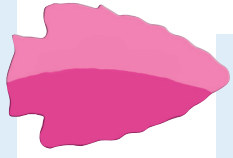


stories of perseverance



pages 7-10

covered bridge bike tour



page 11

Great weather for the Riverwalk Festival

by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

Thousands, along with the official duck mascot, waddled their way to historic downtown Lowell last weekend to celebrate the annual Riverwalk Festival, along the Flat River.

The three-day festival began Thursday evening with dinner and a concert and extended through Saturday night with a firework finale. Day one of the busy lineup featured the regularly scheduled Lowell Showboat Sizzlin' Summer Concert headlined by local country rock outfit Gunnar & The Grizzly Boys. The concert was preceded by the annual Riverwalk Pig Roast at the nearby Veterans Memorial Park lot. Attendees also had the opportunity to shop in the historic downtown shopping district where many businesses maintained late hours during the festival schedule for the opportunity to pick up the State Farm Duck Raffle tickets good for the chance at \$1,500 in cash prizes.



Festivities continued on Friday with a slew of land and water activities along the Riverwalk, including a visit from the Batmobile, talented street entertainers and historic pontoon rides down the river. Former

Lowell resident Ruth Broyles was among those who enjoyed the donation only trip that featured a cool reprieve from the warm day and some fun historical facts. "It was really nice," said Broyles. "The breeze

was pleasant and the ride was very informative."

Also featured was Grilling & Chilling on Avery Street which hosted area food vendors supplying festival style fare, a used book sale and local

vendors, craftsmen, artists and organizations with information booths offering shoppers everything from a new roof to a new piece of jewelry. Another highlight

Riverwalk, continued, page 15

Graffiti is destruction of property, but is it art?

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

The empty train cars parked on the tracks at King Milling are carrying more than grain, they also bring a lot of interesting graffiti art through downtown Lowell. In a way, graffitied trains are sort of like a traveling art exhibit. According to the Lowell police department, train cars come to Lowell from different areas all over the United States, Canada and Mexico, so the graffiti could have been painted just about anywhere.

"This usually happens in big cities with big railroad cars," said interim police chief Christopher Hurst. "My hobby is railroads, so I've seen all sorts of graffiti on railroad cars. There are people who, that's their hobby, to paint railroad cars. For the most part, for me it's kind of neat to see that stuff. I've watched trains since I was a kid, so I've seen



everything. I don't think I've ever seen anything obscene on a railroad car. It's usually some sort of saying or a cartoon."

There is some debate as to whether graffiti counts as art. Many would say that graffiti is simply property damage and should be removed immediately and the artists prosecuted.

Artist Ted Bentley, who painted the huge 'Santa Claus' mural that hung on the Showboat last winter, said that graffiti is definitely art.

"Everybody is familiar with the big pieces of graffiti where you can't understand what it's saying," Bentley said. "You have the bubble letters, which are considered a 'throw up,' just something fast that doesn't require much time. Then there's the tag, which a lot of people can't stand. The tag is the start of your style. They say you can't do a good graffiti

art piece unless you have a tag. It's just a glorified cursive handwriting. Tags all over a wall is pretty gross, but personally I rather enjoy it. I have a tag I've done probably over 1,000 times. The idea is to create fluidness, something smooth and, in my eyes, beautiful. Other people might see it as trash. I'm not a fan of graffiti when people put it on a building. I feel bad because the person who owns the building has to pay money to have that removed."

If an artist is caught red-handed, there will be consequences.

"If people are coming onto the railroad tracks to do that, they would be committing multiple crimes," Hurst said. "Trespassing on railroad property, tampering with

Graffiti, continued, page 2

50 CENTS



8 0 4 8 7 9 1 5 3 8 3 2

Graffiti, continued

railroad cars and then destruction of the car itself. If you get caught, you're going to be in big trouble. Don't do it."

Even though graffiti is a criminal act, the artists are actually pretty respectful of railroad property and the cars they paint on.

"That's railroad property and each one of those cars belongs to a different company," Hurst said. "They have a series of numbers and letters on the side that is sort of the



Talking with people who work with trains or are in the train world, most of them could not care less. They're accustomed to it. It would probably cost them a couple hundred dollars to remove it, but wherever state it ends up going to next, somebody is going to end up putting it on there again."

could really do," Hurst said. "We could contact the railroad and say we're getting a complaint about a car and ask them to move it. If there was a complaint, we would find out who the property owner is and inform them. If it was obscene we would have to get it taken care of right



'license plate.' A lot of the graffiti artists are conscious of those numbers and they won't paint over them. They'll paint in the center of the car where there aren't any numbers. They don't paint over the numbers because the railroad needs to have those numbers visible."

The companies that own the trains are usually indifferent to the presence of rogue artwork.

"I asked one of the guys at King Milling if he was okay with me walking around the trains to take photos," Bentley said. "He was like, 'I don't care, they're not MY trains!'"



along main street

FOODMOBILE

Foodmobile provides food (mostly produce) to individuals in need and is available July 15 at 10 am and runs until the food is gone. Foodmobile is one Saturday a month (except December) at the fairgrounds (at the Foreman building, 225 S Hudson St SE).

VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION

Looking for a way to get involved in the community? Want to volunteer, but don't know what to do? Come to our volunteer orientation and learn about all of our day, evening and weekend opportunities. Our needs range from evening cashiers to daytime donation sorters with lots of options in between. Volunteer orientation at Flat River Outreach Ministries will be Thurs., July 20 at 1 pm. Call 897-8260 for more information.

THE RIVER OF TIME PAGEANT

Experience the history of Lowell on July 22 at 2 pm on the banks of Flat River at the Lowell fairgrounds. Bleacher seating or bring a chair. The River of Time is a historical pageant written by Heidi Kaeb Stoller and presented by local students to teach the early history of Lowell. It begins in Wabwindego's Odawa village, includes a visit from trader Madame LaFramboise and the arrival of trader-settler Daniel Marsac.

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.

Most artists get away with it. However, sometimes graffiti can indicate the presence of gang activity, so the police are careful to make sure nothing like that is going on here.

away. Usually we treat graffiti as destruction of property. If there are any symbols in it, we might take pictures of it and there is a gang unit in Grand Rapids we could send them to and find out what they mean."

...
Every child is an artist. The problem is how to remain an artist once he grows up.

- Pablo Picasso

FLAT RIVER OUTREACH MINISTRIES Back-to-School Backpack Program



Open to elementary through high school students living in the Lowell Area School District. Pre-registration is required

Pre-register at Lunch Buddies: Tuesdays 1:00-7:00 pm. June 20-August 1 at FROM

11535 Fulton St. East (616) 897-8260 www.fromlowell.org

This program is partially underwritten with a grant from the Amway One-By-One Foundation

the lowell ledger

(USPS 453-034)
Published weekly for \$25 a year for zipcodes beginning with 483 or 495; \$38 a year any other zip code.
Deadline for display advertising is Friday at Noon
Deadline for classified advertising is Monday at 5 pm
Jon Jacobs Publisher
Jeanne Boss Editor
Tim McAlister Lead Reporter
Kathryn Alwood Contributing Reporter
Tammy Janowiak Classified/Accounting
Jon Jacobs Advertising Sales
Danielle Eckhoff Advertising Sales

(616) 897-9261
email: ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com
Second Class Postage Paid at Lowell, MI
Published every Wednesday
POSTMASTER: Send address change to:
The Lowell Ledger
PO Box 128 - Lowell, MI 48331
www.thelowellledger.com



WE SHIP UPS!

Our Prices Can't Be Beat!
Call Us for a Price Quote!
Weight & Zip Code Required for a Quote

The Lowell Ledger
105 N. Broadway, 897-9261

Return of Lowell police chief, revamping parking lots discussed at last council meeting

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

Lowell city council discussed new voting equipment, a change to the city's purchasing policy and more at their latest regular meeting on Wednesday, July 5. The meeting at city hall lasted just over half an hour and was attended by 10 local residents; only one chose to speak during the portion of the meeting dedicated to citizen comment.

"Our organization and many in the community fully support [Lowell police] chief [Steve] Bukala regardless of the charges and we hope that he chooses to stay on as our chief," said Jeff Dickerman, a local business owner and one of the people behind the 'Forward Lowell' political action committee. Bukala is on unpaid leave after being charged with misuse of the Michigan Law Enforcement Information Network, a misdemeanor punishable by 93 days imprisonment, a \$500 fine or both. Later in the meeting, city manager Michael Burns offered a brief update on Bukala's situation.

"His case is proceeding through the Allegan County courts," Burns said. "The case got moved out of Kent County to Allegan County, basically because of conflict of interest reasons. I am going to refrain from any disciplinary action until after the court case. I don't want any disciplinary action to have an effect on his court case."

Prein & Newhof engineer Brian Vilmont was on hand for the council's discussion about the

municipal parking lot at the intersection of Broadway and Main, across the street from King Milling. Vilmont said that the parking spaces are too short and cause vehicles to stick out into the street; the area is crawling with dangerous trucks doing dangerous maneuvers; it's cramped and it's congested. Since Broadway is going to be reconstructed anyway as part of an infrastructure project, they could also reconfigure that parking lot. After some discussion, the council decided to get an opinion from Lowell's Downtown Development Authority.

