

## THE RIGHT TO VOTE - NOT TO BE TAKEN FOR GRANTED

Voting is how Americans participate in our democracy, but it's a privilege many Americans take for granted. According to a report in Time Magazine, in the 2012 presidential election 57.5 percent of eligible voters did their civic duty. The numbers are even lower for mid-term elections. According to the New York Times, in 2014 only 36.3 percent of eligible voters cast a ballot, the lowest figure since 1942, when a huge portion of Americans were occupied fighting World War II. According to the International Business Times, in

countries like Italy, Belgium, Austria and Australia over 90 percent of eligible voters participate in the democratic process. American citizens look pathetic in comparison. A number of reasons for the apathy of the American voter have been proposed by various sources. Some say that after decades of corruption, greed and sex scandals people simply don't trust politicians. Some feel their vote doesn't count. Others are annoyed by the constant onslaught of political advertisements and arguments and

tune out the entire process. Then there are people who would like to vote but are blocked by so-called "voter suppression" laws aimed at keeping minorities, the poor and younger people, from voting. Several solutions to this voter apathy problem have been proposed. Election day could be made a national holiday. Voting could be required by law, although enforcing such a law would be difficult. And, in some states there are either no registration requirements or you can register to vote on election day.



## FREEDOM OF THE PRESS

Freedom of the press is one of the cornerstones of our democracy. It is one of the ways we keep our leaders in check. The founding fathers included freedom of the press in the Constitution because the British had strict rules about what information could be published.

There have been plenty of attacks on freedom of the press over the years. In 1798 the Alien and Sedition acts were passed, making it against the law for the press to criticize the government. The acts also made it very difficult for immigrants to become citizens and made it easier to deport "undesirables." The acts were created in fear that European unrest of the era would show up on American shores, causing anarchy in the streets. Three of the four acts were repealed by President Thomas Jefferson in 1801. The third, the Alien Enemies Act,

remains in place. This allows the deportation of any male citizen of a hostile nation over the age of 14 during times of war. In the Near v. Minnesota case of 1931 the Supreme Court ruled that even "malicious, scandalous and defamatory" newspapers are protected by the First Amendment. In 1971 the infamous "Pentagon Papers" publication in the New York Times was fought by President Nixon, who claimed releasing the information would be detrimental to national security. The Pentagon Papers exposed lies the government told its citizens about the Vietnam War, including the U.S. bombings of Cambodia and Laos. As recently as 2014 the Supreme Court ruled, in Obsidian Finance Group v. Cox, that bloggers are entitled to the same First Amendment protections as traditional journalists.

# FOURTH OF JULY



## FLAG CODE

The flag of the United States is one of our country's most important symbols. There is even a "United States Flag Code" that outlines the rules for the display and care of the flag. There are no legal penalties for not following the Flag Code. For example, burning the flag is protected under the First Amendment right to free speech.

### RULES IN THE FLAG CODE INCLUDE:

★ The flag should never be dipped to any person or thing, unless it is the ensign responding to a salute from a ship of a foreign nation.

★ The flag should never be displayed with the union down, except as a signal of dire distress in instances of extreme danger to life or property.

★ The flag should not be used as apparel, bedding or drapery, for covering a speaker's desk, draping a platform or for any decoration except coffins.

★ The flag should never be drawn back or bunched up in any way.

★ The flag should never be used as a covering for a ceiling.

★ The flag should never be used for any advertising purpose.

★ The flag should not be embroidered, printed or otherwise impressed on anything intended to be discarded after temporary use.

★ The flag should never be fastened, displayed, used or stored in such a manner as to permit it to be easily torn, soiled or damaged in any way.

★ The flag should not be used as part of a costume or athletic uniform.

★ The flag should never have any mark, insignia, letter, word, number, figure

or drawing of any kind placed on it or attached to it.

★ The flag should never be used as a receptacle for receiving, holding, carrying or delivering anything.

★ The flag should never be stepped on.

★ The flag is to be flown at half-staff for thirty days in mourning for the death of the current

or former President of the United States.

★ When the flag is lowered, no part of it should touch the ground or any other object.

★ On Memorial Day, the flag is displayed at half-staff from sunrise until noon and at full staff from noon to sunset.

## FIREWORKS

Fireworks have been part of our Independence Day celebrations since the first celebrations in 1777. The founding fathers expected us to make a big deal out of the holiday and fireworks were intended to be part of that. As John Adams said in a letter to his wife dated July 3, 1776, "It ought to be solemnized with pomp and parade, with shows, games, sports, guns, bells, bonfires and illuminations from one end of this continent to the other from this time forward forever more."

Francis Scott Key's poem "The Star Spangled Banner," written in 1814, mentioned "the rocket's red glare" as further inspiration for fireworks shows. When, in the 1830s, scientists learned what chemicals to add to gunpowder to

make the fire turn pretty colors, fireworks really began to take off. Fireworks are now a ubiquitous part of Independence Day celebrations across the country.

Until the Fireworks Safety Act of 2011 all the really cool fireworks, the ones that fly around and go BANG, were illegal in Michigan. Now Michiganders are free to celebrate the holiday in fiery style without fear that the neighbors will call the cops. For the less adventurous, most towns have public Independence Day fireworks shows. Lowellites can visit Kentwood, Cascade or Grandville to see their Independence Day fireworks. The patient can wait until July 9 when Lowell will have a fireworks show in Stoney Lakeside Park as part of the Riverwalk Festival.

We the People of the United States

in Order to form a more perfect Union, in Order to establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessing of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, Do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America. Article. I. Section. 1. All legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives. Section. 2. The House of Representatives shall be composed of Members chosen every second Year by the People of the several States, and the Electors in each State shall have the Qualifications requisite for Electors of the most numerous Branch of the State Legislature. No Person shall be a Representative who shall not have attained to the Age of twenty five Years, seven Years, and been seven Years a Citizen of the United States, who shall, when elected, be an Inhabitant of that State in which he shall be chosen.

50 CENTS



# Sizzlin' concert draws huge crowd for Steppin' In It

by Kathryn Atwood  
contributing reporter

The Riverwalk was jam-packed for the sounds of Lansing-based Steppin' In It, led by frontman and 2015 The Voice contestant Joshua Davis, last Thursday evening for the second installment of the Lowell

Showboat Sizzlin' Summer Concert Series.

Steppin' In It, one of the most popular bands in the Lansing area, previously played a regular gig at the popular venue Green Door, attracting audiences

with their talented multi-instrument performances.

Lead singer Davis recently gained national notoriety when he appeared on the NBC talent competition The Voice landing a third-place finish.

Davis, who shared personal connections to many of the tracks played on stage, sang with joy and exuberance while lending his guitar talents to the quartet's sound. Bassist Dominic John Suchvta, steel

guitarist Joe Wilson and Andy Wilson on harmonica joined Davis on the stage. The musicians' latest CD release "Simple Tunes for Troubled Times" features a combination of country, swing and blues sounds and touches on themes such as young love, lost dreams and the struggle of the everyday man.

Davis has also released several solo works, including his most recent effort the two track CD "Always Going to be Here" and "Let Me In." "After The

Voice, it was such a joy to record again on my own terms," said Davis, of the album which launched in April of this year. "It was a joyful, fluid, organic process and I hope that comes through on the tracks."

This Thursday the Grand Rapids based 16-piece modern jazz ensemble Big Band Nouveau will take to the historic Showboat stage. The two hour show begins at 7 pm and is free to the public. Bleacher and lawn seating are available.



The Voice third-place finisher Joshua Davis performs out front of his band Steppin' In It on the Showboat stage.



## along main street

### FROM VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION

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

### TUESDAY TEEN DRAWING CLASSES

A drawing class for teens ages 13-18. Students may choose graphite or colored pencil. Weather permitting, classes held outdoors to draw the scenes in downtown Lowell. Classes will begin at the LowellArts! facility at 149 S. Hudson Street in Lowell. On July 19 and 26 and Aug. 2 from 10 am to noon. Sign up for just the classes you are able to attend or all of them at [www.lowellartsmi.org](http://www.lowellartsmi.org) Questions? Contact LowellArts! at 897-8545 or email [info@lowellartsmi.org](mailto:info@lowellartsmi.org)

### OPEN TABLE

Lowell's Open Table is now serving free weekly meals to residents of the greater Lowell community. Join them on Thursday evenings from 5:00 to 7:00 pm for a hearty, homemade meal. Located in the First Congregational Church of Lowell, UCC, 865 Lincoln Lake SE.

