

## Saluting Our Area Veterans

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city council



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modern day blacksmith



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## Celebration held to honor donors who made purchase of land for Veen Observatory possible

by Tim McAllister  
lead reporter

There was a special celebration at the James C. Veen Observatory to honor the donors that made it possible for the observatory to purchase the land where it sits.

“The Veen family was the main financial donor, but all kinds of other people contributed,” said Jim Foerch, secretary of the Grand Rapids Amateur Astronomical Association. “For \$110,000 we signed a land contract with the landowners, James and Evelyn Marron, for just over 12 acres. The club now owns the land, including the road. James and Evelyn were not original members of the GRAAA club, but they joined early on. After they moved out here they



The Veen Observatory was completed in 1970 and has had thousands of visitors.

decided that it would be cool to host the observatory. We paid them \$1 a year for the piece of land on which the observatory stands. The agreement specified that it only applied to the footprint of the building. Being

generous souls, they let us use the parking lot down the hill and so forth. This is certainly an exciting time for all of us in the GRAAA club.”

The plan for the land purchase was put into place

after James C. Veen Jr. died in January 2016.

“This was a pet project of dad’s over the years,” said James C. Veen III. “After he passed away, we wanted to do something in his memory. It would be a shame for the community to lose this. Their biggest need to keep this thing vibrant and ongoing was that they should own the land it sits on and no longer be leasing it. Because at some point some developer is going to think it would be a nice parcel for some big houses.”

Veen III said he conceived the fundraiser with Dave DeBruyn, president of the Grand Rapids Amateur Astronomical Association, curator emeritus for the Roger B. Chaffee

Planetarium and one of the people who originally helped design and build the observatory.

“[DeBruyn] said, ‘Would you maybe consider some kind of a matching program?’ I said, ‘Sounds good to me. Here’s a number. If you can get other foundations and organizations to chip in up to a certain amount, we’ll match it out of the estates that we’ve been left.’ We feel very privileged and blessed to be in a position to be able to do that. My cousin Claudia Nightengale heard that this was underfoot. They’re Lowell natives and they support this thing too. James C. Veen was

Veen Observatory celebration, continued, page 4

## Featured artist is stop #12 during CTL

by Tim McAllister  
lead reporter

This year’s Christmas Through Lowell featured artist is stop number 12, Idle Tyme Creations, 909 Fallsburg Park Dr. NE. There, Sheila Phenix and her parents Dennis and Sherry Tomalia, have created several different types of craft items, mostly out of wood, including large signs, pine cone birdhouses, ducks and snowmen. This is their tenth year participating in Christmas Through Lowell.

“It takes us about six or seven months to prepare our home for Christmas Through Lowell; then it takes two or three days to set it all up,” Phenix said.

“It really isn’t so bad when people come through,” Sherry Tomalia said. “Everybody is so congenial. A lot of people still want to take their shoes off even though the plastic is down. I like their comments, people saying what they like and dislike about our stuff.”

“We keep doing it because of the people, the customers that keep coming back and getting to talk with everybody,” Phenix said. “That last week before Christmas Through Lowell will be a hectic week. At that point we might be like, ‘Oh my gosh, what are we doing!’”



Sherry Tomalia and Sheila Phenix

Featured artist, continued, page 3

## Christmas Through Lowell opens for its 26<sup>th</sup> season November 17

by Tim McAllister  
lead reporter

Right now, Christmas is only about six weeks away. One of the best opportunities in the Lowell area to find unique, handcrafted gift items is Christmas Through Lowell, on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 17, 18 and 19. Hundreds of local artists will have their creations on display and for sale at dozens of homes and businesses throughout the area.

“We have 59 locations, so it’s larger this year,” said Liz Baker, executive director of the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce. “The times are the same as they were last year. It is a three day event, but all the locations are not necessarily open all three days. That is [a] common. We feel like we’ve done a real good job of color-coding the brochures so people know which locations are open Sunday. The ones that are open three days have a green circle, the ones that are closed on Sunday have a red circle. On Sunday, all of our locations downtown are open, which is awesome.”

This year it’s the event’s 26th anniversary.

“It started way back in the day with some gals and it was purely started for deer widows’ weekend. It gave the girls something to do when the guys were gone and it’s grown in leaps and bounds.”

One fantastic innovation this year is a more accurate map of locations.