"[The lot is] not very aesthetically pleasing. It's not super comfortable [and] you feel like you're kind of in the middle of the King Milling area," Vilmont said.

"We really don't lose any significant number of spaces with the reconfiguration [and] it enhances traffic flow quite a bit."

"I would still also want to approach the Downtown Development Authority to see if they're interested in this," Burns said. "I certainly don't want to force anything on them if they're not interested in it. I think it would be a good project for the DDA."

The council voted to approve a resolution that will allow the city to apply for a financial grant that will pay for all new voting equipment. This will be obtained from Dominion Voting, Inc., a Canadian company that sells electronic voting machines and related hardware.



The city might revamp this parking lot at the corner of Broadway and Main.



Forward Lowell founder Jeff Dickerman expressed support for police chief Steve Bukala.

"City council approval is necessary for the city of Lowell to apply to the secretary of state for a grant to purchase a new voting system from Dominion Voting, Inc. which includes precinct tabulators, absent voter counting board tabulators, accessible voting devices for use by individuals with disabilities and related election management software," said Lowell city clerk Sue Ullery. "Full funding for the new voting system will be provided by the state and will include a combination of federal 'Help America Vote Act' and state-appropriated funds."

The council voted to change the city's bidding and purchasing policy. Previously, the city manager was required to get a minimum of three bids for any purchases

over \$5,000. The council added a new section to the policy that says the city manager will not have to seek bids if he finds this

City council, continued, page 4

HW FARMS Fresh until approx. July 15. Call to verify availability.

Bring your own containers and SAVE!
Frozen available ALL YEAR in 5, 10, or 30 lbs.

**FRESH RED TART...
PITTED CHERRIES...**

13375 Belding RD NE - Belding, MI
5 miles W of Belding on M-44 or 12 Miles E of Old 131
Hours: Mon-Sat 9 am - 5:30 pm
(616) 691-8802/info@hwfruitfarms.com

Lowell Showboat Sizzlin' Summer Concerts Presented By LowellArts and Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce

Concerts held in front of the Flat River on Riverwalk Plaza, in downtown Lowell thru Aug 25

Sun, July 23 at 3pm
126 Army Band, "The Governor's Own"

Thurs, July 20 at 7pm
Lindsay Lou & the Flatbellies

Americana Eclectic Bluegrass band with distinct vocals, tight harmonies, instrumental expertise and creative arrangements

Experience the History of Lowell!

The River of Time Pageant
July 22, 2017 at 2:00 p.m.
Banks of Flat River on Lowell Fairgrounds

Bleacher seating or bring a chair

Presented by: Alto Active Achievers 4-H Club and Friends
Sponsored by: Lowell Area Historical Museum

The River of Time is an historical pageant written by Heidi Kaeh Stoller and presented by local students to teach the early history of Lowell. It begins in Wabowindegn's Odawa village, includes a visit from trader, Madame LaPratrise, and the arrival of trader-settler Daniel Musac. Watch Lowell spring up!

Lowell Area Historical Museum
325 W. Main Street • Lowell, MI
www.lowellmuseum.org

Venue is wheelchair accessible. Concessions, beer and wine are available.

Sponsored in part by: Lighthouse Lowell, DDA, OUR, Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce

Free Outdoor Summer Concert Series

business directory

FRY DADDY'S
 608 West Main Street
 Lowell, MI 49331
897-FISH FISH SANDWICHES
 WINGS DRINKS
 SHAKERS STRIPS
 DAILY SPECIALS
 OPEN SUNDAYS 3-8 PM
 MONDAY SPECIAL:
 PULLOVER BURGER \$4.99!!
 Best Fish in Town!!!



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



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



897-4128
Arctic Inc.
 Heating & Cooling
 • Heating & air conditioning • Full tune-ups & water leaks
 • Gas furnaces • Forced air heat • Base and radiant
 • Water base systems • Duct work • Installation
 Gas, electric and propane, oil, wood, heat pump
 www.arcticheating.com



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



Edman Landscape Construction
 Hard Scapes - Brick Paving -
 Boulder Walls - Retaining Walls -
 Decks - Fences - Tractor Services -
 Bark - Mulch
 Joel Edman, owner
 Lowell
616-892-2888
 joel@edman90@yahoo.com



In the business world, the rearview mirror is always clearer than the windshield"
 ~ Warren Buffett (1930 -)

YOUR BUSINESS COULD BE HERE! SAVE \$\$\$\$\$ ADVERTISING IN THIS SPACE!!!
Only \$17⁰⁰ PER WEEK!



TO ADVERTISE in the LEDGER BUSINESS DIRECTORY Call 616.897.9261

City council, continued

task either “impractical or unjustifiable.” Lowell treasurer Suzanne Olin said the change “will allow, in certain instances, the city to purchase from preferred vendors.”

“During the audit review of procurement procedures, the auditors noticed an instance where the purchasing policy bid requirements were not followed for a purchase that exceeded the bid threshold of \$5,000,” Olin said. “An explanation was provided by management that the purchase was from a preferred vendor.”

The new section in

the city’s bidding and purchasing policy states, “The city manager shall not fail to use appropriate methods, including soliciting and considering alternative products and services from alternative qualified competitive vendors except when seeking competitive quotes, proposals or bids is impractical or unjustifiable due to the limitation of qualified vendors serving the market or products meeting the specific requirements; reasonable uncertainty that competitive vendors can be relied upon to meet the required delivery or product

schedules; known or perceived disparities in the skill, knowledge, integrity, experience, judgment or performance of specific vendors; the existence of specialized requirements, including fit, function, size, weight, specification, durability or compatibility for the intended purpose; known and meaningful material differences in quality, performance, repair history, reputation, warranty, contract terms, reliability, customer support or compatibility of the product or service; [or] the additional administrative time and related costs for the comparative/competitive process would be unjustified and foreseeably exceed any material savings that may be gained.”

“It should be noted that this is pretty much the same policy that is in place for Light & Power,” Burns said. “We’ve pretty much taken on the same policy for this.”

Lowell city council’s next regular meeting will be at city hall at 7 pm on Monday, July 17. On Monday, August 7, at 5:30 pm, they will have a special meeting to discuss allowing marijuana-related businesses to set up shop in Lowell.



Prein & Newhof engineer Brian Vilmont discussed changes to a city parking lot.

A-1 MOBILE ROOF-OVER SYSTEM
 Michigan's Oldest and Finest Roof Replacement System
FREE ESTIMATES
12x60 \$3280 Installed 14x70 \$3980
 Conserves Energy • Made in Michigan
1-800-872-2089
 www.mobilehomeroofsmi.com



BETTER HEALTH STARTS HERE AT FAMILY DENTISTRY OF LOWELL

7AM and Friday appointments available

We provide state-of-the-art dentistry along with the health care extras that set us apart, such as blood pressure screenings, salivary testing and nutritional counseling.

Experience better health through dentistry.



Family Dentistry of Lowell
 147 North Center Street, Lowell
 616-897-4835
 www.familydentistryoflowell.com

ASHA WILSON, D.D.S. | JENNIFER BYRO, D.D.S.

TICKET

The Classifieds:
 Your Ticket to Local Finds!
 Call or go online to browse, buy, or sell!

the lowell ledger

105 N. Broadway
 Lowell • 897-9261
 classifieds@lowellbuyersguide.com

TICKET

viewpoint



125 years ago Lowell Journal July 13, 1892

Word has been received from Minnesota that Geo. S. Powlison, who was sent to prison there for three years, for embezzlement, has been pardoned through the efforts of his wife, ably seconded by their many Lowell friends. She has also obtained for him a position in the town where she has been teaching, the past year. They have many friends in Lowell, whose best wishes follow them and who never have thought George intentionally criminal.

The finest load of wool marketed in Lowell this year was bought of J. M. Griffith, of East Boston, by Chas. McCarty. It was the clip from 100 sheep and weighed 572 lbs., for which he received 28c. per lb. The 100 sheep brought him in, for wool, over \$1.60 a head.

Dale, the 11 year old son of A. L. Brown, has just finished 12 acres of summer fallow alone. Quite a job for a small boy.

Kisor & Ayres set a monument, last Monday, in the cemetery at Bowne Centre for Mrs Levi Ford. It is a beauty, of Scotch Granite and will draw the attention of all who visit the cemetery.

John Moden, a married man with a family, was drowned near his home in Grand Rapids Sunday by being taken with the cramps while bathing.

100 years ago The Lowell Ledger July 12, 1917

Frank King of 344 Madison Avenue, S. E., retired owner of the King Milling company at Lowell, has been appointed by Herbert C. Hoover, federal food administrator, a member of the Food Control commissions to represent western Michigan. Mr. King, who is one of the state's best known milling men, states that he has not yet been appraised of the duties connected with the appointment, but believes that he will act in an advisory capacity. Six other millers have been appointed to represent Michigan and Wisconsin, and will meet in the near future to discuss conditions.—Herald.

