

## community thanksgiving dinners



pages 8 & 9



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

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lhs sports



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## Despite halting operations, odorous biodigester continues to smell and have leakage problems

by Tim McAllister  
lead reporter

Despite fix after fix to the facility by LEAD, the biodigester's odor problems persist. The plant is even stinkier than ever this week after a dome ruptured and a valve leaked at the Chatham St. facility, releasing rancid odors and nasty substances.

"Late last night or early this morning, we noted a tear in the dome atop the digester unit," Greg Northrup, LEAD principal, said on Monday. "Additionally, some material from the digester was lost through a pressure valve. The cleanup was handled quickly and crews have been on-site throughout the day today to deal with the situation."

Reports that a substance from the biodigester leaked into the city sewer system appear to be untrue, according to a response from Lowell City Manager Mike Burns on Tuesday, Nov. 29.

"I am not aware of that, that has not been brought to my attention," said Burns.

"We are looking into seeing if there has been, but to my knowledge there has not been."

Lowell city council recently instructed the biodigester to stop operating until they can fix any potential causes of odor.

"At the city council on Monday evening [Nov. 21], the city attorney and I were directed to enforce the provisions of the Sept. 22 agreement with LEAD," Burns said. "That is for them to cease operations of the biodigester and the waste water pretreatment plant until such time as to when odors have been eliminated and testing concurs that detectable odors will not go beyond the premises. From a legal standpoint, that process has begun. To my knowledge, they are not taking any feedstock including Litehouse."

LEAD was instructed by the Lowell city council to cease operations at the facility after it continued to receive \$300 odor citations

beyond the Nov. 1 "no more odors" deadline.

"This weekend I was notified of mechanical issues at the facility," Burns said. "A strong odor emanated and citations were issued on Nov. 26 and Nov. 27 but had not been issued since Nov. 14."

It is still unknown what caused the tank and valve to fail, but LEAD is still determined to get the biodigester up and running.

"Lowell Energy AD ceased operations last week and worked through the weekend to overhaul and carefully review odor control points throughout the operation," Northrup said. "This work was successfully completed late Sunday [Nov. 27].



Lowell's biodigester is shut down but problems persist. Stock photo

[...] The digester is being completely emptied, which could take up to a week, and we will post a work update as soon as we better

understand what exactly happened. We can't confirm much just yet. There is odor,

Biodigester problems, continued, page 3

## Whites Bridge Historical Society needs additional funds in order to rebuild landmark

by Tim McAllister  
lead reporter

In August 2016 the Whites Bridge Historical Society announced that the Michigan Department of Transportation would begin advertising for bids to rebuild the bridge. There has been no construction yet, however.

"We withdrew the project from the August MDOT bid letting due to questions on the timber specifications," Whites Bridge Historical Society president Tom Byle said in an e-mail. "Since then, I and the structural engineer have been talking to vendors and contractors that were going to bid on the project. The good news is we have revised the specifications



Inset: A stock photo of Whites Bridge before the fire and above, crews removing remnants from the Flat River in August 2013. (Ledger Aug. 20, 2013)

and answered the questions. The not so good news is that the contractors advised me that our estimated cost was low. At this point, we do not have a commit for all the funds to complete the project. This is quite disappointing since myself and the engineers had estimated the cost using two different methods and independently arrived at the same cost. We are in the process of revising the cost estimate. The society's efforts at this time will be concentrated on raising the additional funds to build the bridge. We are hoping that some of the foundations that declined to contribute during the first round of fundraising will look favorably since we have raised over \$475,000. We have informally approached a couple funding sources

and received a favorable response. We will be preparing and submitting formal requests in the next few months. If you know of a foundation that you think might grant our request for funds, please let us know."

The WBHS has worked to obtain grants and donations totaling over \$475,000, which will pay for the reconstruction project. This includes a \$200,000 grant from Meijer and a \$275,000 contribution from MDOT themselves.

Whites Bridge was built across the Flat River in 1869. It stood for 144 years until an arsonist burned it down on July 7, 2013. The perpetrator of this crime has never been caught. If you have any information about the fire, call the Lowell Police Department.



## At Your Local Library

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

### holiday events for kids at the local library

by Tim McAllister  
lead reporter

There are two, fun, holiday events for small kids happening at the Englehardt Library, 200 N. Monroe, in December. The Holiday Fun Fest on Thursday, Dec. 8 and Gingerbread Lane on Thursday, Dec. 15 are

a chance for children ages six and under to play, hang out, listen to music and stories, do a few crafts and make a Christmas gift for a loved one. Like all library events, participation is free of charge.



## along main street

### LOWELLARTS! 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.

...

**One of the things about equality is not just that you be treated equally to a man, but that you treat yourself equally to the way you treat a man.**

~ Marlo Thomas

### GILDA'S CLUB LOWELL CLUBHOUSE

**Breast Cancer Support Group** – Tues., Dec. 6, 6-7:30 pm. A monthly support group for those diagnosed with breast cancer to learn and share together. The group will meet on the first Tuesday of every month.

**Holiday Social-Let It Snow** – Tues., Dec. 13, 5:30-7:30 pm. Join us for this special evening of holiday fun and surprises. We will have dinner, a visit from Santa and more. The location is at the American Legion, 3124 Alden Nash Ave. SE, Lowell. Everyone is welcome.

**Chitchat Readers Book Club** - Tues., Dec. 20, 4:15-5:15 pm.

Lowell Clubhouse, 314 S. Hudson St. For more information call 897-8600 or visit [www.gildasclubgr.org/pinkarrow](http://www.gildasclubgr.org/pinkarrow)

### FROM VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION

Volunteer orientation at Flat River Outreach Ministries will be Wed., Dec. 7 at 6 pm. Please call 897-8260 for additional information.

### FOOD DISTRIBUTION

Food distribution will take place on Dec. 8 from 9-11 am and 1-3 pm at FROM, 11535 E. Fulton. Frozen, refrigerated and dry goods will be distributed on a first-come, first-served basis. Please bring proof of Kent County residence.

### A COMMUNITY CELEBRATION

Christmas in Fallasburg will be held Saturday, Dec. 10 at the Fallasburg Schoolhouse, 13944 Covered Bridge Road, North of Lowell from 6 to 8 pm. Suggested donation: Adults, \$20. For more information go to [www.fallasburg.org](http://www.fallasburg.org) or call 616-682-0785.

*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.*

The library's Holiday Fun Fest will be from 10 am until 11 am on Thursday, Dec. 8. There will be stories, music and crafts for kids six and under, plus they will be able to make a present for a loved one.

"They will have the opportunity to create a simple Christmas gift and wrapping, hear some holiday stories and do it all while being serenaded with holiday music," said librarian Linda Austin. "It gives them an opportunity to give back to their family, to give rather than get."

Kids six and under will get to make their own gingerbread houses during the Gingerbread Lane affair

on Thursday, Dec. 15 from 10 am until 11 am.

"Gingerbread Lane is a fun way to play around with edibles," Austin said. "They will be able to put together a gingerbread house or a gingerbread Christmas tree. It's an edible craft extravaganza. They're using frosting as the glue, candies, cookies and pretzels as the embellishments and ground up cereal for the snow. The kids are encouraged to taste as well as create."

Registration is required to participate in the Gingerbread Lane event. Visit this website to register: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/gingerbread-lane-registration-28604755594>

**LowellArts Moving Sale**

Sat, Dec 3, 11am-4pm  
Moving Sale  
149 S. Hudson St.

Tue-Sat 10am-6pm  
Holiday Artists Market  
223 W. Main St.

MOVING SALE, DOWNTOWN LOWELL  
149 S. Hudson St – Saturday, Dec. 3, 11am-4pm  
Everything must go! LowellArts, a non-profit arts organization, has moved! Items for sale include: office furniture, table and chairs, art books, multiple glass luminary candle holders, special event decorations, magazine racks, paint, metal file cabinets, office supplies, wood crates, and historic items from Gee Hardware. All proceeds from sales will support the Moving to Main Campaign.

*\*\*And, stop by the new LowellArts space at 223 W. Main Street and shop the Holiday Artists Market for art and fine craft gifts for the holiday season!\*\**

*It's time to review your health care needs for 2017!*

October 15, 2016 begins the Annual Election Period (AEP) for both Medicare Advantage and Prescription Drug plans.

November 1, 2016 begins the enrollment period for the Affordable Care Act.

As an independent agent certified to represent all major companies, I would appreciate the opportunity to review the best options for you and your family. There is no charge for my services. Please call or email to schedule this important review.



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# Biodigester problems, continued

but crews have contained the situation and public health and safety are not at risk.”

Lowell city council and the board of Lowell Light & Power will have a special joint meeting at city hall at

7 pm on Thursday, Dec. 1 to discuss the biodigester.