“We have an online map through Google available on our website,” Baker said. “Before, sometimes our maps weren’t quite accurate, so we tried this online map. Everything else is the same as it always has been.”

Much of the art at the stops, but not all of it, is holiday-themed.

“It is all sorts of different art,” Baker said. “You’ll find anything from vintage art to contemporary art. Every stop is unique and they each have their own spin on it. They’re all different. Many of the homes have holiday decor. They decorate, they do everything, but they have all their items for sale and it looks like a mini store when you go in there. It’s just amazing, what they do.”

Not all the stops are open at the same times,

so you should plan your weekend with that in mind.

“It’s a three-day extravaganza, but some of these stops are not open on Sunday,” Baker said. “If you want to try to go to all of them you should at least try to be here on Saturday and finish up on Sunday. It definitely is a shopping extravaganza. I don’t know how people choose where they’re going to go.”

Baker said the event is very good for the local economy, even for businesses that don’t participate. The venues range from private homes to businesses and churches.

“We’ve done Christmas Through Lowell for seven years,” said Frank Leasure, owner of Tuckertown Forge, 2880 Pratt Lake Ave. “I shut the shop down, tarp it up, set everything out and make a store. Between all of the girls and I, between the sewing, quilting, knitting, canning and all that stuff [we’ve taught our girls the basics of everything]. They bring their stuff, so you don’t just come here

Christmas Through Lowell, continued, page 2

# Lowell City Council bids farewell to longtime councilmember and former mayor Jim Hodges

by Tim McAllister  
lead reporter

Lowell city council had their latest regular meeting at city hall on Monday, Nov. 6. The meeting lasted about 37 minutes and was attended by about 20 residents. It was the final meeting for councilor James Hodges, who was first elected to the Lowell city council in 1989. He served until 1997 when he lost the election. He came back in 2004 and has been a fixture in city government ever since. He was also Lowell's mayor from January 2009 until January 2016.

"It's been an absolute pleasure getting to know Jim, working with Jim," said city manager Michael Burns. "If I have a question on something, if I need something, I call Jim."

"You're leaving some big shoes for us to fill," said councilor Gregory Canfield. "There's been some ups and downs in the 23 years you've served. You did a great job of running meetings and really handled things well. Things are pretty smooth right now for us, but you went through some rough waters and did a great job representing the city."

"I don't want you to go, I've been telling you that for almost a year now," said mayor Michael DeVore. "I appreciate everything that you've brought to this table. This ship is only upright because you got us through it. There were some tough times a couple years ago. I don't know where we would be without you. I don't know where I would be without you. I try every day when I sit down here to be more like you."

Hodges gave a brief address where he thanked his wife Chris Hodges and the three city managers and two city clerks he's worked with.

"It's been an interesting time and there's nothing better than public service," Hodges said. "It takes over 60 people involved in various boards and commissions to help this city be what it is. Our friends down the road here in Ada, they're attempting to be Lowell. They're spending millions and millions of dollars to be what we already are. That is a tribute to a lot of good people. Not just those here, but all those that serve on the boards and commissions

together in harmony making things happen."

Hodges then read a list of the names of every person he has served on the council with since 1989.

"I enjoyed working with each and every one of these people," Hodges said. "Some more than others."

"That was emotional, but it's good," Hodges said in an interview after the meeting. "These jobs are not forever. Nothing should be forever. The city will continue just fine."

Three residents had comments during the meeting. First, Rep. Thomas Albert offered a legislative update to the council and meeting attendees. He said a recent bill that would have reformed auto insurance laws in Michigan did not pass. Albert said he voted 'Yes' on that bill.

"We have the highest auto insurance [rates] in the nation here in Michigan, but

to counter that we also have the best benefits," Albert said. "There are a lot of Michiganders that actually can't afford the insurance we have."

Next, Dr. James Reagan presented anti-medical marijuana information to the council.

"It is the conclusion of almost every review of the

science that smoked, crude marijuana is not medicine even though it has, in its

City council meeting, continued, page 3



James Hodges, right, was first elected to the Lowell city council in 1989.

## Christmas Through Lowell, continued

and see my stuff. You don't see one thing. If you don't see something you want or you're not impressed, it's no big deal. They come in droves. Christmas Through Lowell is a good program. It gets a lot of people out here. People come from all over, relatives bring their relatives. I see vans of women coming and a few guys. It's an awesome show with very high quality

products and you get to know people too."