A field meeting for farmers will be held at Carl Bieri's farm in Vergennes township, Saturday, July 14, at two o'clock. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the value of acid phosphate, in relation to crop production, and its practical application. Mr. Bieri has two demonstrations to show conclusively the value of this material in increasing crop production. County Agent Smith says: "I have seen the demonstration and I am positive that the fertilized portion will double the yield of the unfertilized portion. This, of course, is profitable farming." Another important subject that will

be discussed is Red Rock Wheat as a standard for Kent county.

Having purchased the Baxter laundry agency from Gerald Henry, I shall be pleased to handle your laundry work, and will endeavor to give you the best of service. Will call for laundry Monday and Tuesdays or packages may be left at Henry's Drug store for the present. Thurston Springett, Agent.

The usual dozen at the annual meeting of Lowell School District No. 1. was minus one this year; and he forgot 'cause the old bell didn't ring. But the eleven did the business all right, as usual. Re-elected Trustee White and Director Winegar: voted \$200 librarian's salary, \$60 for assistants; \$100 for director and \$100 for new books: Sounds familiar, doesn't it? One interesting feature of the reports of Director Winegar and Treasurer Mange, covering funds totaling \$23,580.04, is that they tallied to a cent on first call and without checking or comparison. Perhaps this official efficiency accounts in a measure for the apparent indifference of the absent taxpayers, for whose benefit the director's financial report will be published in this paper next week.

75 years ago The Lowell Ledger July 16, 1942

Investments in War Savings Bonds in Lowell for the month of June totaled \$15,875 of which \$5,975 were sold by the postoffice and \$9,900 by the State Savings Bank. Up to the end of June total bond sales in Lowell amounted to \$161, 350. War Savings stamp sales in June amounted to \$2,037.

Lowell yielded approximately 48,000 pounds of scrap rubber during the drive which ended July 10, according to estimates obtained by the Ledger from Lowell gas stations acting as receiving depots. This is an average of 24 pounds for every man, woman and child residing in Lowell and is far above Michigan's quota of five pounds per person. The effort is now being directed toward the collection of fats and greases, a valuable source of glycerine.

The Board of Directors of the Dairyland Co-operative Creamery, Carson City, have recently taken action cancelling the annual picnic which has been held for seventeen consecutive years. The above action was taken to conform with the request of Joseph Eastman of the Office of Defense Transportation as a measure to save tires. The Board wishes to announce that this action is only for the duration and that the picnic will be resumed as soon as possible.

C. H. Runciman was re-elected trustee of Lowell school district for a term of three years at the annual election held last Monday. Mr. Runciman has given the district many years of valuable service, and his re-election was by unanimous vote. Secretary F. F. Coons gave a detailed report of school district receipts and disbursements at the annual school meeting which followed the election.

50 years ago Lowell Ledger July 13, 1967

Lowell Granite Company on East Main St., razed an old building last week just south of Main St. on South Monroe. The building, nearly a century old, had been used for the last 20 years for storage. Back at the turn of the century Harley Maynard used it for his plumbing shop. Later a creamery took over, and in the early 30's Gus Libby had quite a crew working in his button factory in this building. Clams hooked out of Grand River were brought in and buttons stamped out of the shells.

White's Covered Bridge, the only covered bridge in Ionia County, and one of six in the state, will have another distinction to boost this Saturday, when it will

We love to hear from you!

The Lowell Ledger welcomes your Letters to the Editor.

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



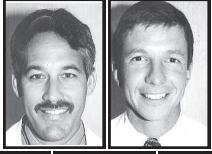
Letters may be submitted via email to: ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com ("to the Editor" in subject line) or dropped off or mailed to: The Lowell Ledger, 105 N. Broadway, Lowell, MI 49331.

mark its 98th birthday; two years short of the centennial mark. The bridge is still in use, although the Ionia County Road Commission has placed a two ton axle load limit on the use of the structure. The span was completed July 15, 1889, at a cost of \$1,775.54, and has served the county continuously since that time, according to the records of Earl Beattle, Keene Township clerk. The present bridge is the 3rd on the site. The first one having been built shortly after the first settlers came to Ionia County. It received its name from Levi White, a carpenter, and one of Michigan's early pioneers. The second bridge, built by Levi in 1840 was condemned in 1888. Then followed a period of about one year when there was no means of crossing the river, other than by boat, while the new bridge was being constructed. Two years ago a historical marker was erected on the sight in July. The marker, dedicated by Dr. Willis Dunbar of the Michigan Historical Commission is fitting recognition of a soundly made structure, and a typical tourist site.

25 years ago The Lowell Ledger July 15, 1992

Lowell's City Council in the interest of coordinating a Geographical Information System mapping on a county-wide basis, agreed to contributing toward the hiring of a consultant in the amount of \$558 to perform a needs assessment. The motion was passed 3-1. Councilman Bill Thompson was absent. The only nay vote was cast by Jack Fonger. "I group this right in the same line as the Metro Council," Fonger explained. "I think Lowell is too small and the system too complicated. We will also need people to run it once we have it and that too will cost money." County and Municipal officials have been studying the needs for establishing a Geographical Information System. The system would provide computerized mapping for a range of activities, including routes, growth, tax records, cataloguing, utilities, zoning and maintenance of the infrastructure. The staff is currently reviewing proposals to initiate such a system, focusing on cemetery mapping needs. The payment of funds toward the needs assessment will not obligate the City toward further funding. There are currently five cities and nine townships which have approved funding for the needs assessment.

health



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

happy birthday



JULY 12

Cole Burdette, Samantha Bellah, Jill Taylor, Hayley Fritz, Georgan Watrous.

JULY 15

Mari Stone, Joyce VanDyke, Keenan Hacker.

JULY 16

James Stanley Smith, Caleb Rinard.

JULY 17

Vicki VanDerWarf, Ken Willmarth, Tom Karp.

JULY 18

Dianne Scanlon, Bette Phillips Haybarker, Emily Borton.

JULY 13

Travis Thomet, Cheryl Doyle, Justin Craig, Janet Burns, George Miles, Esther Newell, John Jones, Izzy Tackmann, Sharon Landman.

JULY 14

Ernestine Bundy, Katie Stouffer, Richard Ellison, Mindy Tykocki, Bethany Kaczanowski.

In The Service

U.S. Air Force Airman Kaitlyn Carter graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, San Antonio, Texas.

The airman completed an intensive, eight-week program that included training in military discipline and studies, Air Force core values, physical fitness and basic warfare principles and skills.

Airmen who complete basic training also earn four

credits toward an associate in applied science degree through the Community College of the Air Force.

Carter is the daughter of Rebekah Lehman of Saranac and Chad Carter of Grand Rapids, step-daughter of Stacie Carter of Grand Rapids and Kevin Gibson of Grandville and sister of Kalli Gibson of Grandville.

She is a 2015 graduate of Grandville High School, Grandville.

outdoors

summer gills

Dave Stegehuis

Summer is a good time to pursue outdoor activities in Michigan. Fishing is at the top of the list for residents and visitors.

Some species are more accessible than others. Depending on where one lives, salmon fishing will involve more travel on land and water for most of us. Walleye are more wide spread, but finding fishable numbers may require extra effort. Bluegills, however, are common in most inland lakes, ponds, and reservoirs across the state.

Bluegills are a popular species because of availability as well as making a great fish dinner. Tackle set ups are economical to assemble and easy to fish.

Fishing from shore or docks can be productive for smaller fish. Large gills usually seek out deeper cooler water in the summer and are fished from watercraft. A long cane pole or glass extension pole will get a bobber, hook, line, and sinker out to the big ones. A slip bobber allows using a spinning rod even in deep water.

A more sophisticated technique is jigging. A small lead-head jig tipped with a

wax worm or plastic curly tail is quickly raised and then allowed to settle slowly. The trick with jigging is to feel the bite which sometimes can be very subtle. With a little practice this is a fun way to fish. Another method is tossing the line baited with a worm or cricket overboard then drifting with the breeze. An electric trolling motor can be employed if the wind doesn't cooperate. These methods cover a lot of water. This will help locate schooled fish or pick up fish which may be scattered.

If any of this works out and you have some fish to eat, attempt to keep the catch fresh. A live-well in the boat or a live net hung over the side will keep the fish lively. After the holiday crowds thin out, make plans to get started on the summer bluebill bite. Filets rolled in a seasoned fry mix and fried in hot oil in a cast iron pan won't last long on any table. Baking is also a good method of preparing the days catch.

Keep only what you need within legal limits for a meal or two and let the rest swim to be caught again. Fresh fish is best. That gives you a reason to go fishing another day. Good luck.

tick bites

Many people are concerned about possible Lyme disease after a tick bite. However, the risk of developing Lyme disease after a tick bite is actually quite low. A tick may transmit an infection only after it has attached, taken a blood meal and is actively carrying the infection. A tick that has not attached cannot pass an infection. The deer tick that causes Lyme disease must be attached and feed for 36 hours before transmission of the infection can occur. The risk of acquiring Lyme disease after a tick bite is estimated at only one to 1.5 percent in areas where the infection is common.

If you find a tick that has attached, be sure and remove it properly. Do not use a smoldering match, nail polish, Vaseline, liquid soap or kerosene. Use fine tweezers and gently grab the tick as close to the skin as possible, pull backwards gently using even pressure. Do not twist, jerk, squeeze, crush or puncture the tick. After tick is removed, wash the area with soap and water.