*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.*

## college news

Asher Malipaard of Lowell, graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in natural resources with an ecological restoration emphasis with honors at Northland College's commencement ceremony, held on Saturday, May 28, 2016.

the lowell ledger

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# Republican candidates for 86<sup>th</sup> district hold public forum

by Tim McAllister  
contributing reporter

Republican candidates for the open seat in the 86th House district held a public forum at the VFW hall, 3116 Alden Nash SE, on Tuesday, June 21. All five candidates for the Republican nomination in the August 2 primary election, Matt VanderWerff, Katherine Henry, Bart Lower, Thomas Albert and Jeff Johnson participated. About 60 local citizens attended the event. Democrat Lynn Mason was also on hand to check out her eventual competition in the November election.

"I just came to listen," Mason said. "I'm a citizen of the 86th district. One of them will end up going against me in the general election. This will be the first time I hear them speak. I want to hear what issues are important to them."

The candidates were asked questions submitted by members of the audience. Out of all the issues they were asked about, the one they disagreed on the most was the tax breaks that are occasionally given to special projects such as the "Switch pyramid" in Gaines Township.

"We're not going to get jobs like that unless we're competitive," said Thomas Albert, who was in favor of such incentives. "A better idea is to reduce regulations so that we have no regulations that are stronger than other states or what the national minimum is."

"I do not like the idea of the government picking winners and losers in the marketplace," said Jeff Johnson. "Our taxes go up if their taxes go down."



Republican candidates for the open seat in the 86th House district are Matt VanderWerff, Katherine Henry, Bart Lower, Thomas Albert and Jeff Johnson.

"I believe that [tax break] is contrary to the equal protection clause of the

United States Constitution," said Matt VanderWerff. "What guarantee do we have

that those jobs are going to be here?"

Other topics included gun control, road funding, agriculture, term limits, Donald Trump and abortion.

"We have to get more motivated about the cause of abortions and the cause of abortions in unplanned pregnancies," said Bart Lower. "We need to do a better job of talking to our kids. We have dismal sex ed classes in schools right now.

[...] If sex ed can stop that then we need to get behind a very solid sex ed program in our schools."

Taxation was also a hot topic among the candidates.

"We need to reduce and simplify the taxes we have at all levels," said Katherine Henry. "We pay sales taxes and use taxes and income taxes and corporate taxes. There is significant work yet to be done."

## July 5 is the deadline to register to vote in August primary

All cities and townships across Michigan will vote Tuesday, Aug. 2. People who are not registered to vote have until Tuesday, July 5, to register at any Secretary of State office or at the county or local clerk's office.

Registration status may be checked at the Michigan Voter Information Center at [www.Michigan.gov/vote](http://www.Michigan.gov/vote). Sample ballots and polling information also is available on the same website.

Voters who qualify may choose to cast an absentee ballot. Registered voters may obtain absentee ballots if they are age 60

or older; physically unable to attend the polls without the assistance of another; expecting to be absent from the community in which they are registered for the entire time the polls will be open on Election Day; in jail awaiting arraignment or trial; unable to attend the polls due to religious reasons; or appointed to work as an election inspector in a precinct outside of their precinct of residence.

Those who wish to receive an absentee ballot by mail must submit the application by 2 pm Saturday, July 30.

Voters will be asked

to provide identification when they visit the polls on Election Day. They will be asked to present valid photo ID, such as a Michigan driver's license or identification card.

Anyone who does not have an acceptable form of photo ID or fails to bring it to the polls still may vote. The person will be required to sign a brief affidavit stating that he or she is not in possession of photo ID. The ballot will be included with all others and counted on Election Day.

Many Michigan residents who already are registered to vote

may change their official state address, including their voter registration address, online at no cost at [ExpressSOS.com](http://ExpressSOS.com)

...

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~ Bill Clinton

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## health



With Drs. Paul Gauthier,  
Jim Lang,  
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John G. Meier & Tracy Lixie

### mosquito repellent and children

The combination of constant rain and warm weather has resulted in a large mosquito population this spring. The worry about West Nile Virus has many parents asking what is the best and safest mosquito repellent to use.

Many studies have shown that the most effective repellent is DEET. This is the active ingredient

in "Off" and other major brands. The repellents vary in DEET concentration.

The American Academy of Pediatrics has commented on DEET use on children. It is not recommended for use on infants under two months of age. It should be applied sparingly to exposed skin, not under clothing. Do not use on the hands, or on cuts,

or around the eyes or mouth. DEET concentrations from 10 to 30 percent appear to be safe for children. The effectiveness of DEET appears to maximize at 30 percent. The main difference in concentrations is the duration of protection. DEET at 10 percent is effective for two hours, 24 percent DEET lasts about five hours. There is no data regarding skin absorption of DEET in children as a function of age.

DEET should only be applied once per day. Do not use combination products such as sunscreen combined with DEET. This is because sunscreens need to be reapplied multiple times during the day.

## Preparation starts with information

Your parents were there for you when you were born. They've been with you through the most important achievements of your life. Now it's your turn to show them that they can count on you. As your parents get older, they may need help making decisions. When you volunteer to become a representative payee, you're supporting your parents and their future.

A representative payee is someone who receives Social Security or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) payments on behalf of a person not capable of managing the funds on his or her own. As a representative payee, you would make sure your

parents' basic needs are met by using the money to provide them with food, clothing, and shelter. Any leftover money goes into an interest-bearing account or savings bond for your parents' future needs. You're responsible for keeping records of expenses, and we request yearly reports to see how you've used or saved the benefits.

Other representative payee duties include knowing your parents' needs so you can decide the best way to meet those needs with the benefits provided and telling us about any changes that may affect your parent's eligibility for benefits or the payment amount.

If your parents receive Social Security or SSI benefits and are unable to manage their finances, or you think that may be the case in the future, take the time to become familiar with the responsibilities of a representative payee and consider becoming one.

To learn more about becoming a representative payee, you can read our publication, *A Guide for Representative Payees*, at [www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs) and visit the webpage, "When People Need Help Managing Their Money," at [www.socialsecurity.gov/payee](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/payee). Or, call us at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778) to request an appointment.

Take the steps to ensure your parents have a safe and comfortable future. After all they've done for you over your lifetime, volunteering as a representative payee is just one way to show how much you care for and appreciate them. Social Security will always be there for you and your parents through life's journey.



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Those who expect to reap the blessings of freedom, must, like men, undergo the fatigue of supporting it.

~ Thomas Paine

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# viewpoint

## outdoors

a walk in the park

Dave Stegehuis

Walking is an excellent form of exercise. Respiratory, cardiovascular, and muscular systems are all required to perform when walking. Walking on a regular schedule strengthens and maintains these systems. Doctors will often prescribe walking to aid in the recovery from an illness or operation. A physician should be consulted if one has any doubts about his or her ability to safely expend the physical effort needed to walk. Choices can be made to accommodate ones physical condition.

Finding a time to walk can be a challenge. For some people, walking is a necessary part of their daily routine. Others must plan to include a walk in their busy

schedule. A regular routine is more likely to be followed long term. Walking with a partner or pet provides extra motivation to stick with it.

Where to walk is an important consideration. Rural residents may find open space in which to make their rounds. Urban dwellers can seek out parks or sidewalks. For those in between, a safe place to walk is harder to find at home, so a short drive will add some time. Walking a loop instead of up and back motivates one to finish the entire walk.

Conditioning gained from a regular walking schedule is a bonus when traveling to new places. Spending time on vacation or visiting unfamiliar places

provides an opportunity to explore. Traveling on foot offers a more realistic perspective than looking out the window of a vehicle at highway speeds.

