 to 897-8600.

Lowell Clubhouse, 314 S. Hudson St. For more information call 897-8600 or visit www.gildasclubgr.org/pinkarrow

SCRAP METAL

The Alto Cub Scouts are collecting scrap metal at the dumpster located at 4994 Alden Nash Ave. SE thru May 15.

EXPLORE NATURE IN LOWELL TOWNSHIP

There are several important natural areas in the region and one of them is on township property. The township is lucky enough to have a high-quality remnant of an oak savanna. Learn about this area on Thursday, May 19 • 6 PM. MSU ecologist, Jesse Lincoln will lead a wildflower tour to talk about the ecosystem and the work the township is doing to restore and protect this unique habitat. The wildflower walk will start at 6 pm and will last about an hour. This event is weather dependent and therefore may be canceled if the weather is too bad.

Feel free to send your event information to the Ledger for Along Main St. All submission requests for Along Main St. are subject to space limitations. The Ledger makes no assurances that they will appear in print. To ensure that an event notification will appear in the Ledger, it is best to place a paid advertisement. All efforts will be made to place suitable items in the Along Main St. column but they are printed at the discretion of the publisher. For profit events, church services, yard sales and the like, will not appear in this column.



lend a hand

volunteering opportunities

CLEAR LAND TO HELP HABITAT

Come learn about one of the special places in our area. We are looking for volunteers for May 14 from 10 am to 1 pm. MSU ecologist, Jesse Lincoln is also looking for volunteers. He will be clearing some planted pines from the high-quality areas of Lowell Townships oak savanna and needs volunteers to haul the cut trees from the sensitive areas in order to improve the habitat. No experience necessary.

Email him at lincolnj@michigan.gov if you are interested. These are weather dependent events so they may have to be canceled at the last minute if the weather is too bad.

the lowell ledger

(USPS 453-834)

Published weekly for \$25 a year for zipcodes beginning with 483 or 485; \$38 a year any other zip code.

Deadline for display advertising is Friday at Noon
Deadline for classified advertising is Monday at 5 pm

Jon Jacobs Publisher
Jeanne Boss Editor
Tim McAllister Contributing Reporter
Kathryn Alwood Contributing Reporter
Tammy Janowiak Classified/Accounting
Jon Jacobs Advertising Sales

(616) 897-9261

email: ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com
Second Class Postage Paid at Lowell, MI

Published every Wednesday
POSTMASTER: Send address change to:
The Lowell Ledger
PO Box 128 - Lowell, MI 48331
www.thelowellledger.com

Recall group hosts meet and greet for candidates in 86th district and collects enough signatures for recall of mayor

by Tim McAllister
contributing reporter

The ForwardLowell political action group collected about 30 signatures on their petition to recall Lowell mayor Jeff Altoft and heard from all but one of the candidates running for a seat in the 86th district of Michigan's House of Representatives during a "Meet And Greet" event the group held at the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce building on the evening of Thursday, April 28. The group has since collected the 274 signatures to make the recall happen.

State representative Lisa Posthumus Lyons cannot run for reelection because of Michigan's term limit laws. Six people are currently running for the seat and five of those candidates were invited to the ForwardLowell open house, Democrat Lynn Mason and Republicans Thomas Albert, Jeff Johnson, Bart Lower and Matt VanderWerff. Each candidate was given thirty minutes to make a speech, take questions and mingle with attendees.

Thomas Albert, a former Marine from Grattan Township, said that he is running to be an advocate for local families.

"I'm running for families," Albert said. "I'm a father and I know exactly how hard it can be to support a family. We need representatives who understand that and go to Lansing to make decisions that benefit families in this district, because that's what it's all about."

Jeff Johnson, an attorney from Ada, is running as a "small government" Republican.

"I believe that the government that governs the least governs best," Johnson

said. "Government is too big. We're overregulated and overtaxed. If I'm elected I'm going to do everything that I can to make sure that we keep our taxes down, that we get the government out of things it shouldn't be doing and that we take a thorough look at the programs and things the government is doing and make sure they're doing it as efficiently and effectively as possible."

Lynn Mason, the sole Democrat in the race, is a retired public school teacher and former Ionia County commissioner who currently owns and operates an apple orchard. She said that voters should not dismiss her out of hand simply because she is a Democrat.

"I don't think they're doing good work in Lansing," Mason said. "Yes, I'm a Democrat, but I grew up in a moderate Republican area, so I consider myself pretty moderate on most issues. People tell me they don't want extremes either way and I fit nicely right there in the middle. I look for good ideas no matter where they came from and I think there needs to be more of that taking place in Lansing."

Bart Lower of Ionia was the only one of the candidates to comment on the Altoft recall.

"You got to have leaders you want your kids to grow up and be like," Lower said. "You can tell that that's a person [Altoft] that doesn't have what it takes to take a community and help a community grow and thrive."

Matt VanderWerff, a farmer and accountant who lives in Vergennes Township, said he is running as an antidote to the poisonous political

atmosphere in the United States.

"I've become quite unhappy with the state of politics," Matt VanderWerff said. "I don't think anyone has to look too far. You open up the paper and hear one disgusting story after another."

The only candidate not invited to the event was Republican Katherine Henry. ForwardLowell founder Jeff Dickerman said he sent a Facebook message to Henry's husband Mike inviting the candidate to the event but was unable to do so because Mike Henry blocked them. Katherine Henry said that ForwardLowell blocked Mike from commenting on the group's Facebook page and by doing so they inadvertently blocked themselves from sending any messages to him. This appears to be accurate since, according to the rules on Facebook's website, "When you block someone you also won't be able to do things like start a conversation with them or add them as a friend."

"I tried to send Mike [Henry] a Facebook message," Dickerman said. "That's how we contact a lot of these candidates. He blocked me so I can't get that out to him. [...]"



Marty Dahl, owner of Main St. business Flower Designs by Marty, chats with congressional candidate Lynn Mason.

My guess is she probably wouldn't attend this, but we did at least try to contact Mike."

"People know how to get ahold of me," Henry said. "I'm probably the easiest candidate to find online. You can Google my campaign or my law firm or any of that and find my phone number, my e-mail, my fax number, my websites. I think I'm fairly easy to get ahold of."

When asked why he didn't simply Google her phone number and make the invitation that way, Dickerman said that the group had no real intention of inviting Henry in the first place.

"[ForwardLowell] members and the citizens of Lowell have already met Mrs. Henry," Dickerman said in an e-mail to the Ledger.

March LPD stats

According to recently released statistics, Lowell police department made 15 arrests during March. These arrests included three drug violations, one for driving with a suspended license, four for outstanding warrants and three that are described in the police department's information as "other arrests."

The police department responded to plenty of misdemeanors during March as well. There were five larceny calls, three calls for malicious destruction, two disorderly conduct calls, one dog complaint and six assaults. Lowell police issued 19 citations and

notified 10 residents about ordinance violations. They were called to "assist" 69 times and were dispatched to 10 accidents. Out of 133 traffic stops they let 122 drivers go with just a warning, only issuing 19 tickets.

business matters

Greenridge Realty announced that Ryan Hesche received Realtor of the Month in April.

This award recognizes Hesche for his outstanding success and achievements.



Ryan Hesche

Subscribe TODAY!
616.897.9261



Family Dentistry Since 1994

- Gentle Dentistry for Children & Adults
- Immediate Emergency Treatment
- Cosmetic Dentistry, Teeth Whitening
- Preventive Care
- Extractions/Broken Tooth Repair
- Dentures (Same Day Repair)
- Implants
- Insurance Plans Accepted

Accepting New Patients

"Gentle & Painless Dentistry Is Our Goal"

Hours:
Monday..... 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Tuesday..... 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Wednesday..... 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Thursday..... 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Judd T. Carroll D.M.D.
103 East Main • Lowell, Michigan
(616) 897-7595
www.juddcarrolldentistry.com

WINDOWS/SIDING DOORS/INSULATION/GUTTERS
SAVE 50% OFF
HEATING/COOLING BILLS GUARANTEED!!!