"You have three days of bringing people into Lowell," Baker said. "It has a huge economic impact, not just on people that are participating but the businesses that don't, like your gas stations, your fast food places. They all see commerce from this event. It's huge. It has such an impact in Lowell and on the

businesses that participate. It's just a great event, a great way to spearhead your Christmas shopping."

Christmas Through Lowell is your chance to find that perfect, unique gift this holiday season.

"Each stop is unique in itself," Baker said. "I think the cool thing is, although you'll find duplication, it won't be the same because it's all handmade, so everybody will have their own twist on items. They're all wonderful. Every one of them is so different. I think for the participants it's kind of like a treasure hunt. The homes, I have to say, are amazing. These homes take a tremendous amount of

time to create a destination for shoppers."

Baker stressed that, despite the event's origins, everybody is welcome to participate.

"It's a great time," Baker said. "It was an event created for the deer hunting widows, but it's not just ladies that do Christmas Through Lowell. We have lots of guys that come along too. It's just a great event and we encourage everybody to get out there and do some shopping."

Maps and schedules are available at most Lowell area businesses or you can check out [christmasthroughlowell.org](http://christmasthroughlowell.org) for much more information.

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**THE LOWELL ROTARY CLUB**  
is accepting grant applications from local non-profit organizations seeking financial assistance with projects

Grant eligibility requirements and the grant application can be found at our website  
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If you have any questions, email them at - [info@lowellrotary.org](mailto:info@lowellrotary.org)

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# City council meeting, continued

isolated components, shown promise medically,” Reagan said.

Finally, Connor Baker, owner of Buzz Solutions, the company that wants to set up a medical marijuana provisioning center in Lowell.

“I would just like to take a minute to thank the council for approaching the topic of medical marijuana with open minds and open ears,” Baker said.

The council voted to approve a 2.5 percent cost of

living increase for Lowell Light & Power retirees, at a cost of \$78,129.

“Every year since 1990, with the exception of 2010, the Lowell Light & Power board has approved a cost of living adjustment for Lowell Light & Power retirees,” said Lowell Light & Power general manager Steve Donkersloot.

Finally, the council voted to allow REGIS

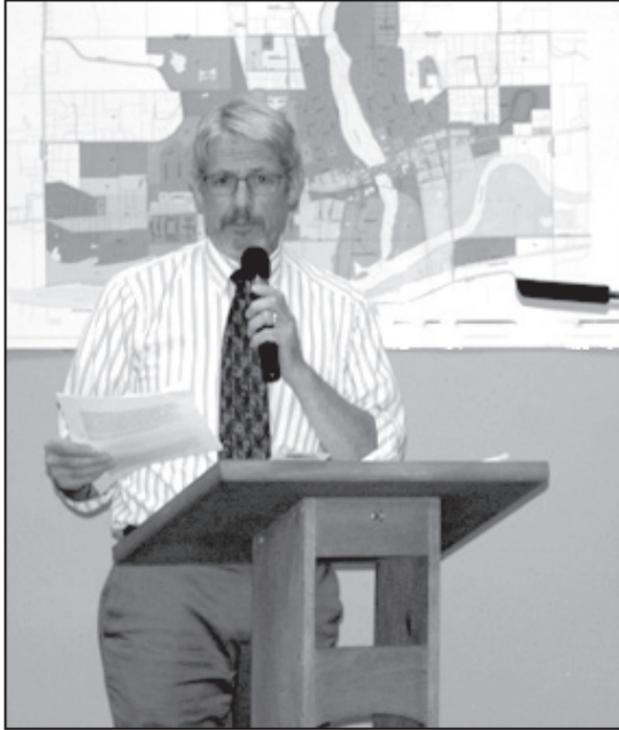
[the Grand Valley Metropolitan Council’s Regional Geographic Information System] to provide data about Lowell’s infrastructure to the state of Michigan. The purpose is to aid in the development of a statewide asset management plan.

“As part of this pilot [program], the city of Lowell and the village of Sparta have been asked to provide

data that we have through REGIS,” Burns said. “This is of no cost to the city of Lowell to participate.”