On a grander scale, national parks are managed to be friendly to walkers and hikers. Following designated trails leads to all kinds of natural wonders and wildlife. The trails are identified by degree of difficulty so one can choose a trek within his or her comfort level. Those seeking more than casual observation may be interested in backpacking into wilderness areas for an extended period. Big time hikers traverse the North Country Trail or the Appalachian Trail, both which span a number of states. The North Country

Trail passes through Lowell where the trail headquarters is located.

Internet sites, of course, are sources of information for popular trails. Books identify trail locations as well as descriptions and sometimes advice. Chamber of commerce offices are helpful for learning about unique opportunities in a given area. Then there is always the satisfy your curiosity and follow your nose strategy. It's fun to be surprised.

Whether taking a casual walk or hiking a major trail system, the activity brings one closer to people and nature which has become more difficult in our evolving lifestyle. Walk to stay fit and enrich your life experiences at the same time.

# EARTH TALK



## Questions & Answers About Our Environment

**Dear EarthTalk: Why is underwater noise pollution such a big deal and what are we doing to prevent it? - Phil Ziegler, New York, NY**

For us land-dwellers, underwater noise rarely reaches our ears. However, marine organisms can be very sensitive to undersea sounds, particularly unnatural noise. Human activity—from explosives to underwater construction to ship traffic to oceanographic research—creates intense noise that threatens the health of ocean wildlife. Direct effects include hearing loss, habitat displacement, and even brain hemorrhages. The noise impedes the senses that enable many marine species to coordinate their movements and find food, and can also interfere with breeding cycles and migration patterns. This cacophony of underwater noise pollution puts additional stresses on marine ecosystems already on the ropes due to overfishing, pollution and myriad other human threats.

Of particular concern lately to environmentalists is underwater noise pollution from seismic testing, where resource extraction industries use air guns to map the seafloor to look for potential oil and gas reservoirs. "From the water's surface, the gun generates a blast of sound that penetrates the ocean floor then bounces back up to a receiver, relaying data about the layers of sediment, rocks, and potential fuel deposits below," reports the Pew Charitable Trusts. "There is concern that the intensity of seismic sounds and their large spatial coverage may lead to injury, disturbance or displacement of marine animals or a masking of their communication."

While the United Nations (UN) Convention on the Law of the Sea forbids pollution that can damage marine wildlife, a lack of enforcement abilities means corporations and the military can continue to carry out many noisy undersea operations. The non-profit Ocean Mammal Institute would like the UN to endorse a "precautionary approach" limiting all sources of intense underwater anthropogenic sound and requiring individual nations to follow suit accordingly.

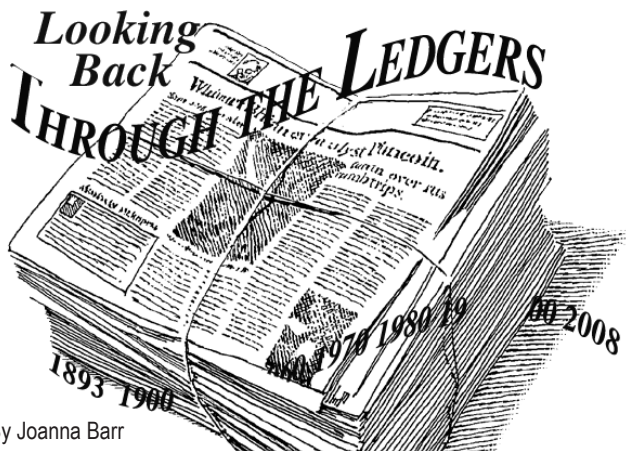
"The precautionary principle should be applied publicly and transparently to noise generated for military, commercial and scientific purposes," reports OMI. "In many cases, there are alternatives and realistic mitigation scenarios for reducing and eliminating very loud human-generated noise from the marine environment, including employing improved passive sonar devices, using reduced noise energy, mechanical and operational designs that minimize noise, alternative energy sources, etc."

Given the Convention on the Law of the Sea's lack of "teeth" on monitoring and enforcement on the issue, the United States has started taking matters into its own hands to address underwater noise pollution in its own territorial waters and beyond. The Obama administration recently called for more scientific research to fully understand the ecological impact of underwater noise, and directed the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to step up efforts to track and monitor volume levels below the surface. NOAA is also working on tools that the public, corporations and military can use to assess and help mitigate noise-making activities, and has initiated a campaign to raise public awareness on the issue.

While ocean wildlife activists say much more needs to be done to start solving this insidious problem, at least the U.S. is taking steps in the right direction even if the rest of the world continues to ignore the noisy threats lurking below the depths.

CONTACTS: Ocean Mammal Institute, [www.oceanmammalinst.org](http://www.oceanmammalinst.org); Pew Charitable Trusts, [www.pewtrusts.org](http://www.pewtrusts.org)

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By Joanna Barr

### 125 years ago Lowell Journal July 1, 1891

Last Saturday night Ora Hayden, Claude Giles and Dennis Hambery made a most brutal attack on one of the members of the troupe of Glass Blowers who exhibited here last week. The scrap was at the depot, where the glass blower had gone to see a friend off on the train, and being isolated they hammered him to their hearts content, meeting with no interference but what the bus driver, Patsy Malone made, which could not be much as he had to watch his team, and they were part of the time so far from the bus that he dared not go to them. The assaulted man left with his party, for Greenville, Sunday, so no complaint has been made to the officers. The offence was outside the corporation so the village officers have no control over the matter and there seems to be no one who cares to take it up.

### 100 years ago The Lowell Ledger June 29, 1916

Corset Company is organized - \$5,000 of \$8,000 stock paid in, balance ready. Articles of Incorporation and By Laws approved and officers elected. The Crosby Corset Company of Lowell was duly organized on last Tuesday evening with the following officary: President—W. O. Wright. Vice President—P. C. Peckham. Treasurer—R. VanDyke. Secretary—R. E.

Springett. Directors—John O. Clark, L. J. Post, John O. Arehart. Mr. Wright will also be general manager. The committee on organization reported articles of incorporation with \$8,000 stock, of which \$5,000 is paid in and \$3,000 payable on demand.

Carl and Theo Bank, sons of Rev. and Mrs. Henry Bank, enlisted last Friday in the National Guards and are now in camp with Co. K, 32 Infantry at Grayling. They write there are about 6,000 men there and they are having a good time, if other Lowell boys join the army, Carl and Theo hope they will Join Co. K. The Ledger will follow the boys in their army life with best wishes for their welfare and has invited them to address their Lowell friends through its columns.

Looking Back, continued, Page 14

## 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](mailto:ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com) ("to the Editor" in subject line) or dropped off or mailed to: The Lowell Ledger, 105 N. Broadway, Lowell, MI 49331.



# St. Pat's annual festival celebrates with three days of fun

by Kathryn Atwood  
contributing reporter

Three days of fun and celebration took place at the annual St. Patrick's Festival from June 24-26 both inside and outside the parish located at 4351 Parnell.

Festivities started Friday evening with a euchre tournament, a 5K run and live music from The Weatherheads Band, a husband and wife duo whose toe tapping performance inspired some to dance and all to enjoy the evening.

Day two began with a Mass held inside the church and was followed by a Helicopter Ball Drop event. The aerial fundraiser featured Father Mark Peacock soaring overhead in a helicopter. Participants purchased golf balls prior to the event which were dropped by the priest onto a land target from the aircraft. The winner of the \$5,000 raffle was based on whose golf ball landed closest to the assigned target. The proceeds went to St. Patrick

School's tuition assistance program.

Jason Lamoreaux then led the auction featuring everything from locally donated goods and services to front row seats at the church's Christmas Mass. This year the auction broke all previous financial records raising \$130,630.

Saturday evening welcomed food and beer under the tent with classic rock sounds from the popular band Alive & Well.

Family was the focus of the closing day activities on Sunday with a slew of children's activities including a small petting zoo and carnival style games. Families were also able to enjoy a walk through the car, truck and tractor show and join in a game of bingo. The festival's chicken dinner, always a highlight, was cooked onsite by High's Rotary Grill out of Waterloo and served in the church's dining hall by volunteers.