SAVE 10% OFF WITH THIS COUPON

897-7380 www.allweatherseal.com

All-Weather Seal

319 E. Main Lowell

THE FOODMOBILE
MOBILE FOOD PANTRY
Available To Residents Of The Greater Lowell Area
THANK YOU MAY SPONSORS!
SNOW UMC
IMPACT CHURCH

FREE FOOD DISTRIBUTION
(mostly produce)

AT THE FAIRGROUNDS
Foreman Building, S. Broadway

SATURDAY, MAY 7, 2016
FROM 10 AM (until food is gone)
Bring your own box or bag.

FLAT RIVER OUTREACH MINISTRIES
11535 Fuller East, Lowell, MI 49331
616-897-8260
www.flatrivermi.org

Family Dentistry Since 1994

- Gentle Dentistry for Children & Adults
- Immediate Emergency Treatment
- Cosmetic Dentistry, Teeth Whitening
- Preventive Care
- Extractions/Broken Tooth Repair
- Dentures (Same Day Repair)
- Implants
- Insurance Plans Accepted

Accepting New Patients

"Gentle & Painless Dentistry Is Our Goal"

Hours:
Monday..... 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Tuesday..... 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Wednesday..... 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Thursday..... 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Judd T. Carroll D.M.D.
103 East Main • Lowell, Michigan
(616) 897-7595
www.juddcarrolldentistry.com

business directory

FRY DADDY'S
808 West Main Street
Lowell, MI 49331
897-FISH Fish & Seafood
Wine & Beer
GARDEN STAMPS
DAILY SPECIALS
NOW OPEN SUNDAY 3-3
SUNDAY/MONDAY SPECIAL:
POLLOCK BASKET \$4.99!!!
Best Fish in Town!!!



Rich's Service Co.
In-Home Appliance Repair
Dryer Vent
Cleaning
INSURED • 20 YEARS EXPERIENCE
WASHERS • DRYERS • REFRIGERATORS
GAS RANGE DISPOSALS • STOVES • DISHWASHERS
209 E. Main St. **RICH CURTIS**
Lowell, MI 49331 (616) 897-5686



KIRK COLLINS
Owner
Snowboat
AUTOMOTIVE SUPPLY, INC.
Auto Value
1450 W. Main St., Lowell, MI
(616) 897-9231
HOURS: MON - FRI 8-7; SAT 8-5:30; SUN 9-3



THE LAURELS OF KENT
A Skilled Nursing and Rehabilitation Center
• Rehab Services • Respite Stays
• Long Term Care • Palliative Care
Able to admit 24/7
350 North Center Street
Lowell, Michigan
616-897-8473 or 616.292.1031
www.laurelsokent.com



BILL WHEELER
Certified Public Accountant
W.J. WHEELER MICHIGAN
103 Riverside Dr.
Lowell, Michigan 49331
616-897-7711



Arctic Inc.
Heating & Cooling
• Heating & air conditioning • Hot water boilers • Water heaters
• Air Treatment systems • Forced air ducts • Air conditioning
• Water pump services • Ductwork • Heat pumps
• Gas, electric and oil furnaces, boilers, heat pumps
• Radiant heating systems



Eckman Landscape Construction
Hard Scapes • Brick Paving •
Boulder Walls • Retaining Walls •
Decks • Fences • Tractor Services •
Back • Much
Joel Eckman, owner
Lowell
616-892-2688
joel@eckman99@yahoo.com



LAMPLIGHT GRILL
Steak Burgers
DOWNTOWN IONIA
lamplightionia.com
523-2233



HANSON REAL ESTATE GROUP .COM
(616) **682.9225**



WE SHIP UPS
The Buyers Guide
105 N. Broadway Lowell



Free Comic Book Day celebration on May 7

by Tim McAllister
contributing reporter

Superheroes will return to Lowell for Free Comic Book Day, celebrated at Rookies Sportcards Plus, 106 W. Main, on Saturday, May 7.

Free Comic Book Day is an event celebrated by independent comic book stores nationwide since 2002. On Free Comic Book Day, stores plan giveaways, sales, celebrity appearances and other interesting events. Rookies has participated since the event's inception.

"It's like a mini comic convention," said Rookies owner Jack Reedy. "We'll have tents on the sidewalk, we'll have some very talented artists you can meet, we'll have superheroes you can have your picture taken with, we'll have specials going on and of course, everybody gets a free comic book."

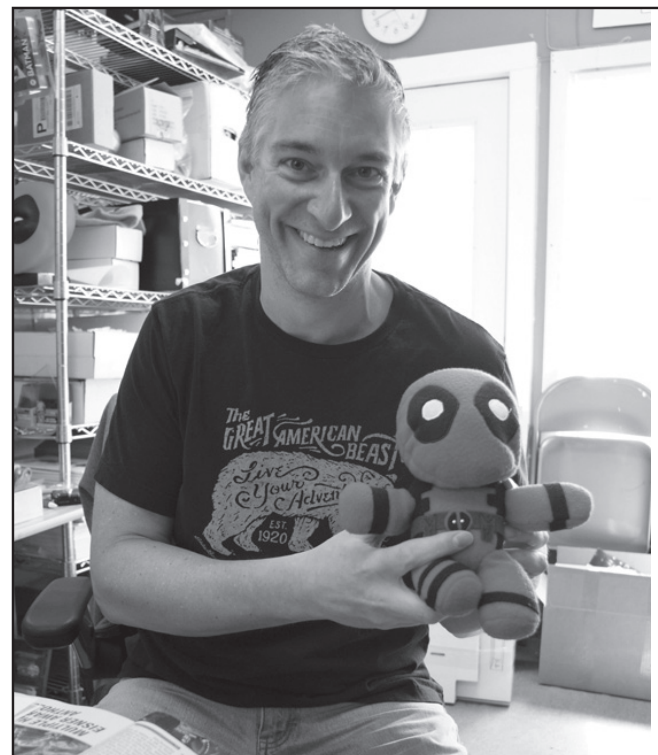
Six artists will be at Rookies, Jay Brant, Lindsay Bandy, Ryan Hipp, Kait Mayne, Jennifer McMyler and Nicholas Myers. Characters such as Thor, Wonder Woman, Spider-Man and Captain America are also slated to appear.

"For the first time we're going to have Wonder Woman here," Reedy said. "We'll have a lot of different discounts and specials, and other giveaways too."

The store will be open from 10 am until 5 pm and participants are encouraged

to dress up as their favorite character.

"It's always a good time," Reedy said. "Everybody's excited. You'll be sad if you miss it. There's something for everybody."



Rookies owner Jack Reedy with a plush Spider-Man created by artist Lindsay Bandy, who you'll be able to meet on Free Comic Book Day.

AREN'T YOU READY FOR A BETTER DENTAL EXPERIENCE?

At Family Dentistry of Lowell, traditional dental services meet modern dentistry...with a feminine touch.

Dr. Wilson and Dr. Byrd welcome you and your family into our calming and nurturing environment.

Heated neck pillows and blankets will help you slowly relax.

We also offer personal headphones with access to the music of your choice.

Doesn't your family deserve a better dental experience?

Family Dentistry of Lowell
147 NORTH CENTER STREET, LOWELL
616-897-4835
WWW.FAMILYDENTISTRYOFLOWELL.COM



JENNIFER BYRD, D.D.S. | ANN WILSON, D.D.S.

Do not take life too seriously.
You will never get out of it alive.

~ Elbert Hubbard

TO ADVERTISE
in the
LEDGER
BUSINESS DIRECTORY
Call 616.897.9261

COLOR COPIERS
WE MAKE
DISCOUNTS OFFERED FOR LARGER QUANTITIES
the lowell ledger
105 N. Broadway • 897-9261 • Hours: Mon. - Thurs. 8-5; Fri 8 - noon



viewpoint

to the editor

flood ledger with fun notes

To The Editor,
Fellow Lowell family.