The council’s next regular meeting will be at city hall on Monday, Nov. 20 at 7 pm. Before that meeting at 5:30 pm the council will have a public hearing to discuss allowing medical marijuana businesses to operate in Lowell Mayor

Michael DeVore presented outgoing city councilor James Hodges with several gifts at the meeting, including a drawing, an award and a nameplate. Dr. James Reagan presented anti-medical marijuana information to the council. Rep. Thomas Albert talked about car insurance and pension reform.



Dr. James Reagan presented anti-medical marijuana information to the council.

## Featured artist, continued

“When everything is in here and we’re ready to sell, then the fun kicks in,” Sherry Tomalia said. “It’s a lot of fun. I don’t think Christmas Through Lowell really has changed much over the [past] ten years. We get a lot more customers now, that’s about it.”

“If it wasn’t for Christmas Through Lowell we wouldn’t be able to show off our craftsmanship,” Dennis Tomalia said. “We’re very appreciative of the people who run Christmas Through Lowell. There’s a

lot of work that goes into it. We try to make enough products where we think there’s going to be enough so we won’t run out but sometimes we do. Last year we sold out in a day and a half. We’re no big business, that’s for sure.”

“We just didn’t have enough,” Sherry Tomalia said. “We sold everything we had. We came with \$3,500 worth of product and when it was over we didn’t have anything left. We had to tell people all that was left were a few things on a table.

We had 10 of the wooden snowmen and sold them all, plus Sheila had one and we sold hers. [Dennis] had to make her another one.”

Dennis Tomalia, Sherry’s husband and Sheila’s father, makes all the wooden goods by hand. His most popular items are his rustic bird feeders made from wood and metal.

“I use cedar, pine and barn wood if I can find it,”

Dennis Tomalia said. “We also go to flea markets and buy old stuff to use. Barn wood is so expensive, though. I take things and put my own touch into them. I’ll look at something and I might modify it or take something away. You see different ideas, look at them, break them down and put your own personal touch into them. I’m trying something new all the time.”



## along main street

### ANNUAL COOKIE DRIVE

Cookie collection happens between 10 am and noon on Sat., Nov. 11, at the Lowell Veterans’ Center, 3116 South Alden Nash, about halfway between fairgrounds and Interstate I-96. Cookies will be delivered to the Veterans’ Home early Saturday afternoon. Please remember that cookies that contain nuts of any kind, including peanut butter, must be kept separate from those without nuts. If you have questions, please call Jan Thompson at 897-2533.

### FOODMOBILE

Foodmobile provides food (mostly produce) to individuals in need and is available Nov. 11 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).

### GILDA’S CLUB LOWELL CLUBHOUSE

**Gardening with Gilda’s** – Tues., Nov. 14, 1-4 pm. Come help out in the gardens in Lowell. Bring your tools and plan to dig in the dirt with other members. No experience necessary!

**Winter Holiday Craft with Mary Shipley** – Tues., Nov. 14, 4-5 pm. Please join Mary Shipley doing a few things involving recycled materials, dollar store items and a white elephant gift idea or two, all materials will be provided.

**Cardmaking Together** – Tues., Nov. 21, 2:30-4:30 pm. Please join us at the Lowell Clubhouse in making handmade cards together! All supplies provided and no experience required.

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

### 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., Nov. 16 at 1 pm. Call 897-8260 for more information.

### GARDEN CLUB

The Lowell Showboat Garden Club will hold a presentation by Dr. Richard (Rich) Peters – Vegetable Gardening on Nov. 20 at 6:30 pm at the Englehardt Library. Call Carol at 897-1259 to reserve a seat, as seating is limited.

### COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING DINNER

First Congregational Church, 865 Lincoln Lake SE, will have their tenth annual free Lowell Community Thanksgiving Dinner from noon to 3 pm on Thurs., Nov. 23. Transportation to and from the event is available and prospective diners are encouraged to RSVP by calling 897-5906.

### HOLIDAY ARTISTS MARKET

The annual LowellArts Holiday Artists Market featuring artwork by over 50 area artists will be held through Dec. 23. Artwork and other handmade items by Michigan artists will be available for purchase during the gift-giving season. Gift items from pottery and paintings to ornaments, candles, soaps and more. LowellArts is located at 223 W. Main and gallery hours are Tues. – Sat., 10 am to 6 pm. Details can be found at [www.lowellartsmi.org](http://www.lowellartsmi.org)

### ALONG MAIN STREET SUBMISSIONS

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.