The festival welcomed back the Diddle Styx to the beer tent for the final musical performance. Polkas, Obereks and Waltzes highlighted the traditional Polish set which preceded the presentation of the cash raffle winners who went home with a combined \$19,000 in prize money.

A new feature during the Sunday activities was a quilt show inspired by new parishioner Denice Barker.

"This church is just so beautiful!" said Barker, "So when I saw that other churches had done it I thought it would really work in here." Each pew inside the church was covered with

colorful and unique quilts fashioned by the church members and others were displayed in a museum style befitting of the grand location.

Barker said she found St. Patrick's about a year ago and immediately felt at home inside the large church. "I love this place. I

knew so many people who had also moved here from previous parishes. It was like we weren't even strangers. I felt like I was home right away. Everybody here just loves Father Mark. It has been fun."

## Michigan motorists urged to 'get home safe'

### ~ Drunk driving enforcement a summer-long focus

With Comerica Park as the backdrop, traffic safety and law enforcement officials reminded drivers that you won't need to hit a home run to be an all-star, all you need is a designated driver.

It's a message they hope will resonate with motorists as the Fourth of July holiday approaches. Traffic deaths, especially alcohol-involved

traffic deaths, increase during the summer months. That's why all summer long, law enforcement officers from police departments, sheriff's offices and the Michigan State Police will step up drunk driving enforcement across the state as part of the Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over campaign.

"A designated hitter might bring you home, but a sober designated driver can get you home safely after drinking," said Michael L. Prince, director of the Michigan Office of Highway Safety Planning. "Law enforcement officers across the state will be on the lookout for drunk drivers this summer to help ensure everyone has the opportunity to enjoy the festivities safely."

In 2015, Michigan alcohol-involved traffic deaths were up 28 percent from 2014, from 107 to 138. Drug involved fatal crashes were up 19 percent, from 150 to 179 in 2015.

Officers, deputies and troopers who work the federally funded drunk driving patrols are all specially trained in Standard Field Sobriety Testing

(SFST). SFST-trained officers complete 24 hours of lecture and hands-on instruction in comprehensive impaired driver detection.

During last year's Fourth of July holiday, 292 motorists were arrested for drunk driving. There were 12 traffic deaths over that holiday period; more than 60 percent of those deaths involved alcohol.

In Michigan, it is illegal to drive with a blood alcohol content (BAC) of .08 or higher. Under the state's high BAC law, motorists face enhanced penalties if a first-time arrest is for a .17 BAC or higher.

This project is part of Michigan's Strategic Highway Safety Plan signed by Gov. Rick Snyder in 2013.

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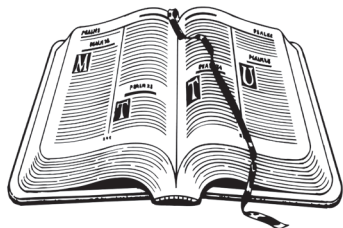
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## happy birthday

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>JUNE 29</b><br>Stephanie Yonker,<br>Jackson Simmons, Trevor Wernet.                              | <b>JULY 3</b><br>Alice Ryder, Jamie Capen, Maxin Ligman, Janet Bieri.  |
| <b>JUNE 30</b><br>Sheila Yeiter, Kayleigh Page, Miranda Jo Zalewski, Noah Garrett, Louise Kamphuis. | <b>JULY 4</b><br>Barb Austin, Zachary Rhodes, Tara Sherman, Dan DeHaan.  |
| <b>JULY 1</b><br>Brandon Hewitt, Dylan Borton, Amy Markel.  | <b>JULY 5</b><br>Dave Burdette, Jacob Hiskey, Randi Ellis, Brennan Page, Devinne Ossewaarde, Bob Canfield, Dee Doyle, Junie Hoag, Kylei Mae Nearing. |

## area church



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# Lowell's new fire chief has been on the job for some time

by Tim McAllister  
contributing reporter

When Frank Martin retired this month after 45 years as fire chief of Lowell, his successor was never in doubt. Ron van Overbeek has been acting fire chief since last December, when Martin was taken ill. Van Overbeek has been with the Lowell fire department for 27 years. He also works as a safety coordinator for Lowell Light and Power. He has lived in Lowell most of his life and was a 1980 graduate of Lowell High School.

"I've lived here since 1970," van Overbeek said. "I was born in Grand Rapids. I was eight years old when we moved to Lowell. Mom and dad had a house built up in Eastgate. They actually came over from the Netherlands in 1956. In 1970 they decided they didn't want to be in Grand Rapids anymore so they came out here. They were just starting the development up in Eastgate so my dad had a house built up there and he's still there. He's 92 years old and still living there by himself."

As fire chief, van Overbeek said that safety is his first priority. He also plans to continue to go on emergency calls in the truck.

"Most important is making sure that everybody goes home," van Overbeek said. "To keep the guys and girls that we have in our department safe, try to make the right call on snap decisions and pray to God you make the right one. One simple little mistake could totally ruin somebody's day,

whether [it's] somebody on the team here or somebody out in the community. I handle the day-to-day operations, work out the budget and finance and deal with the fire authority board members. I'm kind of the liaison between them and the department. I've got a pretty good command staff that handles the on scene operations for the most part now. Obviously I'm not going to give that up completely because that's still fun. I still run medical

we all know our role. Everybody does a really, really good job. Eventually we'll make some changes in the command staff as we move people up through the ranks, but we're in no hurry. Baby steps. I don't want to overwhelm myself or anybody else."

One thing van Overbeek has planned is to bring back the Explorer Program for local Boy Scouts.

"As long as the participants are 14 years old and in the eighth grade,

Explorer Program, did the paid on call gig with us for a while and now they've gone onto other departments as full time firefighters or paid on call firefighters for other departments. One of the guys that went through here, he is an Eagle Scout and he is a full time lieutenant for the city of Indianapolis. He started out here as an Explorer. We've got another guy that's over in Coldwater as a full time firefighter. It's a good thing. It takes a lot of time and a lot of effort on everybody's part, but we had a meeting last night and we're going to get it up and going again. We're pretty excited about it."

Van Overbeek has some big shoes to fill. His predecessor spent 45 years in the position.

"Frank was the only chief that I ever worked for," van Overbeek said. "He kind of took me under his wing a long time ago. Like any family members, you have your differences, but he was always the voice of reason. Excellent leader. Everyone here has a lot of respect for him. He did a phenomenal job for 45 years. I'm sure if he was capable of it he would still be here, that's how much he loved what he did. It was hard to see him walk away for those of us that have been here with him. You're never going to replace someone like that, you can just do your best."



New fire chief Ron van Overbeek.

**"...We've got a really good team. Without them you're nothing. You've got to have confidence in the people that you work with..."**

~ Ron van Overbeek

calls, I still run fire calls, I still do everything that they do on the bigger fires. While they're on the inside I'm on the outside making sure that they are safe. We've got a really good team. Without them you're nothing. You've got to have confidence in the people that you work with. I would put our team here up against any team out there. These guys and girls here are top-notch. They're extremely gifted."

Don't expect the new chief to make any big changes in the fire department right away.

"If it's not broke, don't fix it," van Overbeek said. "The command staff here that I work with and the members of this department,

they can come here, through the Boy Scouts and they get to do the training with us," van Overbeek said. "We come back from the calls and they get to help us put the trucks back together and get things straightened around. The training for them is usually the best part because they can actually earn some merit badges and stuff for what they do with us here. In the long run what that allows us to do is that gives us a better pool to pick from for members to put on the department. We've got a few people on our department right now that started out in the Explorer Program. We've got guys that went through the

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PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT ANY QUALIFIED ELECTOR OF BOWNE TOWNSHIP, LOWELL TOWNSHIP, VERGENNES TOWNSHIP AND THE CITY OF LOWELL, WHO IS NOT ALREADY REGISTERED, MAY REGISTER TO VOTE AT THE CITY OR TOWNSHIP OFFICES, AT ANY SECRETARY OF STATE BRANCH OFFICE, OR OTHER DESIGNATED PLACES FOR THE PRIMARY ELECTION TO BE HELD ON TUESDAY, AUGUST 2, 2016.