“We are going to be having joint city council,

Lowell Light & Power meeting to discuss the continued problem of odor emitting from the biodigester in the city,” Burns said. “There has obviously been an issue with the odor since Nov. 1. There will be an update on the status of the issue, an opportunity public comment and then there is going to be a closed session to discuss the legal opinion subject to the attorney client privilege.”

Burns said that although public opinion is strongly against keeping the biodigester in town, there is not much the city or Light &

Power can do without going to court.

“I think it's obvious that the public wants it gone, and rightfully so,” Burns said. “The legal issue is, will a judge allow that to happen and how far does the city want to go in pursuing that at this point? The risk you have is, you have a business that has made a significant investment and, while they have not been compliant with the odor issues, when they have been served they have been doing what they can do address the issue. While a [Nov. 1] deadline was in place, if we do take

court action and shut them down there is going to be an argument about whether or not the city and Lowell Light & Power gave them reasonable time to correct the issue. The argument might be that we had. It's really in the hands of the judge if we do that. There is no simple solution. People want it gone. I understand that and I understand their frustration. Unfortunately it's not something that you can just flip a switch and it goes away. It's not that easy. That's where we're at with this.”

# Old-fashioned Christmas slated for Dec. 10 at Fallasburg Village

by Tim McAllister  
lead reporter

Celebrate an old-fashioned country Christmas at Fallasburg Village, 13944 Covered Bridge Rd., from 6 until 8 pm on Saturday, Dec. 10. The town will be tastefully decorated and there will be food and entertainment.

“The 140-year-old schoolhouse once again opens her doors to welcome you,” said Ken Tamke, president of the Fallasburg Historical Society. “[There will be] traditional holiday music by the Hawks & Owls band, wine, cheese, cider, coffee, our famous Fallasburg buffet, and lots of Christmas goodies plus a roaring bonfire in adjacent Fallas Field to cap off the evening.”

When it gets dark people are encouraged to go outside and enjoy a massive bonfire.

“Part of the Christmas party is a bonfire in the field adjacent to our schoolhouse,” Tamke said. “The bonfire actually goes on after the festivities. About 7:30 or so the fire gets lit in the field and everybody starts to filter out about 8:00. Those who appreciate seeing flames leaping 50 feet into the air hang out around the bonfire and shoot the breeze.”

The giant fire is created by a local man who saves and salvages scrap wood all year long.

“There’s a farmer in the neighborhood, Craig Wood, who spends all year long

building this fire,” Tamke said. “He is our official fire builder. He gets old pallets and uses those on the bottom row to let oxygen into the bottom of the fire and then he gathers yard clippings, tree branches, wood from remodeling projects; it all gets tossed into the mix. The thing is about 30 feet long and 15 feet wide and it’s eight to ten feet high. It puts out an intense amount of heat at first, but then it becomes quite pleasant.”

Christmas at Fallasburg Village is an opportunity to celebrate Christmas the way

they did when the village was first settled back in the 1800s. There is a suggested donation of \$20; proceeds go toward upkeep of the village.

“It’s amazing,” Tamke said. “People come and gather ‘round and tell stories and reminisce and talk to each other. It unifies people, which is what we’re all about. Bringing the community together.”

For more information about Fallasburg Village, check out their website [fallasburg.org](http://fallasburg.org)



The annual Fallasburg Village bonfire. (Ledger photo 2014)

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I seem to smell the stench of appeasement in the air.

~ Margaret Thatcher

**NEWS REGARDING TRASH-RECYCLING-YARD**

Residents can now contract directly with a licensed provider in the City of Lowell for a trash service option that is most suitable to them beginning December 1, 2016. Those companies that are currently licensed in the City are the following:

**Red Creek - 616-682-2806 Republic Services - 616-437-8014**  
**Green Valley Services - 616-647-1400 Waste Management, Inc. - 1-800-796-9696**

What does this mean to residents who have utilized the service by Red Creek after November 30, 2016?

Residents have the option to seek service from any licensed provider. Red Creek plans to sell the blue bags as they have previously. Please contact Red Creek for information pertaining to this and yard waste pick up.

**Recycling**

Residents who have utilized the recycling via the City of Lowell through Red Creek have the option of returning their recycling containers back to the City of Lowell. The City will then return the resident's deposit, if done so before May 1, 2017. Residents can also keep the container, with no deposit returned to them. Please note if the resident chooses not to return the container, Red Creek will still not accept recycling from that container.

Waste pickup will continue to remain on Thursdays except for holiday weeks where service will be delayed one day. Call City Hall with questions at 616-897-8457

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# business directory

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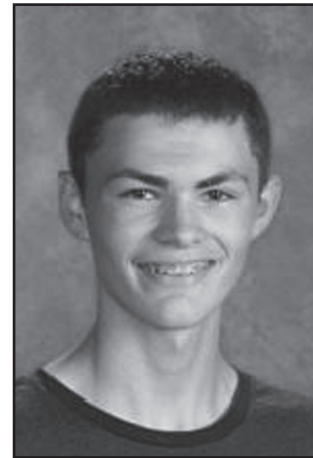


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## LHS Students of the Month for November

Lowell High School has announced that Blake DeHaan, 10th grade and Ashley Boehr, 9th grade, are the Lowell High School November 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 DeHaan and Boehr. The students receive a \$20 movie gift card and a certificate.



Blake DeHaan



Ashley Boehr

DeHaan was nominated by RJ Boudro and he writes, "Blake DeHaan deserves to be rewarded for his hard work, he is the perfect recipient for the November

Student of the Month! Blake currently has all As and Bs in his challenging schedule and has not missed one day of school. He is a great example of what hard work can do for a student and I am proud to see that his effort is paying off."

Laurie Summerfield nominated Boehr and she writes, "Ashley is rehearsing

in the All School Play and she is in my theater class. She is talented in theater but she also works very hard. Ashley is engaged in classroom activities and encourages others. She is a kind person and a positive influence in my class. Ashley is a conscientious student and a joy to be around."

Once you wake up and smell the coffee, it's hard to go back to sleep.

~ Fran Drescher

## Acoustic folk music at Bostwick Lake church

Bostwick Lake Congregational Church welcomes Ruth and Max Bloomquist to the annual Vespers Service of readings and music on Saturday, December 10 from 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm. The duo has been performing Folk, Bluegrass, and traditional Country music for over 40 years. Known for her songwriting and a striking alto voice, Ruth's gospel song "By The River," won the Merlefest Chris Austin Competition in 2003 and music critic, John Sinkevics praises the two as "... veritable folk music legends

in Michigan, captivating audiences with their songs, harmonies and folk-infused charm." The community is invited to Advent Vespers at the church located at 7979

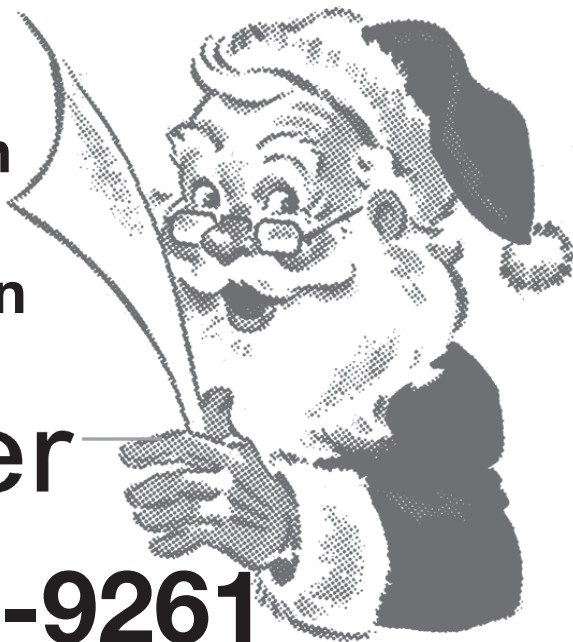
Belding Road, Rockford. A free-will donation will be accepted. Light refreshments will be served in Davis Hall immediately following. Free parking.



Ruth and Max Bloomquist

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# viewpoint

## outdoors

### living history

Dave Stegehuis

In a rapidly changing world it would seem that big game hunting would be a distant memory of an older generation. Surprisingly, the good old days are still here.

To maintain a hunting culture it is necessary to have a huntable population of animals which requires suitable habitat to sustain the species. Then, of course, there needs to be those who would venture afield to seek out and harvest the prey.

There have been major shifts in location and numbers of whitetail deer in Michigan. At the turn of the last century, avid hunters traveled rough roads to the Upper Peninsula with less reliable vehicles compared to today's highways and modern transportation. A

long wait for a boat ride across choppy waters waited for scores of hunters at the Straits of Mackinaw.

As the land healed from the ravages of logging in the early 1900's, deer habitat in the Lower Peninsula improved as a result of cutting and burning. Hunting became productive north of about M20. Next we were hunting down to M57 and now all the way to the southern border of the state due to land use trends as well as changing agriculture practices. Where once big bucks were found only in remote reaches of the U.P., southeast Michigan with dense human presence is now the mecca for record deer. U.P. deer are currently experiencing hard times

primarily due to habitat issues.