Full disclosure, I do not live in Lowell city but I have a Lowell address. We raised our kids for 20 years in this great community. We have lived through the invasion of trolls in our river, the M-21 disruption while bridges were rebuilt, the loss of Burger King, the introduction of two great restaurants, Flat River Grill and Main Street BBQ and the death of friends that we have met in this good community.

The last year however, has been a never ending disappointment of how certain folks have chosen

to treat one another over disagreements in policy and city policy. Most unfortunate is how the Ledger letters to the editor have become the tool to flame the fires. Individuals have discovered how they can maintain a level of hate just by posting letters. Some as often as every other week. Wow!

It is my opinion that most of the community is tired of this jib and jab process and wants the community to move forward. Maybe we could flood the Ledger with fun notes on the community for one month. Maybe?

Joe Sejat
Lowell

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.



outdoors

campfires

Dave Stegehuis

Summer vacation in Michigan for many people means camping in special locations found across both peninsulas. Camping styles have changed over the last hundred years while camping opportunities have expanded, but camping is still as popular as ever.

Camping is a great way to get outdoors and be active and meet new people. Friends and family groups find camping a good excuse to get together and have some fun. This summer would be a good time to go camping.

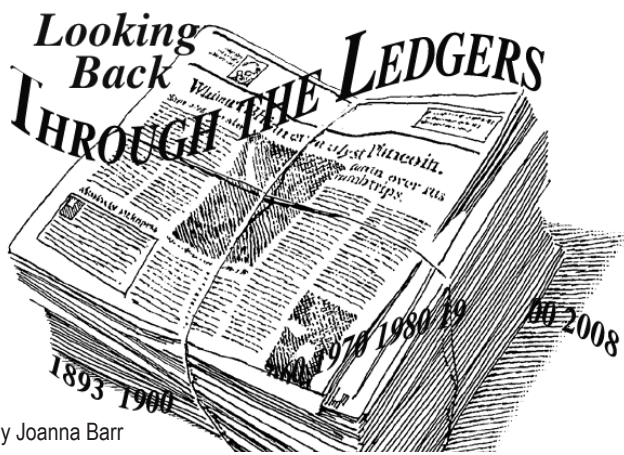
Private campgrounds often feature a number of amenities for convenience and entertainment. Municipal and state parks have been improved and in some cases expanded. Federal campsites tend to be more remote and rustic. Michigan boasts a wide variety of attractions for residents and visitors, so campers can always find campsites near their favorite location.

ATV operation is strictly regulated on public property. Some campgrounds, however, make special accommodations for off road riders. Check ahead

if it matters. The majority of campgrounds are on water, especially state parks. World class beaches are featured at a few parks. Many have boat launches for recreational boaters and fishermen as well as fish cleaning facilities.

Walkers and hikers may find walkways and trails in or near their campground. More remote areas provide a wilderness like experience. All regions of the state have interesting histories which can be explored by curious campers. If there are no popular tourist destinations nearby, then some free-lance exploring usually turns up interesting places and often surprises.

Tents are making a comeback for camping gear, but pop-ups are still popular. Travel trailers and motor homes are always present. Making reservations well in advance is a good policy especially around holidays. Some places are busier than others. Gathering around the campfire on cool days and in the evenings is a long held tradition for campers. Smores and conversation complete an enjoyable day outdoors.



By Joanna Barr

125 years ago Lowell Journal May 6, 1891

May 1st came in with a boom and nearly every city of any importance is enjoying a strike for some cause or another. In a great many places the troops had to be called out and quite considerable blood was shed. The Detroit car shop strikes have been settled the company scoring a complete victory.

Lowell is enjoying a little strike, G. J. Johnson's cigarmakers are out but will probably be at work again in a day or two.

100 years ago The Lowell Ledger May 4, 1916

Largest class thirty-three candidates for graduating honors June 14 – record for membership belongs to 1916. Class officers elected and honors bestowed. If all goes well in the senior finals, which are given at the end of this month, a new record will be set up for the number graduated in any one year from the local high school. This year's class numbers thirty-three, and in addition to that Charles Cuddeback will receive a special commercial certificate, indicating his completion of the two year commercial course. Due to the fact that a large number of the present class have not been here for their entire four years work, it was announced by the superintendent at the opening of school that honors would be awarded for this year's work. Accordingly Arthur Brown has the highest

standings for the year and will be made valedictorian, with Dora Getty a close second, who will be made class salutatorian. Of the students who have spent the entire four years in the Lowell high school, Rega Brannan has the highest standings for the four years, with Pauline Behler next.

75 years ago The Lowell Ledger May 8, 1941

Proclamation for Poppy Day. Saturday, May 24, was proclaimed as Poppy Day in Lowell and vicinity in a proclamation issued by Mayor John Arehart, who called upon all citizens to observe the day by wearing the memorial poppy of the American Legion and Auxiliary.

50 years ago Lowell Ledger May 5, 1966

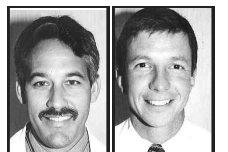
A nationwide observance of Poppy Day began in 1920 and is now a traditional and fundamental activity. Wearing of a poppy on "Poppy Days" and Memorial Day has come to mean honoring of those who have given their lives and those who are still giving, in the service of the country.

25 years ago The Lowell Ledger May 8, 1991

"Flat River" Jim Burnett remembered by yesterday's youth. His fame as an outdoorsman grew when his yearly predictions for Showboat weather proved right and favorable. His grave in the southeast corner of the Oakwood Cemetery, on the family lot, is marked by a concrete block inscribed by a friend. At this time a new cemetery memorial will be placed, with the engraving reading "Flat River" - Jim Burnett - 1871-1946 – The Hermit of Devil's Peak"

Fallasburg Historical Society commences with Fallas House restoration project. The Fallasburg Historical Society bought the Fallas house back in 1988 for \$30,000 and by the end of fall will have put \$8,500-\$10,000 worth of architectural and engineering work into the home.

health



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

ovarian cysts and ovarian cancer

Each month during your period, you likely get a small cyst on your ovaries. These cysts are a normal part of your period. Sometimes they cause pain, but they usually do not cause any other symptoms. Most cysts go away each month. If the cysts stay or get larger, you may get symptoms in your abdomen or pelvis. Cysts are often found by looking at an ultrasound of your ovaries. Most cysts will go away with time, but often your doctor will recommend rechecking an ultrasound in four to 12 weeks to make sure they are gone. In women who are menopausal, the ovaries have stopped working and

should not form cysts. There are different types of cysts that are not cancerous, but rarely, especially in older women, the cysts can be ovarian cancer. Ovarian cancer is an abnormal growth of tissues in the ovaries that can spread to other organs in the body. If not caught early, it can lead to death.

Symptoms of ovarian cancer can be vague and non-specific. They include abdominal or pelvic pain, increase in abdomen size, urinary urgency or frequency, getting full quickly when eating,

anniversaries

Lacic



Albert and Dot Lacic

Albert and Dot Lacic will celebrate their 67th wedding anniversary on May 7, 2016. They have five children, Adeline Brower, Art (Eileen) Lacic, Dorothy House, Russell Lacic, and Mary (James) Dillree; twelve grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; and two great great-grandchildren.

Health, continued

trouble eating, or weight loss. If these symptoms are occurring frequently, several times a month, then you should see a doctor.

problems, often an ultrasound of the uterus and ovaries is done. This gives the doctor information about how your ovaries and other pelvic organs look and what

size they are. A blood test called a CA125 sometimes is also checked. Patients with ovarian cancer may produce more of this protein and levels can be elevated.

Most women who have an ovarian cyst do not have to have surgery and can often be observed with ultrasounds. Women who are menopausal are more likely to need surgery because the risk of ovarian cancer increases with age.