**THE LAST DAY FOR RECEIVING REGISTRATIONS  
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### QUALIFICATIONS TO REGISTER TO VOTE:

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Sue Ulery  
Lowell City Clerk  
(616) 897-8457  
8am to 5pm

Mari Stone  
Vergennes Township Clerk  
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Linda S. Regan  
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# Lots of music and fun at the 21<sup>st</sup> annual JuneGrass festival held at Lowell fairgrounds

by Tim McAllister  
contributing reporter

The West Michigan Bluegrass Music Association held their 21st JuneGrass festival at the Kent County Fairgrounds on Friday, June 24 and Saturday, June 25. The festival included camping, jamming, a bake sale, instrument workshops, an open mic, a potluck supper, a 50/50 drawing and children's activities with Fiddlin' Dixie Jo from the Upper Peninsula.

"It's been going really well, everything has been going smoothly," said Lee Strassberger, president of the WMBMA. "The bands have been top-flight and our turnout has been pretty good. The kids made instruments out of cardboard boxes and rubber bands and they had a good time. She wants to come back next year."

The talent lineup for JuneGrass included plenty of national and local bluegrass bands, including a reunited NewTown, Easy Idle, Deadwood, Calabogie Road, the Williams Family Band, New County Grass, and Out of the Blue. This year's headliner was Flatt Lonesome, one of the top national bluegrass bands and who recently made headlines for their bluegrass cover of the "Game of Thrones" theme song.

"Everybody has been

ecstatic about the quality of the bands that have been playing," Strassberger said.

"Lowell audiences are always great folks to play

for," said NewTown's Junior Williams. "Always great crowds here. When they hear something they like, they let you know about it.

That's always great for us. We feel their appreciation for what we're performing."

The WMBMA has

spent the last year selling raffle tickets to win a full-sized acoustic guitar, case and stand. The drawing

was Saturday night and Strassberger presented the guitar on Tuesday afternoon to Tom Lowe.



The campground at the fairgrounds was packed with musicians most of the week.



The crowd enjoying a performance by New County Grass on Saturday afternoon.



Junior Williams and Mitchell Cannon of NewTown. The band had copies of their brand new album "Harlan Road" for sale at the festival.

# John Ball Zoo educates while visiting local libraries

by Kathryn Atwood  
contributing reporter

Zoo education instructor Tara Lafferty, from the John Ball Zoo, visited both local branches of the Kent District Library last week Thursday with a variety of critters in tow.

A rooster, a chinchilla, a snake and a scorpion were the stars of the show each handled by Lafferty as she described details of each animal, their required habitat and care, their methods of play as well as the tricks and tools used to train and treat the animals. The interactive hour-long program at the Englehardt and Alto libraries thrilled the audience as they learned about the animals close up. The children were also given the opportunity to touch a snake at the close of the presentation.

Instructor Lafferty has been working in the Zoology field for more than 20 years traveling across the nation and here in Michigan spreading her own love of animals and nature to those who might not have the opportunity to visit the zoo regularly. "Even though we live in an area with wildlife surrounding us, you would be surprised

about how many children never get to see it firsthand. We take for granted all that Michigan has to offer. That is what's wonderful about my job. I get to visit West Michigan, bring the animals out to programs and educate my audience about their backyard, foreign wildlife and the importance of making sure it will be around for years to come," said Lafferty adding, "And yes, at the end of the program, even the most terrified will end up touching the snake. All will leave with a lasting positive memory and experience they may otherwise never experience."

KDL has a full lineup of other fun, engaging and educational summer programs planned at the Alto Library located at 6071 Linfield and the Englehardt Library located at 200 N. Monroe through August. The schedule includes magic shows, family story times, the Ruff Readers program, life size Candy Land, the Going For Gold mock Olympics and more. For a full schedule and further details visit their website [www.kdl.org](http://www.kdl.org)



A large audience gathered at Alto Library on Thursday afternoon for an interactive traveling zoo hosted by zoo education instructor Tara Lafferty from the John Ball Zoo.

## Bark for Life event scheduled for October 1

by Kathryn Atwood  
contributing reporter

With the official Relay For Life event successfully placed in the books, members of the event leadership team are already at work on the next cancer fighting fundraiser, this time with a canine twist.

The third annual Bark For Life is scheduled for Oct. 1 at the Kent County Fairgrounds from 1-4 pm. The gathering celebrates the unique connection between those facing cancer and man's best friend.

According to Holly Milks, who heads up the doggy focused fundraiser, "This event is to celebrate our canine caregivers. Dogs are part of the family. When someone is fighting cancer, it's wonderful to have someone at home for support. For some people, that's their dog."

After experiencing exponential growth last year, Milks said they will double down on the

entertainment schedule. They'll be bringing back the Michigan vs. Michigan State Bark Bowl, musical sats competition and the wiener dog races.

Other features will include several contests with prizes, such as pet and owner look alike, best trick and best superhero costume, as well as snacks and beverages for both participant and pet.

Milks added that further details would be added as the date draws closer and that both volunteers and sponsors are being sought at this time. Those interested in participating on any level are encouraged to contact Kelli Ellis with ACS at [kelli.ellis@cancer.org](mailto:kelli.ellis@cancer.org) or Milks at [xray-lady@att.net](mailto:xray-lady@att.net). Registration is just \$10 per dog and can also be done onsite. Goody bags will be available to registrants while supplies last.



Wiener dogs came from across West Michigan for the returning Wiener Dog Races, scheduled this year for October 1 at the Kent County Fairgrounds.



### lend a hand

volunteering opportunities

The Literacy Center of West Michigan has scheduled information sessions for Friday, July 1 at 10 am; Thursday, July 7 at 2 pm; Monday, July 11 at 6 pm; and Wednesday, July 20 at 10 am for prospective volunteer tutors. These

sessions last one hour. It allows persons interested in becoming volunteer tutors to find out more about the center and its literacy programs. At the end of each session, there will be an opportunity to sign up for tutor training.

The Literacy Center of W. Michigan is a nonprofit, United Way agency devoted to reducing illiteracy in the community. Based on the 2003 National Assessment for Adult Literacy and the 1992 National Adult Literacy Survey, up to 14.6 percent of adults in Kent County lack basic prose literacy skills and have difficulty using certain reading and

writing skills considered necessary in everyday life. By training people to be tutors, the center can offer one-on-one reading help to adults asking for assistance in reading or English as a Second Language (ESL). You do not need to speak another language to tutor ESL.

The information sessions will be held at the Literacy Center of West Michigan, located at 1120 Monroe Ave., NW, Suite 240, Grand Rapids, MI. Please call 459-5151 (ext. 10) or email [info@literacycenterwm.org](mailto:info@literacycenterwm.org) to register.

# Lowell Relay For Life 2016 raises over \$46,000

by Kathryn Atwood  
contributing reporter

Caped crusaders invaded the downtown Lowell Riverwalk last Saturday for the debut of the eleventh annual Relay For Life at its new venue and raised more than \$46,000 to defeat cancer.

The 12-hour fundraiser began with the singing of the National Anthem by Lowell High School senior Salem Grody. She was introduced by Nick LaFave from WZZM who shared his personal story with the cause and announced the first lap of the event which trailed down the Riverwalk and around the block.

Survivor activities kicked off next featuring guest speaker Anna Organek, a 2015 graduate and two time survivor of nonhodgkins-lymphoma of the t-cell. Struck with the rare disease at the age of seven, Organek said she discovered the power of a community coming together in the fight against cancer during her second bout with the potentially deadly disease. "My entire family met me at the hospital and that is when my doctor showed my parents the scans and told me the cancer was back to its original size. I sat on my doctor's lap and asked if I was going to die. He told me that he was going to do everything he could not to let that happen. He decided on a bone marrow transplant because the chemo wasn't working and that is when the community of Lowell hugely stepped in with fundraisers. As I look back, this is the first realization I had that communities can significantly impact the lives of individuals and families struggling with cancer."

Organek, now cancer free, said that getting behind causes like RFL is important to her and to those battling the disease.



Lowell graduate, guest speaker and two time cancer survivor Anna Organek shares her story during the Survivor ceremony.

