



### city council candidates Q&A



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## Lowell hosts a pajama party for Girls' Night Out

by Kathryn Atwood  
contributing reporter

It was fuzzy slipper fun last Thursday night in downtown Lowell. The Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce presented the fall edition of Girls Night Out with a pajama party theme.

The four-hour event ran from 5-9 pm and spanned the length of Lowell's Main Street from the historic eastern end to the bustling development of the west. Nearly 40 brick and mortar and home operated businesses were represented at the event each staying open late.

Shuttle service, provided by the Lowell YMCA and the Main Street Inn, made it easy for the

pajama clad shoppers to navigate the event which featured discounts, drawings and refreshments.

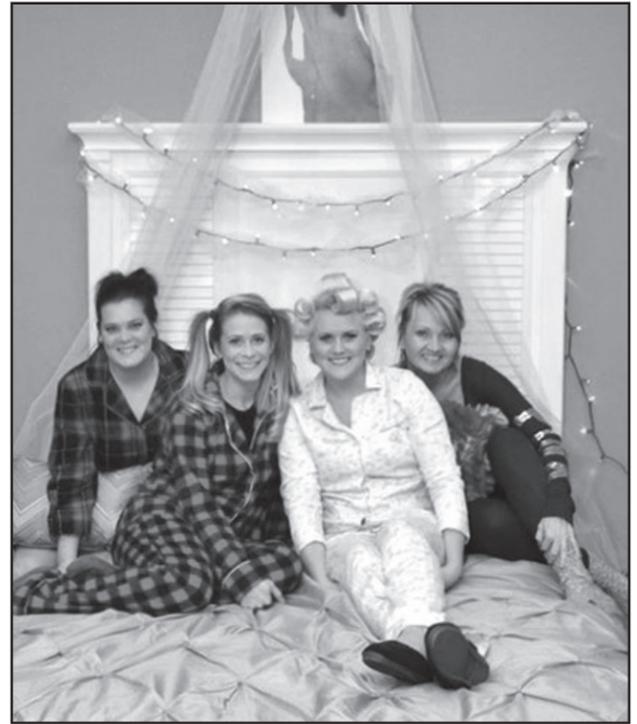
Highlights included karaoke and a photo booth provided by Advanced Eyecare Professionals, free mini massages at Jultara Salon with a donation to Flat River Outreach Ministries, discounted food and cocktails at Main Street BBQ, Flat River Grill, Larkin's and Fry Daddy's and discounted fashion forward collections at Lowell's trio of fashion boutiques: Tap House Bo, Euphoria and Lennon & Willow.

Developed to attract shoppers to local shops, the GNO event has become

a popular staple in the community. Along with drawing crowds of repeat attendees there were guests new to the event like Tracy Shepard.

"I have lived in Lowell for nine years and this is the first time I have made it out," explained Shepard, inside Journey's Time Antiques dressed in curlers, comfy pants and a sleeping mask. "I have actually been into a lot of shops I have never stepped foot in before. There is a lot of great stuff down here."

The next scheduled GNO event, a concept that has been duplicated often and successfully in other communities, is scheduled for the spring of 2017.



Employees of Jultara Salon got comfy for the GNO pajama party fun.

## School millage renewal on the ballot Nov. 8



by Tim McAllister  
lead reporter

Voters in the Lowell Area School District will have to decide whether or not to approve a school millage on the Tuesday, Nov. 8 ballot. The millage is a renewal of the tax already in place, which is primarily paid by commercial property owners.

"This tax is levied only on non-homestead property, which includes all taxable property other than principal residence, qualified agricultural property and certain other property classifications," said LAS superintendent Greg Pratt. "Most non-homestead property taxes are levied on industrial, commercial, business and rental properties and second homes. This tax does not affect the millage rate on owner occupied primary residences. Voters approved a similar renewal in May 2012. The millage is again expiring and requires voter approval."

Pratt said Lowell Area Schools needs this money to keep the doors open.

"This operating millage helps fund the day-to-day functions of the school district," Pratt said. "In order for a school district to receive its full funding from the State of Michigan it must levy its operating

millage. This is a renewal of an existing millage that school districts are required to ask their communities to vote on in order to receive their full foundation allowance. If the renewal is not approved the state will not make up the difference in the revenue loss. The state expects the district to levy all 18 mills. With the passage of this election, the revenue generated for Lowell Area Schools would equal approximately \$2,724,238 in 2017."

The millage will not increase taxes on people who live in Lowell.

"It is not a tax on primary residences," Pratt said. "It is known as a non-homestead operating tax, since primary residences are exempt from the tax. In general, most school districts must levy a local property tax of 18 mills on non-homestead property such as industrial, commercial, business, rental and second homes in order for the district to receive its full per-pupil funding from the State of Michigan. This proposal is a renewal of the expired non-homestead property tax last approved by the voters in 2012. Your primary residence tax rate will remain the same. In fact, for both homeowners and businesses alike, nothing

will change. Homeowners do not pay this tax and businesses will simply

continue to pay a tax they have already been paying."

The complete ballot language is printed below.

### LOWELL AREA SCHOOLS OPERATING MILLAGE RENEWAL PROPOSAL (EXCLUDING PRINCIPAL RESIDENCE AND OTHER EXEMPT PROPERTY)

This proposal will allow the School District to continue to levy not more than the statutory rate of 18 mills against all property except principal residence and other property exempted by law, required for the School District to receive its revenue per pupil foundation allowance. Shall the previous voted increase in the constitutional tax rate limitation on the amount of taxes imposed upon all property, except principal residence and other property exempted by law, within the school district of Lowell Area Schools, Kent and Ionia Counties, Michigan, be renewed in the amount of 18.00 mills (\$18.00 per \$1,000 of taxable valuation) for a period of six (6) years, 2017 through 2022, inclusive, to provide funds for school operating purposes (such renewal is estimated to provide revenues of approximately \$2,724,238 in 2017 and includes a renewal of previously authorized millage in the amount of 18.00 mills which expires with the 2016 tax levy)?

### Downtown building razed



King Milling tore down one of their buildings on Broadway on Thursday, Oct. 20. The building used to belong to the Michigan Wire company but was purchased by King Milling about a year and a half ago, according to company president Brian Doyle. The mill is not sure yet exactly what they will put in the old building's place, but Doyle said they were considering building a warehouse on the site to store grain.

# Annual Veteran's Cookie Drive set for Nov. 12

The annual Cookie Drive for the Grand Rapids Veterans' Home will be held this year on Saturday Nov. 12. Cookies will be collected between 10 am and

noon at the Lowell Veterans Center at 3116 South Alden Nash between the Lowell fairgrounds and I-96.

This annual tradition is in its ninth year, having

collected nearly 3,000 cookies from enthusiastic bakers of all ages from Lowell. The key to the success is that they must be home baked.

These are about the only homemade items the Veterans receive each year and they are greeted with the same excitement the

Vets may have experienced maybe 60 or 70 years earlier.

The cookies will be delivered on the same Saturday they are collected later in the day.

Special instructions that must be adhered to - Please remember that any cookies that contain

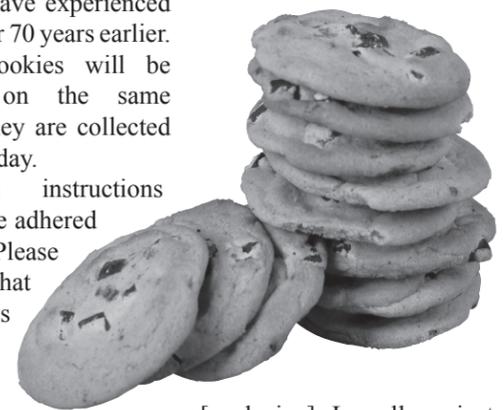
peanut butter or any kind of nut or nut products must be kept separate. There will be separate packaging areas at the Veterans' Center to safeguard those Veterans who may have nut allergies.

It is fine to use nuts, just keep them well separated from cookies without nuts.

In 2015, over 5,100 cookies came from this

[exclusive] Lowell project and organizers are hopeful they can deliver even more in 2016. They've heard that the Veterans are already beginning to ask when the Lowell cookies will be arriving.

If you have any questions, please call Jan Thompson at 897-2533. Become part of this nine-year tradition!



## along main street

### THE MOUSETRAP

The LowellArts! Players will present a murder mystery – The Mousetrap by Agatha Christie on Oct. 28, 29 and 30 and Nov. 4, 5 and 6, 7:30-9 pm, at Larkin's Other Place, 301 West Main St. The play is offered as a dinner theater on all dates. Show only tickets are also available.

### FROM VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION

Volunteer orientation at Flat River Outreach Ministries will be Wed., Nov. 2 at 6 pm. Please call 897-8260 for additional information.

### HEROES BOTTLE/CAN DRIVE

The proceeds will go toward the purchase and training of rescue dogs scheduled for euthanasia and subsequently to help our veterans suffering from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). Refundable cans and bottles can be dropped off at either Greenridge Realty, 1160 W. Main St., Lowell or 9145 Lincoln Lake Ave., Greenville (just south of 11 Mile Rd, west side). Cut off date and time for drop offs will be Nov. 5 at 6 pm. Local pick-ups can be arranged. For more information contact Kim Schwacha at 616-485-0099 or Beth Schwacha at 616-481-5462.

### HOLIDAY MARKET

The annual LowellArts! Holiday Artists Market, featuring artwork by over 50 area artists, will be Nov. 18 – Dec. 24. Artwork and other handmade items by Michigan

artists will be available for purchase during the gift-giving season. This will be the first showing held in the new LowellArts! gallery at 223 West Main St. Gallery hours are Tues.-Sat., 10 am – 6 pm.

### MAKE AND TAKE WORKSHOPS

Every Thursday, Friday and Saturday of November and two weeks into December at the Franciscan Life Process Center we're bringing in artists and crafters to teach you a skill and help you bring home a Christmas gift. These are mini workshops teaching wreath decorating, fabric skills, felting, children's rocker painting, making rings and earrings, crocheting, and many more things in a half day or whole day setting. Go to [www.lifeprocesscenter.org](http://www.lifeprocesscenter.org) and click on the Services tab, then the Art Program tab and then the Art Workshops tab; or call 897-7842, ext. 352. Leave a message if you do not get a response.

*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.*

## Grant request deadline Wednesday, Nov. 2

by Tim McAllister  
lead reporter

The deadline for grant proposals from the Look Memorial Fund is 4 pm on Wednesday, Nov. 2. Each year the fund donates money to projects all over the community.

"To be qualified to receive funds all grantees must be non-profit organizations under 501-c3 rules," said Look Memorial Fund committee member Jim Hodges. "[On] May 2, 2016, the fund had \$944,567.30 in total cash and investments, but due to the fall 2015 disbursements there was but \$691 available in the disbursement monies available, so there were no grants given at that time."

Their last batch of grants went to community projects all over town.

"In the fall of 2015, the fund had available

\$15,484 to consider disbursing to qualified organizations," Hodges said. "[The board] approved \$14,793 as follows: the First Baptist Church of Lowell, \$1,441 for an Automatic Defibrillator Device in the new addition; Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce, \$4,352 to provide additional equipment for Sizzlin' Summer Concert sound system [which is] also used by LowellArts!, the Fallasburg Fall Festival as well as the Harvest Celebration; Lowell Area Fire, \$4,000 for personal safety items for 28 members and specialty forcible entry tools for use on three pumper trucks; Lowell Area Historical Museum, \$5,000

Grant proposal deadline, continued, page 3

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# “The Mousetrap” dinner theater opens this weekend

by Tim McAllister  
lead reporter

The LowellArts! Players will present a dinner theater production of Agatha Christie’s “The Mousetrap” at Larkin’s The Other Place for two weeks starting this weekend.

“The LowellArts!