Although southern Michigan is mostly private land, the rest of the state has millions of acres of public access areas. Private landowners and government agencies manage much of this for wildlife habitat. Therefore, there are plenty of deer and lots of places to hunt. With some research and extra effort one can still have the quality hunting experience known to our ancestors.

The population of hunters remains strong despite all of the distractions of modern life revolving around advanced technology which tends to isolate us from the land and wildlife. The hunting fraternity has also changed.

As traditional male hunters age and retire from hunting fewer young men replace them. Women, particularly young women, have taken up the slack keeping the hunting tradition alive and well.

I thought about all this while spending a week in the northern deer woods this season. Dressed in traditional red plaid wool with a classic rifle across my knees, I searched the surrounding wooded

landscape for movement or an out of place grey shape with the same hopeful anticipation which has not dimmed in over sixty years. Thankfully, a few things in life don't change.

## We love to hear from you!

The Lowell Ledger welcomes your Letters to the Editor.



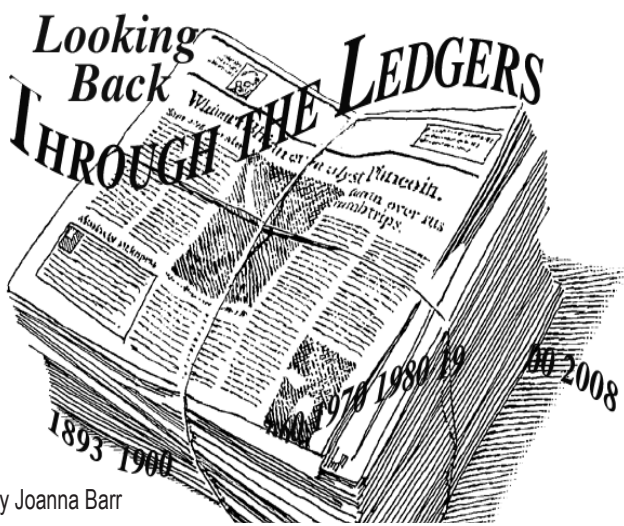
Letters are required to bear the author's signature, phone number and address (for verification purposes only, not for publication). Letters will be published at the discretion of the publisher; duplicate comments/authors within a short period may be dismissed. Opinions expressed in "To The Editor" are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

of the Ledger employees or the publisher. All letters are subject to editing. Thank you letters and advertising will not be printed.

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



Your Hometown News Source



By Joanna Barr

### 125 years ago Lowell Journal Dec. 2, 1891

Lowell is the proud possessor of two new social clubs just organized, both of which are as yet without a name. One has furnished a suite of rooms over A. J. Howk & Son's store. The other is composed mostly of young men and has a nicely furnished room in the Lyon Block over Church's Bank. In both of them gambling is prohibited under no less penalty than that of expulsion. There is no reason why one good club should not become a permanent fixture in this place.

Mrs. J. O'Heron has just received a full line of Fancy Goods and Materials for fancy work. Below will be found a partial list of the goods we carry in stock. Rope Silk, Roman Floss, Couching Silk, Knitting Silk, Banner Rods, Celluloid and Stamped Linens, Japanese Gold Thread, Silk Bolting Cloth, Silk and Cheneel Cord, Silk and Cheneel Ornaments.

### 100 years ago The Lowell Ledger Nov. 30, 1916

Thanksgiving foot ball game – this Thursday afternoon at Recreation Park. Town Team of Has Beens to battle Lowell High School, age and weight to

cope with youth and vigor. Statement of the opposing leaders: Captain Schneider: "We are going to do our best against a heavier team. They will know they have been somewhere when we get through with them." Captain Brezina: "There will be nothing to it. The score will be 40 to 0 in our favor." High School Players: Schneider, Horn, Read, Bergin, Avery, Raymond, Condon, Aldrich, Lawyer, Morse, Bank, Brezina, Jones, Leonard, Brunthaver, Martin. Town Team: O. C. Brezina, N. Avery, Dr. Smith, Collar, McQueen, R. Bergin, Watson, Kropf, Dr. Huntley, Mitchell, F. Howard, A. Schneider, Kellogg, Cuddihy, Conklin, Andrews, M. Howard. Those young men about town who have been "just dying to ride in those new buses of Cadwallader and Yeiter" may have their innings Thursday afternoon when they clash with the High school football team on Recreation Park. It has been long and freely predicted that the outcome will be a massacre but there seems to be some difference of opinion who will suffer "the allies or the Germans." The battle of the Somme will pall into insignificance when these foes meet. There will be enough powder used to free all Europe. Captain Oscar of the allies claims that the score will be 40 to 0 in favor of his cosmopolitan aggregation while the high school boys are just as confident of winning with as large a score. Captain Wm. Schneider thinks his men have the advantage in their two months' training, while the town boys have been practicing only a week. He allows that the school boys will wear down the city "slickers" even though they do have substitutes too "numerous to mention." It is rumored that the town boys have built their offensive and defensive plays around their pivot man, Clarence Collar, his guards, Doctors Huntley and Smith and the quarter back Mitchell; the only point in question is the advisability of reducing Lowell's perfectly good staff of physicians on such a momentous occasion by using Huntley in the line up. Perhaps we can S. O. S. Ada if such a contingency occurs. Captain Brezina, who has rounded up the recruit footballers, will share end position with Watson and Paul Kellogg. For tackles, there are available Avery, Smith and Walt. Kropf. John Cuddihy and Deck Conklin have been designated guards while Andrews, McQueen, Frank and Mutt Howard, Ray Bergin and Art Schneider will comprise the back field.

### 75 years ago The Lowell Ledger Dec. 4, 1941

Chris Bergin, well known figure here for more than sixty years, will observe his 90th birthday this week Saturday, Dec. 6, and will receive hearty congratulations and best wishes from many friends. Mr. Bergin's service to this community includes 19 years as township supervisor, 4½ years as township clerk, 10 years as village trustee and 4 years as village president. He also operated a grocery store here for 17 years and Frank McMahan, now superintendent of the Municipal Plant, worked for him as a boy, and Rudolph VanDyke, now president of the State Savings Bank, was one of his clerks. Mr. Bergin is still serving as village assessor, manages his farm and is otherwise too busy to think about growing old.

Thirty-two electric sorting machines of the latest improved model have been added to the bean sorting department at Runciman's elevator, making a total of 132 machines in all. The machines are running both night and day shifts and are sorting better than three carloads every twenty-four hours. About twenty hands are employed sorting colored beans and Mr. Runciman states that he could use more help in this department. Farmers are trucking beans here from many points for miles around. One farmer was here on Monday from beyond Traverse City, his round trip making a distance of 408 miles. Yesterday fifteen carloads of beans shipped in by rail were standing on the siding waiting to be picked.

Guy C. Lewis of Grand Rapids received one of the first courtesy citations awarded in that city on Monday of this week. As a result, Mr. Lewis' picture appeared in a Grand Rapids Herald feature story on Tuesday. Mr. Lewis is well known here and Mrs. Lewis, (nee Viola Morse) is a former Lowell girl.

During the past two weeks nearly 150 young men from Kent County have enlisted in the U. S. Navy. Recruiting is still in progress and all men are advised to investigate at once the unusual advantages that the Navy has to offer. All selectees in class 1-A have the privilege of joining the Navy providing they make

# Togetherhood through YMCA and Open Table

submitted by Staci Chambers

Togetherhood comes alive in Lowell every Thursday through a YMCA partnership with Lowell's Open Table. Open Table is a totally volunteer, feeding mission designed to provide a free weekly meal to area residents who face food or social insecurity, as well as promote quality time by bringing the community together in a welcoming atmosphere.

Lowell's Open Table operates in the First Congregational Church building every Thursday with trained volunteers preparing a quality three course meal, including an appetizer, entrée and a dessert. People can choose either the main selection of the week or a vegetarian pasta option. Guests arrive between 5-7 pm and are treated to a restaurant-style meal, combined with conversation and community "togetherhood."

Volunteers prepare, serve, host and clean up after the meal.

YMCA member volunteers sign up each week

for the cooking, serving or clean up shift of their choice.

This dynamic partnership produces a quality meal,

new friendships and a unique opportunity to serve and come together as a community.



Volunteers sign up each week to help with the community meal.

## health



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

### vitamin D and your infant child

Vitamin D plays an important role in many functions throughout the body, including the development of bones. Infants need an adequate supply of vitamin D on a daily basis, to grow properly and maintain strong bones. It is recommended that infants receive 400 international units (I.U.) per day of vitamin D. Vitamin D is not only obtained through diet, but is also made in the skin when exposed to sunlight. Having adequate exposure to sunlight would, in theory, provide infants with enough vitamin D. However the risks of sun exposure, including sunburn and skin cancer, outweigh

the benefits. Therefore, adequate dietary intake of vitamin D is important, especially for infants.