The ceremony concluded with a special survivor and caregiver lap where each was given a medal for their courageous victory over cancer. Those same participants then enjoyed a lunch provided by longtime event supporter Backwater Cafe & Catering.

A day of activities and entertainment followed, including the uproarious Lip Dub Battle and Air Guitar Contest, a Superhero Training Course, a silent auction, bingo and live bands on the Showboat stage. Event sponsor Luc James Music Studio provided three bands as well as sound and DJ services for the event.

As evening fell seven brave men put on their best dresses and strutted their stuff up and down the Riverwalk in competition for the title of Ms. Relay 2016. The comical "beauty pageant" raised \$684 and crowned Lowell Area Fire Family contestant "Blaze" this year's pageant queen. Other highlights included the Road to Recovery Boxcar Race, musical chairs, fun laps including the Bark For Life and Pink Arrow Power Laps, as well as kid friendly bubble and glow laps.

As evening turned to night, candles inside decorated luminaria bags were lit in honor of all those lost to, battling and triumphant over cancer. Dressed in full gear, members of the Lowell Area Fire Family team led the silent Luminaria Ceremony. The emotional ceremony ended the day's events inducing tears and raw emotion that were a strong reminder of why the participants were gathered.

Kelli Ellis, who works with RFL's parent organization the American



Cancer survivors and their caregivers head down the Riverwalk during the Survivor Lap cheered on by their family, friends, Relay family and supporters.



The RFL event leadership team includes Haley and Holly Milks, Abigail Nies, Shelby and Kevin Sakowski, Courtney Willard, Carol McGregor, ACS staff partner Kelli Ellis, Lori Ingraham, Jackie Tousley and Kathryn Atwood.

Cancer Society, assists local volunteers in coordinating the annual event. She herself lost both parents to cancer and does her job with the same vigor as the fundraising participants. Ellis said she was extremely pleased with the day's outcome. "The committee worked so hard to plan our "superhero relay" and it was a huge success! The move to the Riverwalk really helped create a lot of buzz and energy around the event. It is a beautiful location and I would love to see more of the community come out to support in 2017. We are always looking for passionate volunteers to join our Relay family in the fight against cancer. I can't wait for next year!"

One of the event's top individual fundraisers was Lowell resident Ben Cossar from team Fafobam. Cossar said he unfortunately has many reasons to be involved with finding a cure.

Cossar added, "I participate in the event each year because so many of my friends and family have been affected by cancer over the years. My grandmother and father both died from cancer. My aunt, grandmother, mother-in-law and many friends are all cancer survivors. And my mother was just diagnosed with breast cancer in April 2015. For me it is personal, but it's also great fun. Relay For Life is a way to raise money for cancer research and support, but it is also a positive way to celebrate loved ones who are beating cancer and remember those that lost the fight."

Cossar's mother Diahn also participated in the RFL having just completed her chemotherapy treatments. She said she was diagnosed after a routine mammogram.

Emotionally shaken by the diagnosis, Cossar struggled at first but found light and support in her family and the services of ACS.

The event's top fundraising team was Magna Lowell Division. In only their second year on the track the crew of cancer fighters raised an astounding \$8,078.77 through their sponsorships and fundraising efforts. Team captain and event leadership team member Melissa Schnicke-Lopez led the charge raising more than \$2,000 individually and organizing much of the team's efforts.

Other top fundraising teams included second-place finishers team Kilgore/Jones who raised \$6,987, team Fafobam who came in at \$3,044, First

Congregational Church who tallied \$2,850 and Rose Bud Photography who totaled \$2,445.

Sponsors for this year's event included A1 Laser, Meijer, Advanced Radiology Services, The Lowell Ledger, J&H Family Stores, Effex Management, Bimbo Bakeries, Tap House Bo, River Valley Credit Union, Canfield Heating & Plumbing, King Milling, Magna Mirrors, QAS, Grand River Veterinary Services, Walgreens, Gravel Bottom Brewery & Supply, Certified Emergency Medical Specialists, Luc James Music Studio, PorkFat Slim's Backyard BBQ, Rose Bud Photography, Backwater Cafe, Keiser's Kitchen, Ball's Softee Creme and State Farm agent Deborah Wilks.





# Looking Back, continued

A number of our men and boys of this vicinity are members of the Clarksville band, which gives concerts on the streets every Saturday night.

Glenn Stahl, who has been under the doctors care for the past two weeks, was taken worse Monday. The doctor again being called, pronouncing it a severe case of quinsy, from which Glen was no better until Sunday, when the gathering broke, which gave him relief.

Dorothy Smith was knocked down and run over by a cyclist in the streets of Lowell Sunday, but with no serious results.

Married, at the Catholic church, Wednesday morning, Farrel Anderson and Vivian Gless, returning to the home of the bride's parents, Mr. and Mrs Jacob Gless, where a three course breakfast awaited them. They left on the evening train for Chicago for a few days, returning Tuesday.

## 75 years ago The Lowell Ledger July 3, 1941

Swimming classes for local children. Local children will again have the opportunity of enjoying supervised swimming at Bostwick Lake throughout the summer on Tuesday and Friday afternoons. James Topp, WPA recreation leader and Ray Avery, high school athletic director, will be in charge of the group. The bus will leave the school at 1:30 and in order to obtain admittance, each child must furnish a written permit from the parents and 5c. The small fee is charged to take care of incidental expenses, including the bath house, life guard services and transportation. There will be no swimming trip this week Friday because of the Fourth of July holiday. The project is being sponsored by the Lowell Board of Trade and the Board of Education.

A commodious room is being fitted up in the basement of the Roth furniture store which will be devoted to the display of linoleum and other floor coverings, summer furniture and other goods.

The work of remodeling Christiansen's new double store is proceeding at a good pace. It will have a handsome white tile and brick front. The store will be air conditioned with cold water drawn from below the bed of Flat river.

Gerald E. Rollins of Lowell, who has been on maneuvers in the South with men from Fort Custer, writes the Ledger as follows: "We are starting back to Fort Custer sometime the latter part of this week. I am one of Uncle Sam's regular truck drivers now and we

are just finishing some plenty tough 'make believe' war. Uncle Sam's tanks really are 'Hell on Wheels!' We are all looking forward to returning to good old Michigan."

Kiel's Greenhouse is installing an automatic electric pump for its own water supply.

Bad for the men. The American Medical association was recently told at Cleveland that ambition and the strenuous life are creating hazards for business people. They are said to work and worry too constantly, and the advice was given them to lie in bed one morning each week. The minister may say that too many of them do that Sunday morning. If they stayed at home more evenings a week, and read the newspapers, instead of stepping out, the same results would be attained. Countless women are wearing themselves out in the round of home work and social events. The wage earner trying to support a family on a small income also has his worries. But as a whole it can not be said that the American people in these short working weeks are overworking. More of them are overplaying.

## 50 years ago Lowell Ledger June 30, 1966

Showboat seating nearly ready. Erection of the Showboat Stadium seating, under the direction of Mark Burdick, with the able assistance of the Lowell Moose Civic Affairs Committee, is nearly complete. The heavy work of erecting the steel risers with reconstructed supports, was completed last week. Still remaining to be finished is the proper sequence of seat boards and fastening them down. Burdick, former contractor and builder, volunteered to take over supervision of construction. Work on the boat will be started after the July 4th weekend.

John Gabrion offered principalship of Jr. High. The Lowell Area School Board at their last meeting approved the hiring of a new principal for the Junior High School. John Gabrion, who has been offered the post, is a 1952 graduate of Central Michigan College and received his Master's Degree from Western University in 1959. He taught at Milford for three years, and has been at Grand Rapids' Lee School for the last ten years. All of his teaching experience has been in the area of junior high school. Mr. Gabrion is married, and he, his wife and three daughters live in Grandville, Michigan.

Lowell's Police Department will be seeking a replacement for Preston Howe, who has resigned from the force, effective July 1. He is planning to join the Portland Police Department.

Lowell Light & Power office was apparently entered on Monday night and an attempt was made to get into the cash register and other office equipment. The entry attempt was discovered on Tuesday morning. No loss was discovered.