## NOTICE VERGENNES TOWNSHIP Community Open House and Information Sharing Regarding Proposed New Township Hall

The Vergennes Township Board invites township residents to receive information and offer comments on proposed plans for a new township hall to be built on township-owned property located on the east side of Lincoln Lake Avenue, just south of McPherson. There will be an open house on Monday, November 20, 2017, from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm, at the Vergennes Township Hall board room, located at 10381 Bailey Dr. NE, Lowell, MI 49331.

- Preliminary concept designs of the proposed building, funding options, results of assessment studies will be available for inspection.
- The Vergennes Township Board, entire office staff and project architect will be present to answer questions and take comments. Tours of current office space will be available.
- Comment cards will be available (these will also be sent in the December tax-mailing to all property owners, and are available on the township website: [vergenneswp.org](http://vergenneswp.org) and the Vergennes Township Facebook page).

The Vergennes Township Board hopes this open house will provide residents an opportunity to better understand the overall needs of township administration, and share thoughts and ideas regarding the proposed project. The displays will also be available for viewing at the township offices November 20, 2017 through November 30, 2017.

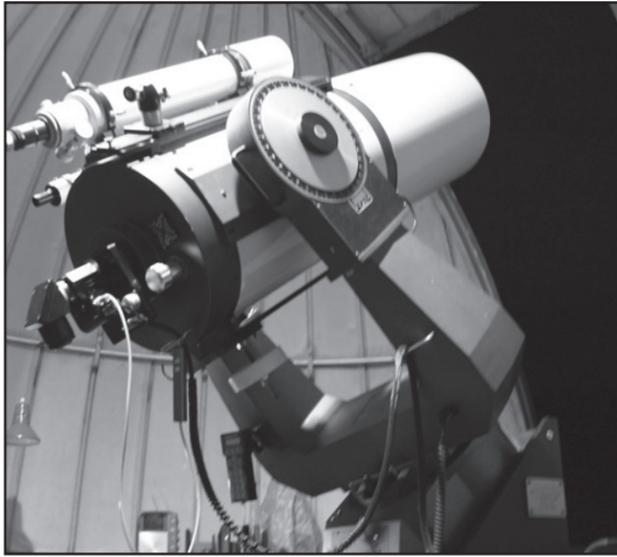
For additional information, please call the office at 616-897-5671, or email the clerk at [clerk@vergenneswp.org](mailto:clerk@vergenneswp.org)

# Veen Observatory celebration, continued

her grandfather as well as mine. She is pretty good at writing grants and asking foundations for assistance. She was surprised at how fast that all came together, about a year from start to finish. And that's why we're here tonight."

The Veen Observatory was constructed on Kissing Rock Hill between 1965 and 1970 by volunteers, including many Lowell High School students. A previously-undiscovered variable star was picked up by observers Bill Sanders and Bob Montle at the observatory in 1979. The original dream of the observatory stretches even further back in time.

"Granddad started an astronomy club back in the 1920s," Veen III said. "It was his lifelong dream that someday there might be an observatory far enough away from Grand Rapids not to be polluted by light. He passed away in the 50s, but he was the impetus for the club to realize this dream. They got the land up here, volunteers built the place in the 60s and they



The big telescope at the Veen Observatory.

opened in 1970. They came to my dad's brother and said they would like to honor his father. They asked if that would be okay and we said, 'Sure.' Posthumously, in grandpa's honor, they put his name on the place. It's been kind of an institution in West Michigan. The volunteers are doing good science and they're tracking asteroids and stuff that NASA doesn't have the time and space to track. They're finding stuff. NASA says they're doing good work and to please

keep it up. They like as many eyes looking out there as they can get. They're doing meaningful things here and they're lighting the imaginations of a lot of kids who are now going down the science paths. We've been happy to be associated with it by name all these years."

The Veen Observatory really is known all around the world, a fact Veen III had personal experience while on a recent trip to Europe.

"Not that many communities have observatories," Veen III said. "There's a couple in every state, usually near a large university as part of their graduate science programs. My wife and I were transatlantic on the Queen Mary 2 from Southampton to New York. One of the features of this ship was, in the bow where you'd normally have a theater, they had built a planetarium. The guest lecturer on that crossing was a royal astronomer from Oxford or somewhere in England. He said after his program, 'Does anybody have any questions?' I had a question so I walked up and said my name.' He said, 'Veen... Any relation to that observatory in Lowell?' My jaw fell down, boom. He had heard of it and he had heard of the work they're doing here."