Players are excited to present the murder mystery ‘The Mousetrap’ for the fall production,” said LowellArts! project director Janet Teunis. “The play is set at a spooky-looking mansion, so it is the perfect play to offer around the time

of Halloween. The play written by Agatha Christie is a classic, well-written and respected piece of theater history. We are pleased with the opportunity to share it with the community.”

A classic in the ‘who dun it’ genre, “The Mousetrap”

is the world’s longest continually running play. It has been performed at the same theater in London for 60 years. Lots of famous British actors have starred in it, including Richard Attenborough, Hugh

Bonneville, Patrick Stewart, Julie Walters and Miranda Hart. Theater tradition dictates that audiences not ruin the twist ending by revealing the identity of the killer to anyone who hasn’t seen “The Mousetrap.”

The LowellArts! production will be directed by Ron Wood and the cast includes Matt Tawney, Diana Roush, Nancy Wood, Laurie Kuna, John Foley, Dan Jones, Peter Osborne, and Brent Alles. Even though LowellArts! will soon be able to present live theater at their new Main St. location, they plan to continue their dinner theater productions at Larkin’s The Other Place.

“We enjoy collaborating with Larkin’s to provide the dinner and a bar for our dinner theater productions,” Teunis said. “The Other Place venue is ideal for seating at tables and can accommodate over 100 seated guests. Our

new home on Main St. will allow for more intimate performances within the gallery space, which can be converted into a theater with a removable stage and chairs. Providing a full dinner and a show would be difficult to offer, so we do plan to continue to work with Larkin’s in hosting future dinner theaters.”

Tickets for “The Mousetrap” are on sale now. They range between \$14 and \$18, plus \$13 if you want dinner. Senior citizens, LowellArts! members and groups of ten and over get a \$2 discount. Advance tickets are required for the dinner theater. Performances will take place every Friday and Saturday evening from Oct. 28 to Nov. 5, with matinee performances on Sunday, Oct. 30 and Nov. 6. Visit [lowellartsmi.org/fall-dinner-theater-the-mousetrap](http://lowellartsmi.org/fall-dinner-theater-the-mousetrap) or call 897-8545 to buy tickets or get more information.

## Health insurance open enrollment begins Nov. 1

### - Tax credits will compensate for increases

Open enrollment for Michigan Marketplace health insurance begins Tuesday, Nov. 1, and participating consumers can now visit [HealthCare.gov](http://HealthCare.gov) to check out their options for 2017 coverage.

A new report released Tuesday shows that 65 percent of Michigan Marketplace consumers will be able to find a plan with a premium of less than \$75 per month, and 73 percent will be able to find plans with premiums below \$100. The report also shows that Michigan consumers who go back to shop will have options, with an average of 62 plans to choose from.

“Thanks to financial assistance, the large majority of current Marketplace consumers in Michigan will be able to find plans with premiums between \$50 and \$100 per month,” said Sylvia M. Burwell, U.S. Health and Human Services secretary. “Many uninsured Michiganders could also

qualify for financial assistance, as could 62,000 Michiganders currently paying full price for off-Marketplace coverage. I encourage anyone who might need 2017 coverage to visit [HealthCare.gov](http://HealthCare.gov) and check out this year’s options for themselves.”

Due in significant part to the Health Insurance Marketplace, the share of Americans without health insurance is at its lowest level in history, and the share of Michiganders without health insurance stands at 6.1 percent, down 51 percent since 2010. This year’s Open Enrollment offers the chance to build on that progress and further improve access to care and financial security for Michigan residents.

Currently, 83 percent of current Michigan Marketplace consumers are eligible for tax credits that reduce the cost of coverage, and, nationwide, about 85 percent of

Marketplace-eligible uninsured Americans also qualify for tax credits. In addition, an estimated 62,000 Michiganders currently paying full price for health insurance in the off-Marketplace individual market could be eligible for tax credits if they purchase 2017 coverage through the Marketplace.

Tax credits increase dollar for dollar with the cost of a consumer’s benchmark plan, and so they protect the majority of consumers from rate increases. For example, a 27-year-old in Detroit with income of \$25,000 paid \$143 per month to purchase the benchmark (second-lowest cost silver) plan in 2016. For 2017, a 27-year-old with income of \$25,000 will pay almost the exact same amount (\$142 per month), because, while benchmark premiums have increased, tax credits will increase to compensate.

Shopping also helps keep coverage affordable for

consumers. If all returning consumers in Michigan selected the lowest-cost plan available within their current metal levels, average premiums would decrease by \$50 per month, or 30 percent, from 2016 to 2017. In fact, many consumers do not choose the lowest-cost plan available, because they are willing to pay more for a wider network or other plan features. But this calculation confirms that affordable options for 2017 coverage are available to consumers who shop around to find a better deal.

Marketplace consumers in Michigan will be able to choose from an average of 62 health insurance plans. Ten issuers will be offering coverage in Michigan, and some consumers will have the option of purchasing Marketplace coverage from Humana for the first time, since it is expanding its service area. Michigan

Open enrollment, continued, page 14

## Grant proposal deadline, continued

to support the hire of a register in making artifact and document collections accessible to the public on the museum’s website. [...] That is the flavor of the projects within the last year.”

The Look Memorial Fund has been donating money to community projects since 1983. It was started by Helen Look Daily and Dr. Orval McKay

when she wanted to give an endowment to the city of Lowell.

“Her intent at the time of the trust in 1983 was to improve or enclose the city’s outdoor swimming pool, [make] improvements and construction needs to city hall, make improvements in or for the library [or] use the funds for any charitable purpose that the committee may deem in its absolute

discretion to be desirable for the benefit of the city of Lowell or its immediate environs,” Hodges said.

The Look Memorial Fund committee will have two meetings in November to figure out how much money they have available and who they plan to give it to.

“The committee meets at city hall at 4 pm on Nov. 2 to receive the financial report

of funds available, as well as to receive the organizational requests for the next round of consideration,” Hodges said. “This is an open meeting. Yes, you can attend too! Two weeks after that, at 4 pm on Nov. 16, it will make the decisions as to what the committee chooses to do as to disbursements of the funds available and that meeting too is open.”

**TICKETS**

[lowellartsmi.org](http://lowellartsmi.org)  
616-897-8545



**THE MOUSETRAP**  
BY AGATHA CHRISTIE

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## lend a hand

volunteering opportunities

### learn to prepare taxes and make a difference at the same time

Help your community in preparing taxes free of charge by becoming a volunteer with the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) or Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) programs. You will receive training to provide free tax help for low-to-moderate income families who need assistance preparing their tax returns.

Over 90,000 people said yes to making a difference during the 2015 filing season and prepared over 3.7 million returns at thousands of tax sites nationwide. Since 2002, United Way's Kent County Tax Credit Coalition (KCTCC) has helped over 61,000 taxpayers receive almost \$73 million in tax refunds for the area.

"The IRS and its partners like the KCTCC are once again looking for

volunteers that are interested in taking a little time to learn about taxes and then helping others by preparing federal income tax returns for free," said IRS spokesman Luis D. Garcia. "Volunteers are certified to prepare simple tax returns for people whose incomes are \$55,000 or less. People of all ages and backgrounds are welcome to volunteer. There is a role for anyone who is interested and wants to help."

Volunteers can help in three separate capacities:

- Return preparer
- Site coordinator (site supervisor or site manager)
- Greeter site coordinators (supervisors) may also prepare returns. Greeters will generally also answer simple questions and distribute forms.

Volunteers must complete a training

session on basic tax law and TaxSlayer software in December or January. They must also pass an IRS-certification exam through Basic.

For additional information and to sign up for volunteer training, please contact Brenda Brame at (616) 752-8647 or visit [www.hwmw.org/kctcc](http://www.hwmw.org/kctcc). Volunteer greeters are also needed and they do not need to go through the two-day training.

Training dates: choose the set of training dates that best fit your schedule  
Saturday, December 3 and 10, 9 am – 5 pm  
Saturday, January 14 and 21, 9 am – 5 pm

Trainings will be held at the United Way Center located at 118 Commerce SW, Grand Rapids MI 49503.

More information about the IRS volunteer tax preparation program is available at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov), keywords Tax Volunteer.

### literacy tutors needed

The Literacy Center of West Michigan has scheduled information sessions for Thursday, November 3 at 2 pm; Friday, November 18 at 10 am; Tuesday, November 22 at 6 pm; and Monday, November 28 at 2 pm 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.

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# viewpoint

## to the editor

### play the hand we're dealt

To The Editor

Recall elections and biodigester issues are the main two issues on most people's minds as we approach our elections this year. I have a few questions I would like to have answered before the election.

For one, I would like to know if there are any current members of the city council, the LLP board or any city boards, [who] are fiscally involved with LEAD LLC or Sustainable Partners LLC.

Question two. Why would a candidate for the city council, who by the way is spearheading this recall election, be trying to spread his fear and worry to the citizens of Lowell by telling them that the city council wants to sell LLP and disband the police

department? Any sale of LLP or the elimination of the police department can only happen by a vote of the citizens of Lowell.

Question three. Why do the new mayor and the newly elected councilmembers have to spend 50 percent of their time defending themselves from false rumors and statements, from defeated incumbents and members of the good old boys that had their feelings hurt by the last election and the removal of a poor city manager? The citizens voted for change, they got change; the good old boys lost their heavy hand and are upset.

The biodigester debacle is another story. Did anyone visit or tour one of these facilities before making a

decision to build one in the center of our town? Who researched this project, the LLP board? Who are the principals of LEAD LLC? Have there been complaints from other cities or towns that have been involved with biodigesters?

I, for one, wish to let the hand that we dealt ourselves play out. Don't be swayed back to the past. Too much power in the hands of one person or group can lead to corruption.

Michael Fisk  
Lowell

### 911 ballot proposal

Dear Lowell Area Voters,

I have been receiving questions about the 911 ballot proposal that is on the November 8th ballot and whether or not this cost increase is needed. The short and simple answer is Yes it is needed and is necessary. Please allow me to explain.

This project has been in the making for several years, particularly when the Kent County 911 Dispatch Authority was formed. Area Police Departments had their own dispatch

and call taking centers. When the costs began to rise and the demands of technology outpaced the current equipment, dispatch centers began to fold into one cohesive unit. The last of the police and fire agencies to join the central dispatch unit took place in late 2015 and early 2016. The common goal is for interoperability with Police, Fire and Ambulances to be able to communicate with each other.

When I was surveyed back when this project was in the early stages, I was asked on whether or not this should be a millage or a surcharge? My answer was it should be a surcharge, that way everyone with a cell phone and/or landline will have to pay and not just the property owners. Whether you have an Android, iPhone or any other phone, you have a 911 surcharge already on your bill. Your current charge is \$.45. This ballot proposal increases this cost to \$1.15 a month or a \$.70 increase to your bill. The total cost would be \$13.80 a year versus \$5.40 a year. Concept-Everyone pays!

The bulk of this ballot proposal money will add three new towers in Kent County to the Statewide Radio System and upgrade most of the existing towers to the 800 MHZ frequency. With the Statewide Radio System, you're never out of frequency range. Towers are strategically placed throughout the State of Michigan to maximize coverage. This would allow our current central dispatch to talk with one of the dispatched cars all the way to the Upper Peninsula if necessary. This was tested personally by the Kent County Dispatch Supervisor and one of his staff when he was in Tahquamenon Falls, MI. With a portable radio, he was able to speak with Kent County Staff in Grand Rapids. Most of the counties in West Michigan have already begun the

transition to the Statewide Radio System, with Kent County and Muskegon County being the last ones to transition.

The biggest benefactor out on the east side of the county is the fire department. With Lowell being located in the river valley, we contend with hills and trees cutting into the current radio frequency. In building coverage is suspect. The 800 MHZ allows the closest or tower with the strongest signal to simulcast the radio signal back to dispatch. The transition could take up to 24 months even after the ballot proposal to purchase, install and train personnel to use this new system.