In The Service

Cmdr. Brenden J. Kettner will retire from the Coast Guard after 24 years of service at a ceremony to be held at the Prince Jonah Kuhio Kalaniana'ole Federal Building, Friday.

Capt. James Jenkins, Coast Guard 14th District chief of staff, will preside over the ceremony.

"Joining the Coast Guard was absolutely one of the best decisions I have ever made," said Kettner. "The professional experiences and educational opportunities have truly enriched the lives of me and my family and served as an excellent springboard to a second career."

A native of Lowell, Kettner served as the chief of marine environmental response for the Coast Guard 14th District on Oahu, overseeing operations and deployments for the district response advisory team and training along with exercising of the Vessel of Opportunity Skimming Systems and employment of the Spilled Oil Recovery Systems on board the Coast Guard's 225-foot buoy tenders.

Kettner also served as the co-coordinator for FEMA Region IX's Oceania regional response team covering the State of Hawaii, territories of Guam, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and American Samoa to facilitate federal responses to oil spills and other disasters.

Prior to reporting to the district staff, Kettner served at Coast Guard Sector Guam as the deputy sector commander where he oversaw employment of two 110-foot patrol boats, a small boat station and over 200 personnel

in execution of maritime law enforcement, search and rescue and other Coast Guard statutory missions.

Kettner also served as the officer-in-charge, port advisory coordination element and deputy maritime security advisor to Iraq. In this capacity, he engaged with the government of Iraq in implementation of the international ship and port facility security code and worked with the Iraqi river police, coastal border guard and Iraqi navy to improve maritime law enforcement efforts within Iraqi waters and along the Iranian border.

Prior to his assignment to Iraq, Kettner was the deputy division chief for the exercise support division at Coast Guard Pacific Area and Coast Guard Force Readiness Command assisting units in conducting all threats all hazards exercises in North and Central America.

Kettner was also an international port security liaison officer, Coast Guard Activities Europe, beginning in August 2004. As an international port security liaison officer he was responsible for engaging with governments throughout the Horn of Africa and Middle East to assess anti-terrorism measures in ports that conduct trade with the United States, as well as assisting in operational planning and development of host nation security forces. Kettner's area of responsibility included Syria, Iraq, Iran, Kuwait

Qatar, Yemen, Sudan, Eritrea, Djibouti, Somalia and Kenya. He also served as branch chief of the Coast Guard Sea Marshal Program at marine safety office San Francisco from August 2001 to July 2004. As branch chief, he was also the maritime law enforcement training officer and weapons officer. His primary mission was the planning and execution of airborne and waterborne anti-terrorism

operations along the coast of Northern California.

Kettner holds a bachelor's degree from Aquinas College in Grand Rapids, Michigan, and a Master's Degree in national security and strategic studies from the U.S. Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island. In 1994 he received his Coast Guard commission from Officer Candidate School and was assigned to Marine Safety Office Savannah, Georgia.

His other assignments include chief of port operations and senior investigating officer, marine safety officer in Detroit from 1998 to 2001; branch chief, investigations department, marine safety officer in Savannah, Georgia, from 1994 to 1998; and quarter master 2nd class aboard the USCGC Active in Port Angeles, Washington, from 1991 to 1993. Other field assignments included tours as law enforcement detachment coordinator in San Juan, Puerto Rico and port security planning officer for the 1996 Olympics held in Savannah.

Kettner is the recipient of the Bronze Star Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal (two awards), the Coast Guard Commendation Medal (three awards), the Coast Guard Achievement Medal (two awards), the Navy Marine Corp Achievement Medal, the Commandant's Letter of Commendation, the Department of Defense Joint Meritorious Unit award, the Department of Transportation 9/11 ribbon, the Coast Guard Combat Action ribbon and the Coast Guard's Marine Safety Insignia.

Kettner has accepted a position as an emergency manager in the protective services division at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's Goddard Space Flight Center.

Kettner's parents are Elizabeth and Harold Kettner of Lowell. He is married to Phi Yen Nguyen and his parents-in-law are Xinh and Son Nguyen of Lawrenceville, Georgia.

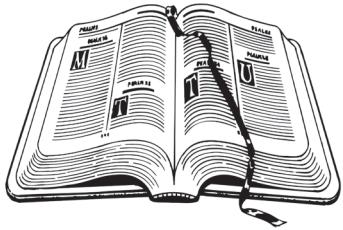
Terry Abel protects all your life's moments
Business



616-259-8675
2311 E Beltline Ave. SE, Ste. 102, Grand Rapids
FarmBureauInsurance.com

LOW COST SPAY & NEUTER
No restrictions. Available for everyone. Also vaccinations, tests and parasite control
Call 897-8865
www.spayneuterexpress.com

area church



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC
865 Lincoln Lake SE
616.897.5906
Sunday Worship 10:00 A.M.
Pastor J. Richard Sherlock
Open and Affirming
www.lowellucc.org

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH
10305 Bluelwater Highway (Missouri Synod)
Halfway between Lowell & Saranac on M-27
www.goodshepherdlowell.org
Worship Service.....Sunday -10:30 A.M.
(Nursery available)
Sunday School.....9:15 A.M.
Joseph Fremmer, Pastor 897-8307
All facilities are wheelchair accessible

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF LOWELL
CHRIST-CENTERED, KINGDOM-FOCUSED HOMES
2275 West Main Street - (Barrier Free)
897-7888-www.fbc-lowell.org
Pastor Jon Pickers, Lead Pastor
Pastor Phil Zeeman - Pastor of Health Ministries
Cristal Banks, Director of Children's Ministries
SUNDAY WORSHIP...10:00 am (Nursery provided)
SUNDAY School.....9:15 am (Nursery Adult)
Awards (K-5 during school year) Wednesdays, 8:15-9:45
Worship & High School - the school year begins, 7 pm

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

ST. MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH
402 Amity St. • 897-9820
www.stmarylowell.com
Weekend Masses: SAT. 5 PM; SUN. 10:30 AM
Saturday confessions: 3-4:30 PM
Prayer & adoration each Wed. 8:00 AM - 8 PM
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION, CHILDREN TO ADULTS - CALL PATE MORGAN 897-7915
SEE LOWELL CABLE CH. 383, ENTRY FOR 24 HR. CATHOLIC BROADCASTING

LOWELL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
discover. grow. share
621 E. Main Street
897-5938
www.lowellumc.com • Barrier Free Entrance
Sunday Worship Traditional9 a.m.
New Contemporary Worship.....11 a.m.
Kids Crew.....11:15 a.m.
Sr. Pastor - Brad Brillhart

happy birthday

MAY 4
John Borton, David Rhodes, Jerre Sue Smith.

MAY 5
Scott Carpenter, Kevin Vezino, Kerry Vezino, Brenda Erickson, Robert Dalziel, Kaitlyn Kovacs, Lani Brown.

MAY 6
Jace Bellah.

MAY 7
John Schalow, LeAnn VanDyke, Duane Rasch.

MAY 8
Rhoda Greenman-Batt, Rhonda Timmers, Mary Mooney, F.J. Johnson Jr., Emily Milstead.

MAY 9
Tasha Brand, Ashley Reinbold, Hillary Briggs, Eric Witherell, Bobbie Clouser, Amy VanDuijn.

MAY 10
Dee Korb, Rebecca Boruta, Jim Lindhout, Eric Swift.



MHSAA names student advisory council members from class of 2018

Eight student-athletes who will be juniors at their schools during the 2016-17 academic year have been selected to serve two-year terms on the Michigan High School Athletic Association's Student Advisory Council.

The Student Advisory Council is a 16-member group which provides feedback on issues impacting educational

athletics from a student's perspective and also is involved in the operation of association championship events and other programming. Members of the Student Advisory Council serve for two years, beginning as juniors. Eight new members are selected annually to serve on the SAC, with nominations made by MHSAA member schools. The incoming

juniors will join the group of eight seniors-to-be appointed a year ago.