The observatory has been open to the public a couple nights a month since the 70s. It's a very popular local attraction. Thousands of people have visited the observatory. Most local

schools and scout troops have a tradition of sending their students on field trips to the observatory.

"On clear nights we get anywhere between 80 and 200 people showing up," Foerch said. "The parking lot is totally jammed down there and people are parked all up and down Kissing Rock. It's a real community resource and people are taking advantage of it, hundreds at a time. We host all kinds of school groups. On a visitor night, people will come in here and watch a video that explains about this place. It's on a continuous loop. Small groups climb up there and peek through the big telescope for a while, then climb down and go outside and there is a telescope in the 'outhouse.' Then we'll have seven or eight of our personal telescopes set up on the lawn. I've got a six foot tall, 17 inch mirror telescope that I'll bring out and set up. It's a simple push/pull, but some members will bring robotic telescopes, so there will be lines at every telescope on those busy



James C. Veen III

nights. We try to coordinate so that each telescope will have something different for you to look at."

"I've been out here several times," said event attendee Jim Hodges. "The first time was when my kids were in Boy Scouts. We came out here and they got to look at the stars, have an explanation of astronomy and so forth. It helped some of the Scouts work toward their merit badges. Through other community involvements I've met many of the people that have been involved in making this place grow and be what it is. We've come out here a couple times on our own and I've come with a couple groups. I would absolutely recommend coming to the observatory. It's a good time, especially with kids. It's a good date night too."

To read about the visitors nights, become a volunteer, set up a tour for your group or get more information about the observatory and the GRAAA, check out their website, graaa.org or call 616-897-7065.

"The observatory is one of the many great non-profit groups that give their heart, soul and conscience to our community," Hodges said. "That's what helps us become bigger than we really are."

# business directory

**FRY DADDY'S**  
608 West Main Street  
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**887-FISH** Fish, Seafood, Wine, Omelets, Garden Steps  
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OPEN SUNDAYS 3-4 PM  
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209 E. Main St. **RICH CURTIS**  
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# viewpoint

## sharing the vision



LAS Superintendent Greg Pratt

### Literacy

Lowell Area Schools has always recognized that a strong foundation in literacy is important to all students as they prepare for college and/or a career. In 2016, the State of Michigan legislators passed House Bill 4822 which would ensure that all students are reading at grade level by the time they leave 3rd grade. Beginning in the 2019-2020 school year, 3rd graders will need to demonstrate proficiency in reading on Michigan Student Test of Educational Progress (M-Step) in order to be promoted to the 4th grade. This change in the law will effect this year's kindergarten and first grade students.

As a district, we already have many of the

recommendations in place – teachers are learning best practices, completing reading screeners, and MAP (Measures of Academic Progress) testing to gauge where each student scores and what extra support is needed. Students who are proficient readers will be challenged to read at their level while other students who are below our benchmark may receive additional support and intervention in or out of the classroom, after school, or during the summer. Support for students reading below our benchmark will be detailed in an Individual Reading Plan. These plans will be developed by each school, with input from parents.

Lowell Area Schools

has implemented many reading projects and programs throughout the years.

- Arrows on the Move is one example of our summer reading program that takes reading from school to school and place to place throughout the district providing a mobile reading center where students can read, select books and get tested on their comprehension in a safe and fun way.

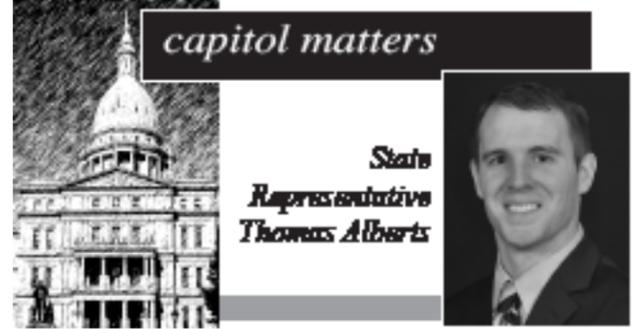
- This past year Lowell Area Schools has also started working with the Reading Corps. The Reading Corps is an intensive, one-on-one tutoring program which originated in Minnesota but has moved into Michigan. The Reading Corps uses trained volunteers who are assigned to students that meet every day for 20 minutes to practice reading skills.