The police department in building coverage would also improve. Motorola guarantees 95% minimum coverage in buildings with a portable radio on the belt of the police officer or firefighter.

I understand no one likes to pay more in taxes. Neither do I. However, I will be voting yes on this proposal and I am asking you to consider voting yes. We are talking the cost increase of a fast food meal or two cups of coffee at Starbucks over a 12 month period.

If you'd like further information, please see [accesskent.com/News/2016/07282016.pdf](http://accesskent.com/News/2016/07282016.pdf) for a summary of the project.

Sincerely,  
Chief Steve Bukala  
Lowell Police Department

### keep power down-to-earth

Dear Editor,

Jeff Altoft has stayed calm and respectful in the face of insults and disrespect. He has listened to the arguments and continues to make his votes for the best of the entire city not

just the vocal few. Help to keep the power in the hands of the down-to-earth people who really care about this city and not the politics.

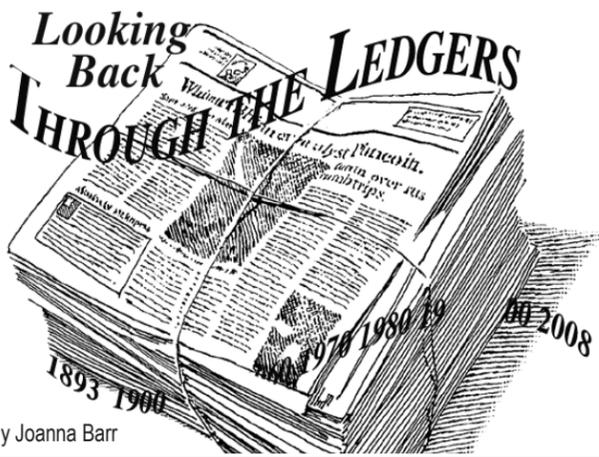
Sherry Werdon  
Lowell

### kind thoughtful plumber

To the Editor

One of my first encounters with Greg Canfield was a few years ago. I had a friend who owned nine acres on which she raised three horses. The water faucet in the horse barn was not working properly and winter was soon upon

us. The faucet needed to be fixed before the onset of freezing temperatures. My friend was not financially in a position to spend much money on any such repair and actually tried to fix the faucet herself, to no avail.



By Joanna Barr

### 125 years ago Lowell Journal Oct. 28, 1891

A bright Ionia traveling man perpetrated a huge practical joke on two fellow knights of the grip by jumping out in a dark street at Vernon station with leveled pistol and demanding their money. The large dimensions of the joke came in at this point: The two held-up men recognized their Ionia friend and literally mopped the ground with the disheveled highwayman regardless of his pitiful appeals. Then the two apologized for not recognizing him earlier and assisted in wiping the mud and gore off the ruins of his natty fall suit.

The Bands of Ladies of the Congregational Society will hold a sale of "beautiful" and "useful" household articles in the building on the bridge, occupied at present by S. Goss, on Nov. 18 and 14. This is no Bankrupt stock, nor do the Ladies intend competing with any business house in Holiday Goods, but offer for sale such home made articles as are not found in stock. No grab bags nor fish ponds, nor lotteries of any kind, but honest sales at reasonable prices, suitable for Christmas gifts. Remember, Nov. 18 and 14. Come and see, and seeing, buy.

A watch. How boys and girls can get one without

costing a cent. The Journal's great offer. One of the chief desires of a boy or girl is to be the owner of a watch, and here is your chance. Any boy or girl who will send twenty subscriptions, paid in advance for one year, will secure a good silvertone watch to a boy, or a solid silver chattelaine watch to the girls. These watches are guaranteed by a home dealer to be first class timers and are warranted for one year: if a mainspring breaks, another will be put in without cost. A combination subscription—the Journal and Detroit Tribune at \$1.50—counts as one. Only twenty subscriptions for the watch, or fifteen and \$2.50 or ten and \$5.00. Try for it! Who will get the first watch?

Captain Belknap is too well known to need an extended introduction. He stands for the best interests of our district and should receive the earnest support of all who favor a government by the people and for the people.

The Republicans of the fifth district should turn out next Tuesday and give their candidate a full vote, that will elect him. If he is not sent to Washington don't cry over the un-American acts of the other, for you will be to blame yourself.

### 100 years ago The Lowell Ledger Oct. 26, 1916

After fifty years – former Lowell business man calls on old friends. King Hunt of St. Cloud, Minn., a resident of Lowell for a number of years in the fifties and sixties and one of the firm of Hooker Hunt & Co., who kept a general store, called on old time friends here last week. He left here fifty years ago last April and had never seen Lowell again until last Friday morning. There are a few people still here that he remembered. Among them are Mrs. Leonard Hunt, Henry Booth, Rowland Ryder and J. S. Hooker. While visiting a relative at Ludington he learned by The Lowell Ledger that John Hooker was still living and he came on purpose to make a visit with him, and by him he learned of others

# LHS 76<sup>th</sup> reunion will be the last

submitted by Jack Tornga

The Lowell High School class of 1940 celebrated its 76th reunion on Sept. 22, 2016, at Schneider Manor. A luncheon was catered and served by the owner and staff of the Backwater Café. The class of 1940 had

77 graduates but only five are alive today. They are Helen Clark Blow, Marjean Fonger Brillhart, Inez Cole Craig, John Jasperse, and Jack Tornga, however, only three were able to attend, Helen, Marjean, and Jack.

It is very sad to report, but our class had more casualties in World War II than any other Lowell High School class. Since graduation, the group has held 19 reunions and has met yearly since our

65th reunion in 2005. Unfortunately, all good things must come to an end. Because our membership has been reduced to a precious few and we are all over 90 years of age, this will be our swan song.

# health



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

## opioid pain medications

Opioids are medications used to treat pain. They are also called narcotics. When you take these medications for more than a few days, they may cause serious problems. If you take opioids every day for a long time they may stop working and your pain may be as bad as it was before you started taking them. If this happens, you have built up a tolerance to the medicine.

Your body may start to depend on opioids. That means that if you don't take them or if you take less than your usual amount, you may have withdrawal. Withdrawal can feel like a bad case of the flu. You may sweat, have diarrhea, throw up, or have trouble sleeping. You may ache all over. You might even feel like you will die, but people rarely die from withdrawal.

Some people become addicted to opioids. The more you take, the more likely this is to happen. Some signs of being addicted include taking

more of the medicine than is prescribed by the doctor, saving it up and taking a lot at once, taking it to feel good, spending a lot of time and effort to get more of the medicine, and taking the medicine gets you in trouble at work or in your personal life. If you are addicted, it is nothing to be ashamed of. It can happen to anyone. Addiction can be treated.

If you take opioids for a long time, your pain can get worse. Other problems you can get from opioids include constipation and abdominal pain, depression, sleepiness, and memory problems, low hormone levels, trouble breathing, and death from an overdose.

To avoid problems with opioids, take the medication exactly as prescribed. Tell your doctor about any other medications you are taking, as some medicines don't mix well with opioids. Don't use alcohol or street drugs when taking opioids. Store your medicine where others can't find it.

# Family Links group named Volunteer of the Month at Murray Lake Elementary

The entire parent group Family Links has been named Volunteers of the Month for September at Murray Lake Elementary. This year, the Family Links members are Alisha Martin, Ashleigh Gage, Laura Judge, Lisa Verberg, Kylie Golden, Melissa Simkins, Carrie Kooistra, Deanna Mears and Kaily VanLaan.

"These ladies have spent countless hours helping the school prepare for Mustangs on the Move, as well as many other great events that happen throughout the year at MLE. They do so much to make our school a great place to be. We are all so thankful for all that they do for us," said Murray Lake principal Molly Burnett.

"Thank you for choosing Family Links as Volunteers of the Month. We work hard every day to put smiles on the students' faces. We love to show our appreciation to the staff at MLE as well. We do all that we do because we love our school community and the friendships we make along the way," said Alisha Martin.

Murray Lake Family Links provides support to teachers, classrooms, school events and on-going education activities. Family Links hosts many events throughout the year. Some activities include Mustangs on the Move walk-a-thon fundraiser, Scholastic Book Fair, Secret Santa Shop,

Learning Fair/Ice Cream Social, March is Reading Month, Field Day, Staff Appreciate Week, Winter Carnival, and Parent-Teacher conference meals. Family Links also sponsors

Mileage Club, Odyssey of the Mind, Salmon in the Classroom, Box Tops, Ice Cream Days, Publishing Center, Accelerated Reading, Student Directory, and Move Night.



Some of the 2016 Family Links group.

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Bill Gordon & Associates, a nationwide practice, represents clients before the Social Security Administration, Hearings of the D & H & M Bar Associations, Mail, 1420 HW St Washington D.C. Office: Berwyn County, R.I. Services may be provided by associated attorneys located in other states.

# happy birthday



- OCTOBER 26**  
Ray Jones, Mike Ray, Thomas Cook, Kait Cummings, Joe Wilczewski.
- OCTOBER 27**  
George Cook, Tim VanLaan, Tracey Johnson, Judy Purdy.
- OCTOBER 28**  
Aaron Stencil, Bonnie Essich, Debbie Stoutjesdyk.
- OCTOBER 29**  
Tammy Barber, Al Mulder, Jared Spencer, John Butler Jr., Jeremy Drake, Valerie Stuewe.
- OCTOBER 30**  
Jeremiah Russo, Joseph Russo, Justin Wilczewski, Jim Momber.
- OCTOBER 31**  
Bob Richter, Connor Duiven, Larry Taunt, Thomas Alberts, Patricia VanSickle.
- NOVEMBER 1**  
Walt Batt, Abbot Kastanek, Brenda Lea Owen, Suzanne Olin, Anthony Kiedis, John Luc Richmond.

# area churches



### CALVARY CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH OF LOWELL

897-7060  
Rev. Dr. Paul Mpindi PHD  
1151 West Main Street, Lowell, MI  
Morning Worship.....10:00 AM  
Sunday School.....11:20 AM  
Evening Worship.....6:00 PM  
Nursery available at both services  
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### 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 PETE WIGGINS 897-7915  
SEE LOWELL CABLE CH 393, EWTN FOR 24HR. CATHOLIC BROADCASTING

### GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

103 Bluewater Highway (Missouri Synod)  
Halfway between Lowell & Saranac on M-21  
www.goodshepherdlowell.org  
Worship Service ..... Sunday - 10:30 AM  
Sunday School..... 9:15 AM  
Joseph Fremer, Pastor 897-8307  
All facilities are wheelchair accessible

### FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC

865 Lincoln Lake SE • 616.897.5906  
Pastor Dick Sherlock  
Worship Service - Sundays 10:00AM  
Lowell's Open Table - Thursdays 5 - 7 PM  
Serving meals and providing fellowship to the greater Lowell community  
OPEN AND AFFIRMING  
www.lowellucc.org

### FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF LOWELL

CHRIST-CENTERED, KINGDOM-FOCUSED HOMES  
2275 West Main Street - (Barrier Free)  
897-7168 - www.fbclowell.org  
Pastor Jon Pickens, Lead Pastor  
Pastor Phil Severn • Youth Pastor  
Christi Swain, Director of Children's Ministries  
SUNDAY WORSHIP.....9:30 AM (Nursery provided)  
SUNDAY School.....11:00 AM (Nursery-Adult)  
Awana (K-5 during school year) Wednesday, 6:15 PM  
Middle & High School - Mon-school year/Wed,summer, 7 PM

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Kid's Crew 11:15 AM  
Sr. Pastor - Brad Brillhart

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# To The Editor, continued

I called Canfield Plumbing and explained the situation. Greg and Deb indicated they could appreciate my friend's dilemma and were sympathetic to the situation.