Ruth Kamerling of Grand River Drive, reported her Rambler stolen from her home to police on Sunday. The car was discovered by James Sullivan, Lafayette Street, abandoned in Timpson' Orchard on Monday.

## 25 years ago The Lowell Ledger July 3, 1991

No Fireworks this Year! There will be no fireworks in Lowell this year, due to lack of interest, funds available and cost of liability insurance. The Chamber of Commerce regrets the action, but funds are not available for 1991. The Jaycees will have a parade at 10:00 a.m.

Stuckey's combine "Radio Shack" with "Music Master." Together they should make a perfect combination. One sells tapes and CD's and the other sells stereos, radios and VCRs. "I believe it's a good combination and both should benefit from the other," said John Stuckey, the new owner of Lowell's Radio Shack franchise. Stuckey, who closed on the deal on Friday, has purchased the Radio Shack franchise from Jim Hodges, who has run Lowelectronics at the Ridgeview Plaza for the past three years. "You're always scared and nervous on this type of venture," Stuckey said. "It's hard not to when you owe the bank a substantial amount of money." The Stuckey's Amoco and Music Master owner has his own ideas on how to make the venture a successful one.

Vezeno denied waiver, but given extension. Joe and Helen Vezeno, of Riverside, were looking for a waiver of the City's sidewalk requirement for their new home. The Vezenos were denied a waiver but were given an extension (May 1) as to what date the sidewalk must be put in. The Lowell City Council passed an ordinance approximately two years ago which requires that new dwellings install a sidewalk along the frontage of the property. Vezeno requested a waiver of this requirement because he claims the sidewalk would interfere with the trees in the right-of-way and that there are no sidewalks nearby. "There are neighbors to the side of us who do not have a sidewalk," Vezeno said. Pasquale said the home was built before the ordinance was put into place. "This will be a requirement for existing homes someday. For that to happen the Council would have to approve a special assessment district," Pasquale said. The Lowell City Manager was not sure of the timetable for the special assessment. The City's main concerns in adopting the new dwelling sidewalk ordinance and in looking into a special assessment are for school routes for children walking to and from school and as a route for the elderly to get to stores in the downtown area. Department of Public Works Director Tony Siciliano has proposed two routes for the sidewalk along the frontage of the Vezeno property.

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# PHILIPS

# ZOOM!



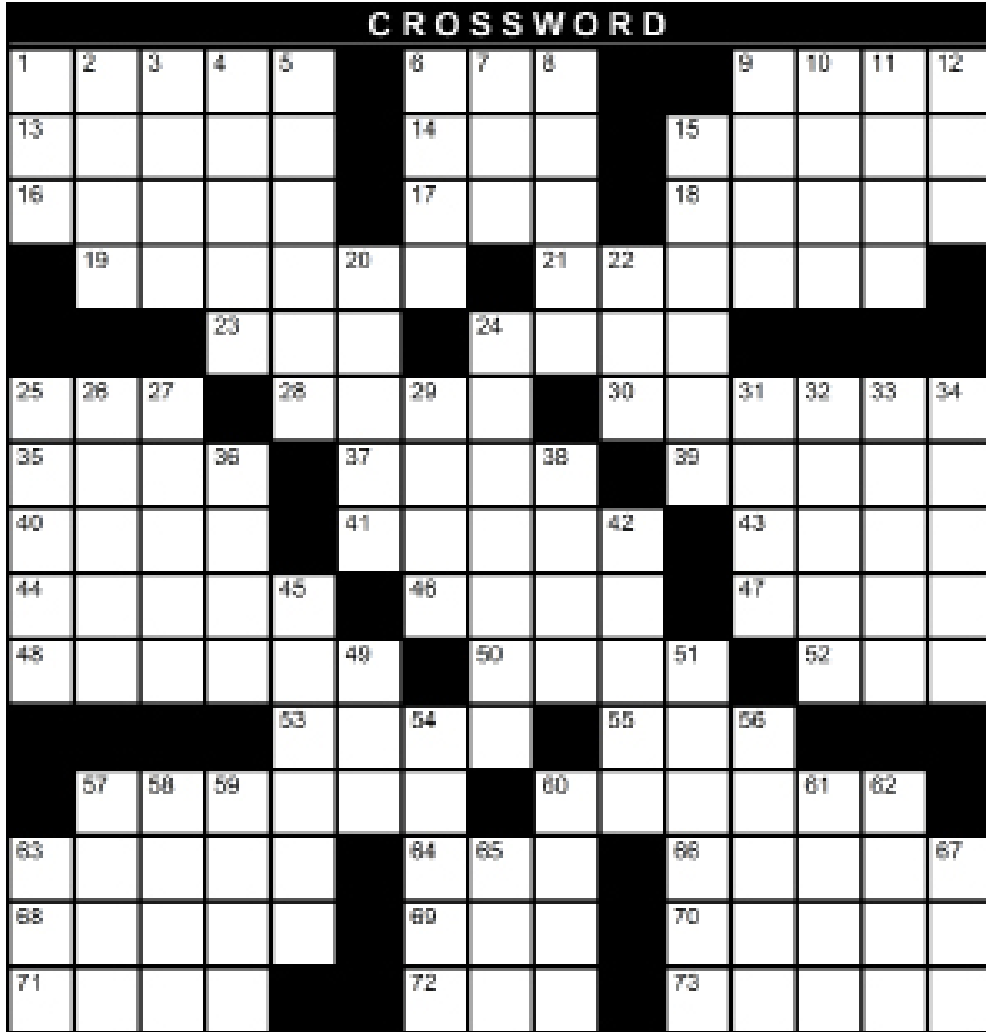
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CROSSWORD**

**THEME: 1930s**

**ACROSS**

- 1. Designer \_\_\_\_ Mizrahi
- 6. Urge Spot to attack
- 9. Nanjing nanny
- 13. \*"The Divorcee"  
Oscar winner Shearer
- 14. "Much \_\_\_\_ About Nothing"
- 15. Grease and \_\_\_\_
- 16. Weak-\_\_\_\_, or scared
- 17. Read-only memory
- 18. Downy duck
- 19. \*Salt March leader
- 21. \*1936 Olympics location
- 23. Bond movie "Live and Let \_\_\_\_"
- 24. Musical finale
- 25. Like sashimi
- 28. Cocoyam
- 30. Trying experience
- 35. Dutch cheese
- 37. Burst of wind
- 39. \*"King of the \_\_\_\_ Blues," Robert Johnson
- 40. In neutral
- 41. Piece of writing
- 43. Very dark black
- 44. Check-out person
- 46. Chalupa alternative
- 47. Follows ding
- 48. From \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_, or from this point
- 50. Pal
- 52. Lilliputian
- 53. Candle top
- 55. Roman road
- 57. \*Mr. Porsche's creation
- 60. \*"\_\_\_\_ is the Night" by Fitzgerald
- 63. Boatload



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- 64. Put down
- 66. Dostoyevsky's novel, with "The \_\_\_\_"
- 68. Cupid's ammo
- 69. Swimmer's distance
- 70. Bundle of axons
- 71. "M\*A\*S\*H" \_\_\_\_ hall
- 72. Exclamation of surprise
- 73. \*Johnny \_\_\_\_ and His Orchestra
- DOWN**
- 1. Pen juice
- 2. \*"Over the Rainbow" or "Stormy Weather"
- 3. Square footage
- 4. To change, as in U.S. Constitution
- 5. Tiger's attendant
- 6. Delhi draping dress
- 7. Bachelor's last words
- 8. Hamburger and fries
- 9. Pomegranate seed
- 10. Calf-length skirt
- 11. End of grace
- 12. H in British HMS
- 15. Actor Depardieu
- 20. Trimable fence
- 22. a.k.a. Tokyo
- 24. Tsarist Russia's elite cavalryman
- 25. \*The Third one
- 26. Discombobulate
- 27. Australian horse
- 29. \* \_\_\_\_ Bowl
- 31. Proof of home ownership
- 32. Tennis-affected joint
- 33. Be sorry for one's wickedness
- 34. \*Great Depression photographer
- 36. Insignificant
- 38. RPM indicator
- 42. AOL's " \_\_\_\_ Got Mail"
- 45. Genuflect in submission
- 49. Zippo
- 51. Ore extracting
- 54. Yo-Yo's instrument
- 56. Venomous slitherer
- 57. Like Old Mother Hubbard's cupboard
- 58. Makes mistakes
- 59. They're large on prima donnas
- 60. Blundre, e.g.
- 61. \*De Valera's name for Ireland
- 62. Republican Karl
- 63. Tucker of "Modern Family"
- 65. Pleasurable interjection
- 67. One less than jack

*Puzzle solutions on page 12*



**JUNE 22 - JUNE 28**

- Britain has lost to the referendum referred to as "Brexit" as citizens vote for The United Kingdom to leave the European Union. There was substantial buyer's remorse however as the following day Brits flooded the Internet with questions about just what it all meant.
- Much beloved University of Tennessee's Lady Volunteers basketball coach Pat Summitt, passed away at the age of 64. She had been diagnosed with early onset Alzheimer's disease five years ago.