Selected to begin serving on the Student Advisory Council in 2016-17 are Sydney Hanson, Alma; Jordan Tirico, Ann Arbor Skyline; Danny deForest, Holland West Ottawa; Darby Dean, Lowell; Rachel Cummings, Mayville; Grace Reetz,

Mount Pleasant Sacred Heart; Aaron Fahmer, Owendale-Gagetown; and Hunter Gandee, Temperance Bedford.

The first Student Advisory Council was formed for the 2006-07 school year. With the addition of this class beginning this summer, members will have represented 87 schools from

44 leagues plus independent schools that do not play in a league. Combined, the new appointees have participated in 13 MHSAA sports and all eight will be the first SAC members from their respective schools.

The Student Advisory Council meets seven times each school year and once more for a 24-hour leadership camp. In addition

to assisting in the promotion of the educational value of interscholastic athletics, the council discusses issues dealing with the four S's of educational athletics: scholarship, sportsmanship, safety (including health and nutrition) and the sensible scope of athletic programs. There also is a fifth S discussed by the group - student leadership.

CROP Walk, continued

love those God loves and do something to care for those in dire straights and one of the most immediate needs is food and clean water," explained Stoll post event.

That need is greater than some might think. Despite the fact that poverty has been reduced significantly over the past three decades, hunger still claims more lives than cancer. It is estimated that more than 3.5 million people die of starvation. Compounding that problem are an estimated 800 million living chronically malnourished.

"The sad thing is that this is all preventable right now, if people and organizations would be willing to cooperate and engage in effective strategies together," said Stoll. "CROP hunger walk gives myself and other 'regular people' like me the opportunity to do something practical and tangible to help with a need that can often feel overwhelming and distant on a worldwide scale. I enjoy working with CWS because they do more than just feed the hungry, they create sustainable long-term solutions to eliminate the causes and cycles of poverty."

Stoll said he would love to see participation in the walk grow in the future, "I love our community's support for our food ministries here

in Lowell through FROM and I would love to see more organizations and individuals in the Lowell community participate in the CROP Hunger Walk than just churches, as this isn't just a Christian issue, it is a human issue which affects people worldwide. Coming together as a community around the alleviation of

hunger, similar to Pink Arrow Pride with cancer, is an important endeavor."

The CROP Walk is held the first Sunday of May and all are welcome to participate. More information and donations to the cause can be made at CROPHungerwalks.org/lowellmi



FLAT RIVER ELECTRIC, LLC

- * Residential
- * Multi-Family
- * Commercial

www.flatriverelectric.com
Email: info@flatriverelectric.com

616.987-0596



Oak Meadow
TREE SERVICE INC.

Got Sick Trees? We Can Help!

- Disease & Insect Treatment
- Deep Root Fertilization
- Pruning, Removal, Stump Grinding

Affordable & Locally Owned
Fully Insured

Call Today!
616-890-2348




We want to be your Other Family Doctor.




- Sick or Injured Animals Seen Same Day
- Evenings & Saturday Hours Available
- Early Drop-offs & House Calls
- 24-Hour Emergency Service
- Science Diet Pet Foods
- Boarding & Grooming



ANIMAL HOSPITAL OF



LOWELL

Call 897-8484

11610 East Fulton Street • Lowell, Michigan

SPRING SPORTS CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
--------	--------	---------	-----------	----------	--------	----------

BOYS & GIRLS TRACK

* Denotes a meet at Red Arrow Stadium

5/5 at 4:15 pm at GR Christian

5/7 at 9 am Hopkins Invitational

BOYS VARSITY BASEBALL

* Denotes a game at Cherry Creek Field

5/5 at 4:30 pm at FHC

5/10 at 4:30 pm EGR*

5/11 at 4:30 pm at EGR

GIRLS VARSITY LACROSSE

* Denotes a game at the Red Arrow Stadium

5/7 at 11 am Grandville*

5/9 at 7 pm at Northview

BOYS VARSITY LACROSSE

* Denotes a game at the Red Arrow Stadium

5/5 at 7:30 pm Northview*

5/7 at 1 pm at Reeths Puffer

5/10 at 7 pm Caledonia*

BOYS VARSITY GOLF

* Denotes a meet at Deer Run Golf Course

5/5 at 3:30 pm Tri meet at Orchard Hills

5/9 at 3:30 pm Belding*

5/11 at 9 am OK White Conference at Thornapple Pointe

GIRLS VARSITY SOFTBALL

* Denotes a game at Cherry Creek Field

5/5 at 4:15 pm at South Christian - doubleheader

5/7 at 8:30 am Northview Tournament

5/10 at 4:15 pm EGR* - doubleheader

GIRLS VARSITY SOCCER

* Denotes a game at Red Arrow Stadium

5/9 at 6:45 pm at Caledonia

5/11 at 6:45 pm FHC*

GIRLS VARSITY TENNIS

* Denotes a game at LHS Tennis Courts

5/5 at 4:15 pm at Greenville

5/9 at 4:15 pm at GR Christian

5/11 at 4:15 pm Coopersville*



"If you seek a pleasant peninsula, look about you."

May is Mental Health Awareness Month

Veterans encouraged to start conversation about mental health

"How are you feeling?" It's a question sometimes asked in the midst of casual conversation, but for veterans it could be the start of an important conversation about their mental health – and how they can seek help.

May is Mental Health Awareness Month and the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency encourages all veterans to ask themselves that very question. Mental health is a sensitive yet important subject and for this reason, MVAA has collaborated to offer veterans an online tool to screen for mental health concerns, such as depression, bipolar, post-traumatic stress, anxiety, alcohol and drug abuse and eating disorders.

In conjunction with Screening for Mental Health, a nonprofit organization providing innovative mental health and substance abuse resources, MVAA created the free online mental health and substance abuse screening tool in October. Encouraging veterans to get a "checkup from your neck up," the anonymous online screening is available 24/7 at MichiganVeterans.com/Mental-Health-Screening

"Mental health is key to overall health and MVAA wants to make sure all Michigan veterans have the tools they need to care for themselves both mentally and physically," MVAA director James Robert Redford said. "With this online tool, veterans can complete a quick and easy mental health screening and get the help and information they need when necessary."

The screening begins by asking veterans to

select a statement that best fits how they have been thinking or behaving recently. Based on the first response, veterans then answer a brief set of questions about themselves and how they are feeling. The survey ends with general explanations about their moods and behaviors as well as available mental health care support and where to find care closest to them.

The majority of veterans who used the mental health screening tool between October 1, 2015, and April 30 were aged 65-74 (25 percent), 25-34 (20 percent) and 35-44 (19 percent). Seventy-seven percent of all veterans who went through the screening were male.

Forty-three percent of participants served post-9/11 and 35 percent served during the Vietnam War era.

In an effort to promote the online mental health and substance abuse screening tool, MVAA created business cards for benefits counselors and Veterans Treatment Court personnel to distribute to local veterans and their families. The card lists the screening tool website in addition to the veterans crisis line phone number.

Benefits counselors who would like additional business cards for the mental health screening tool are encouraged to call 800-MICH-VET (800-642-4838).

Veterans can find their nearest benefits counselor by visiting MichiganVeterans.com To take the online survey, go to MichiganVeterans.com/Mental-Health-Screening

How can FOIA expansion bills be made better?

Groups on the right and left of the political spectrum applauded House members Thursday for proposing an end to the gubernatorial and legislative exemption to the state's Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), but they came to a committee Thursday morning with what they saw as improvements.

The 10-bill package crafted by Rep. Ed McBroom (R-Vulcan) and Rep. Jeremy Moss (D-Southfield) would make the governor subject to the state's open records law. It would put the Legislature under a new "Legislative Open Records Act (LORA)" starting Jan. 1, 2017.