The next day, Greg sent one of his plumbers to her property, who proceeded to fix the faucet and running water inside the barn was once again available for her horses. Greg gave a considerable discount with regard to the cost of the repair. Greg did not really know me at that time and surely had never met my friend. His act of kindness

lifted a huge burden off her shoulders and she was ever so grateful. I have since learned his decision to lend a hand to someone less fortunate is the norm for Greg and it demonstrates the type of qualities and leadership I would like to see in those who represent me on city council and in Lowell's future. Please consider carefully when voting November 8 and when casting your vote for city council.

Lynette Salzwedel  
Lowell

## send a message

Dear Editor,

City of Lowell residents have been recalled to the polls to decide if Greg Canfield is a better choice for city council or if Jeff Altoft should complete his term. Mayor Altoft was recalled because he decided to spend \$10,000 of the taxpayer's money to hire Katherine Henry, not because of the biodigester issue.

After the city manager was fired, Katherine Henry

submitted a questionable bill. Councilmembers Mike Devore, Alan Teelander and Jeff Phillips voted to pay it so they could "move on" but they just wanted the whole issue to disappear. Recently Mayor Altoft again revealed his disregard for our city charter and proper procedures by illegally entering into a contract to have the air quality near the biodigester tested. The

issue is not about testing the air, it's about one person making a decision that should be made by the entire council. I understand Mayor Altoft's confidence. He has had the support of three councilmembers. I wonder how long they will cover up and accept unethical practices?

Citizens of Lowell, we need to send a message at

the polls. Greg Canfield is a team player who respects the city charter and has proved that he will do what it takes to make Lowell the best it can be. That is the type of leadership we deserve and need. I am voting for Greg and encourage all citizens of Lowell to do the same.

Sincerely,  
Sharon Ellison  
Lowell

# Looking Back, continued

and made calls. On seeing The Ledger, he decided at once that it was the paper he wanted and ordered it and took a copy home. In the West he has become a wealthy, popular and influential citizen. H.

Look for a cablegram announcing that the Spinx cracked its face laughing over The Herald's eulogy of "Our last great Democrat president, the beloved Grover Cleveland." As the poet said: "Today abhorred, tomorrow adored, Thus round and round we run. And ever the right comes uppermost And ever is Justice done."— after the victim has been dead eight years. Twenty years more and The Herald will be saying nice things about Woodrow Wilson, providing he is dead or out of politics.

## 75 years ago The Lowell Ledger Oct. 30, 1941

Perhaps a Hallowe'en party for the youngsters should be termed appeasement. Shades of Neville Chamberlain!

Lowell school pupils have had an unexpectedly holiday since Tuesday when classes were dismissed for the day due to the fact that the stoker which had given satisfactory service for the past five or six years broke down during the night. Repairs were completed Wednesday night and school is under way. The youngsters were in great glee over the unexpected holiday.

The Lowell Post of the American Legion on Monday night voted to buy two Defense Bonds, thus patriotically supporting the sale of bonds and stamps in this community.

Lowell youngsters are looking forward with great anticipation to the annual Hallowe'en party to be, given this week Friday evening at Recreation Park. Prizes for Hallowe'en costumes are being offered and all will be treated to cider, fried cakes and apples. The event is sponsored by the American Legion, Board of Trade and Rotary Club.

Quoting Bruce Walter; "Building and remodeling operations in this community will continue as usual for a considerable time to come. We have a large stock of building materials on hand and the defense program makes no restrictions on sales in such cases."

The baking industry was recently praised by the surgeon general of the United States Public Health service, for enriching bread with essential vitamins and minerals. It was pointed out that lack of these essentials in the past has caused such things as mental depression and easy fatigue. If bread is now going to be made rich in these essentials, the boys who can't rake up the lawn because they are too tired will have lost some of their plausible excuses. If they have been fed bread rich in vitamins, they should be able to perform those tasks. Also the men who are too tired to go out to church Sundays should feel strong enough to turn up promptly for morning service.

## 50 years ago Lowell Ledger Oct. 27, 1966

Bricks came tumbling down on East Main Street, in front of a three-story building owned by Bud Moore, Monday night. No one was injured by the falling debris. The sidewalk, in front of the building has been blocked off until repairs can be made.

The Lowell Ledger has a new painting on display in its front office furnished by H. S. Brown, jr., of Ada. The work of this Ada artist has got many compliments & is of unusual quality.

The Planning Commission on Monday night approved the hiring of an engineering firm to make test borings in the islands on Flat River, north of Main Street. Tests will show if river bottom soil is available to use in making the fill planned, just north of the Main St. bridge. Costs will vary from \$2,000 to \$5,000 an acre to fill this area according to the availability of river bottom fill.

Repave M-91 to 1-96 freeway. The State Highway Department let bids last week on repaving M-91 from M-21 in Lowell to the 1-96 freeway, a 5.4 mile section. Completion date of July 31, 1967, was set by the lowest of the four bidders, Michigan Colprovia Company of Grand Rapids. They received the contract on their bid of \$57,174. This repaving is in preparation of turning over this highway to the Kent County Road Commission. Also soon to be let is a contract to build a new bridge over the Grand River. New road. While this road needs to be resurfaced, what the community really needs is a good straight all weather road to

connect with the 1-96 freeway on Alden Nash Avenue. The curves, turns and hills on the present access prevents a great deal of the M-21 traffic from switching to the freeway at Lowell.

## 25 years ago The Lowell Ledger Oct. 30, 1991

Four candidates & two incumbents seek three council seats. City Councilman Bill Thompson first ran for a seat on the Council eight years ago. He earned his seat by a mere eight votes. Thompson defeated his wife, Helen, 181-174. Thompson will look to extend his years of service on the Council at the Nov. 5 election. On Nov. 5, Lowell will hold a City Election as it looks to fill three Council seats. Running for those seats will be incumbents, Thompson and Mayor, James Maatman. Newcomers to the race will include Bennie Vinton, George Blocher, Don Green and Craig Fonger. The seat going uncontested is being vacated by Charlie Doyle. Voters in Precinct I will vote at Runciman Elementary and voters in Precinct II will vote at Bushnell. The last City Election in 1987 only drew 199 voters. In 1991, there are roughly 2,300 registered voters. Precincts will open at 7 a.m. and close at 8 p.m.

Council approves 12-hour police shift extension. A year after the inception of a 12-hour shift, the Lowell Police Officers Association asked the Lowell City Council for, and got, an extension of the amendment through June 30, 1992. "The change has been for the betterment of the City and its officers" Lowell Police Chief Barry Emmons said. "Scheduling was one of the most stressful department jobs." The 12-hour shift has given officers every other weekend off. Emmons says the program has been cost saving and has cut down on overtime. "It has allowed for more time in the area of follow-up investigations and report writing," he says. Advantages seen by departments that share in the same 12-hour shift program include fewer sick days, less overtime, reduced dry cleaning costs. The 12-hour shift provides necessary coverage and does not subject an officer to the perils of the relief shift, enhances family life and reduces job stress.

Pies mighty good tasting at Harvest Pie Festival. Wally Knaak had his tie clipped at the Lowell Assembly of God's Harvest Pie Festival. "The price was worth it. I got to sample some mighty good pie here," Knaak said. It's a tradition at the Festival that any man who shows up with a tie on, gets it clipped off. "I didn't want the Festival people to forget. I wanted to make sure they got in their practice." Knaak was one of eight Harvest Pie Festival judges. There were 27 pies, the pies were divided into two groups, fruits and others and glamour. The pies were baked by the ladies and men of the church and by people outside the church. "The purpose of the Festival is to reach out to neighbors and to people who don't go to church," said Sandy Birge. Prior to the pie judging, Dawn Johnson, of the First Assembly of God Church in Grand Rapids, led parishioners in ministering of music. The pies were judged in three different categories, appearance, taste and flavor.



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# Q&A with local candidates vying for Lowell City Council seat

On the Nov. 8 ballot, city of Lowell residents will have to choose between Lowell mayor Jeff Altoft and Lowell Light & Power board chairman Greg Canfield for a seat on the city council. The winner of the election will serve a one year term on the city council.

The Ledger asked the two candidates ten questions about the past, present and future of Lowell.

## *Why are you running for city council?*

**ALTOFT:** I am actually just wanting to finish my term. I was voted to the council three years ago for a four-year term. One year ago the citizens of Lowell voted in three new councilmembers. The new councilmembers and myself felt the citizens were saying they were not happy with the way things were being done. We tried to work with the city manager but we just could not. It became clear to us we had to let him go. I was elected mayor by the new council because I have been on the council and knew the problems. I would like to finish my term because, in spite of all the hatred and turbulence this council and myself have had to endure from the Forward Lowell group, we have hired a new, ethical city manager, someone who answers our questions honestly and promptly. We have rooted out the problem with the biodigester and with the help of the new manager of LL&P and their board we have come to find a solution to the smell issue.

**CANFIELD:** I am running because I feel actions taken by the council put Lowell in a negative light. The city council directs and manages the city manager who directs and manages the city staff. We need to and should hold up the positive things about Lowell, such as Lowell Police Department, Lowell Schools, Lowell Light & Power, Lowell DPW and city staff, the chamber of commerce festivals and concerts, Pink Arrow and FROM. When there are problems, and all communities have problems, let's deal with them professionally and follow the proper procedures to overcome and correct them. Inviting the news cameras and then publicly humiliating both sides does us no good. The council, like any other good boss, should praise publicly and chastise to whatever level necessary including resignations or terminations, in private. I feel the council should put Lowell's best face forward. I don't think this has been done and I think I can help.

## *What do you feel are your qualifications?*

**ALTOFT:** My qualifications for being on the council are I've been elected to two four-year terms in the last nine years. I feel I have had the best on the job training, I've learned patience, I've learned there are many rules you have to follow when dealing with city matters, I have even learned a little bit about running a meeting. The most important things I learned is how important it is to listen and investigate issues for solutions; our people are so important to consider first and learning who to believe and who to trust is tricky but vital.

**CANFIELD:** I have lived in the Lowell community for 50 plus years, including over 25 years in the city. I have nearly 25 years business experience, balancing revenues and expenses to grow and operate, providing services and employment to the community. Over the past, I served 10 years on the Light & Power Board, coming on in the dark years of selling cable, devastating tree trimming, six digit losses 5 out of 6 years. Change is always difficult but today LL&P is a tremendous asset to the city of Lowell [with] rates 20% less than Consumers, 99.999% reliability rating, and funding capital improvements with current sales revenue instead of borrowing long-term debt. LL&P's success is a result of great hires to fill staff positions. We have our linemen assembling our combustion turbines for local generation and other infrastructure upgrades because we have such a talented staff. I am proud to be a small part of where LL&P is today. I have also served on the Planning Commission, Historic District Commission, Downtown Development Authority, Tax Board of Review, and the Construction Board of Appeals over the last 20 years.

## *If elected, what will be your top priority on the council?*

**ALTOFT:** If I am not recalled my top priority will be to keep fresh air in Lowell. A biodigester should never have been located in the middle of such a residential area. But that ship has sailed and now that it's here I will continue to keep the biodigester honest, to keep it from Band-Aid fixes that only work for a short time. I also will keep up on how efficiently it works. Right now it is a real money pit. The city will not be buying it five years down the road if it just produces the minimum energy. I think most of the LL&P board was just as disgusted with the smell as the city council. I think the people of Lowell made it very clear things have to change. I don't know why they took so much time to get on board with making LEAD fix things, but I think we are all on the same page now.

**CANFIELD:** My goal would be to help hold up Lowell's assets to the spotlight instead of our setbacks. If individuals or businesses are thinking of locating here we need to show them the positives, not the negatives. In the past, people received responses of no, they couldn't do that there, instead of here's how or where you could that. The city was going to spend \$100,000 to demolish three buildings where the Main Street Inn is located today. Tax revenue lost forever in addition to the \$100,000 expense incurred. I asked instead for a \$30,000 grant or assistance to save them and was told no. Later, 1 person out of 10 present told me to come back next month and reword my request. I did and it was granted. Since then, the \$30,000 was easily repaid thru property taxes. What if that 1 person with the vision and suggestion was absent?