Most processed (store bought) breads, cereals, cow's milk, and formulas are fortified with vitamin D. Infants who are raised on formula and infant cereals and then transition to whole cow's milk, should receive plenty of vitamin D.

Breast milk, despite all of its beneficial advantages over formula, does not contain adequate vitamin D. Therefore, breastfed infants should receive supplemental vitamin D. One readily available over-the-counter preparation is Poly Vi Sol oral infant drops.



## lend a hand

volunteering opportunities

### tutors needed

The Literacy Center of West Michigan has scheduled information sessions for Monday, Dec. 5 at 10 am; Friday, Dec. 16 at 2 pm; Tuesday, Dec. 20 at 6 pm; and Wednesday, Dec. 28 at 10 am for prospective volunteer tutors. These sessions last one hour. It allows persons interested in becoming volunteer tutors to find out more about the center and its literacy programs. At the end of

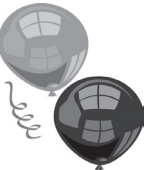
each session, there will be an opportunity to sign up for tutor training.

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

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

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

## happy birthday



### NOVEMBER 30

Jason Craig, Todd Ryder, Joe Kiczenski, April McClure.

### DECEMBER 2

Chelsey Treglia, Kari Bergy, Karly Batt, Olivia Starkweather.

### DECEMBER 1

Travis Briggs, Nate Schoen, Deb Anchors, Denny Brenk II, Joyce Watrous.

### DECEMBER 3

Chris Chambers, Christine Gillies, Amanda Sterzick, Richard Kline, Jennifer Kovacs.

### DECEMBER 4

Tennille Bryant, Autumn French, Casey French.

### DECEMBER 5

Christopher Vickers.

### DECEMBER 6

Katie Blough, Kristopher Vezino, Maria Blough, Christopher DeBold, Marc Wernet.



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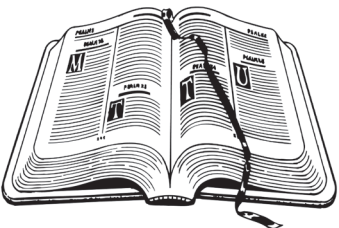
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# area churches



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**SUNDAY School.....11:00 AM** (Nursery-Adult)

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# EARTH TALK™

## Questions & Answers About Our Environment

**Dear EarthTalk: What are some ways I can get my college to be more green?**

- Bill Ott, Troy, NY

In recent years, colleges and universities have recognized the capacity for their independent communities to lead the nation as examples of sustainable and carbon-neutral institutions. Colleges in the U.S. and around the world have introduced conservation measures to reduce waste, installed solar panels to reduce reliance on fossil fuels, and promoted shared vehicles to reduce carbon emissions, among other initiatives.

Many colleges have followed the lead of Stanford University's "Green Campus" program by replacing disposable plastic utensils with organic alternatives. Cutlery made from potato starch and sugarcane allows students to simply put all waste in compost bins, including the utensils themselves. This compost is reintroduced in turn as fertilizer for use on university gardens.

Reusable mug programs accomplish similar goals. At Portland Community College in Oregon, bringing your own mug gets you a five-cent discount per drink, while other colleges with meal plans offer similar incentive programs. And efforts to reduce waste aren't limited to the dining hall. The University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign and Purdue University have partnered with Kimberly-Clark Professional's RightCycle program to recycle non-hazardous lab waste. Since joining the program in 2013, the colleges have redirected six tons of plastic waste from landfills for use as shelving, flowerpots and furniture.

Meanwhile, 48 different colleges—from Harvard to UC Santa Cruz—have signed on with the Post-Landfill Action Network (PLAN), which helps universities reduce waste through plastic-free initiatives, waste audits and move-in/move-out collections and subsequent sales.

Universities can also employ renewable energies to offset power demands from fossil fuels. Campus solar installations have risen dramatically in the past decade. Large, tall structures—the style of many academic buildings—are ideal locations for photovoltaic panels, especially as peak electrical production correlates with peak demand during daytime hours. And photovoltaic installations are not limited to sunny states; Colby College completed a 1.9 megawatt project in 2015 that is currently the largest system in Maine.

Other forms of renewable energy have also seen tremendous success on college campuses. A University of New Hampshire project provides over 80 percent of its energy using landfill gas. And Ball State University in Muncie, Indiana has replaced its outdated coal boilers with 3,750 geothermal wells that utilize the Earth's interior temperature to regulate heat in campus buildings.

Colleges have also taken steps to green up transportation. Vermont's Middlebury College introduced its Yellow Bikes Cooperative in 2001 to offer public bicycles to students for just \$6 per year. And students there who complete a free class on bicycle repair are



rewarded with a free discarded bike. Many colleges also now partner with Zipcar to offer student rates, reducing the need for personal vehicles on campus. And dozens of colleges nationwide have replaced campus car and bus fleets with electric vehicles.

These are just a few examples of how higher education is walking the talk on the environment. If your school isn't already moving in the same direction, there's no time like the present to team up with students, faculty and administrators to initiate earth-friendly policies and encourage greener behaviors.

CONTACTS: Sustainable Stanford, [sustainable.stanford.edu](http://sustainable.stanford.edu); Post-Landfill Action Network, [www.postlandfill.org](http://www.postlandfill.org); RightCycle, [www.kcprofessional.com/brands/kimtech/rightcycle](http://www.kcprofessional.com/brands/kimtech/rightcycle).

EarthTalk® is produced by Roddy Scheer & Doug Moss and is a registered trademark of the nonprofit Earth Action Network. To donate, visit [www.earthtalk.org](http://www.earthtalk.org). Send questions to: [question@earthtalk.org](mailto:question@earthtalk.org).

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## VERGENNES TOWNSHIP PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** that a public hearing before the Vergennes Township Board will be held at a regular scheduled meeting on **Monday, December 19, 2016 at 7:00 PM, at the Vergennes Township Hall, located at 10381 Bailey Drive, Lowell, MI to consider a special exception use permit as follows:**

**Faulk & Foster has applied for a special exception use permit to construct a 197' high monopole tower for Verizon cellular phone service antennas to be located at 13645 Beckwith Dr. NE, Lowell. Wireless Communication Facilities are regulated in the zoning ordinance in section 201.432.**

The complete application can be reviewed at the Vergennes Township Hall, 10381 Bailey Drive, PO Box 208, Lowell, MI 49331 - Phone: (616) 897-5671. Written and oral comments will be received from any interested party until the conclusion of the public hearing. Written comments may be addressed to the Township Clerk at the Township Offices. Comments may be emailed to: [clerk@vergennestwp.org](mailto:clerk@vergennestwp.org)



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# Arrow wrestlers volunteer to serve dinner at Gilda's Club

by Kathryn Atwood  
contributing reporter

Six wrestlers, one dedicated wrestling mom and a few other volunteers served dinner last Tuesday night at Gilda's Club.

What started as a single week and a single football game to illuminate the work of the Gilda's Club organization has spun into continued support throughout the year from the team and the Red Arrow community. Using the tools of volunteerism, fundraising and promoting awareness, the Lowell Area Schools District has mobilized to make sure that the community continues their support year-round.

Once a month at each of the districts' six school buildings, staff and students wear their Pink Arrow tees and make cash and item donations in an effort called Pink It Forward. The schools' athletic programs also take turns the third Tuesday of every month volunteering to serve a home cooked dinner to members and guests of the club, an effort led by Pink Arrow founder Noel Dean's wife Jill. This month wrestlers, Gabe Hare, Bryce Dempsey, Keigan Yuhas, Sam Russell

and Max Bishop along with athletic booster supporter Sue Bishop, came armed for service with sloppy joes, cheesy potatoes, a variety of desserts and as an added bonus, smiles and good humor.

More than two dozen attendees of the supper enjoyed the fare, while club volunteers and employees joked that it was fun to see the boys getting to work in the kitchen and thanked them for their delightful service. Though the food was prepared by booster volunteers, aka moms, the gentlemen warmed, served and cleaned up the meal right down to the dirty dinner dishes. Sue Bishop, who organized the volunteer opportunity for the varsity athletes, said that the boys handled themselves extremely well, a fact she did not find surprising.

"They have done great. One thing I can say about Lowell athletes in general is that these kids are always really respectful. They treat others how they want to be treated. I have never gone anywhere when they were any less than gentlemen. People notice



Lowell varsity wrestlers: Gabe Hare, Bryce Dempsey, Keigan Yuhas, Sam Russell and Max Bishop.

and often come up and say something," said Bishop.

When Bishop's own son Max joined Red Arrow wrestling in third grade, she was jokingly a little less than enthused but now appreciates the sport and the opportunities it has provided for her heavyweight

grappler son. "I thought, anything else. I don't know anything about it. It looked kind of silly," she said of her original impression, "but now I love it."