The bills received their first public hearing Thursday in the House Oversight and Ethics Committee, which McBroom chairs. McBroom didn't hear much objection to the direction the Legislature is going, particularly in the shadow of a Flint water crisis in which the governor has voluntarily released e-mails because he has no legal obligation to share them.

"The bottom line is we can't rely on the governor's office to release information out of the goodness of their heart and only after the massive public pressure that comes with thousands of people being poisoned," said Melanie McElroy, executive director of Common Cause Michigan.

Common Cause, the ACLU, the Mackinac Center, Sierra Club and the Michigan Environmental Council were among those testifying and some common themes developed.

Top on the list was not having the legislative branch in charge of any appeals related to a records request denial through the new LORA system.

David Holtz of the Sierra Club suggested an independent FOIA commission to handle records requests, as is done in Connecticut and other states.

"This model ensures independence in that any appropriation request goes directly to the Legislature, and the governor cannot reduce the commission's budget," reads the testimony from the Sierra Club.

Other concerns centered on the list of exemptions to LORA that was written into the law. If a legislator is communicating with a state agency on behalf of a constituent, the document should be made available, said James Clift of the Michigan Environmental Council (MEC).

McBroom said he saw Clift's point -- if someone could FOIA a state department and receive a certain document, why shouldn't it be available under LORA, as well?

Clift also had an issue

with "records in the sole custody of, or exclusively maintained by, the majority and minority caucuses of each House of the Legislature."

Having worked in a legislative caucus before, Clift said he understands why lawmakers wouldn't want to release certain internal strategy documents, but this provision creates a place for "documents you are trying to hide."

He suggested defining the documents that should be exempt as opposed to naming specific groups of people.

Michael Reitz of the Mackinac Center said he doesn't like "public record" being defined as something that's been in the possession of a legislative employee for 15 days or more.

"What would prevent employees from deleting all records before the 15-day trigger?" Reitz asked.

Rep. Rose Mary Robinson (D-Detroit) asked about why the bill starts Jan. 1, 2017, as opposed to immediately, to which McBroom said it would be difficult to get all legislative offices to comply all at once.

"It's very impractical and not enforceable in a balanced way," McBroom said. "Some materials would be lost. Some members would have documents. Another member may not. There would be no

uniformity and it would be changing rules in the middle of the game."

Overall, those testifying were supportive of where the bills are heading. Curt Guyette, the ACLU's investigative reporter credited with first writing about lead being in Flint's municipal water supply, said he's been asked why Michigan allows its governor and Legislature to be exempt from FOIA and "I can't give them a good reason."

Michigan is one of two states that currently exempts the governor's office from open records laws.

The Flint water crisis has heightened distrust of government at all levels and having the governor not being subject to FOIA "adds to that concern."

"In a lot of ways, the Flint water crisis shows how important FOIA is and how important it is to be expanded," Guyette said.

Progress Michigan was a bit more cynical about the legislative package, noting that several of the 10 bill sponsors are incumbent Republicans in arguably competitive seats.

"It's great that during an election year the Republican Party's most vulnerable members have finally found religion on transparency and FOIA," said Lonnie Scott, executive director of Progress Michigan.

2016 fuelwood permits now available from the DNR

The beginning of April marked the start of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources' 2016 fuelwood season. The personal-use permits can be purchased any time now through Dec. 31, 2016, in person or by mail. The

permits are good for 90 days from the date of purchase.

The mail-in order forms are available online at the DNR's website, www.michigan.gov/fuelwood

Debbie Begalle, acting DNR Forest Resources

Division chief, reminds people who are looking for alternative home-heating options that fuelwood permits are a good value for those willing to put in some work to gather wood.

"We keep our permits affordable and easy to access for the folks who rely on using wood to heat their homes," she said.

Permits cost \$20 and are for use on designated state forest land in the northern two-thirds of the state and allow for collection of up to five standard cords of wood per household. Fuelwood collected with the permit can be used for personal use only and cannot be resold or traded.

Begalle suggests people contact their local DNR office to determine what areas are available this year for wood collection, then follow up with a visit to the site before purchasing a permit.

"The quantity and quality of dead and down wood varies by location," she said. "We only sell one permit per household, so we really encourage people to visit potential collection areas before purchasing a permit to ensure wood is available."

The DNR issues between 2,500 and 3,500 each year.

For further information on how and where to purchase a personal-use fuelwood permit, contact a local DNR office or visit www.michigan.gov/fuelwood

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources is committed to the conservation, protection, management, use and enjoyment of the state's natural and cultural resources for current and future generations. For more information, go to www.michigan.gov/dnr



Services We Offer...

- UPS & FedEx Shipping
- Copy Service (black & color)
- FAX Service
- Laminating
- & much more

MON. - THUR. 8 - 5. • FRI. 8 - 12
CLOSED SAT. & SUN.

Buyers Guide 897-9555

the powell ledger 897-9261

105 N. BROADWAY • LOWELL, MI

Audience enjoys the hilarity of LowellArts! Players latest presentation at The Other Place

by Tim McAllister
contributing reporter

The LowellArts! Players and Larkin's The Other Place presented a hilarious farce called "Sex Please We're Sixty" over the past two weekends.

The play, written in 2008 by husband and wife team Michael and Susan Parker, is about four menopausal women who turn the tables on two elderly goofballs and their hormones. "Bud the Stud," played by the always hilarious John Foley, is an

aging Lothario with a bad back and a Viagra addiction. He hangs out at the bed and breakfast next door and is perpetually on the prowl for unaccompanied women. The B&B is run by the widow Stancliffe (Diana Roush). Another neighbor, Henry Mitchell (Dan Jones), is madly in love with her and proposes marriage each day. The three guests at the bed and breakfast are romance novelist Victoria Ambrose (Janna Chesser),



Janna Chesser, Deb Canfield, Diana Roush and Sue Veenema, the female stars of "Sex Please We're Sixty," hatching a plan to get their revenge on Bud the Stud. At left, Deb Canfield swipes John Foley's Viagra while Janna Chesser looks on in amusement.



southern belle Charmaine Beauregard (Deb Canfield) and retired scientist Hillary Hudson (Sue Veenema). Henry Mitchell has invented a pill that makes menopausal women, shall we say, aroused. Mitchell's pill looks exactly like Viagra, but if a man inadvertently takes it he will suffer all of the (according to the

play) horrifying physical and emotional effects of menopause. Some of the dialogue written by the Parkers was a little stiff, but the material was transcended by the performers, who were excellent. Foley was a standout as the lascivious old cad who gets his comeuppance, Jones and

Roush were sweet and silly as the unrequited couple, Chesser's novelist and Veenema's scientist were both effective and Canfield's libidinous southern belle was most entertaining. The next production at Larkin's The Other Place will be a stand-up comedy show on Saturday, May 14.

Social Security, a super hero to many Americans

Summer movie season is about to start, and that means your favorite blockbuster heroes are about to do battle. Captain America is back to defend

the country. The X-Men are joining forces to stop an impending apocalypse. And there will be another *Independence Day* movie, where the world narrowly

escapes total annihilation — again! In a lot of ways, Social Security is a super hero to millions of Americans. Like Captain America, we

come to the rescue when disability strikes. One in four of today's 20-year-olds will become disabled before they retire. You can learn more about people with disabilities and how we help them at www.socialsecurity.gov/disabilityfacts.

You might not have been born with uncanny superpowers like the X-Men, but you were born with the right to earn retirement and disability benefits. Social Security is a lifeline for most retirees, keeping tens of millions out of poverty. Fifty-one percent of the workforce has no private pension coverage. Thirty-four percent of the workforce has no savings set aside specifically for retirement. You can learn more about the benefits you might be entitled to and about retiring online at www.socialsecurity.gov/retire.

You can also have your own *Independence Day* when you sign up for my Social Security. Use it to:

- Keep track of your earnings and verify them every year;
- Apply for a replacement Social Security card in certain areas;

- Get an estimate of your future benefits, if you are still working;
- Get a letter with proof of your benefits, if you currently receive them; and
- Manage your benefits: Change your address; Start or change your direct deposit; Request a replacement Medicare card; and Get a replacement SSA-1099 or SSA-1042S for tax season.