Jeff Altoft



Greg Canfield

Over the next 25 years the city will receive over \$100,000 in property tax revenue instead of spending \$100,000 to demolish existing historic buildings that are now still part of the charm of downtown Lowell. In addition, look at the money Main Street Inn guests spend at local restaurants, shops and gas stations instead of on 28th St. where they stayed in the past. One person can make a difference and I hope to help do that.

## *How will the Lowell city council and the Lowell Light & Power board work together in the future?*

**ALTOFT:** I am hoping that they will continue to work together the way we are working now and be open and keep doing what we are doing. Right now, they are working together more than they ever have.

**CANFIELD:** Since Lowell Light & Power was formed in 1896, it has provided outstanding services to the community. LL&P board members are appointed by the elected city council and some members, such as Ivan Blough and Norm Borgeson, among others, served for decades. City council persons have also served for decades and over the years the relationship between them has warmed and cooled depending on who serves in these positions. I think that DPW workers have rightfully been envious of richer benefits enjoyed by LL&P workers, but the city is limited in shared tax revenue distributed by the state whereas LL&P has the benefit and obligation to adjust rates to maintain viability and survival of the organization. Recently the council and LL&P board have attempted to level that playing field but it's not something easily accomplished overnight. LL&P, while a city department, is in reality a separate, not for profit business, managed solely by the LL&P board and the general manager. Recently, my opponent, an ex-LLP employee, publicly stated that LL&P should be sold and the office building turned into a parking lot. (see April 18, 2016 City Council meeting on YouTube.) Statements like these do not encourage good working relationships between groups. I'm hopeful that this relationship will improve in the future.

## *Should people vote for the Lowell Area Schools operating millage? Why/why not?*

**ALTOFT:** The great thing about our country is it is a republic and people can vote the way they feel. If they want to spend more money on the millage they will, if they don't, they won't.

**CANFIELD:** This 18 mill renewal is just that, a 6 year renewal of millage that will expire this year in 2016 if not approved. I am very much in support of this because the Lowell schools are one of the crown jewels here in Lowell. This is not an increase or additional tax, just continued support of the great educational system we have here in Lowell. I know a family who interviewed the superintendents of EGR, Caledonia, Rockford, all three FH, and Lowell schools in their offices. They asked what you got and where are you going? Upon careful consideration, they chose Lowell. Since then, this family opened and operates a business here locally and make significant contributions to all local causes, after living here less than 10 years. The investment in the education we provide for our young people will reap tremendous benefits for us on both a national level and as a community. What possible reason could there be to pull the rug out from underneath our educators that are doing such a great job and turning out students that see the value in community involvement. The things we are doing here at Lowell schools are being copied around the country as "best practices." Let's keep it going.

## *If the current plan to deal with the biodigester's odor problem doesn't work, what should the city council do next?*

**ALTOFT:** We will shut it down and then they have to come up with a plan that is odor free and suitable to the council to be able to reopen.

**CANFIELD:** I feel confident that enclosing the outdoor treatment tanks, then drawing all that air and building air thru a carbon filter before discharge will solve the problem. The LL&P board with the support of the city council amended the Purchased Power Agreement between LL&P and LEAD, the operators. The containment structures, filter and ductwork is on track

# Q&A with city council candidates, continued

to be completed by the Nov. 1 deadline. The amended agreement stipulates that if detectable odor is present past the LEAD property line the biodigester will be completely shutdown, including waste from Litehouse until it is corrected. Although the generation of electricity and most foodstock delivery has ceased, Litehouse waste is still being accepted resulting in continued odor. After Nov. 1, if there is detectable odor, LEAD will truck Litehouse waste away from Litehouse, instead of continuing to accept it like they currently are. There is nothing negative about Litehouse here, they run a great business, providing ever growing employment and tax base revenue. They have a business contract with LEAD for waste disposal and are simply following the terms of that contract. LEAD is the "offensive" party here, literally, and they are making the investment necessary to correct this problem. In theory this is a great thing, turning food waste into renewable energy, required by the legislature and it works in other areas without odor and it will work here once they get it dialed in. Should it be necessary, there is a second contract, leasing city property with LEAD, enforced by the city council that is the next step towards odor compliance, if necessary.

**According to the recall, Mayor Jeff Altoft was recalled because "he voted 'yes' to hire Katherine Henry as special legal counsel." What effects did the council's decision to hire Henry as "special legal counsel" have on the city of Lowell?**

**ALTOFT:** I voted to hire Katherine Henry, as well as three other members of the council did. I did nothing by myself; I only have one vote. No one person on the council can do anything by themselves. We hired Katherine to help us legally do what was necessary to free this city from a dishonest and inefficient city manager.

**CANFIELD:** My understanding of the situation is that for a recall petition to be approved by the county, it must have a clearly defined action that was taken by the person being recalled. It certainly goes without saying that there are additional issues involved. I'd prefer to keep things positive and see it as the recall gives voters a choice in who they prefer in leadership roles.

**How should Lowell handle and pay for infrastructure improvements such as roads and sidewalks?**

**ALTOFT:** Lowell has made many poor financial decisions in the past 20 years. We built a city hall we did not have the money for. The economy took a hit and we get less money from the state to run our city. Businesses have left town and people have moved away, leaving empty homes and less property taxes. Our roads are a crumbling mess. We haven't kept up with putting money into our equipment funds and maintenance funds. We have not put the money necessary into our employee pension plans. Why? Because it was easier to get elected and stay popular if problems weren't brought up. Everyone was nice and smiled big and we kicked the problems down the road to the future, the future is now! The first thing to do when solving a problem is to admit to the problem. The fact is Lowell needs to begin to solve these problems, put the money necessary in the right accounts, don't juggle the books. We need discussions with you, the residents, about ways to raise the money. It's not pleasant. I don't have the answers but I know the problems and I think with the new city manager and new LL&P manager and this council and most important of all, you, we can start to move forward.

**CANFIELD:** Road repair/replacement is one of the biggest hurdles that we face locally. Unfortunately, past administration including council failed to budget or plan for this and now we are in a deep hole without a ladder. State funding covers some major streets but the rapid decline in property values recently and the very gradual return of that revenue at 2-3% annually means that there will be very little revenue available from property tax increases unless we have new development. If we convince interested parties to locate here, that could result in significant increase and revenue for the city. There is discussion on the state level on how to fix this and we need to count on our local reps, such as Dave Hildenbrand, who does a great job for us, to secure funding for streets and repairs as this is a statewide problem. In the past, sidewalk repairs were the sole responsibility of the property owner, sometimes with a loan put on the tax bill for that property. Recently, we have shared expenses between city and property owner but I think we need to focus our attention and our \$ on the roads and put sidewalk repairs back on the property owner.

**What is Lowell's greatest asset and, as a city councilor, what will you do to protect or improve it?**

**ALTOFT:** I think Lowell's greatest asset is its people. The people in this town are honest and good. We help one another each and every day. We take care of each other. We have events like Pink Arrow, Harvest Festival and the Riverwalk; people come from miles around to our summer concert series, our Senior Neighbors are active and involved. Our library continues to grow and change with what is needed for our future, while our museum keeps us grounded with our history. All of this is possible because of our great citizens and volunteers.

**CANFIELD:** Lowell has many assets, the schools, the trails, the natural beauty of the rivers, Lowell Police Dept, LL&P but I feel our greatest asset is the beauty of our historic district buildings and the stories they have. Other communities have demolished old buildings to make way for urban renewal only to realize they have destroyed the identity of the community. Visitors here love the feeling of old small town America and this helps make us a destination for people visiting our restaurants, antique shops and boutiques. As downtown Lowell improves in terms of services available and parking, interest is increasing in living in downtown, above shops and stores and these people would like to purchase space rather than rent. This will add taxable value and revenue to make improvements such as road repairs and continue the ongoing revitalization of downtown Lowell.

**What is the biggest challenge facing Lowell residents? What can the city council do to fix it?**

**ALTOFT:** If you don't recall me, I will continue to move Lowell on a positive path. We will have fresh air, work on getting our streets fixed and get a plan to fix our other problems.

**CANFIELD:** I feel our biggest challenge is finding funding to repair our streets. Unfortunately, the state is in control of revenue distribution and we have limited influence on that. What we can do is encourage individuals and businesses to locate here, creating jobs, filling vacant buildings and lots which in turn adds revenue for the city. Increased demand for homes and business locations will increase the values of these properties, yet residents who stay in their homes will be protected from increased taxable value until their homes are sold, then the city collects higher taxes on the homes from the new owners. There are exciting new things about to happen in Lowell, we just need to be sure that we are welcoming them rather than turning them away like we have in the past. My opponent voted against the Main Street BBQ getting a liquor license, fortunately it passed 3-2 and we have another exciting new restaurant that brings outside people to Lowell. Why would we not want to support and encourage that type of investment in our downtown? We need to and we do that by voting for the person that will build up Lowell, not hold it back or tear it down.

## WHY YOU SHOULD VOTE | KNOWLEDGE

# It Makes You Smart

## How deep is your knowledge of the hot national topics? How about the ones right in your own backyard?

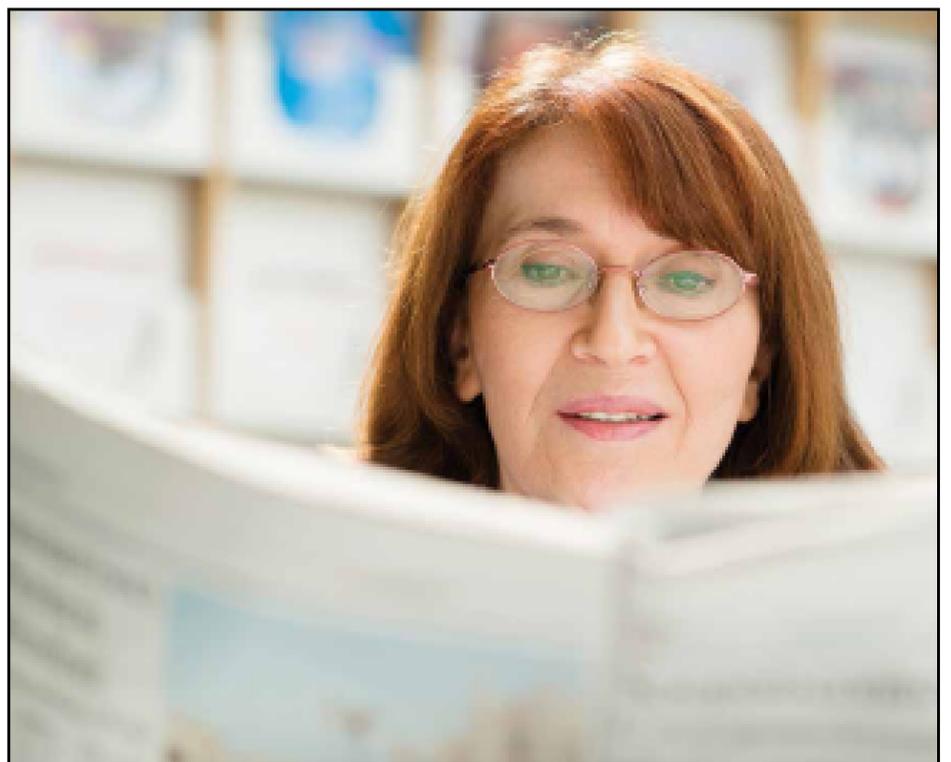
Check! Check! An informed citizenry is one of the most critical elements to a democracy. Without it, our country could suffer social, environmental, economic, and financial setbacks. As Americans, we should take it upon ourselves to educate ourselves on the issues that affect our lives. This can help strengthen the voice of citizens by first finding out which candidates are running to cover that could impact you the greatest. After you register to vote, look to your local level needed to you from your county election office. Managers, local news and internet news for an other source of information that can help build a database of knowledge to guide your voting decisions.