- Our district has invested in professional

development for teachers by developing reading coaches. The reading coaches work with teachers across the district to implement best practices, work on instruction, and make sure we offer the best reading instruction possible for our students.

All this work, as well as the day-to-day instruction in the classroom, does not match the impact that parents play as they work with their child to create a literacy-rich environment at home. Parents can read with their child every day and have a positive impact on their child. Each of our elementary schools will be working with parents providing information, literature, and strategies to help engage our kids whether they are at school or at home.

We look forward to working with our families to provide the best possible education for all of our students!



### November Legislative Update: Addressing student debt and auto no-fault vote

The average amount of debt per student upon graduation from college has increased by over 10,000 dollars in the last 10 years. As students borrow more and more money to pay for their education, it is becoming clear that many do not realize how much they are borrowing or terms of the loans they will be obligated to pay. In order to borrow responsibly, students need to have a better understanding of the long-term impacts of the debt they accrue.

This fall I introduced a bill that I believe will assist students in making informed decisions about their federal student loans. Modeled after states like Indiana, Nebraska and Florida, my bill will require all Michigan colleges to report significantly more details about each student's debt. The report would personally inform each student the amount they have borrowed and estimate their future monthly payments. It would also explain their principle balance and interest, include total payoff estimates and increase overall transparency.

Indiana University saw significant change in student borrowing after the state implemented a similar program. In fact, Indiana University saw student borrowing drop 23 percent within four years. I am confident that this bill will positively affect Michigan's

students and universities in a similar way.

In other news, the House recently voted on HB 5013. This bill, while not perfect, would have been the first step in reforming Michigan's broken auto insurance system. Michigan drivers pay the highest rates for auto insurance in the country. Working to reduce these rates, while protecting drivers who are in catastrophic accidents is difficult and complex work. Even so, an overwhelming amount of my constituents have contacted me asking me to support responsible reform and provide rate relief. That is why I voted in support of this bill. Unfortunately the bill did not gain enough support and failed to pass out of the House with 45 yes votes and 63 no votes. I will continue to work for auto insurance reform that provides coverage choice, enacts fraud protection, reduces rates and addresses other factors that lead to unfair premiums for Michigan drivers.

This month I will be having district office hours on Monday, November 27th. I will be at Bridge Street Cafe in Belding from 9-10 am and Biggby Coffee in Caledonia (100th St) from 11-12. No appointment is necessary.

As always, please feel free to call my office with any local or legislative concerns.



### 125 years ago Lowell Journal November 9, 1892

The Lowell schools are closed, by order of the Board of Health, on account of two cases of diphtheria in town.

No town in the state is so favored as Lowell. The lights furnished by the Lighting Co. are cheaper than known anywhere else, while their power circuit will deliver power at a merely nominal rate.

The King Milling Co. is moving the Dougall Elevator building to the site, on the river bank, just south of their mill.

### 100 years ago The Lowell Ledger November 8, 1917

The Red Cross Auxiliary has completed and sent in to headquarters in Grand Rapids during the month of October: 4 dozen and 4 pajamas, 7½ dozen pillow slips, 18 dozen towels, 31 nurses caps, 21 sweaters, 17 hot water bag covers, 2 dozen surgical shirts, 17

dozen wipes, 7½ dozen substitute handkerchiefs, 3 pair socks, 1 dozen tray cloths, 1 dozen sheets. The surgical dressing department has sent 1,610 surgical bandages. If you have only an hour or so, come in an help make bandages Tuesday afternoon in the sewing room at the High School building. The bandages you make may be the means of saving a life.

Huge buildings are being erected in Washington to house a new army of employees needed on account of the war. It is expected that more than double the usual 35,000 Federal employees will be appointed during the coming year if the war continues. Typewriters, stenographers, draftsmen, index, schedule and catalogue clerks are needed.

### 75 years ago The Lowell Ledger November 12, 1942

War Chest pledges begin pouring in. A large group of citizens gathered at the City Hall last Friday evening for the purpose of laying plans for the promotion of the Kent County War Chest, a movement which is nation wide, the proceeds being for the benefit of the men serving in the country's armed services.