You'll feel like you have superhuman powers when you do any of these things online at www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount. Create a blockbuster retirement with our many online services. You don't even need a Bat-computer; any computer will do. Visit our headquarters at www.socialsecurity.gov.

The Right Choice for Rehab

Michael Stevens made the Right Choice for Rehab

"I came to The Laurels of Kent for Short Term Rehabilitation following an orthopedic surgery. All the staff at The Laurels of Kent are friendly and very professional. One of the reasons I chose to come to The Laurels was because it was close to home it was nice to be right here in Lowell. Both Jay and Rebecca were great in therapy, actually all the staff here have been great to me. I would recommend The Laurels of Kent to anyone needing Short Term Rehab"



Specializing in:

- Orthopedic Rehab
- Stroke Rehab
- Auto Accidents
- Physical Therapy
- Occupational Therapy
- Speech Therapy



LAURELS OF KENT
A Skilled Nursing and Rehabilitation Center

350 N. Center Street • Lowell
616.897.8473

Medicare
Medicaid

We Accept Most
Insurances

Short-Term Rehab

VIRTUAL TOURS - Visit www.laurelsofkent.com

Grow

MOREL MUSHROOMS

CREATE A MOREL GARDEN IN YOUR BACKYARD

We provide the seed and easy to use instructions for growing an outdoor Morel Mushroom. You just sow the seed, maintain the Morel Garden, and pick and enjoy pounds of fresh Morels!

\$12.95 + \$6.00 S/H - ORDER BY 7/31/16

GOURMET MUSHROOMS

P. O. BOX 515 C216 * GRATON, CA 95444

www.gmmushrooms.org

Allow 4-6 weeks for delivery - Open 6 months

COPY SERVICE

Black & White and Color

Quick Service, Great Quality

the lowell ledger

105 N. Broadway, Lowell • 897-9281

Red Arrow SOFTBALL SPORTS

Lowell comes out on top at Don Knight Tourney

by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

After a pair of disappointing doubleheader losses at home against Caledonia and Hudsonville high schools early in the week, the Lady Arrow varsity softball team topped three teams on their way to a tournament championship in Otsego over the weekend.

Lowell dropped a pair of match ups on Tuesday to OK White conference rival Caledonia, who earned their way into the final game of the Division I state tournament last season and currently lead the conference. The Scots topped the Arrows 11-0 and 9-4 in the contest. Wednesday the squad faced non-conference competitor Hudsonville losing 4-0 in game one and 9-1 in game two.

Saturday the team traveled to Otsego to take part in the Don Knight Tournament and earned their way to a championship title with three consecutive wins on the diamond. Kenzie Huver led the team in game one versus Plainwell with four RBIs in the 7-3 victory. Maddi Jordan earned two RBIs. Pitchers Emily

Depew and Tess Richardson worked for the Arrows on the mound in a dominating day for Lowell throwers.

Game two found the Arrows up against Watervliet High School who they shut out 10-0. The squad combined for 13 hits, including three from game leader Megan Summerfield. Huver, Kenzie North, Corah Miller and Richardson each tallied two hits. Richardson also returned to the mound for the squad sharing duty with Depew to total ten strikeouts.

Having earned their way into the championship match the Arrows faced Gobles High School and continued their show of hot bats nailing 12 hits in the game leading to a 10-2 victory and tournament honors. Depew and Richardson claimed the win from the hill once again while Summerfield led for a second time earning three hits and driving in two RBIs. Other successful hitters in the game included Jordan and Richardson who logged her first career home run.



Lowell varsity softball picked up a commanding tournament win in Otsego last Saturday.

This week the team will hit the road three times taking on Forest Hills Central on Wednesday, South Christian on Thursday and Northview High School and others in tournament action on Saturday.

TRACK

Both track teams boast excellent results last week

by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

Both Red Arrow varsity track teams competed in head-to-head match ups with Forest Hills Central and among a field of competitors on Saturday at the Grand Rapids Public Schools Elite Challenge last week.

The boys team picked up their first OK White win of the season over FHC at home on Tuesday topping the Rangers 84-53. First place individual finishers included Tristian Stephens on the 100m and 100m hurdles; Collin McGee in discus, shot put and the 200m; Ben Noffke in the 800m and Colton Churches in the 300m hurdles. The team also earned first place relay finishes in the 4x100, 4x200 and 4x400 races.

Saturday at Houseman Field the team placed seventh with a combined point total of 40. Top finishers for the day were the 4x100 hurdle team of Will Reynolds, Reece Karns, Churches and Drew Struckmeyer who placed second in the event. Struckmeyer also placed fifth in the high jump and sixth in the 110 hurdles for the Arrows.

Other top finishers included Karns, Kenny Stump, Reynolds and Keegan Redloske who placed fourth in the 1600m relay and Stephens who landed in fifth on the 110 hurdles. Coming in sixth place were Karns on the pole vault; Sam Misak, Collin and Cody McGee and Redloske in the Swedish relay; and Noffke, Parker Grant, Riley Coxon and Eric Judd in the 3200m relay.

The girls squad fell 119.5-17.5 to FHC with three Arrows earning second-place event finishes in the infield. Alexis Cook placed second in discus, Jordan Mixon in shot put and Abby McDowell on the high jump. Mixon also placed third in the high jump and discus making her the highest scoring Arrow of the day. Finishing in third were Kyla Dixon on the high jump, Agnes Astrand on shot put, Diana Roth in the 100 and 200m, Megan Khodl in the 400m, Breanna VanLaan in the 800m and Tori Hewitt in the 3200m.

Finishing twelfth on Saturday the Lady Arrows claimed their top finishes

from Dixon and McDowell who paced second and third in the high jump, Kaufman who took third in the long

jump and the Swedish relay team of Kuhns, Callie Ford-Weber, Roth and Khodl who earned fourth. Roth also

placed seventh in the 100m while teammate Katrina Droski set a new personal record in the 800m clocking a time of 2:39 landing her in eleventh place.

This week the teams will face a trio of challenges welcoming East Grand Rapids on Tuesday for a rescheduled OK White showdown. They will travel to Grand Rapids Christian on Thursday and compete at the Hopkins Invitational on Saturday.



The successful Red Arrow hurdle team of Colton Churches, Drew Struckmeyer, Reece Karns and Will Reynolds.

Red Arrow SPORTS

Arrows celebrate wins over Caledonia and Grand Haven

by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

Red Arrow varsity baseball picked up their first OK White conference win of the season over Caledonia in a three game series and swept Grand Haven in a Saturday doubleheader last week in a jam packed schedule on the diamond.

Sterling Anderson led the charge for the Arrows in game one of Lowell's three game OK White conference showdown with the Scots of Caledonia. Anderson pitched three innings allowing no earned runs and went 2-4 at the plate singling in first and fourth innings during the 4-3 win. Lowell scored three of their runs in the first inning on a ground-out from Kyle Liddle and a two run single sent out by Trevor Shurlow. Cooper Perry tallied the win from the mound throwing four innings.

Caledonia topped the Arrows in game two by a margin of 11-4 after hot bats in the late innings kept the Arrows at bay. Down by two in the third, Lowell saw their first run cross the plate on an RBI from Perry. They scored again in the fifth on

an RBI double from Nate Stephens and a sacrifice fly from Trevor VandDyke and in the sixth on sacrifice from Perry who was solid at the plate going 3-3 to lead the team. Their effort fell short though as Caledonia plated nine runs in the final innings to seal the win. Garrett Pratt took the pitching loss allowing six runs over four innings.

Lowell's Sage Solomonson went 3-3 inside the batter's box in game three of the series which ended with the Scots on top 7-4 despite nine combined hits for the Arrow squad. Caledonia came out with an early lead which they maintained the duration of the contest. Other Lowell hits came from Cooper, Jarrod Melle and Nolan Jahrmarkt. Anderson was charged with the loss striking out one and allowing six runs over as many innings.