### EVALUATE YOUR CANDIDATES

As you read candidate materials you collect, try to figure out what you make of your prospective candidates on both a personal and political level. What can you learn about the candidates' stance on specific issues? To help keep government and legislative straight, you can make your own candidate impact card to help match up your personal feelings on how to or how matches up with those that are important to you.

### CONSIDER OTHERS

Think the opinions of others in your community who have voted before in political campaigns. The longer of someone's history means that you interview those people (not family members) such as neighbors, neigh-



bor, or politically active volunteer, to find out which candidate they support and why.

Learn what has shaped their political opinions. It may be a certain policy that has helped them grow their business or organization. It could be a long-standing loyalty to a certain

party. Whatever it is, use the information you get to make a choice that could help you in understanding how to vote around you.



## Red Arrow

- FOOTBALL

## SPORTS

## With a perfect 9-0 season Arrows head to districts

by Kathryn Atwood  
contributing reporter

A perfect 9-0 season record was achieved by the Red Arrow varsity football team last Friday night at Northview High School. Lowell topped the Wildcats 51-22 in a wide-spread offensive effort that saw five Arrows cross into the end zone.

Lowell's Nate Stephens started the offensive onslaught early in the first after a 70-yard rushing effort that finished with a quick seven-yard score. Combined with a successful two-point conversion carried by quarterback David Kruse, the Arrows went up 8-0. It only took one play for Northview to equalize picking up eight on an 80-yard rush from Wildcat Javon Partee who split through the Arrow defense for the touchdown.

Tied at eight after a good conversion the Arrows were forced to punt in their

next possession and saw Northview go up six more points, missing the kick due to a block by Addison Buckius. On the ensuing kickoff Brady Douma broke through the pack for an 88-yard return into the end zone. His touchdown was paired with the first of five successful extra point kicks from George Gonzales.

Ahead by just one 15-14 at the close of the first quarter, the Arrows opened fire in the second scoring 20 unanswered points to grab a commanding 35-14 lead. Scoring for Lowell were Stephens and Kruse on 75 and two-yard rushes respectively and Hayden Barry who picked up a 53-yard touchdown through the air from Kruse.

Lowell added two more scores and picked up a safety in the third good for 16 additional points while stalemating the Northview offense

for a second consecutive quarter. Stephens picked up his third score of the night and Colton Churches made good on a Wildcat fumble following a sack, returning the ball 43 yards for six rounding out the 51-22 win. Stephens was the night's leading rusher picking up 154 of the team's 326 yards on the ground. Other top

ball carriers were Ethan Kaminski who carried the ball nine times for 81 yards in his debut in the varsity quarterback position and Barry who carried once for 38. Gonzales, Douma, Sage Solomonson and Kruse also picked up yardage for the team. Kruse also completed passes to Barry and Buckius good for 87 yards.

**With the OK White conference title already on the list of achievements this season, the team will next forge into Division II MHSAA district competition against fellow conference member Greenville who finished their season 5-4. A victory would propel the Red Arrows into round two action versus the winner of the simultaneous match up of hometown rivals Traverse City Central and Traverse City West. Post-season action starts this Friday when Lowell welcomes Greenville for their second match up of the season. Lowell won the regular season game 35-10. Kickoff is scheduled for 7 pm.**



## Lowell v Northview

Score	51	22
First Downs	12	12
Rushing Attempts	44	37
Yards Rushing	326	323
Yards Passing	87	60
Net Yards	413	383
Passes Attempted	7	14
Passes Completed	2	6
Interceptions	1	0
Offensive Plays	51	51
Average Gain	8.1	7.5
Fumbles: Number/Lost	1/0	3/0
Penalties: Number/Yards	3/35	10/69
Number of Punts/Yards	1/22	4/116
Average Per Punt	22	29
Punt Returns: Number/Yards	0/0	0/0
Number of Kickoffs/Yard	8/369	5/178
Average Per Kickoff	46.1	35.6
Kickoff Returns: Number/Yards	4/128	5/68
Int. Returns: Number/Yards	0/0	1/0
Possession Time	22:40	25:20
Third-Down Conversions	5/11	2/12
Fourth-Down Conversions	0/2	1/2

## - VOLLEYBALL

## Break-even week for Lowell volleyball

by Kathryn Atwood  
contributing reporter

Lowell varsity volleyball went 1-1 in the OK White last week. The Arrows beat the Northview Wildcats 3-0 on Tuesday and lost to Forest Hills Northern on Thursday at home.

Northview put up a fight in the first conference game of the week. They struck back often enough

to keep things tight, but Lowell ultimately prevailed topping the Wildcats 25-21, 25-21, and 25-20. The hard-fought win was propelled by sophomore server Emily Stump, along with juniors Abi Mangus, Jill Fidler and Sydney Powell. Mangus produced 12 kills for the team, Fidler 18 digs and Powell 32 assists. Seniors

Shannon Hoekstra and Kendra Wroten put up three blocks apiece.

Next, the Arrows welcomed top conference ranked Forest Hills Northern to Lowell. After falling behind by two sets 25-22 and 25-21, the Arrows staged a ferocious third set win 25-13 forcing a fourth. Still fueled from their win, they looked to repeat the effort but FHN caught a few breaks and eventually the set 25-18 and the 3-1 match win. Team assist leader Powell logged another 32 and added three aces in the match, while Mangus tallied three aces and twelve kills. Also leading in stats were Fidler with 19 digs and Hoekstra with seven blocks.

The break-even week leaves the Red Arrows with a winning 21-13-1 record overall. Their conference record stands

at a phenomenal 8-2 in conference, numbers that top all seasons in recent memory.

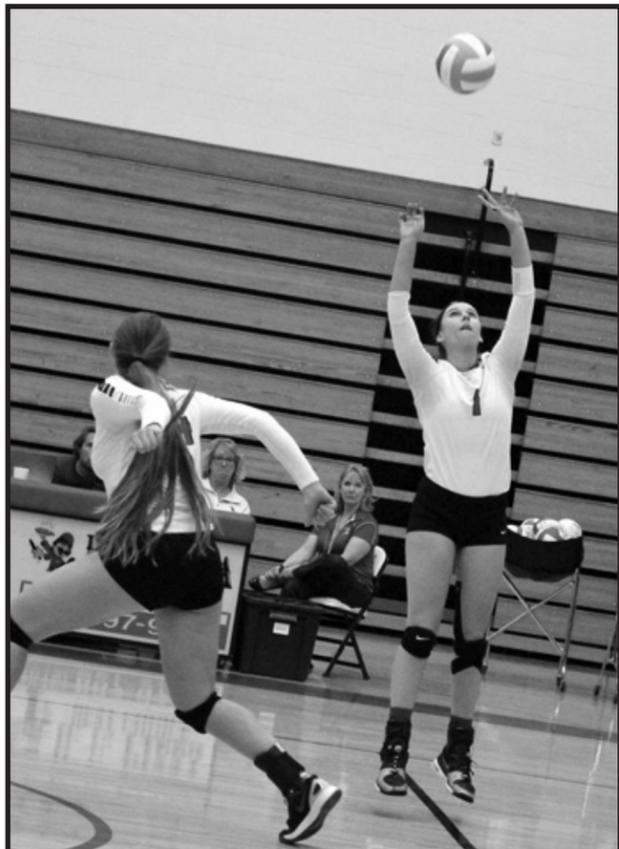
According to head coach Julie Quist, "It blows them away. This is the best season Lowell volleyball has had in years." She attributes the team's accomplishments thus far to a combination of hard work, mental toughness and team chemistry.

Lowell remains in the hunt for the OK White conference title with only two games remaining in the regular season. They must top both opponents to share a portion with the Forest Hills Central Rangers who are guaranteed a top spot. The Arrows will have to get through FHC to do it taking them on in their final duo of challenges.

Earlier in the season the Arrows fell 3-0 to the

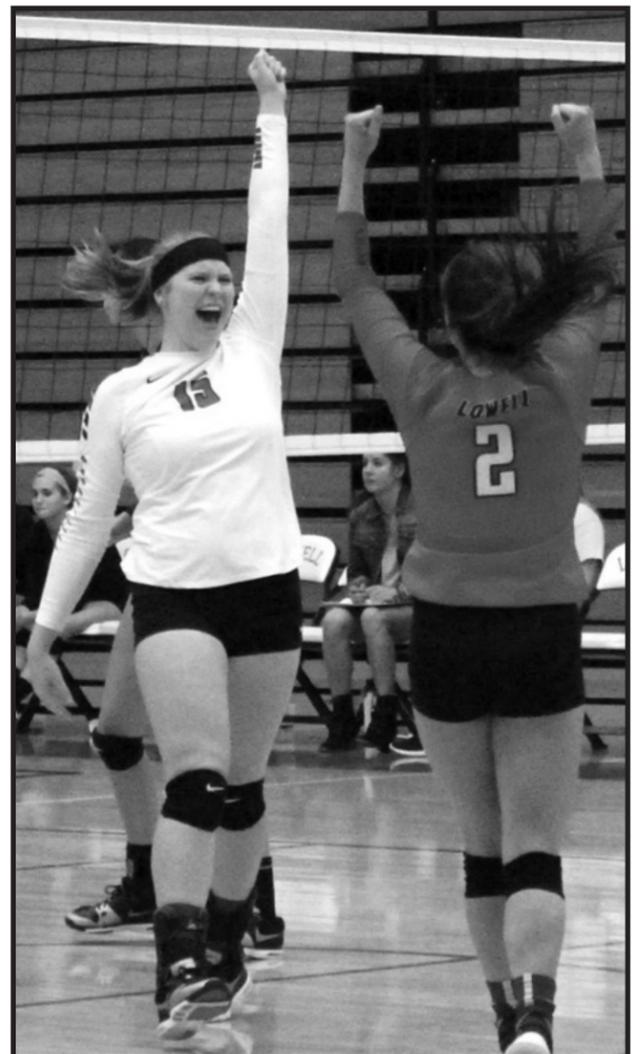
Rangers. Quist believes the team is in good position to take on and top any opponent. "I believe, if

we play the game we are capable of, I know we can beat both teams," said a confident Quist.



Junior Sydney Powell produces one of her 64 assists last week.

**Action for the Arrows this week will kick off Tuesday at FHC and wrap up with Greenville High School on Thursday in their home gym where they will celebrate senior night. Both games are scheduled to begin at 6:30 pm. The first round of district competition will follow on Monday at home versus Cedar Springs starting at 6 pm.**



Jill Fidler and Shannon Hoekstra celebrate on the court.

Red Arrow

- SOCCER

# SPORTS

## Red Arrows wrap up stellar soccer season

by Kathryn Atwood  
contributing reporter

Lowell varsity soccer wrapped up a stellar season last week. They triumphed over Northview and Forest Hills Eastern for the opportunity to compete against Forest Hills Northern in the Division II district championship finals last Saturday at Northview.

On Monday, in the first round of competition, the Red Arrows met the Wildcats of Northview for a highly physical game that required two overtime periods and was eventually decided by a nail-biting shootout. The Red Arrows

earned the first goal of the game after a scoreless first half for both teams. Sam Hofman assisted, passing the ball to Logan Landman who beat the Wildcats' goalkeeper. Northview quickly tied the game back up on a long goal from Noah Weeda.

Tremendous defense inside the net from Northview and Lowell's Trevor Sherman kept the rest of regulation a back-and-forth battle that produced no results. After two overtimes mirroring the same, the teams were forced into a shootout. Lowell's Collin

Bowers, Jonny Draigh and Elijah Dixon each found the back of the net while Northview only got by Sherman once granting the Arrows a 3-1 win and a trip to the semifinal round.