•••

**"This land is your land,  
this land is my land  
From California,  
to the New York Island  
From the redwood forest,  
to the gulf stream waters  
This land was made  
for you and me."**

~ Woody Guthrie

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

CLASSIFIEDS

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## THIS WEEK'S ONLINE POLL

Has road construction in the state of Michigan changed your travel plans or hampered your commute?

- Yes - It's a real pain
- No - Glad they're getting fixed.
- I like detours
- No opinion

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# INDEPENDENCE

## TIMELINE TO LIBERTY

- May 14, 1607:** Jamestown settlement founded by John Smith
- 1692:** Salem witch trials in Massachusetts
- October 25, 1760:** King George III takes the throne
- September 1, 1764:** Currency Act prohibits colonies from issuing paper money
- March 22, 1765:** Stamp Act puts onerous taxes on printed materials used in the colonies
- March 24, 1765:** Quartering Act requires colonists to provide food and housing to British troops
- March 18, 1766:** Stamp Act repealed, replaced by Declaratory Act, which says that Britain has "full power and authority to make laws and statutes... to bind the colonies and people of America... in all cases whatsoever"



## CIVILITY

Civility seems to be dying out in American politics. The most obvious example is how one of our two major political parties is preparing to make name-calling, reality show host their nominee for President of the United States. In Washington the constant

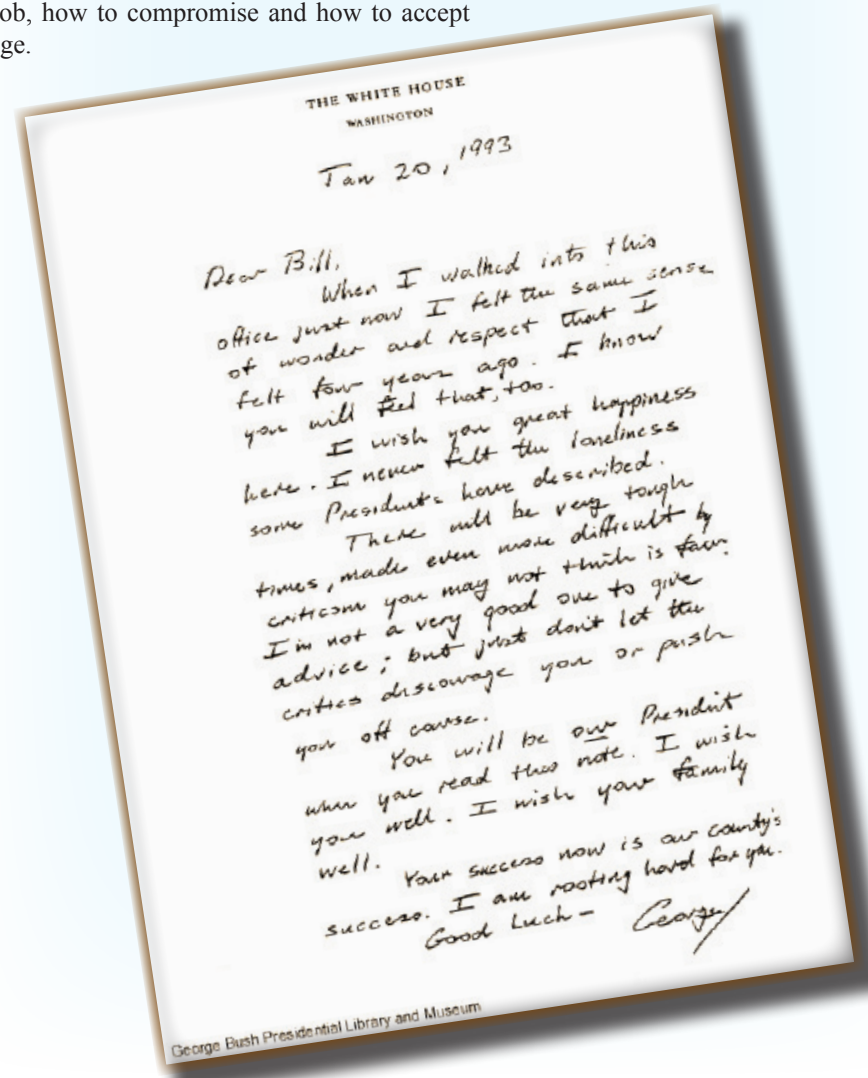
refusal to compromise on any issue has caused many issues to stagnate and halt forward motion on several others. Diplomacy still exists but many seem to feel that art of negotiation, manners and patience are signs of weakness. You don't have to look too far

back to see an example of bipartisan support that showed integrity and championed the country above self. Recently, Hillary Clinton made available to the public, a letter that Bill Clinton found on his desk on his first day in the Oval Office, it reads:

The White House  
Washington  
Jan 20, 1993

Dear Bill,  
When I walked into this office just now I felt the same sense of wonder and respect that I felt four years ago. I know you will feel that, too.  
I wish you great happiness here. I never felt the loneliness some presidents have described.  
There will be very tough times, made even more difficult by criticism you may not think is fair. I'm not a very good one to give advice; but just don't let the critics discourage you or push you off course.  
You will be our president when you read this note. I wish you well. I wish your family well.  
Your success is now our country's success. I am rooting hard for you.  
Good luck,  
George

An interesting and thought provoking lesson on how to handle the job, how to compromise and how to accept change.



- June 29, 1767:** Townshend Acts place more taxes on goods imported to America
- March 5, 1770:** The Boston Massacre
- May 10, 1773:** British Parliament passes the Tea Act
- December 16, 1773:** Boston Tea Party
- 1774:** Britain passes the Intolerable Acts as punishment for the Tea Party
- September 5, 1774:** First Continental Congress held in Philadelphia
- 1775:** Second Continental Congress
- April 19, 1775:** Battles of Lexington and Concord
- May 10, 1775:** Fort Ticonderoga captured
- June 17, 1775:** Battle of Bunker Hill
- January 10, 1776:** Thomas Paine publishes "Common Sense"
- July 2, 1776:** Second Continental Congress votes to approve a resolution of independence
- July 4, 1776:** Final wording of Declaration of Independence approved by congress
- July 8, 1776:** The first public readings of the Declaration of Independence take place in Philadelphia
- August 2, 1776:** Declaration of Independence signed by all 56 members of the congress
- July 4, 1777:** The first celebrations included gunshots, speeches, music, parades and fireworks
- July 4, 1788:** George Washington gives his troops a double ration of rum and an artillery salute
- 1781:** Massachusetts is the first state to make Independence Day an official state holiday
- July 4, 1826:** Death of John Adams and Thomas Jefferson
- January 1, 1863:** The Emancipation Proclamation abolishes slavery in America
- 1870:** Independence Day is declared an official federal holiday
- 1938:** Congress changes it from an unpaid holiday to a paid holiday for federal employees
- 1959:** The first International Freedom Festival celebrated by Detroit and Windsor, Canada
- 1976:** The country is gripped with Bicentennial fever
- 1979:** Seward, Neb. is named "America's Official 4th of July City-Small Town USA" by congress