Saturday the team welcomed Grand Haven and sent them home with a two game loss after logging 9-1 and 9-6 victories in the non-conference doubleheader.



Red Arrow slugger Trevor Shurlow rounds the bases against conference rival Caledonia.

Game one saw the Arrows plate two runs in the first and third and put together a five run rally in the sixth inning thanks to RBIs from Perry, Anderson and Brady Douma, as well as a passed ball and an error.

Striking out six and allowing no earned runs and only four hits over seven innings, Red Arrow Jake Wosinski claimed the win from the hill.

Anderson led the way in the 9-6 win racking up four RBIs, including a sixth inning home run to lead

their offensive effort. Perry tacked on a two run homer and Cooper an RBI double and triple. Andrew DeVoest logged the win for Lowell at the mound striking out two, walking none and allowing three runs over four innings.

This week the Arrows will jump right back into conference action when they welcome Forest Hills Central on Tuesday beginning at 4:30 and then travel to their home turf Wednesday and Thursday to wrap up the trio of contests.

Sports Summaries

GIRLS SOCCER

Red Arrow varsity soccer went 1-1 in OK White competition last week. Wednesday in their last home match against longtime rival East Grand Rapids, before next season's conference realignment, Lowell topped the Pioneers 2-1. Riley Conlan and Delaney Bierlein scored the Arrows' winning goals in the first half of play. Regan Coxon and Bierlein were credited with assists. Goal tender Bridget Garter picked up one save in the box. Unable to find the back of the net on Saturday, the team fell 3-0 on Saturday at Forest Hills Central where Garter made eight stops.

ATHLETIC FUNDRAISERS

Arrowhead Golf Course will be the site of a four person scramble golf outing Saturday, May 14, benefiting the Red Arrow Athletics Department. Funds from the event will support the varsity football team and help buy new equipment for the school's weight room. Registration will begin the day of at 9:45 am with a shotgun start scheduled for 11 am. For additional information or to register your team email tonirae1978@gmail.com

BOYS GOLF

An always improving Lowell varsity golf team hit the links twice last week in a pair of OK White conference jamborees. Placing sixth in both the contests, the squad carded a combined score of 187 on Monday at Thousand Oaks and tallied a 175 point finish Wednesday at Broadmoor. Scoring for Lowell at jamboree three were Adam Anderson (44), Tyler Karcia and Alex Dommer (47) and Alex Powell (49). Leading at jamboree four were Dommer (40), Powell (44), Karcia (45) and Anderson (46).

GIRLS TENNIS

Red Arrow girls varsity tennis picked up their first win of the season last Monday

Monday against Comstock Park at home, the ladies swept their opponent winning the match 8-0. Wednesday at Caledonia the squad fell 7-1 picking up their lone victory from Laura Michelsen at first singles.

BOYS LACROSSE

Currently ranked number fourteen in the state, the Lowell Red Arrow varsity lacrosse team kept their winning momentum last week winning twice in as many competitions on the road. Tuesday the Arrows topped Grand Rapids Christian by a large margin 17-5. Saturday's win over West Ottawa High School ended with the Arrows out front 13-3 making their current season record an impressive 7-1 overall.

SCHOLAR ATHLETES

Three sport senior athlete Avery Buckius recently committed to further his education at Davenport University next fall. Buckius will continue his athletic career at the collegiate level on the lacrosse field. The standout athlete and student was also an instrumental part of both the football and basketball teams at Lowell.

Lowell crew brings home 28 medals

submitted by
Tina Cadwallader

Remember the story about the mouse that roared? This past weekend, our very own Lowell crew team competed on the shores of the famous Culver Military Academy in Culver, Indiana. Seven schools were there. Some were from very wealthy communities - communities that have beautiful boat houses, indoor pools and training facilities.

And our young adults - our future citizens - came home, against all odds, placed in almost every boat the team sent out on the water.

On that cold, windy, rainy and miserable day, Lowell crew brought home 28 medals total. This little mouse roared and the impact was felt across the state.



TEAM RESULTS:

GIRLS-

Single - second place - Katie Brim
Novice - third place - Olivia Kamradt, Paige Clouse, Tessa Micho and Elizabeth Tricquet
Double - second place - Katie Brim and Jessica Barrett

BOYS-

Single - third place - Jason Cazier
Novice - third place - Shawn Barr, Steven Tripp, Miguel Masot and Jacob Beke
Double A - second place - Jason Cazier and Devon Siciliano
Double B - second place - Nate Hawkins and Noah Hawkins
Varsity 4 - third place - Devon Siciliano, Logan Vandermeulen, Jason Cazier and Nate Hawkins.
Varsity 8 - third place - Miguel Masot, Shawn Barr, Steven Tripp, Jacob Beke, Jason Cazier, Devon Siciliano, Logan Vandermeulen and Nate Hawkins.



Celebrating Arbor Day with a tree planting

by Tim McAllister
contributing reporter

Lowell's arbor board planted a maple tree outside of the Health & More Store, 835 W. Main, at noon on Friday, April 28. The tree planting was done to celebrate Arbor Day.

"Our hope is to bring awareness to the beauty and the shade that trees provide," arbor board member James Reagan said.

"I want to thank the arbor board for letting us plant these trees in Lowell," Terra Verde Landscaping owner Mark Anderson said. "It looks incredible."

"It's a good thing," said city councilor Jim Hodges. "Usually the arbor board looks to new businesses that are coming into town."

The Health & More Store has been in business since last September.

"We have a little bit of everything," said owner Sherman Ricards. "Essential oils, herbs, vitamins, sports supplements, vegan and gluten free food, everything. Come check it out."

The arbor board has planted over 700 trees in Lowell since 2007.



Lowell public works director Ron Woods, Lowell arbor board member Diane LaWarre, Lowell city clerk Sue Ullery, Terra Verde Landscaping owner Mark Anderson, Lowell arbor board member James Reagan, Lowell city councilor Jim Hodges and store owner Sherman Ricards at the tree planting ceremony on April 28.

Lowell wrestlers enjoy Lansing visit



Senator Dave Hildenbrand (R-Lowell) welcomed the 2015-16 Lowell Red Arrow Division II State Championship wrestling team to the State Capitol in Lansing, with coach R.J. Boudro. Senator Hildenbrand recognized the team for their outstanding achievements on the floor of the Michigan Senate.

BIG CASH BINGO

\$10,000 PRIZE BOARD

EVERY FRIDAY & SATURDAY

Doors: 4 pm • Sessions: 6 pm

EVENT ROOM OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK!
Visit FireKeepersCasino.com for details.

GET READY. GET SET.
GET YOUR **VEGAS** ON!

FIREKEEPERS
CASINO • HOTEL
BATTLE CREEK

1-94 to Exit 104 | 11177 Michigan Avenue | Battle Creek, MI 49014
Must be present and playing bingo to win. Schedule subject to change. Management reserves all rights.

A-1 MOBILE ROOF SYSTEM

- While oriented aluminum stops any and all leaks for the full life of your mobile — **GUARANTEED!**
- Thick Layer of foam insulation drastically reduces winter heating by 80% or more — **GUARANTEED!**
- Over-hang all eaves eliminates stains and streaking. No more coating and caulking.

Made in Good Old USA!

START TO FINISH
We MANUFACTURE Your Part of the INSTALL Your Part

14200 **\$21,900**

12200 **\$3,200** **INSTALLED**

GET YOUR FREE ESTIMATE TODAY!
BANK FINANCING AVAILABLE!

1-800-872-2089

VISA, M.C., BBB

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 month of March:

Lowell Energy AD, LLC

CITY OF LOWELL
Dated:
April 28, 2016
By Mark Mundi, Superintendent
Lowell Wastewater Treatment Plant