The younger Bishop addressed attendees expressing his thoughts on what the school's relationship with the organization embodies for him. "Gilda's Club has impacted the wrestling program and myself in a big way because it brings community together and revolves around family and character and love. And I think that really represents the town of Lowell and it is a great thing to be a part of that," he said thanking them and modestly accepting their applause and returned gratitude.

"We, the athletic boosters and coach Boudro, are always looking for opportunities to get the boys involved in the community," said Bishop following her sons presentation. "It is

from their hearts. Everyone has been affected by cancer, especially it seems at Lowell schools. We are working on a program now that will help us do more outreach

with our yearly Pink Arrow honorees. It is not just about that game and that few months. All of our teams are out here proudly carrying the torch every season."



Above, volunteers Bryce Dempsey and Max Bishop served up dinner at Gilda's Club.



At left, Red Arrows Sam Russell and Keigan Yuhas clean dinner dishes.

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# Annual community Thanksgiving dinner serves nearly 200

by Kathryn Atwood  
contributing reporter

The spirit of Thanksgiving was embodied last Thursday afternoon at the First Congregational United Church of Christ when they, along with partner organization Open Table, hosted the ninth annual Community Thanksgiving.

"The intention is to gather people in the community to share a common experience and to serve each other. King Milling provided turkey, Heidi's Farmstand and Bakery, the fresh baked pies; Flat River Outreach Ministries donated food items and handed out

**"We seek to take the stress out of the holiday..."**

~ Shannon Hanley

Donated turkeys, potatoes hand mashed by volunteers and pies were on the menu from 12-3. The event is completely run by volunteers and furnished through the generosity of area churches and organizations echoing the sentiment of the first Thanksgiving feast.

invitations; and the Lowell United Methodist Church helps us to plan the event each year along with various support from Lowell area churches," said event organizer Shannon Hanley.

The meal was served buffet style and included stuffing, green bean casserole, cranberry sauce



Event volunteers Shannon Hanley, Jim Petrovich, Laurie Kuna, Ellen Mork and Katy Mork in the kitchen.



Attendees line up for a home-style Thanksgiving meal at First Congregational Church.



Nearly 200 members of the community were served.

and rolls. Beverages were served by waitstaff who offered lemonade, coffee, tea and water. Both apple and pumpkin pie were options for dessert. The dining tables were adorned with cloth table covers and candlelight along with a few bits of holiday flare.

The free public dinner welcomes all with the hope of providing not just a meal but an experience that encompasses the opportunity to serve one another and celebrate as a community.

"We seek to take the

stress out of the holiday for those who have a financial need, or for those who can't be with their families or for families or individuals who want to spend the day in service to others," said Hanley adding, "this year we fed not quite 200 people and had more than 75 volunteers over three days."

Hanley also runs FCUCC's separate ongoing charitable organization Open Table which operates weekly serving meals each Thursday evening at the church from 5-7 pm. The homemade meals

are provided in the same manner. The dinner has a standing open invitation to all in the community as they continue to propel the sentiments of giving and togetherness beyond the holiday.

Hanley had nothing but thanks for those who contributed to the meal. "Open Table would like to thank the generous donors and volunteers that made this event possible. It is wonderful to see another way for our community pull together and serve one another."

## NOTICE OF MEETING BOWNE TOWNSHIP DEVELOPMENT AREA CITIZENS COUNCIL for the BOWNE TOWNSHIP ALTO DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

The Bowne Township Development Area Citizens Council ("DACC") will hold a meeting to consult with the Board for the Bowne Township Alto Downtown Development Authority ("DDA") regarding the development of a proposed Amended and Restated Development Plan and Tax Increment Financing Plan ("Amended Plan") for the DDA downtown district. The DDA Board will be holding its regular monthly meeting at the same time and location. The DACC may proceed at this meeting to take final action on its recommendation regarding a proposed Amended Plan. Persons present at the meeting will have a reasonable opportunity to be heard.

The meeting will be held as follows:

**WHEN:** MONDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2016  
**TIME:** 7:00 P.M.  
**WHERE:** ALTO BRANCH/KENT DISTRICT LIBRARY  
6871 LINFIELD AVENUE SE  
ALTO, MI 49302

Sandra Kowalczyk, Clerk  
Bowne Township  
8240 Alden Nash Avenue SE  
Alto, Michigan 49302  
(616) 868-6846



## MDOT keeping most rest areas open year-round

As in most years, the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) will keep nearly all of the state's 78 rest areas open this coming winter to maintain the convenience and safety they provide to motorists.

Only five rest areas will be closed for the 21-week period beginning Dec. 5 and ending April 27, 2017. These closures are due to reduced use during winter months and safety concerns, such as steep entrance and exit drives

and potentially slippery conditions on stairways between the parking lots and the buildings.

"Many look to our network of rest areas year-round for convenience and safety on their travels," said State Transportation Director Kirk T. Steudle. "For that reason, we keep as many open through winter as possible."

The following five rest areas will close Dec. 5 and reopen in April:

- St. Ignace Rest Area on southbound I-75 in Mackinac County
- Ludington Rest Area on northbound US-31 in Mason County
- Topinabee Rest Area on northbound I-75 in Cheboygan County
- Hebron Rest Area on southbound I-75 in Cheboygan County
- Hart Rest Area on southbound US-31 in Oceana County

Designated rest areas will have "Closed Until Spring" signs posted, and will have the mileage to the next open rest area listed. Closed rest areas will be listed on MDOT's Mi Drive construction and traffic information website at [www.michigan.gov/drive](http://www.michigan.gov/drive)

## Eliminating child lead exposure requires committed efforts

### ~ Calley unveils recommendations of Child Lead Poisoning Elimination Board

In order to eliminate child lead exposure in Michigan, a greater focus on primary prevention tactics will be crucial for success, Lt. Gov. Brian Calley said today.

Gov. Rick Snyder formed the Child Lead Poisoning Elimination Board in May to design a long-term strategy for addressing child lead exposure and poisoning in Michigan. Snyder appointed Calley to chair the board and asked for recommendations by November.

"The impact of lead exposure on a child can be life-altering. By taking a proactive and coordinated statewide approach, we can begin targeting lead hazards instead of relying on reactive tactics after a child has been exposed," Calley said.

The board developed a comprehensive roadmap

that included both primary and secondary prevention strategies within five key areas:

- Testing of children for elevated blood lead levels;
- Follow-up monitoring and services, including case management;
- Environmental lead investigations;
- Remediation and abatement; and
- Dashboards and reporting.

The report includes more than 100 recommendations to address these issues including:

- Require that all children are tested for lead poisoning between 9 and 12 months and 24 to 36 months of age.
- Ensure that all medical professionals caring for children receive

professional education regarding lead testing and elevated blood lead level management.

- Develop and manage a centralized data and reporting system to track cases of children with elevated blood levels to determine which follow-up services should be or are being provided.
- Support continued research and development of policies for water testing in homes and interpreting the results.
- Adopt a consistent, statewide code enforcement model that is proactive and addresses exposure from lead-based paint and its causes.
- Convene a meeting to discuss updating federal regulations affecting remediation

and abatement with Environmental Protection Agency and Housing and Urban Development officials.

- Collaborate with state departments to increase the lead abatement workforce in Michigan.
- Broaden training and outreach to homeowners and tenants regarding lead safety on home projects, health effects of lead exposure and availability of testing and remediation options.
- Explore under what conditions the state could publish addresses of homes that have historically been locations where poisoned children and/or lead hazards were identified to prevent further exposure.
- Require information on lead testing and lead

poisoning levels to be widely disseminated.

- Create a permanent commission that will work with all stakeholders to coordinate child lead exposure elimination efforts across the state.
- Utilize existing programs whose primary focus may not be lead elimination to support efforts to reduce exposure risk.
- Develop protocols for improving collection of data, data analysis and data sharing to better identify risks of lead exposure.
- Create pilot programs to assess primary prevention practices in local communities and assess the impact on child lead exposure rates.

- Develop protocols to identify residence "hot zones" where young children are being exposed to lead and implement these protocols across Michigan.

The board included individuals with various professional backgrounds to provide a solid cross-section of support, including Dr. Mona Hanna-Attisha of Hurley Children's Hospital and Michigan State University in Flint.

"Current blood screening practices create gaps in data and can miss groups of exposed children. Testing every child in the state is the best way to identify exposure and then to target elimination," Hanna-Attisha said.

To download the full report, visit [Michigan.gov/calley](http://Michigan.gov/calley)

## MDHHS continues to highlight breast cancer awareness

In Michigan, it is estimated there will be 8,150 new cases of breast cancer and that 1,410 women will die from the disease in 2016. To encourage early diagnosis and reduce health disparities, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) is urging all women to talk to their physician about their individual risk factors.