You should let your health care provider know the size and color of the tick, whether it was actually

attached to the skin and approximately how long it was attached. At least 36-48 hours of feeding is required for a deer tick to transmit the bacteria that causes Lyme disease.

Your doctor will determine if treatment to prevent Lyme disease is indicated. There is no benefit to test for Lyme disease shortly after the tick bite because it takes two to six weeks after being infected for the blood test to become positive.

The Infectious Disease Society of America recommends preventive treatment with antibiotic if the following criteria are met:

1. Tick is attached for greater than 24 hours and presumed to be a deer tick.
2. The local rate of infection is greater than 20 percent (New England, Mid-Atlantic states, parts of Minnesota and Wisconsin).
3. The antibiotic can be given with 72 hours of tick removal.
4. The person is able to take doxycycline.

If the person meets all the criteria above, a single dose of doxycycline is prescribed to prevent possible infection.

area churches



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC
 865 Lincoln Lake SE • 616.897.5906
 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

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 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

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
 Barrier-Free

ST. MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH
 402 Amity St. • 897-9820
 www.stmarylowell.com
 Weekend Masses: Sat 5 PM; Sun. 10:30 AM
 Saturday Confessions: 3-4:30 PM
 Prayer & Adoration each Wed. 8:00 AM - 8 PM
 RELIGIOUS EDUCATION, CHILDREN TO ADULTS - CALL PETE WIGGINS 897-7915
 SEE LOWELL CABLE CH 393, EWTN FOR 24HR. CATHOLIC BROADCASTING

LOWELL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
 discover. grow. share
 621 E. Main Street
 897-5938
 www.lowellumc.com • Barrier Free Entrance
 WORSHIP
 9 AM - Traditional • 11 AM - Contemporary
 Kid's Crew 11:15 AM
 Sr. Pastor - Brad Brillhart

business matters



Greenridge Realty announced that Joshua McCracken received Sales Associate of the Month in June.

This award recognizes McCracken for his outstanding success and achievements.



Rasch Farm Market
BLUEBERRIES
BLACK SWEET CHERRIES
SOUR CHERRIES
RASPBERRIES
TOMATOES
LAST DAY OPEN: JULY 15
 2730 Alden Nash NE • 897-8212

Donate A Boat or Car Today!
 BoatAngel
"2-Night Free Vacation!"
800-700-BOAT
 www.boatangel.com

Perseverance A community fighting cancer

Ann (Dimmick) & Carl Rife

"We hope we can help others through the Pink Arrow program to face their struggle with cancer and sometimes their loss."



Vance Dimmick, my husband, was diagnosed with renal cell cancer in 2005. The cancer had grown into his heart and he had the choice of a major double surgery, removing the right kidney and the cancer in his heart or being treated with the one and only chemotherapy that was available at that time which had devastating side effects. Both options could take his life. He opted for the surgery and we were blessed with the results. We had over two years of living cancer free, then it metastasized and he fought a courageous battle for the next seven years.

During those years of fighting the disease, Pink Arrow supported us. We spoke with counselors at Gilda's Club. Pink Arrow leadership supported us with care and financial stipends. The Pink Arrow event became a highlight in our year and Vance looked forward to that walk around the field. We felt so much support from this wonderful community.

When a husband of 51 years dies after a long, difficult battle with cancer, it is devastating. I had a sense of being very small. All buildings even the car seemed bigger. Half of me was missing. I couldn't wish for him back. I wouldn't want him to suffer one more day, but I didn't know how I could ever live without him. My brain felt like mush. I was exhausted. Days were long and nights were longer. I share this for those of you who may be walking through this right now.

During the last year of Vance's suffering we found out that one of our friends of fifty plus years, Judy Rife, was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. Her husband Carl and Vance went to seminary together. Carl stood up for Vance at our wedding. After seminary, we both served churches in Maryland, then our following assignments took us to different states. Our contacts were primarily through Christmas letters, but now with this news we

began communicating often. Vance encouraged Judy in her fight with the disease and Carl supported us. Judy died October 20, 2014, a month before Vance.

When Vance died Carl called me. After a couple of phone calls, in the month of January, Carl sent me three books to help with the loss and grief I was facing. One was *Healing After Loss: Daily Meditations for Working Through Grief*, by Martha W. Hickman. Another was a book on grief by Henri Nouwen. These were helpful but *Tear Soup* by Pat Schiebert and Chuck DellOyen topped the list. It is a remarkable writing that is a must read to help understand and navigate the grief journey.

We called each other more often in February and March and by April we decided we needed to see each other. Our relationship began with helping each other through the loneliness and grief, calling to say "hello" in the morning and

"good night" in the evening, but it quickly grew into a desire to see each other and then to be together. At this time Carl was living in Pennsylvania and I was here in Lowell. In March of 2018 we were married at Bethlehem United Methodist Church in Dallastown, Pennsylvania. Carl moved to Lowell after a lifetime of living in Pennsylvania and Maryland in the east.

We realize how blessed we have been by our marriage of 51 years and now by our marriage of one year and our shared lives. We hope we can help others through the Pink Arrow program to face their struggle with cancer and sometimes their loss. We share our encouragement and hope that you may find resources in God, your family, your friends to find a way to live again.



Perseverance

A community fighting cancer

Pam Topolinski and Patrick Kargl

"Thank you for having Gilda's Club for all of us who need it."

We were asked to tell you our stories.

They are stories of loss and sadness and grieving from a mother and for a brother. Unlike a lot of the other people who have come to Gilda's Club for help and support with illness and the loss of loved ones to illness, we lost our son and brother to a tragic "no forwarding" accident.

I am the mother of five children ages 18 to 24. I've been divorced for the past ten years. I foolishly used to believe that once a person has a great tragedy in their life they have "paid their dues" and somehow become exempt from further tragedies. I know now that unfortunately it doesn't work that way.

I was very blessed to have five perfect, healthy babies. I would say I am a good mother, but used more of a "hands off" approach most of the time – encouraged independence early on. Although I enjoyed my children as babies, toddlers, preschoolers, pre-teens, I find I much more enjoy them as teenagers and young adults. I enjoy talking to them and hearing how wise they can be, not necessarily "book smart" (although they are very book smart) but just their insights and views of the world around them. Why some things in life upset them and others do not. I am excited for each one to start their lives away from me, away from dependence.

I had two girls first, Alyssa and Christa. Then I had Joseph. His birth was a bit scary, our Joseph was not anxious to breathe upon his arrival. The umbilical cord was wrapped around his neck. It seemed like a LONG time that the obstetrician had to massage his little chest to get his heart and lungs going, yet it was probably

less than a minute. He cried loud after that. My first baby boy! I thought our family was complete, but seeing Joseph's sisters and the little neighbor girls parade him down our street when he was two years old wearing a little dress and fancy little girl shoes, I realized Joseph may need a brother. So, my wish came true and Jeremy was born. Only 18 months later Patrick arrived, a delightful yet unplanned surprise to our family.

The only tragedy in my life up to that point was my older brother Donald being violently taken from our family by a car accident when he was 20 years old. That was a few days before Christmas 1985. He was walking, the driver of the car that hit him was very intoxicated. I was 18. I had a younger sister and two younger brothers, the same family make-up as the children I would have one day. I watched my parents suffer when they lost their oldest child. It was a loss for me and my siblings for sure, but to see my parents experience losing a child was eye opening. What they experienced seemed very different and a thousand times more painful than what I did. I cried a lot and got mad at God for doing this to us. Why did he need my brother more than we did? But I was on a mission at that time to get through nursing school, so I had to focus on that. I don't think my parents had that luxury. They had to focus every day on the loss of "their baby" regardless of their jobs and responsibilities.

My next tragedy was my divorce. It was difficult of course. Being a single mother of five children is not what I imagined happening, but I chose it and for me it had to be that way. I felt

that although this was another tragedy in my life, it was not as devastating as losing my brother 20 years earlier. I did feel I had met my quota of difficult events though and was pretty sure no more would come to me. In January 2009, my dad called me at work. I think it was a Friday. That was unusual. He never called me at work and really, my mom always called and sometimes I would speak with my dad, sometimes not. I was finishing up my nurse work at the cardiovascular office I was working at in Grand Rapids. What he said did not make sense. My mom is in the hospital. (She had a stroke. I asked him to repeat that. A STROKE? WHAT? Are you sure? He was sure. My mom had a large hemorrhagic stroke earlier that day at her own workplace. (She was to retire in two weeks. My mom had been so lively and talkative and unbelievably personable her whole life. Now she has a body that I might say works a little more than half. Her right side is basically paralyzed. (She is wheelchair bound. Her communication is impaired. We know she understands what we are saying, but communicating

what she wants to say is difficult. But she is still with us and smiles and laughs like she used to. I thought this was unfair, that my dad had to lose my mom as she had been, as well as losing his son 24 years earlier. And what about me? In a way, I lost my mother, the mother that had always been there to cook and clean for family events; who flew out to whichever state I was living in to help each time I gave birth to another child and offered unending support and encouragement to me when my life was tough. (So, I was sure then that this would be the last tragedy I would have to endure.