FHE was the team that stood between Lowell and the finals on Wednesday night. In another long game the contest went into overtime after the Hawks equalized the Arrows' early two-point lead in the second half of play. In overtime Landman made the game winning goal pushing Lowell into the finals round with a 3-2 win. Draigh

picked up both of the first half goals for the Arrows with assists from Jay Stadt and Jakob Thompson.

Saturday against FHN Draigh was the only Arrow to light up the scoreboard while the Huskies picked up two goals forcing the Arrows to settle for a runner-up district position after a furiously fought 2-1 loss. The game was the last for a dozen seniors who have been instrumental to the development of the program; Trevor Sherman, Landon Smith, Jakob Thompson, Logan Landman, Robbie Dubisky, Collin Bowers,

Jacob Holmes, Logan Smith, Jonah Epema, Tristian Stephens, Riley Coxon and Ben Noffke will graduate this spring. The Arrows end the season with

eleven shutout victories, a top conference finish and a winning record of 18-4-2 overall, one of the best on record for the school.



Red Arrow Robbie Dubisky chases down the ball in district competition.



Senior Collin Bowers soars upward for a header against FHN.



Senior Tristian Stephens heads toward goal during the team's finals appearance.

## Sports Summaries

### GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY

Red Arrow girls varsity cross country competed at the OK White fourth jamboree of the season hosted by Northview High School at Riverside Park last Wednesday finishing in fifth place at the event as well as in the conference. The team's 126-point finish at the last regular season meet was led by Lauren Aud and Audrey Conrad who clocked times of 21:07 and 21:28 respectively. Katrina Droski scored third for the team with a time of 21:43. Scoring personal bests and landing in fourth and fifth for the Arrows were Amber Clouse who came in at 21:51 and Alexis Haines who timed at 22:08. Dawn Kondor (22:13) and Kyla Dixon (23:13) rounded out the day's top runners. Regional competition for the Red Arrows will take place this Saturday at Allendale High School.

### GIRLS SWIM & DIVE

"No pool, no problem," the unofficial slogan of the Lowell/Caledonia/South Christian (CLS) girls swim and dive team, has proven to be pretty official. In their novice season, the co-op team has earned a 6-1 regular season finish including last week's dominating win over Ottawa Hills. CLS topped their opponent 127-56 landing eight first-place finishes in the pool. Coming out on top for the team were Sid Schering in the 200- and 500-meter freestyle, Alyssa Deshane in the 200 individual medley, Emma Norman in the 50 and 100 freestyle, Lexi Singstock in the 100 butterfly, Anna Luurtsma in the 100 backstroke and Lilia Bykerk in the 100 breaststroke. The team will next compete in exhibition at Wayland High School this Thursday at 6 pm where they will also face Northview.

### BOYS CROSS COUNTRY

Riverside Park was the site of the fourth and final OK White boys cross country jamboree of the season last Wednesday where the Red Arrows finished in the fifth position tallying 111 points. Senior Eric Judd (17:55) and freshman Caleb Swart (18:11) led for Lowell placing thirteenth and seventeenth. The pair was also given All-Conference honorable mention nods following the meet finishing fourteenth and fifteenth as individuals in the conference overall. Others scoring for Lowell at the Northview hosted event were Kenny Stump (18:21), Kyle Cater (18:22) and Seth Palmer (19:08). This Saturday they will compete in the regional competition at Allendale High School beginning at 12:45 pm.

### EQUESTRIAN

Lowell's successful five member equestrian team recently competed in the MIHA Division C State Championships in Midland finishing off another top season tied in the fourth position with a total of 202 points. Head coach Jessica Bouman led team members Andi Reynolds, Isabelle Mister, Ally Pawloski, Olivia Hock and Aili Fisher this season. The team netted a district championship and a second consecutive regional championship en route to the state competition.



# obituaries

## EICKHOFF

Mr. Robert Dean Eickhoff, age 86 of Manchester, passed this life October 18, 2016, at his home surrounded by his loving family. Masonic Rites and funeral services will be conducted at 6 pm Thursday, October 20 at the Manchester Funeral Home Chapel with Joel Burroughs officiating. Burial with full military honors will be conducted Friday, October 21 at the Chattanooga National Cemetery. Visitation with the Eickhoff family will be Thursday from 5 pm until 6 pm at Manchester Funeral Home.



Mr. Eickhoff was born in Lowell, Michigan, the son of the late Harvey and Altha Mae Johnson Eickhoff. Bob joined the U.S. Air Force in 1948 while living in Michigan and retired in 1978 in Massachusetts. He resided in Niceville, Florida, before moving to Manchester, Tennessee, in 1993. He was a member of the First Assembly of God in Tullahoma, the Air Force Sergeant's Association and the Manchester & Coffee County Senior Center. He was a Mason and a member of the Grand Lodge of Texas AF&AM, as a Master Mason. In addition to his parents, he was also preceded in death by five brothers, Harvey M., James L., Donald E., Joseph E., and Lonnie M. Eickhoff; and by a sister, Bonnie Lou Eickhoff Meehan. His survivors are, his loving wife, Judith A. Eickhoff; two sons, Jasen R. Eickhoff and his wife Maggie, Robert F. Eickhoff; one daughter, Deana M Crosslin and her husband Jason; two brothers, Eugene F. Eickhoff and Gary L. Eickhoff and his wife Sharon; three grandchildren, Dayne C. Crosslin, Tallan D. Crosslin and Harper M. Crosslin. In lieu of flowers the family asks that memorial donations be made in Bob's name to: The Manchester & Coffee County Senior Citizens Center, 603 Woodbury Hwy., Manchester, TN 37355. Manchester Funeral Home is honored to serve the Eickhoff family. [www.manchesterfuneralhome.com](http://www.manchesterfuneralhome.com)

## THOMPSON

Franklin David Thompson, age 83 of Lowell, was welcomed home by his Lord on October 18, 2016. He lived a simple life, and was dedicated to his family. His great capacity to love will be missed by his family and all those he welcomed into his family. He leaves behind his loving wife of 64 years, Shirley (Larrow) Thompson; children, Frank Thompson Jr., Martin Thompson, Sheila (Kevin) Hoag, Julie Kovich-Echtinaw, Mary Thompson;



grandchildren, Justin Hoag, Conall Hoag (Cynthia Tierney), Flynn Hoag, Ryan (Angie) Kovich, Brad (Sadie) Kovich, Ken (Rachael) Echtinaw, Josh (Kristina) Echtinaw; great-grandchildren, Hannah and Gracyn Kovich, Clairra and Anthony Kovich, Eleina Hoag, Lillian Echtinaw; and his buddy, Aerial (Bitty). Frank served in the Korean War. A Celebration of Life will be announced at a later date. Memorial contributions may be made to Ada Christian Reformed Church, 7152 Bradfield SE, Ada, MI 49301; or the American Cancer Society, 129 Jefferson Ave. SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49503. Frank's favorite song was Amazing Grace,  
When this flesh and heart should fail,  
And mortal life shall cease,  
I shall possess, within the veil,  
A life of joy and peace.



# Don't be scared of using Social Security online services

Autumn is the season of dressing up as monsters and watching scary movies in the dark. Even though most of these tricks and treats are just for fun, some of them can be scary. One of the most common threats we face is identity theft. Just imagine someone stealing your information and pretending to be you. You'd have no control as this person acts in your name, spending money — and possibly, ruining your credit.

That's one trick you can do without, which is why we've added an extra layer of security for our customers when they interact with us online.

Security offers an "extra security" option where we send a text message to the account holder's cell phone with an access code required to log-on. However, account holders can access their secure account using only their username and password. We highly recommend the extra security text message option, but it is not required. If you are uncomfortable with texting, we will be creating an option where you will receive a code via email.

We strive to balance security and customer service options, and we want to ensure that our online services are both easy to use and secure. The *my Social Security* service has always featured a robust verification and authentication process, and it remains safe and secure.

When you access your account, we encourage you to sign up for the extra security text message option. You can access your account by visiting [www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount).

Your *my Social Security* at [www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount) is a safe and secure place to do business with us.

For an extra layer of protection, Social



**GRATTAN TOWNSHIP**  
 Regular Meeting 7:00 p.m.  
 Synopsis of Minutes October 17, 2016  
 Motions Approved:  
 1. Resolution 2016-026 Round Lake Weed Control  
 2. Approved agreement for Forester  
 3. New Farm Lease for Grattan Vergennes sewer property  
 4. Snow Plow Bid was awarded to Creekside Property Management

Our next Township Meeting will be November 14, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. The approved minutes may be reviewed on our website at [www.grattantownship.org](http://www.grattantownship.org)

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## PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

A	D	U	L	T	B	R	A	E	R	N	E			
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9	8	5	3	4	2	6	7	1
2	4	7	1	9	6	5	3	8
6	3	4	2	7	9	8	1	5
8	2	1	4	6	5	7	9	3
7	5	9	8	1	3	2	4	6

# Green Party candidate for state rep speaks at GRCC

by Tim McAllister  
lead reporter

Cliff Yankovich, Green Party candidate for the Michigan House in the 86th district and owner of Main Street business Chimera Design, spoke at an event at Grand Rapids Community College last week. The main speaker at the event on Wednesday, Oct. 19 was Green Party vice presidential candidate Ajamu Baraka. Yankovich spoke for about seven minutes at the event and introduced Baraka.

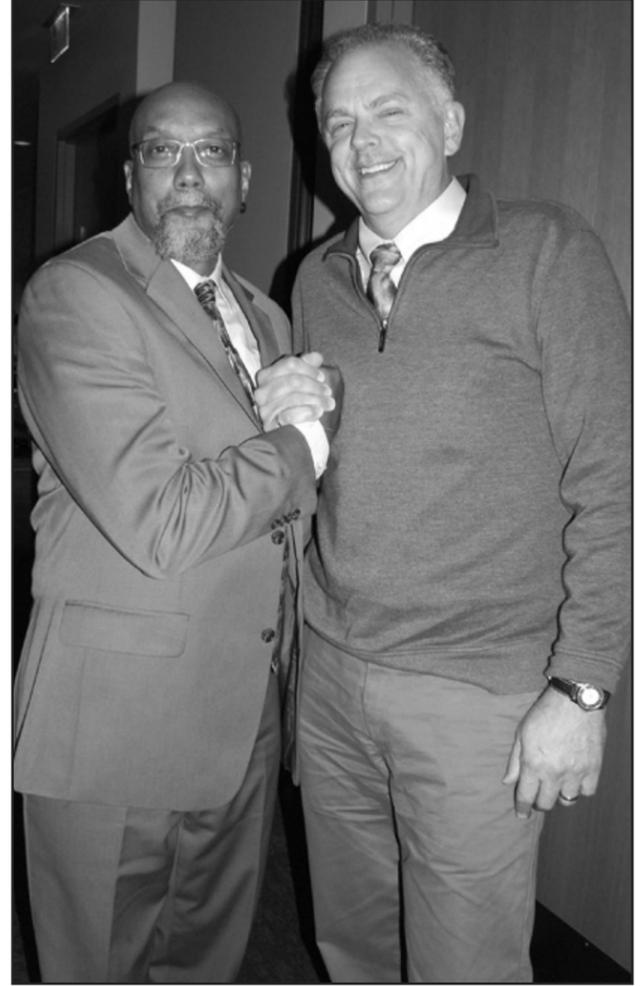
“Green is clean,” Yankovich said. “For the future of Michigan, vote green. To restore political power to the people, vote green. To usher in social justice, grassroots democracy and ecological wisdom, vote green.”