"It's important for women to know their risk for breast cancer and to talk to their physician about screening," said Dr. Eden Wells, chief medical executive of MDHHS. "As women, our risk for breast cancer increases as we get older. Having extremely dense breast tissue, which can mask or hide breast

cancer, increases your risk as does having a personal or family history of breast cancer."

Women can limit their risk by incorporating healthy behaviors in their lives and getting regular breast cancer screenings. Healthy behaviors that will help lower a woman's risk include increasing physical

activity, quitting smoking, maintaining a healthy weight, and limiting alcohol use.

The Michigan Cancer Consortium, MDHHS, and the American Cancer Society recommend:

Women should be able to start screening as early as age 40, if they want to. It's a good idea to start talking to your health care provider at age 40 about when you should begin screening.

Most women have an average risk of breast cancer and should begin yearly mammograms by age 45.

While breast exams, either from a medical provider or self-exams, are no longer recommended, all women should be familiar with how their breasts normally look and report any changes to a health care provider right away.

African American women are more likely to be diagnosed at a younger age, and at a later stage, than white women. Late stage diagnoses may be due to lower frequency of mammograms, greater intervals of time between mammograms, and less consistent follow-up of suspicious mammogram results. Compared to white women, African American women also have a higher death rate from breast cancer and across all stages of cancer diagnosis. African American women are more likely to be diagnosed with Triple-Negative Breast Cancer (a cancer that doesn't respond to certain chemotherapies).

Women should also know their family history of cancer. Approximately 5-10

percent of breast cancer is inherited due to genetic factors. Also, for women who are identified at an increased risk for developing breast cancer (and not previously diagnosed), three medications have been approved to reduce breast cancer risk: Tamoxifen, Raloxifene, and Exemestane. Women should discuss the risks and benefits of these medications, in addition to possible lifestyle changes, with their doctor.

Talk with your health care provider about healthy lifestyles and breast cancer prevention and screening. If someone you know needs help with breast cancer information and screening, call 1-844-I-GOT-SCR (446-8727) for more information.

# Red Arrow SPORTS

## LHS competitive cheer welcomes new coach

by Kathryn Atwood  
contributing reporter

After a hiatus last winter the Lowell High School varsity competitive cheer team is back with new head coach Dayna Crumback. No stranger to the cheer uniform, Crumback spent her high school career on the sidelines at LHS cheering the football team all the way to the state finals.

"I cheered all four years for sideline cheer at LHS and was able to cheer at the football state championships in 2009 and 2010."

After graduation she continued her athletic career at the collegiate level joining and leading a novice cheer team at Sienna Heights University where she earned a degree in communications and gender and ethnic studies in 2015.

Crumback recounts, "While in college, I played women's lacrosse my first year and then SHU got a cheer team. So of course, I joined up and was named captain all three years I cheered. That included going to NAIA nationals all three years in a row."

Crumback returned to her Lowell roots shortly

thereafter applying and interviewing for a position as the JV sideline cheer coach and then being surprised with an even better position. "I was offered varsity competitive as well and I jumped at the opportunity to build our program back up. MHSAA competitive cheer has changed a lot since I was in school, so I have been studying up and preparing myself for a new season. My athletes and their families have been very welcoming. Plus, the staff at LHS has also welcomed me with open arms and is always willing to help answer my questions."

With plans to rebuild the team as a family unit and competitive force, Crumback said she is impressed with

the development she has already witnessed in the preseason saying, "I have a very talented, young team this year. And already we have gained so many skills in the two weeks that we have been together. The girls are very determined and focused to build the program for future Red Arrows. Most of my girls I coached in the sideline season, but I was also able to get some girls that didn't cheer in the fall as well. I also have two foreign exchange students who have helped build our team. Most of these athletes have been cheering together for a long time so it has been an easy transition for them."

"I like to have a very unified team so I do a lot of team bonding activities. Each athlete has their



Lowell alumni Dayna Crumback will join the coaching staff at LHS this winter as head of the competitive cheer team.

own way of learning the material, so I make sure to incorporate all the different learning styles so each girl understands their job. We also end each practice by saying family on three because we are just that. We are one of the only sports where one teammate holds another person's life in their hands everyday."

Using her own life as an example she added, "I never thought that I would be a college cheerleader, so showing the girls that hard work and focus can get you there is something I love to add into my coaching style."

**The team will make their season debut on December 17 at 9 am when they travel to the east side of the state to participate in the Walled Lake Western Cheer Invite and their OK White conference debut on January 11 at Forest Hills Northern beginning at 6 pm.**

### LEGAL NOTICE

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
PROBATE COURT  
COUNTY OF KENT

NOTICE TO CREDITORS  
Decedent's Estate

FILE NO. 16-199293-DE

Estate of EILEEN  
KAROPCZYK.  
Date of birth:  
April 15, 1947.

TO ALL CREDITORS:

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Eileen Karopczyk, died April 14, 2016.

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Charlene K. Babcock, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 180 Ottawa Avenue NW, Suite 2500 Grand Rapids and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

November 29, 2016

John D. Mitus (P31244)  
410 Bridge Street, NW  
Grand Rapids, MI 49504  
616-774-4001

Charlene K. Babcock  
1352 Brookmark, S.E.  
Kentwood, MI 49508

## LOWELL AREA COMMUNITY FUND ACCEPTS GRANT PROPOSALS

**All Proposals Must Be Submitted Online No Later Than December 16, 2016 To Be Considered. Visit [www.grfoundation.org/lowell](http://www.grfoundation.org/lowell) to submit your application.**

*The Lowell Area Community Fund, a fund of the Grand Rapids Community Foundation, awards grants to tax-exempt, nonprofit charitable organizations that have an impact in the Lowell Area. The LACF funds innovative projects or programs that encourage community cooperation.*

### NOTICE VERGENNES TOWNSHIP

Applications for Township Clerk  
and Other Appointments

Vergennes Township is seeking  
applications for the following positions:

Planning Commission  
Zoning Board of Appeals  
Construction Board of Appeals  
Board of Review  
All positions are compensated per diem.

Application forms and a summary of job descriptions may be obtained on the township website listed below, or at the township offices located at 10381 Bailey Dr., Lowell, MI 49331. The office is open Monday and Wednesday from 9am to 3pm, and Thursday from 9 to noon.

In addition, the Township Board is seeking applications for an appointment to Township Clerk. The appointment will be effective until the electors choose a Clerk in November of 2018. Interested persons should submit a cover letter and resume to the Township Board by December 7, 2016 at 3:00 pm. More information is posted on the township website at [www.vergennesbp.org](http://www.vergennesbp.org)

Mari Stone,  
Vergennes Township Acting Clerk

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# obituaries

## MORRIS

Pamela Morris passed away peacefully on November 24, 2016 (Thanksgiving Day). She will be missed by family, friends and the staff at Laurels where she made many friends. Pam was an artist and musician. She had two sisters, two brothers-in-law, four nephews, one niece, 11 great-nieces and nephews, five great great-nieces and nephews, and many special friends. A memorial mass at St. Mary's is pending.



# Social Security covers you when you're traveling abroad

Social Security has you covered, even outside our nation's borders. We're with you through life's journey, even if you're traveling outside the United States. Many people who travel or live outside the country receive some kind of Social Security benefit, including retired and disabled workers, as well as spouses, widows, widowers, and children.

If you're a U.S. citizen, you may receive your Social Security payments outside the United States as long as you are eligible. When we say you are "outside the United States," we mean you're not in one of the 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, or American Samoa. Once you've been outside the United States for at least 30 days in a row, we consider you to be outside the country.

Whether you're off to Europe, or considering a stay in our newly reopened neighbor, Cuba, you may be able to receive your Social Security benefits even while you're outside the United States. If you receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI), you cannot receive benefits if you're



outside of the United States for a month or more.

If you're traveling outside the U.S. for an extended amount of time, it's important that you tell Social Security the date you plan to leave and the date you plan to come back, no matter how long you expect your travel to last.

You can use this online tool to find out if you can continue to receive your Social Security benefits if you are outside the United States or are planning to go outside the United States at [www.socialsecurity.gov/](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/)

[international/payments\\_outsideUS.html](http://international/payments_outsideUS.html).

This tool will help you find out if your retirement, disability, or survivor's payments will continue as long as you are eligible, stop after six consecutive calendar months, or if certain country-specific restrictions apply.

When you live outside the United States, we send you a questionnaire periodically. Your answers will help us figure out if you still are eligible for benefits. Return the questionnaire to

the office that sent it as soon as possible. If you don't, your payments will stop. In addition to responding to the questionnaire, notify us promptly about changes that could affect your payments.

You can also read the publication titled *Your Payments While You Are Outside the United States* at [www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs).

Securing today and tomorrow is our priority, no matter where you might be living.