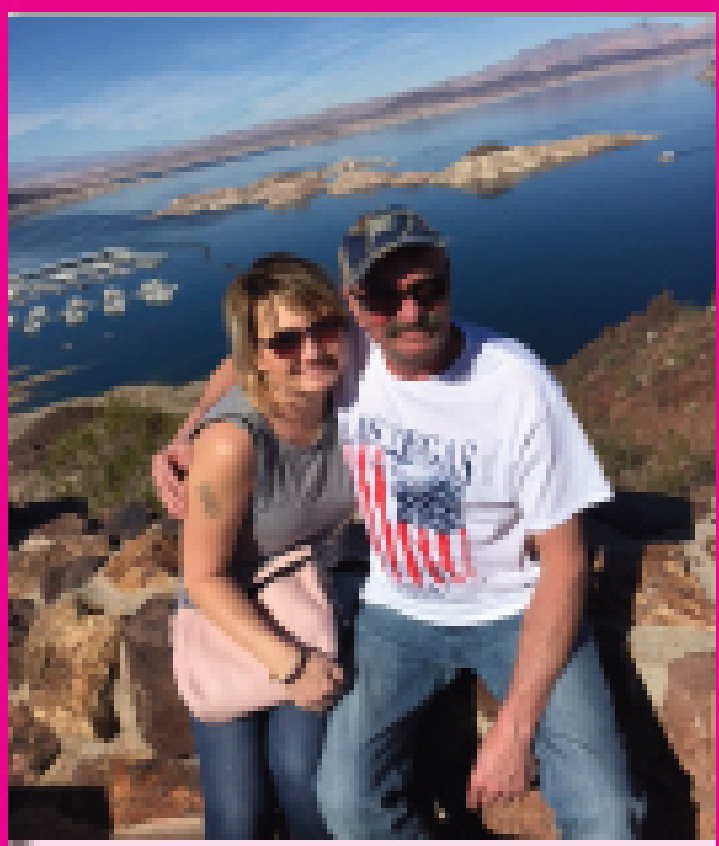
On Friday morning, October 2, 2016, I was on my way from my home in Lowell to the hospital to see my dad before a planned surgery. There was a backup, looked like an accident ahead on M-21 heading west to Grand Rapids. Of course I was running late. I decided to take an alternate route around it. Odd. I had not heard on the radio about any accidents in Lowell that morning.

My dad was off to the operating room. My sister Nancy and I decided to go visit mom in the facility that would be her



Perseverance A community fighting cancer

Julie Heimer



"Never in my life did I ever dream of having to rely on the kindness of the Pink Arrow Pride and Gilda's Club."

confirmed stage 1 throat cancer. I'm not a medical tech. I can't give you all the medical names of all of this, but I'm like, so that's good, right? Just cut it out and let's move on. I've got things to do! Wrong! Cutting it out would leave a huge hole in the top of my throat which would result in fluids coming out of my nose. So, onto radiation.

My friend Cliff said to me, 'Cancer is not a journey, cancer is boot camp,' yep he is right. Not a picnic at all. I got all set up with radiation oncology at Metro Hospital. After Dr. Fortner and I met, she consulted with the neck and head specialist at U of M and they came up with my plan. 50 radiation treatments, five days a week for six weeks. Ok, kind of a pain to drive out there everyday, but ok. I want this out of me. So I freak out in a elevator when people are too close and breathing on me or I get caught trapped in my bed sheets, I know I was, I am claustrophobic. Oh my word, am I ever claustrophobic! I found out just how bad the day they made "the mask"

For those of you who have experienced the mask know exactly what I'm talking about. I was like 'no way' in this lifetime are you laying me on that table bolting that super tight mask to the table with me in it! Well guess what? They did! (With a little help of Valium.) It will get easier they said. Nope! I hadn't really cried up until this point of making the mask and wearing the mask for the first time. Not because it hurt. It was frustrating that I couldn't control this. If I wanted to beat this cancer this is what I have to do. There are lots of side effects to radiation. First of all, I'm exhausted. I have a nice burn on my face and neck. I'm balding on that side of my head. My throat hurts like crazy. But the worse part is not eating! I refuse a feeding tube! I am able to eat instant oatmeal, Mrs. Grass chicken soup, string cheese. Nothing hot and nothing cold. So your doctor gives you pain meds, but you can't take them on an empty stomach cuz you get sick. Well, guess what? You do not, I repeat, do not want to throw up when your throat and tongue have been scorched with a beam of radiation. After today I have seven days of treatment left! I must say though, I have met some great people at Metro cancer center, in the waiting room. Other people like me facing these chemo and radiation treatments everyday just like me. I've learned of their families, their jobs, their financial hardships, their cancer and unfortunately, the clock is ticking very fast for some of them. So, for myself, I know I'm going to beat this and many do not. Recently I lost a good friend who fought a long time to stay here on this earth to be with her husband and children and rest of her family. I will be attending her memorial in the next few days. So when I'm feeling all down I just say her name, "Shannon, I got this!"

Now I need to thank some people. I want to thank the people at Pink Arrow and Gilda's club. Thank you Cliff and Julie for reaching out to me. Your support means more to me than you know. Thank you to my friends and family for driving me to treatments, Denise and Stacey, Ken and Sherry, Bonny, Deanna, Hailey, my boys and my niece Christa; the girls at work for taking up the slack for my being gone; and just everyone for cards and meals, phone-calls, etc. you all in my life for a reason and I appreciate each and every one of you.

Love, Julie

Never in my life did I ever dream of having to rely on the kindness of the Pink Arrow Pride and Gilda's Club. I never thought I would ever see my name on a luminesce bag for Relay For Life! I'm always the one walking in a relay or donating money for these causes. But here I am, so never say never!

My name is Julie Heimer. I am married to my husband Pete and the mother of three grown young men. I own and operate Juliette Salon, so you may know me from there. The day those words 'I have cancer' came out of my mouth I couldn't believe it myself and trying to be strong for them, my family, to hear those words was very hard also.

I was at my cleaning, at my dentist office, when the hygienist noticed something in my throat. Dr. Jim Reagan came in and confirmed that there was something suspicious there and we would keep an eye on it. Well, those who know me well know I was like, heck no, I'm calling my family doctor. I'm not going to watch this. Dr. Uble got me in the very next week and within days of that I was at a ears, nose and throat specialist, Dr. Spoto. He wanted to do the biopsy that week, but with Good Friday being that day, I was already booked with clients, so we scheduled for the following Friday so I could be back to work on that Wednesday. Well, that didn't happen. I was off for a week and a half. So follow-up came and I asked Dr. Spoto, "You got the right spot?" He said, 'Julie, trust me, I did.' I said, 'I have cancer, don't I?' And he confirmed yep you do. Now hearing those words and saying them out loud is crazy! I got a little prickly eyed but sucked it up and said ok what do we do from here?

Pet scan, what? Ok, now I'm a little nervous. What does that mean? Well, what that means is you get radioactive sugar that goes in your vein and goes to every where your cancer could be. Luckily my cancer was contained to the throat. The hard part of this test is you have to have a blood sugar below 200 and cannot have insulin two hours before the test. Did I mention I'm a type 1 diabetic? Ya. So fail on the first test, cancelled till the following week. Pet scan

Perseverance A community fighting cancer

Pam and Patrick, continued

temporary home while our dad recovered from surgery. The hospital waiting room staff called my sister's cell phone almost as soon as we were in my car outside. We need to go back to the waiting room to "check out" is what they said. Odd, but whatever, so Nancy went back in to take care of this. Nancy called me from the waiting room "They need you, Pam." This was crazy. I re-parked my car and went up. They immediately led me to a small private lounge. It walked a police officer and a police chaplain. I was confused. Why isn't the surgeon telling me something happened to my dad during his surgery? I knew this was not about my father.

"Are you Pamela Topolinski," the officer asked.

"I am."

"Is your son Joseph Karg?"

"He is," I answered. I remember feeling faint. Joe's car was not in the garage that morning. THAT ACCIDENT I detoured around. . .

"Joseph was in an accident early this morning. He didn't make it home. Joe didn't make it. He died."

I can only remember my disbelief and instant denial. "No. Not Joe. Are you sure?" They handed me his wallet and cell phone. I then cried. "NO NO NO," I said over and over. "Where is my sister?" Bring her in here.

That was my last tragedy. And now I know how my parents felt when they lost their son, my brother. It was not one thousand times what I felt as his sister, but one million times that. I don't want to diminish what my own children felt losing their brother, but being in the sister and the parent position in these two tragedies confirmed what I always knew my own parents felt when my brother died. You really do lose a part of your soul when your child dies. Your memories of that baby, in your womb, in your arms, in your home for nineteen years is now just gone. No warning. No good-byes. I will never see his crooked little smile again. I will never hear his voice again. Just gone. All his things were still in his room. I could smell his scent on his clothes for weeks. My Joe. My Joe. Why? I thought I met my quota of tragedies.