Green Party vice presidential candidate Ajamu Baraka spoke for about half an hour and then took questions from the

audience of about 100 people for another 40 minutes. Baraka is originally from Chicago. He has worked with organizations such as Amnesty International, the Center for Constitutional Rights and African Action. He was the founding executive director of the US Human Rights Network from 2004 until 2011 and is currently an associate fellow at the Institute for Policy

Studies in Washington, D.C. The theme of Baraka’s speech was “building the Green movement.”

“The thrust of our message is that we, in fact, do have the power to make change,” Baraka said. “The change that we have to make is going to be as the result of a protracted struggle, so it’s important that we vote on Nov. 8.”



Green Party vice presidential candidate Ajamu Baraka and 86th district Michigan House candidate Cliff Yankovich spoke at GRCC last Wednesday.

## LHS October Students of the Month

Lowell High School has announced that Alyvia Holdridge, 10th grade and Aiden Remar, 12th grade, are the Lowell High School October Students of the Month. In order to be eligible for this honor a student must be nominated by a department. All the nomination forms for the month are then reviewed and voted on at the monthly department chair meeting. Students are selected based on academic achievement, character and work ethic. There are 1,200 students eligible for nomination, so this is quite an accomplishment for Holdridge and Remar. The students receive a \$20 movie gift card and a certificate.

Holdridge was nominated by Jon Bieneman and he writes, “To start the school year, Aly has done an outstanding job in

my classroom. While her grade is outstanding in my class, it is her leadership in modeling what it means to be a Red Arrow that has been the greatest asset. She routinely participates in class discussion, even early in the year when students tend to be shy. The pride she takes in her work and dedication to advocating for herself is what we hope for all students. Aly also does an outstanding job asking questions and helping her peers in class. Her attitude is great and she’s always positive about what is happening.”

Nathan Masterson nominated Remar and he writes, “Aiden Remar has been an incredible addition to the vocal program here at Lowell. Over the past year, Aiden has gone above and beyond what is expected for

a vocal student. This year he has taken a leadership role upon himself and has made himself available

to anyone that needs help with anything in class. His character is top-notch and I feel he deserves this honor.”



Aiden Remar



Alyvia Holdridge

## Open enrollment, cont’d.

residents will be able to choose among plans with different combinations of premiums, out-of-pocket costs, networks of hospitals and physicians, and prescription drug coverage options. For people with employer-sponsored health insurance, plan choice is typically narrower. For example, in 2015, 30 percent of people with employer coverage not only had just one issuer, but also just one plan option.

On average, premiums for benchmark plans in Michigan are increasing by only 7 percent.

“Thanks to the combination of relatively modest premium changes and financial assistance, Michigan consumers will continue to have robust options for quality, affordable coverage for 2017,” said Kevin Counihan, HealthCare.gov CEO.

In addition to helping consumers save money, shopping also lets them find plans with features that matter most to them and their families. HealthCare.gov

offers a number of tools to help, including an out-of-pocket costs calculator, as well as physician and drug search tools.

HealthCare.gov will be piloting and then phasing in further improvements. The new Plan Compare 2.0 will offer a simpler, step-by-step sign-up process that integrates improved physician and drug look-up tools directly into the shopping experience and simplifies and improves shopping for consumers using mobile devices.

In 2016, the majority of Marketplace consumers were pleased with their coverage, reporting similar levels of satisfaction as people with employer plans. Improved search tools will help Marketplace consumers continue to find plans that meet their and their families’ needs.

Open Enrollment, which ends Jan. 31, 2017, provides Michigan residents the opportunity to find affordable coverage for them and their families. Learn more on HealthCare.gov.



## Honoring Our Area Veterans



**The Ledger along with local businesses will once again be saluting area Veterans.**

The names and pictures we receive will appear in our November 9 edition in honor of Veterans Day, November 12, 2016.

If you would like to spotlight a living in our area, please mail or bring their picture along with their name, branch of service and years served to:

The Lowell Ledger/Veterans Page  
105 N. Broadway • PO Box 128 • Lowell, MI 49331  
**OR email: [displayads@lowellbuyersguide.com](mailto:displayads@lowellbuyersguide.com)**

Put “Veterans” on the subject line, type the name, branch of service and years served into the body of the email and attach the picture.



**Deadline for submission is noon, Friday, Nov. 4, 2016**

**For more information call the Ledger at 616.897.9261**

You or the Veteran you are honoring must be from the Lowell area.



## NOTICE

**You MUST send a new picture this year.**

Even if, in the past, your service person was submitted.



**Veterans Day, November 12, 2016**



**STATEPOINT  
CROSSWORD**

**THEME:  
HALLOWEEN**

**ACROSS**

- 1. \*One should accompany young Trick or Treaters
- 6. "Victoria's Secret" purchase
- 9. Marine eagle
- 13. "West Side Story" character
- 14. Distinctive quality
- 15. "Pulling my leg," e.g.
- 16. Venomous slitherer
- 17. Dashboard acronym
- 18. Big tops
- 19. \*Like a house to avoid
- 21. \*Halloween alternative to black
- 23. Cul de \_\_\_\_
- 24. Type of test
- 25. Sis' sibling
- 28. Coarse file
- 30. Centers, old-fashioned
- 35. Indian music
- 37. \_\_\_\_ gin
- 39. \*Chocolate bar ingredient
- 40. Do as directed
- 41. Popular garden perennial
- 43. Jesus' first guests
- 44. African sorcery
- 46. Romanov ruler
- 47. Dashing style
- 48. Accident
- 50. Not mint
- 52. "C' \_\_\_\_ la vie!"
- 53. 500 sheets
- 55. Nada
- 57. \*\*Night of the \_\_\_\_ Dead"

CROSSWORD														
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71						72				73				

## TV AND INTERNET

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- 60. \*Possible Halloween precursor
- 64. Winnie-the-Pooh's friend
- 65. High or low card
- 67. Food from heaven
- 68. Cupcake topper
- 69. Spring mo.
- 70. Bar by estoppel

- 71. 2 aspirin, e.g.
- 72. Gobbled up
- 73. Desert's lack, pl.

**DOWN**

- 1. Wet nurse
- 2. Dad to a baby
- 3. Pakistani language
- 4. Property claims
- 5. Reason to visit dental hygienist
- 6. Shakespeare, e.g.
- 7. \*Gravestone wish
- 8. Tanks and such
- 9. Genesis garden
- 10. \*2002 horror movie "The \_\_\_\_"
- 11. Sol or fa
- 12. Ambulance crew
- 15. Typeface letter that slants up and to the right
- 20. E-wallet's content
- 22. Ewe's mate
- 24. One playing dead
- 25. \*Wicked ride
- 26. Torah teacher
- 27. S-shaped moldings
- 29. Coin opening

- 31. Top of the Capitol
- 32. 1:10,000 on a map, e.g.
- 33. Marcus Aurelius garb, pl.
- 34. \*Honoree on day after Halloween
- 36. Same as #1 Down
- 38. Arrival times
- 42. Entertainment venue
- 45. Artsy Keith
- 49. Mont Blanc, e.g.
- 51. Mood lighting switch
- 54. Old World lizard
- 56. \_\_\_\_ Apso
- 57. Insane in Spain
- 58. Avian wader
- 59. Ivy stem
- 60. Bone-dry
- 61. Hostile to
- 62. Involved in a secret
- 63. Midday slumbers
- 64. Free
- 66. \*Witch's familiar

*Puzzle solutions on page 12*



**OCTOBER 19 - OCTOBER 25**

- Miss Iceland 2015, was told to "stop eating breakfast and drink water every evening until the contest," by the owner of the Miss Grand International beauty contest. The 20-year-old Arna Ýr Jónsdóttir said she no longer has any interest in doing her best after receiving the message and this is "definitely" the last contest she'll take part in.
- With less than two weeks left to vote, and early voting in some states already started, Donald Trump's new and only point on the campaign trail is his claim of voter fraud. Clinton has moved on to "red" states hoping to sway them into the "blue."
- General Mills will be introducing a limited-time Girl Scout Cookie cereal line in January. The two flavors that will be offered are caramel crunch and thin mint.



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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.

**LEDGER OFFICE HOURS**

Monday - Thursday: 8 am - 5 pm

Friday: 8 am - Noon

Closed Sat. & Sun.

P.O. Box 128  
Lowell, MI 49331  
897-9261

# THIS WEEK'S ONLINE POLL

Do you think people are becoming less courteous?

## TO VOTE IN THIS WEEK'S ONLINE POLL GO TO -

# WWW. thelowelledger.com

# Longtime friends collaborate on children's book

by Tim McAllister  
lead reporter

Janet Johnson and Pat Markle are publishing their third children's book, "Gertie Goose," the beautifully-illustrated, engrossing story of a young goose who overcomes bullying through friendship. Markle, a Hastings resident,

wrote the story and Johnson, a Lowell resident, was the artist.

"Pat is the writer and I am the illustrator," Johnson said.

"Jan's illustrations are absolutely wonderful," Markle said.

The women have been

friends since they met in Ms. Miller's first-grade class in Caledonia. They graduated from Caledonia High School in 1948, then lost touch for a while as each pursued their separate careers and families. Markle went to Western Michigan University and became a teacher, a job she dedicated 32 years to. She was a third-grade teacher in Kalamazoo for a few years, then she moved to Hastings when she met her husband and taught grades four through six in Hastings schools. Johnson attended Kendall School of Art & Design in Grand Rapids, then the Ringling School of Art in Sarasota, Fla. She worked as a freelance artist, an art teacher and was a publication designer and art director at Amway for 22 years until her retirement in 1994. Johnson also spent some time working for the Lowell Ledger in the 1970s. Markle and Johnson kept in touch off and on through those busy adult years.

"We've always been quite bonded," Markle said. "We were always in contact, but when we lost our husbands we sort of reconnected."

Markle said she got the idea for "Gertie Goose" when she observed some geese acting like jerks.

"I live in a condo that overlooks a darling pond," Markle said. "There are masses of geese out there right now, gathering to head south. I have a little deck and when I was sitting out there I saw this happen. 'Gertie' was left there because her wing was injured. They came back and they were mean; they pecked at her. My neighbor said, 'That's the way geese operate. They're bullies.' They pick on anything that is not in full health and can't get away like they can. Swans do the same thing, they peck at them enough until they die. That wouldn't be a happy ending for children! Jan had some ideas and she turned it around so it would be happier."

"At first I didn't like her ending so I wouldn't work on it," Johnson said. "I had some major health issues too, a heart attack and cancer, but I'm feeling great right now."

"Modern medicine is just wonderful," Markle said. "What they do is unbelievable."

"It took a couple years because I didn't get started on it, but once I did it only took about three months [to complete the illustrations]," Johnson said.



Janet Johnson with Pat Markle who is holding a copy of their book, "Gertie Goose."

The book will be available to purchase in Lowell at the LowellArts! building, 221 W. Main, during the "Christmas Through Lowell" event on Nov. 18, 19 and 20. Some of Johnson's watercolor paintings will also be for sale then at the Flat River Gallery & Framing next door at 219 W. Main. Johnson and Markle have not yet determined if the book will be sold in Hastings. The ladies plan to donate copies of the book to

Hastings schools and next spring they hope to read it to classes at the elementary school.

"We would like to go into the Kindergarten and read this book to them," Markle said. "I'd like to have Jan come down and talk to them about the artwork. That is my goal; I'm very anxious to do it. I've got to go through all the proper channels and clear it with the superintendent [Carrie Duits] first."



## TASTE OF VEGETARIAN

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Informative Health Lecture - 5:00 PM

Riverside Fellowship of Seventh-day Adventists  
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Door prizes

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Please call for a reservation or if you have any questions.  
Call church @ 897-7930 or Linda @ 878-1887

## IS YOUR OFFICE DRESSING UP FOR HALLOWEEN?

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**Call the Ledger office (616) 897.9261**



**If your employees will be in costume on**

# MONDAY, OCT. 31

The Ledger will come and take a group picture and publish them on Wednesday, Nov. 2!

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