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**Be happy for this moment. This moment is your life.**  
~ Omar Khayyam

## PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

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## Looking Back, continued

application before being called in the draft. Further information may be obtained at the Ledger office or by calling on Peter Mulder, Frank Stephens and Arthur Curtis of the local post of the American Legion.

Only three weeks to Christmas. It will soon be too late to do your Christmas shopping early if you don't watch out. Shop in Lowell first.

At a meeting of the Lowell School Board on Monday evening it was decided to close the schools for the Christmas vacation on Tuesday night, December 23 and reopen on Monday, January 5.

### 50 years ago Lowell Ledger Dec. 1, 1966

Main Street was made ready for the Christmas season on Friday and Saturday, in time for the parade and tree lighting ceremony on Saturday night. The tree was planted on Tuesday; Lowell Light and Power crew put up the decorations on the light posts; and the Varsity Club trimmed the tree on Saturday. A big crowd was on hand to welcome Santa Claus, and witness the community tree being lit up for the first time.

Flat River pike are no longer contaminated. Fishermen can be grateful that fish from the Flat River are no longer contaminated and taste of oil or gasoline. The complaint has been finally halted by action of the Water Resources Commission. The water above the Lowell Municipal Light & Power dam, which is just above White's Bridge, is known to be one of the best places in Michigan for Northern pike. It often surpasses Canadian pike fishing. Francis Frost and the Water Resources Commission have been working with the Gibson Refrigerator Company and the Detroit Gasket Company who have spent many thousands of dollars for oil separators and equipment to keep phosphates out of the river. Pike that tasted like gasoline or oil were first reported to the Water

Resources Commission in May of 1985 by Mr. and Mrs. John D. Fravel who have been working with Mr. Frost on the project since that time.

Dave Clark, Jr., is inviting his customers and friends to an open house this week end to view his new remodeled showrooms on East Main Street. Lowell now boasts one of the few carpeted plumbing and heating shops in the country.

About 75 members of the 1986 Showboat Cast and Rotary Club members and their wives will be attending the annual Showboat dinner and dance party at the Runciman Building Saturday evening. All are invited to the dinner and dance.

### 25 years ago The Lowell Ledger Dec. 4, 1991

Holiday season marches into Lowell Saturday at 10 a.m. The Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce has planned another joyous holiday Christmas season in December for the local community. The happy holiday celebration will commence with the annual Christmas parade on Saturday, Dec. 7 at 10 a.m. The parade route will begin at Bushnell School and will head south on Amity Street to Main Street and then east to Monroe. From there it will march north on Monroe Street to Riverside School. After the parade, children will have a chance to visit with the honored guest, Santa Claus. He will be at the Ridgeview Mall between Family Dollar and Pfaller's from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m.

Gala Christmas show and sale opens at Arts Council. Specially crafted art work completed by over 35 West Michigan artists constitute this years sixth annual Lowell Area Arts Council's Gala Christmas Show and Sale. The Gala of unique gifts from the various West Michigan studios officially opened on Nov. 25.



Photo courtesy of Getty Images

**A Winning Comfort Combination**

Almost nothing says comfort food quite like tender, slow-cooked beef and potatoes. Add in sweet honey for a twist on a timeless cold-weather classic and you're in for a true delight. Find more honey-infused recipes at [honey.com](http://honey.com).

**Beef and Potato Trimmer**

Recipe courtesy of the National Honey Board

Servings: 4

- 2 tablespoons vegetable oil, divided
- 2 pounds beef, cut into 1 1/2-inch chunks
- 2 cups chopped onion
- 2 cups carrots, sliced 1-inch thick
- 2 teaspoons garlic salt
- 4 cups water, plus 3 tablespoons (optional)
- 2 cups potatoes, cubed 1-inch thick
- 2 cups sweet potatoes, cubed 1-inch thick
- 1/2 cup honey
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1/8 teaspoon ground pepper
- 4 ounces dried apricots
- 4 ounces pitted prunes
- 2 tablespoons flour (optional)
- 2 tablespoons chopped parsley (optional)

In heavy 5-quart pot over medium heat, heat 1 tablespoon oil. Add beef and brown on all sides.

Remove beef from pan, add remaining oil, if necessary, and sauté onion until tender. Return beef to pan; add carrots, garlic salt and 4 cups water to cover ingredients. Bring to boil, reduce heat, cover and simmer 1 hour.

Add potatoes, sweet potatoes, honey, cinnamon and pepper; stir and return to boil. Reduce heat and simmer, partially covered, 30 minutes, or until potatoes are barely cooked.

Add apricots and prunes and simmer, uncovered, 30 minutes, or until beef is tender. Liquid should be slightly thickened. If necessary, dissolve flour in 1 tablespoon water and stir into stew; return to simmer, stirring frequently.

Sprinkle with parsley before serving, if desired.

# WARM UP with Comfort Foods

**HEAVY FEELERS**

Enjoying warm comfort foods during winter months can serve as an exceptional way to defeat that icy chill. As the frost sets in and winds howl, nothing beats the comforting taste of delicious foods like Roasted Sonoma Chicken with Wild Rice and Carrot Butter, Beef and Potato Trimmer, or Pumpkin Butterscotch Bread Pudding.

For more comfort food recipes, visit [culinaryart.com](http://culinaryart.com).

**Bread Pudding Pick-Me-Up**

On cold winter nights, sometimes that one last bite is all before turning in is the key to finishing your day on a happy note. A warm serving of Pumpkin Butterscotch Bread Pudding with a drizzle of cool ice cream is sure to do the trick. Find more dessert options at [verybestbaking.com](http://verybestbaking.com).

**Pumpkin Butterscotch Bread Pudding**

Recipe courtesy of Nestlé

Servings: 12  
Prep time: 30 minutes  
Total time: 1 hour, 15 minutes

- 1 loaf (14 ounces) cinnamon (kaiser) bread or cinnamon buns, cut into 3/4-inch cubes
- 4 large eggs
- 2 cans (12 ounces each) Nestlé Carnation Evaporated Lowfat 2 percent Milk
- 1 can (8 1/2 ounces) Libby's 100 percent Pure Pumpkin
- 1 cup granulated sugar, plus 1 tablespoon
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract

- 1 1/4 teaspoons ground cinnamon, divided
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 2 tablespoons packed brown sugar
- 1 cup Nestlé Toll House Butterscotch Flavored Marshmallows
- Vanilla Breyers or Baly's New Churned Light Ice Cream

Heat oven to 350 F. Grease 13-by-9-inch baking dish.

On oiled baking sheet, spread bread cubes in single layer. Bake, turning occasionally, 30 minutes, or until dry.

In large bowl, beat eggs, stir in evaporated milk, pumpkin, 1 cup granulated sugar, vanilla extract, 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon and salt. Add bread; stir gently to coat. Transfer mixture into prepared baking dish; let stand 30 minutes, or until bread is thoroughly saturated.

Combine brown sugar with remaining granulated sugar and cinnamon. Sprinkle mixture over bread mixture; top with brown sugar mixture.

Bake 45-55 minutes, or until knife inserted in center comes out clean. Cool on wire rack 30 minutes to set. Serve warm with ice cream.



**Cozy Up to Comfort Foods**

Creating a comfort food masterpiece like Roasted Sonoma Chicken with Wild Rice and Carrot Butter is a no-brainer when hunger hits along with chilly winter air. The dish's warm, captivating spices will help you forget about the frosty climate around you.

But to truly keep winter winds at bay, try pairing your tasty meal with a vibrant, fruit-forward wine, such as Kenwood Vineyards Sonoma County Pinot Noir 2014. The wine works well for nearly any occasion, but it's the perfect complement to bring out the flavors of the roasted chicken thanks to its aromas of raspberry and red currant combining with spice notes of warming and vanilla, which lead to a smooth, elegant finish.

For more wine pairing tips and recipes, visit [KenwoodVineyards.com](http://KenwoodVineyards.com).

**Roasted Sonoma Chicken with Wild Rice and Carrot Butter**

Recipe courtesy of chef Art Weiswasser

Serves: 4

- 4 bone-in, skin-on chicken breasts
- 3/4 cup kosher salt, plus additional for seasoning
- 1/5 cup sugar
- 1 gallon water
- 1 cup carrot juice
- 4 tablespoons butter, divided
- 1 1/2 cups wild rice
- 3 1/5 cups chicken stock

- 2 large onions, sliced
- 3-4 tablespoons olive oil
- 2 teaspoons curry spice
- 2 tablespoons apple cider vinegar
- 8 tablespoons sun-dried tomato, chopped finely
- 2 tablespoons olive oil or olive oil
- 1/4 cup parsley, chopped

Bring chicken in 3/4 cup salt, sugar and water. Refrigerate 1 hour; pat dry and sear overnight, uncovered, in fridge.

Add carrot juice to sauté pan and reduce to thick consistency on high heat, 10-15 minutes. Whisk vigorously if juices separate. Whisk in butter. Set aside to cool.