Exactly 11 months after Joe died, his good friend Micah died. I went to Micah's funeral and broke down more than I had at Joe's funeral. Watching this happen again was too much. I couldn't stop crying. I left the worship space. A woman I had known from Little League a few years before came to comfort me and told me about Gilda's Club and their grief support program. I went to Gilda's in Lowell the following week and have been going regularly ever since. I needed to take time to grieve. I realize I grieve for the loss of my brother, the loss of the mother I used to have and for the loss of part of me, my son, my Joe. The grief didn't end after the funeral was over. It didn't end after we buried him. It didn't end after I cleaned out his room and gave his clothes to his brothers and his friends. It didn't end when I went back to work and "re-joined" society. Grieving is a process, a "passenger" I will carry with me for the rest of my life. I need to be with people who suffered losses like me, who "give me permission" each week to admit how hurt and lost I still am without that part of my soul. Thank you to my new friends, thank you to Julie and the other counselors that guide us through it. Thank you for having Gilda's Club for all of us who need it. Come join us if you need "permission" to grieve.



My journey through grief begins on October 2nd, 2016. For the majority of that day I was oblivious to what had happened to my brother that morning, which, in hindsight, I am thankful for because I was still somewhat able to play in the marching band at the football game that night, though my mind was very distracted. I was heading down the hallway at school around 5:30 pm to get ready with the band, when I saw my mom standing nearby, speaking with the school's radio director (who we are good friends with) and I asked why she was here. She said she needed to talk to me. My initial thought was Ugh oh, something happened to Grandpa during surgery. But when she pulled me aside into an empty classroom, I quickly found out that was not the case. Her first words were simple: "Joe died." And then she told me how it happened. My mind was racing. Hold on. What? How do you even process something like that? It was baffling. To go from a state of mind where everything was so run-of-the-mill in our family to this happening was literally unbelievable. I couldn't cry at that moment because I was in shock. And I would remain in shock for a while, because I was just trying to believe what even happened. My mom asked if I still wanted to march for the game. I said yes, but like I said, it was difficult to concentrate. I needed to put off these feelings for just a couple hours and then I could go be sad. After the game, my uncle picked me up from the band room. I instantly hugged him, grabbed my things and went to his car and we headed home. As we drove up to my house, I saw cars lined up along the road. All of our local relatives were at our house with our family. I walked in, hugged my mom and that's when I started crying. Everything was surreal. It all seemed very dreamlike and blurry as I walked down to my room. I wasn't even sure what to do. I just sat for a while until my mom came in and talked to me. I could tell she didn't really know what to do either and that's pretty unsettling. My mom is hands-down the strongest person I have ever met. Unfortunately, I hadn't fully realized that until I lost my brother. In my childhood she told me about losing her brother when she was younger and I never really thought much of it. There was an uncle that I never got to meet. For some reason it wasn't a very big deal to me; I had a grandpa that I never got to meet either. Wasn't anything new, I guess. It disheartens me that my own brother had to DIE in order for me to realize not only how much pain my mom had endured throughout her life, but how important family is and how valued their lives are. And if there's one thing that grief has significantly changed about me, it's how sensitive I am as a person. Every time I hear about someone dying, my heart mourns for their family and loved ones because I know, to some extent, what they are going through.

Only one month after my brother's death, my counselor at school told me about the Gilda's Club grief support group. I was very hesitant at first; expressing feelings to others is not something that runs in the family. I was very unsure about what to expect, but when I went there, it was extremely eye-opening. I found out that these kids are experiencing the same feelings as me! And I was able to talk to them and share my thoughts and they understood exactly what was happening. Moreover, one of the greatest parts about grief group is that I am able to help others with their grief, too, by sharing my insights and observations on their issues and hopefully inspiring them or motivating them a little bit through their own grief journeys. We all help each other out and we all have the same goal: to figure out just what the heck is going on in our heads as we experience these emotions. I am very thankful that Gilda's Club offers this group at school, otherwise I would struggle a lot more with my thoughts and I wouldn't express my feelings nearly as much. It has enlightened me so greatly on other people's feelings and has immensely impacted my ability to get in touch with my own feelings, too.

See page 16 for the sponsor of these pages.

Bicyclists rolled through countryside for bike tour

by Brianna Massey
Lowell Ledger intern

A grand total of 88 enthused bicyclists from all around Michigan rolled through the local countryside on Sunday, July 9th, for the 23rd annual Fallasburg Historical Society's Covered Bridge Bike Tour.

"This [Fallasburg] is just a little gem of a village tucked away that time forgot," said Patty Brechbiel, secretary of the Fallasburg Historical Society and one

of the cooks for the event. "It needs care and attention and this fundraiser [Covered Bridge Bike Tour] is one way we preserve this piece of history."

Bicyclists could choose between seven tour options; 12, 28, 40, 50, 62, 78 or 100 miles; 61 bicyclists designated which route they were going to complete, while 27 did not declare how far they would ride. The 50-mile ride being the most popular option this year; after tallying the miles,

certainly support our efforts of preserving Fallasburg."

The early registration fee for the event was \$25 for individuals and \$35 for a family; 47 people registered in advance and 41 walked-up to the event. After July 6, it was \$30 for individuals and \$40 for a family.

All proceeds went to benefit the continued preservation of the historic Fallasburg Village which consists of 42 acres along the banks of the Flat River.

In return for supporting Fallasburg, "the bikers get fed like kings," said Tamke.

Riders were provided with peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, fruit, homemade cookies, water, and Gatorade at rest stops along the course and at the end of the tour were served homemade spaghetti and meatballs with a vegetarian version, salad, garlic bread, strawberry shortcake, and a keg of root beer.

"It's not Chef Boyardee or out of a can," said Tamke.

"It's the homemade country style Italian meal from ancient family recipes. The bikers eat the stuff up. They love it!"



Photo by Kathryn Atwood

But, it is not just the food that keeps riders coming back.

"The whole package is a great experience," said Spitz. "I love the people and the town and the atmosphere of it. The people make me want to come back year after year and the food is amazing."

The tour became a reality 23 years ago due to the brainstorming of avid biker Larry Martin, Fallasburg Historical

Society board member and Fallas family descendant.

Martin was hit and killed while out biking the day before the 17th annual tour. In memory of Martin, "the father of the bike tour," the Fallasburg Historical Society pledges "\$1 Per Rider," a program benefitting the League of Michigan Bicyclists' lobbying efforts to make Michigan a safer place to bike.

"The tour is the society's most successful fundraiser of the year, but we could always use more volunteers for some of our other activities," said Brechbiel. "We have the schoolhouse open on Sunday afternoons in the summer and we're always looking for someone to host that event."

Visit www.fallasburg.org to find out other ways you can help preserve the village.



Photo by Kathryn Atwood

six participants pedaled 12 miles, 14 riders rolled 28 miles, 33 bicyclists rode 50 miles, another six riders took on 75 miles, and two die-hards cycled all 100 miles.

"You don't have to be an expert biker to participate in the tour," said Eric Spitz, six-year participant and Holt resident. "For the most part, you get a mix of skill levels. Some of the people just do it leisurely and some people may be just getting into biking. A lot of families come out too."

Advertisements for

the tour were displayed in biking magazines and bike shops around the state, drawing in crowds from outside of Lowell.

"This event brings people from this area that are aware of the virtues of Lowell and it brings people from Michigan that normally don't get up this way," said Ken Tamke, president of the Fallasburg Historical Society and event organizer of the tour. "It's neat to see them ride through the community and farmland and get to experience Lowell a little bit. The riders

by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

Installation four of the Lowell Showboat Sizzlin' Summer Concerts series welcomed locally bred Gunnar & The Grizzly Boys to the stage last week Thursday for an adrenaline infused country rock performance that filled up the Riverwalk.

The official kick off of the Riverwalk Festival emceed Rick Seese of Greenridge Realty who geared up the audience for two hours of rock and country from the five-piece band led by Kent City native, Gunnar Nyblad.

Raised on his family's

apple orchard, Nyblad has been drawn to music since his youth, writing songs that embrace the country lifestyle. Banding together with childhood friend bass player Rob Mason and college friends, guitarist Shane Grehan of Alpena; jack of all musical trades Chris Newberg of Rockford; and drummer Joe Connolly of Rochester Hills, the singer/songwriter began Gunnar & The Grizzly Boys.

The group debuted at the Grand Rapids venue, The Intersection, opening for national act Justin Moore and continued to open there for some of Nashville's reigning superstars until

reaching headliner status themselves. They have been featured at some of the biggest music festivals, including the local B93 Birthday Bash and attained big success on social media with their 2010 debut album "Standard American" which garnered some national air play.

Now highlighting tracks from their second release "Good Rhythms," the band pays homage to their Michigan roots in both musical style and lyrical reference, making the music both enjoyable and relatable to the concertgoers in Lowell. With driving beats, clever word play

and a true sense of fun, the band kept people rocking from the south end to the north end of the Riverwalk. Attendees of the community sponsored music series were able to enjoy spirits inside the courtyard of the Riverwalk cash bar; balloon animals twisted up courtesy of local favorite Stormy the Magician; food and fare provided by area vendors.

This Thursday evening, from 7-9, The Steve Hilger Band will bring the blues to the Riverwalk with their blend of traditional and progressive blues jams. All shows are free to the public with both lawn and bleacher seating available.

Gunnar & The Grizzly Boys perform at Riverwalk

Yep we cover Crop



Kristin Johnson & Mark Johnson

6151 28th St. SE, Ste. 10, Grand Rapids

(616) 940-8181

MarkJohnsonAgency.com

FREE DENTISTRY!