In pot, cover wild rice with chicken stock. Bring to simmer and cook 45 minutes to 1 hour. Season with salt.

Heat oven to 400 F. In frying pan on medium-high heat, sear onions in olive oil until soft. Add curry spice and sauté until aromatic, 1-2 minutes. Add vinegar and salt; stir well. Fold through sun-dried tomatoes.

Place chicken skin-side up on roasting pan (lined) with salt. Brush chicken with canola or olive oil and season with salt. Roast about 25-30 minutes until golden brown; internal temperature should be 165 F. Drizzle with roasting juices; add salt and chopped parsley before plating.

To plate, add carrot butter to wild rice; scoop 1/2 cup onto each dish. Place chicken skin-side up on top of rice. Drizzle with onion, curry and tomato mixture.

Pair each serving with a glass of Kenwood Vineyards Sonoma County Pinot Noir 2014.



**STATEPOINT CROSSWORD**

**THEME:  
YEAR IN REVIEW**

**ACROSS**

- 1. Minimal in magnitude
- 6. Club alternative
- 9. Angelina to Maddox
- 13. Cattiness
- 14. "\_\_\_ the land of the free ..."
- 15. Permissible
- 16. 1/100 of a rial
- 17. Oahu greeting gift
- 18. Foolish
- 19. \*"Harry Potter and the \_\_\_ Child"
- 21. \_\_\_ \*UK's 2016 withdrawal vote
- 23. Christian minister, abbr.
- 24. Long, long time
- 25. Scottish cap
- 28. Sushi selection
- 30. African tree
- 35. Faubourg Saint-HonorÉ and Rivoli, e.g.
- 37. Brown seaweed
- 39. Latin American plain
- 40. Sky bear
- 41. Don't go out for dinner
- 43. \*This Barrymore got divorced in 2016
- 44. New Zealander
- 46. Ring-around-the-rosy flower
- 47. Prima donna's numbers
- 48. George Town state, Malaysia

**CROSSWORD**

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**NOVEMBER 23 - NOVEMBER 29**

- At least nine people were taken to local hospitals amid initial reports of an active shooter situation Monday on the Ohio State University campus in Columbus, OH. The male suspect apparently drove a vehicle into a crowd of pedestrians then used a knife to attack them. He was shot and killed by police.
- Fidel Castro, 90, who ruled Cuba from 1959 to 2008 died of undisclosed causes on Friday, Nov. 25. Many Cuban-Americans celebrated in the streets of Miami.
- A Nike factory store in Seattle was swamped with 20,000 Black Friday shoppers who made a huge mess in the store by opening and throwing boxes of shoes everywhere. Shoppers continued to walk about, over and on the merchandise undaunted. Nike is planning to open a store in Detroit.
- Green Party candidate, Jill Stein, has launched a successful recount campaign in Wisconsin and plans to do the same in Michigan and Pennsylvania. Although there is very little chance this will overturn any outcome she would like to expose any irregularities. Strangely, Donald Trump who all along has said that the system was rigged is against the recall but Tweeted, "In addition to winning the Electoral College in a landslide, I won the popular vote if you deduct the millions of people who voted illegally." Hillary Clinton won the popular vote by over 2 million votes.
- Japan skating rink closes due to featuring 5,000 dead fish in the ice. The amusement park had massive amounts of online criticism.
- According to CNET survey, one in four online holiday shoppers have been victims of online hacks.
- Florence Henderson, best known as the mother on The Brady Bunch, has died. She was 82.

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- DOWN**
- 64. Wade opponent
  - 66. Eagerness, pl.
  - 68. Comic book expression for fear
  - 69. Soccer mom's ride
  - 70. Icy hut
  - 71. Enthusiasm
  - 72. Product of creativity
  - 73. Cut one's leg off, e.g.
  - 31. One of auto pioneers
  - 32. Sacha Cohen's middle name
  - 33. Anoint
  - 34. \*"Major Tom" singer, 1947-2016
  - 36. Mystery writer, \_\_\_ Paretsky
  - 38. Site of Leaning Tower
  - 42. Naiad or maenad
  - 45. English in Spain
  - 49. "Fancy that!"
  - 51. \*Olympic host
  - 54. Caterpillar precursor
  - 56. Opposite end of alpha
  - 57. Seed coat
  - 58. \*Mosquito-borne threat
  - 59. Yemeni port
  - 60. Rapper and actor, 50 \_\_\_
  - 61. Rodeo Drive tree
  - 62. \_\_\_ gin
  - 63. Ciao in the U.S.
  - 65. Argo propeller
  - 67. Rolled grass
  - 9. Seductive one
  - 10. Berry high in antioxidants
  - 11. CrÈme de menthe flavor
  - 12. Absorbed, as a loss
  - 15. Relating to spleen
  - 20. What some smells do to memories
  - 22. \*Kardashian brother who became a dad
  - 24. In total
  - 25. \*Election winner
  - 26. Sign of a saint, pl.
  - 27. Subatomic particle
  - 29. \*Like 2016

*Puzzle solutions on page 12*

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**THIS WEEK'S ONLINE POLL**

**Did you discuss politics over Thanksgiving dinner?**

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

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**thelowellledger.com**

# New Ada Village plans to revamp business district

by Tim McAllister  
lead reporter

Construction is well underway on phase one of the new Ada Village. The town's revamped business district has been in the works for ten years and is intended to improve and expand opportunities for shopping, dining and walking. The plan includes new stores such as a Kingma's Market, more parking spaces and a realignment to Headley St. and the area near the Thornapple Village Shopping Center. The first phase is due to be completed by the end of 2016. All businesses remain open during the construction.

The project broke ground on July 15, but the idea dates back to 2006 when the Ada community produced a resident-guided vision for the future of the village. Starting in 2013 Ada Township officials had over 100 meetings and forums with business owners, residents and others to streamline and complete the project's planning. According to the township's website, [adamichigan.org](http://adamichigan.org), the goal of the Ada Village project is "to expand retail, residential and restaurant offerings while showcasing the community's natural resources and creating a more walkable community."

"The new village development will enrich the lives of those that live here,

work here and do business here," April Armstrong, former president of the Ada Business Association, said in a press release. "We want more reasons for people to come and visit the area, while maintaining the charm and character that has made Ada what it is today."

The latest construction update on Oct. 21, available on the Ada Village website, lists all of the recent changes to the Ada Village landscape.

"Over the past month, a number of changes have occurred on the Northeast corner parking lot of the Thornapple Village Shopping Center including the removal of the Lake Michigan Credit Union and Sheldon Cleaners buildings [at] Ada Drive and Fulton Street," the construction update says. "During the week of October 24, site preparation will begin for the construction of two new buildings in that location, including Kingma's Market. Also, construction of the temporary access road from Headley Street and supplemental parking by Zeytin restaurant has begun. The additional parking is expected to be complete during the week of October 24. The temporary access road will remain under construction. Beginning Monday, Oct. 24, barricades will be placed



Construction on phase one of the Ada Village plan, a realignment of Headley St., started in July and is due to finish in December.

in the parking lot to define the construction zone. Since the temporary access road will not be finished, access to the Shopping Center from Ada Drive in front of McDonald's will stay open a while longer. Near the end of October, the shopping center access nearest to Fulton Street will be closed to traffic, and a new driveway access to the shopping center parking will be opened on the

Headley Street extension, at the Thornapple River Drive intersection. It's important to note that the Shopping Center is still open for business. Adjustments will continue to be made to make the situation the best possible for customers during this busy construction period. Further updates will be provided as construction continues throughout the Shopping Center and the Village."

According to the project's master plan, drafted by Grand Rapids architecture firm Progressive AE, there will be some changes to the landscaping in Ada.

"A large Hamlet Green serves as the central open space of the residential hamlet, and can be

amenitized in a variety of ways," the plan says. "A thick verge of evergreen trees on a berm hides Fulton Street from the houses on the northern edge of the Residential Hamlet."

The plan also includes new homes and businesses.

"East of the supermarket and along the new north-south street, lots are provided for rowhouses, of two types," the plan says. "To the west, shallow lots hold rowhouses with integrated rear garages. To the east, deeper lots hold rowhouses with garages located beyond a private rear patio. Similar deep lot rowhouses face the Hamlet Green along a pedestrian way. Around the edges of the Hamlet sit 28 house lots that can only be accessed

from the street. These require front-loaded garages on driveways. In order to limit the impact of vehicles on the streetscape, these garages are set back 20 feet behind the fronts of their houses. Where side lot lines are parallel, these houses about one another directly."

The master plan breaks the project into seven phases and includes cost estimates for all phases. The current construction on phase one, for example, is estimated to cost \$29,150,700, which includes both public and private infrastructure and buildings. In total, the project will cost \$112,773,500. Of that \$92,853,300 is paid for with private funds, while \$19,920,200 will come from public funds.

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