THROUGH JULY AND AUGUST 2017

- Free pre-school entrance exams
- Free cavity detection exams with x-rays
- Free wisdom tooth exams with x-rays
- Free orthodontic exams

Free information on questions you may have about decisions/directions to take regarding present and future needs, longevity or improving your smile with options.



GILLAN
DENTAL EXCELLENCE

TODD GILLAN, DDS, PC

2186 MAIN STREET • LOWELL

LOCATED ACROSS FROM ARBYS

www.lowelldentalcare.com

WE CORDIALLY INVITE YOU TO CALL

(616) 897-8491

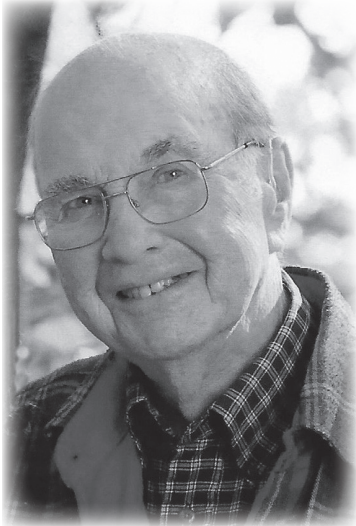


CONVENIENTLY LOCATED IN LOWELL

obituaries

CHASE

Floyd Chase died June 6, 2017. A Memorial Service will be held at 11:00 a.m. Friday, July 14, at Porter Hills Village Meeting House/Chapel, 3600 E. Fulton St. Grand Rapids, MI 49546. Memorial contributions may be directed to Porter Hills Foundation, 4450 Cascade Rd. SE, Ste. 200, Grand Rapids, MI 49502-4646.



ROTH GERST
www.gerstfuneralhomes.com

CULVER

Shirley Ann Culver, age 79, of Lowell, went home to be with her Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, on Tuesday, June 27, 2017. The daughter of Albert Charles and Anna (Hayes) Simmons, Sr., she was born on March 30, 1928, in Grand Rapids. Shirley fought a courageous battle against cancer for over five years. But she didn't fight alone! With the support from Gilda's Club, the Pink Arrow Pride and her church family at Bible Believers Church and recently, the staff of Hospice of Michigan, she was rarely ever alone. Surviving are her brother, Albert "Bud" Simmons; her beloved "four-legged children," Raggs, Pepper, and Mopsy; her "two-legged children," Sue A. Rosenberger, Mary A. and Jack Rosenberger-Yeaple, and Mark H. and Judy Rosenberger; and a niece, Laurie Wheeler. She will also be missed by her dear friends, Eunice, Tracy, Marlene and her church family. Relatives and friends are invited to celebrate Shirley's life at 4:00 pm on Sunday, July 16, 2017, at the Bible Believers Church, 404 N. Hudson Street, Lowell. Honoring her wishes, cremation has taken place. Instead of flowers, Shirley would have appreciated contributions in her memory to the Pink Arrow Pride, P.O. Box 246, Lowell, MI 49331 or Hospice of Michigan, 989 Spaulding S.E., Ada, MI 49301. To send a message of sympathy to the family, sign Shirley's online guest book or to share a favorite memory, please visit: www.ChristiansenCares.com Arrangements were entrusted to Christiansen Cremation & Funeral Care, Greenville.

DESPRES

Despres, Gerard "Jerry" Guedry, age 68, while surrounded by family, went to be with his Lord on Monday, July 3, 2017. Born on August 26, 1948 in Grand Rapids, MI., Jerry graduated from Kentwood High School and Davenport University. He joined the U.S. Marine Corps., served in the Vietnam War and rose to the rank of E-6 Staff Sergeant. He was the CEO of American Storage and Logistics, Inc., and formerly the CEO of Clark Associates MH, Inc., and the owner of Lite & Listen Sound Systems. His philanthropic efforts began early as he rose to Commander and a lifetime member of VFW Post 8303, became the first director of Lowell Rescue, a paramedic for the Rockford/Lowell Ambulance, and a Reserve Police Officer for the City of Lowell. Jerry earned a private Pilot's license and a ship Captain's license. He enjoyed family, friends, adventures, boating, scuba diving, volleyball, motorcycles, hot rods, traveling, and helping people maximize their cube. He inspired others to be fearless, courageous, and to achieve great things through having a positive mental attitude. He will be dearly missed by his family and friends. Jerry was preceded in death by his son Paul Despres; sister Jan Despres and parents Gerard "Bus" and Virginia Despres. He is survived by his wife of 17 years, Marti (Marshall) Despres; son Gerard (Monica) Despres and son David (Gigi) Despres and their mother Alicia Despres; daughter Emily Stockwell, and exchange student family members Mai Yansomboon and Jana Brenisinova; seven grandchildren Zane, Arthur, Rizah, Brianna, Bryce, Vieira, and Hazel; sister Dee (Floyd) Tubergen and brother Randy Despres, and many nieces and nephews. Mass of Christian Burial was held St. Robert of Newminster Church, Ada, MI. In honor of Jerry, contributions may be made to the Make-A-Wish Foundation or to the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans. The family welcomes memories and messages in his guest book online at jerryguestbook.com



O'Brien-Eggebeen
GERST
Cascade & East Paris at 196
www.gerstfuneralhomes.com

LEGAL NOTICE

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
COUNTY OF KENT

NOTICE TO
CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate

FILE NO. 17-201514-DE

Estate of GERALD LEE
FICK, aka Gerald L.
Fick, Jr., deceased. Date
of birth: 11/29/1962.

TO ALL CREDITORS:

NOTICE TO CREDITORS:
The decedent, Gerald Lee Fick, aka Gerald L. Fick, Jr., who lived at 1128 Cricklewood St., Wyoming, MI 49509, died 05/11/2017.

Creditors of the decedent are notified

that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Linda Fick, named personal representative or proposed personal representative, or to both the probate court at 180 Ottawa Avenue NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503 and the named/proposed personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

Craig A. Bruggink P.L.C. (P29358)
429 Turner NW
Grand Rapids, MI 49504
616-456-5048

Linda Fick
1128 Cricklewood St.
Wyoming, MI 49509
616-443-2990



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

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

3	8	1	9	2	6	4	5	7
4	9	2	7	5	1	8	3	6
7	5	6	4	8	3	1	2	9
9	4	3	8	7	5	6	1	2
6	1	5	3	4	2	7	9	8
8	2	7	1	6	9	5	4	3
5	3	9	6	1	8	2	7	4
2	6	4	5	3	7	9	8	1
1	7	8	2	9	4	3	6	5

P	L	A	I	D		D	O	C		W	H	O	M		
H	O	U	R	I		E	R	A		S	H	O	V	E	
D	O	R	I	C		N	B	C		H	A	B	I	T	
		P	A	S	T	R	Y		A	L	A	M	O	D	E
			H	U	E			B	O	O	K				
S	P	A		M	I	L	E		P	E	R	M	I	T	
U	S	E	R		N	E	W	S		S	A	U	N	A	
G	Y	R	E		S	T	I	L	T		C	L	E	F	
A	C	I	D	S		S	T	I	R		K	E	R	F	
R	H	E	S	U	S		C	M	O	N		S	T	Y	
						B	A	S	H		L	E	A		
C	A	R	A	M	E	L		F	L	A	M	B	E		
A	L	I	B	I		A	P	E		R	O	A	R	S	
R	O	G	E	T		W	I	T		L	L	A	N	O	
T	E	S	T			S	E	A		Y	E	S	E	S	



Family Dentistry Since 1994

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

Accepting
New
Patients

"Gentle & Painless
Dentistry Is Our Goal"

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

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

...
The greatest gift of
life is friendship, and I
have received it.
- Hubert H. Humphrey

Help Wanted

Join our Team!!!

We are seeking a highly motivated person in our sales department. This position is full-time employment.

-ALSO-

Seeking a Quick Lube Tech Position

Please send resume to
cjeffrey@bettenbaker.com

BettenBaker
GMC

www.bettenbakergmc.com

749 W. Main St. • Lowell, MI • 897-9227

Mon. - Thurs. 9am - 8pm; Friday 9am - 6pm
Saturday 9am - 4pm • Sunday Closed

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

**THEME:
DELICIOUS
DESSERTS**

ACROSS

1. Scottish Highlands' pattern
6. ____ Brown from "Back to the Future"
9. "For ____ the Bell Tolls"
13. Alluring maiden
14. Feminists' 1923 proposal, acr.
15. Push
16. Not Ionic or Corinthian
17. SNL's "home"
18. Acquired behavior pattern
19. *Danish or croissant
21. *With ice cream
23. Color wheel feature
24. *"Baking with Julia," e.g.
25. Rejuvenating spot
28. Stephen King's "The Green ____"
30. License to park, e.g.
35. Olympic castaway?
37. Read, watched or listened to
39. Hot spot
40. Swirling vortex
41. Wilt "The ____" Chamberlain
43. Beginning of musical staff
44. DNA and RNA
46. Recipe direction
47. Saw incision
48. Rh in Rh disease
50. "Follow me!"
52. Pig's digs
53. Loud get-together
55. Actress Thompson
57. *Apple coat
61. *Like Cherries Jubilee

CROSSWORD														
1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8		9	10	11	12	
13						14				15				
16						17				18				
	19				20			21	22					
			23				24							
25	26	27		28		29			30		31	32	33	34
35			36		37			38		39				
40					41				42		43			
44				45		46					47			
48					49		50			51		52		
				53		54			55		56			
57	58	59	60					61				62	63	
64						65	66			67				68
69						70				71				
72						73				74				



JULY 5 - JULY 11

- A United States built missile defense system on Tuesday successfully intercepted its target during a test run, the U.S. missile defense agency said.
- Marine Corps KC – 130 crashes in Mississippi, 16 service members were killed.
- Warren Buffett just gave 3.2 billion to charity. Buffett has donated billions to charity every year for more than a decade.
- Florida beachgoers form an 80 person human chain to save family that was struggling in the ocean.
- Paris and Los Angeles poised to set 2024 and 2028 Olympics. It's unclear which will get each date. An announcement will be made at the end of the month.
- Air India ditches meaty meals to save money. In 2012 Air India received 4.5 billion in government bailout to keep flying.
- In latest report on a typical Amazon order, employees will spend about a minute total on an order, the rest of the work is done by robots and automated systems.

dish
Our Best Deal Ever!

DISH TV

\$39⁹⁹ MO

2 Year Price Guarantee

INTERNET

\$14⁹⁵ MO

where available

Free Installation!

Call Today, Save 30%! **1-800-318-5121**

for more information

© StatePoint Media

64. Defendant's excuse
65. One who copies behavior of another
67. Lion sounds
69. "Thesaurus" author
70. Intelligent humor
71. Grassy plain

72. School activity
73. Anagram for #49 Down
74. Those in favor

DOWN

1. High degree
2. Roller coaster feature
3. Heavenly glow
4. March celebrants
5. Authoritative declaration
6. Refuse to accept
7. Eyeball shape
8. *Chocolate tree
9. George Michael/Andrew Ridgeley duo
10. Great Depression drifter
11. "Metamorphoses" poet
12. Boundary line
15. *Milk-based concoctions
20. Buggy control, pl.
22. Chop off
24. Cause to be enamored
25. *Common dessert ingredient
26. Study of behavior and mind, for short
27. Eagle's nest

29. "____ Make a Deal"
31. Medieval torture device
32. The cocktail Moscow ____, pl.
33. Dead to the world
34. *Seaside candy
36. *In M&M's pack: browns, greens and these
38. Fit for a skinny one
42. Online troublemaker
45. What to do with an application
49. Greek letters on campus
51. Almost
54. Shredded cabbage dishes
56. Mexican detergent plant
57. Rental on the links
58. Medicinal succulent
59. Semis
60. Lend a criminal hand
61. Sheep's milk cheese
62. Barnyard sounds
63. Marine eagle
66. *____-throwing contest
68. Vessel's last call

Puzzle solutions on page 12

SUDOKU

GOT KNEE PAIN?

Get a Pain-Relieving Knee Brace At Little or No Cost to You You May Qualify for Free Shipping We Do All The Paperwork Shoulder Braces, Ankle Braces, Back Braces Also Available

Medicare Patients Call Us Right Now
1-800-984-0360

		1	9					7
4	9	2			1			
7								2
	4		8	7				
		5	3		2	7		
				6	9			4
	3							4
			5			9	8	1
1					4	3		

© StatePoint Media

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

NEED TO SEND A FAX?

We CAN HELP!
Sending or Receiving

Only \$1 for the first sheet
(each additional 50¢)

the lowell **ledger**

105 N. Broadway
Lowell
616.897.9261

**WINDOWS/SIDING
DOORS/INSULATION/GUTTERS**

SAVE 50% OFF

**HEATING/COOLING BILLS
GUARANTEED!!!**

SAVE 10% OFF WITH THIS COUPON

897-7380 www.all-weather.com

318 E. Main Lowell

All-Weather Seal

Riverwalk, continued

was the debut of the Ninjas on the Move course at the north end of Riverwalk Plaza.

Hosted by Lowell High School graduate Drew Struckmeyer the "American Ninja Warrior" style course saw nearly 400 people attempt the challenge, one of the business' biggest showings to date. Struckmeyer said it was a pleasure to take part in the festival and to interact with the participants. "I love seeing kids eyes light up when they realize that they have the chance to live out what they see on TV and seeing them find new strength as they progress through the course."

The night culminated with a special musical performance from modern day honkey-tonkers, The Bronk Bros from 7-9 pm. The country rock duo, consisting of brothers Heath and Brian Bronk, is a veteran of the showboat stage bringing their high energy show filled with well-known country standards and fun original tracks to Lowell audiences several times over the past few years. The Michigan-based band also features musicians, Johnny "Dutch" Fullin on drums, Woody T. Bridges on the bass and lead guitarist T. Rex Bell.

Festivities picked up early on Saturday as the festival entered its third and final day with its busiest schedule yet. The Riverwalk Cruise-In began at 8 am inviting classic car owners and enthusiasts alike to Avery Street and the surrounding lots to show off and view entries. Awarding cash prizes in the amount of \$800 along with dash plaques and trophies, the car show also honored lost Lowell resident Ray Zandstra during the event presenting a memorial award in his name. "It is very special and kind to have him remembered this way, he would be honored and humbled to be recognized this way by "family, friends and our community," said Zandstra's daughter Shelby Zakowski, who was affectionately named after her car enthusiast father's favorite car, Fords Shelby Mustang.

Sakowski remembered his love of cars fondly when asked, mentioning his car particularity when it came

to his rides. "He has a Z28, Corvette, Roadster and an old pick-up, plus he was very picky about how clean and detailed his cars were, took great pride in his cars and trucks." He would not have been disappointed by this year's show as more than 100 meticulously maintained classic and muscle cars showed up for the always well-attended event.

Run the Riverwalk meandered through the historic city of Lowell offering a family friendly route for participants of any fitness level. The

activities was the noon time FROM the Heart Parade, featuring area performers, businesses, politicians and organizations marching along Main Street in support of the festival and the work of Flat River Outreach Ministries (FROM). Stacey Reynolds, who volunteers several times monthly at the FROM thrift shop Treasures, marched along with the float and her young children, Savannah and Jordan. "It was a lot of fun for the kids to walk in the parade. They loved dressing up and seeing everybody. I couldn't keep a smile off



A fleet of life-saving kid-pleasing fire trucks entertain during the parade.

featured music from the students at Luc James Music Studio, a fleet of local fire trucks, some elected and hopeful politicians, including Lowell city council contender Jake Davenport and congressmen Justin Amash and the reigning royal courts from several communities, including Lowell's own Kent County Youth Fair royal court.

The festival concluded on the shores of Stoney Lakeside Park and on the green space at the Kent County Fairgrounds where families gathered for carnival style treats like elephant ears and caramel apples leading up to the Laurels of Kent sponsored grand finale firework show.



Festival-goers enjoy the classic and muscle cars of the Riverwalk Cruise-In.

fundraising run will support the missionary efforts of the church.

Bill & Paul's got things splashing on the Flat soon thereafter hosting kayak, SUP, canoe racing and fun beginning at the Riverwalk boat launch. Along the same plaza, the days previous events continued and were joined by the Pink Arrow Pride sponsored Kid Zone which relocated from the Runciman School playground to the north end of the Riverwalk this year. Open mic performances from local musical talents and a community worship service was presented by the Lowell Ministry Alliance.

Also highlighting the jam-packed lineup of

Savannah dressed as an M&M," said Reynolds, who added that the kids love volunteering for FROM as much as she does. "I originally volunteered after I moved back to Lowell in 2015 and was impressed with all the different services FROM offers and was in awe of how much they do for the Lowell community. I introduced the kids to volunteering because they asked if they could and they really enjoyed it. They like going to "work" and helping the other volunteers get stuff done. They have grown to love volunteering as much as I do and they know the value of the services FROM offers."

The procession also



Attendees enjoyed kid-focused activities north of the Riverwalk boat launch.



Have past due gas or electric bills?



Flat River Outreach Ministries (FROM) can help!

Qualified Participants:

- Choose either a one-payment only or four-payment option
- Mutually invest in the program by working on personal goals
- Receive ongoing support and connections with resources

Program Requirements:

- Live in Lowell Area School District
- Meet program income guidelines
- Commit to work on personal goals
- Past due bill, shut off notice, at (or below) 25% in deliverable fuel

11535 Fulton St East
Lowell, MI 49331

(616) 897-8260

info@fromlowell.org
www.fromlowell.org

SIGN UP NOW!

RAYG

CHEER

CAMP

WWW.REDARROWGYMNASTICS.ORG

Come to our cheer camp with a focus on tumbling! Flip on our spring floor and a 40-foot tumble track!

August 7-10 • \$60
Age 4-8 • 5:00-7:00 pm
Age 9 and up 7:00-9:00 pm

Email us with questions or to register!
rayg.gymnastics@att.net

bloom where you're planted

BUY LOCAL

LOWELL
Love Your Hometown

We proudly support **Pink Arrow Pride**



PINK  ARROW
PRIDE

Benard's **ACE** Hardware