The new bean storage which C. H. Runciman is building on South Riverside Drive is now nearing completion. It will provide storage for thirty or forty carloads of beans. And that means a heap of vitamins—to say nothing further.

Reports show that farm auction sales this season are being attended by unusually large crowds, and in practically every case, everything is being sold at good prices. Priorities on farm machinery and repairs has stimulated buying at farm auctions.

Talking with Senator Harold Saur the other day, we learned the following interesting information: Kent County has 7,000 men in service. The state of Michigan already has sent twice as many men as in the first world war, and of the 49,000 doctors in the state, nearly 12,000 are in uniform. It begins to look as though the doctors will have to be rationed.

## 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.

# Retiring abroad? What you need to know

Retiring outside of the United States can be an exciting way to spend your golden years. Perhaps retirement in Poland or Peru is in your plans. In many cases, it's possible to receive your Social Security retirement benefits while living abroad. Our website can help you navigate your benefit eligibility while living overseas.

If you've worked in both the United States and another country, it may be possible for your credits

to combine for a larger benefit. Currently, there are 25 countries with such international agreements with the United States. To find out if you have qualifying work in a country with such an agreement, visit [www.socialsecurity.gov/international](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/international).

You can receive benefits in many countries. To find out whether you can receive your benefits in the country where you are retiring, you should use our Payments Abroad Screening Tool at

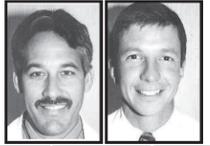
[www.socialsecurity.gov/international/payments\\_outsideUS.html](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/international/payments_outsideUS.html).

There are easy ways to get in touch with us and report changes to Social Security when you live overseas. You can contact your local U.S. embassy, write to us by mail, or call us at 1-800-772-1213. You can find other information in regards to living overseas at [www.socialsecurity.gov/foreign](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/foreign).

Social Security is with you throughout life's journey, even if that journey takes you outside the United States. You can always access our wide range of safe and secure online resources at [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov).

*Vonda VanTil is the Public Affairs Specialist for West Michigan. You can write her c/o Social Security Administration, 3045 Knapp NE, Grand Rapids MI 49525 or via email at [vantil@ssa.gov](mailto:vantil@ssa.gov)*

# HEALTH



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

## - plantar fasciitis

The plantar fascia is a band of tissues that run along the bottom of the foot. It is attached to the heel bone and connects to each of the toes and it provides strength and support to the arch of the foot. Plantar fasciitis occurs when this band of tissue gets strained or irritated.

Plantar fasciitis most often causes pain in the heel or the arch of the foot. The pain is usually most noticeable when first standing up and walking or after walking, running or standing for long periods. The pain is usually sharp at first and it may decrease or become duller after light activity.

Plantar fasciitis is diagnosed based on a medical history and physical exam performed by a health care provider.

The examiner may press on the bottom of the foot to confirm that the pain is coming from the plantar fascia. Imaging studies or other tests are not needed to make the diagnosis, but they are sometimes used to rule out other causes of foot pain such as a broken bone or a heel spur.

Simple measures can often be taken to lessen the symptoms of plantar fasciitis. Daily stretching of the plantar fascia and the calf muscles should be performed and ice packs can be applied to the tender area for 10-20 minutes three times a day. Wearing shoes with good arch support helps, as do special orthotics. Over-the-counter medicine like ibuprofen may help. Steroid injection or physical therapy can be used in resistant cases.



## At Your Local Library

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

### Origami meet-up on Nov. 11 for all levels, novice to experienced

An informal, monthly, folding meet-up for origami folders of all levels from novice (just starting out who'd like to learn please arrive at 9:30 sharp) to experienced/advanced folders will be held Sat., Nov. 11, 9:30 to 11:30 am at Englehardt

Library. Members are welcome to bring along a project they are working on or come learn and share folding techniques and information with other members. Children of all ages are welcome to attend but will need to be accompanied by an adult. For all ages up to 18 years old. Any type of paper can be used. Members are encouraged to bring their own origami paper but small packets of authentic origami paper will be provided at each meet-up (at no charge) for those who forget or don't have access to any. There is no charge to attend but RSVPs via the web club's web page are appreciated. Please visit [www.WestMichiganOrigami.org](http://www.WestMichiganOrigami.org) for more details and to RSVP. The founder and administrator of the folding club is origami artist Stacie Tamaki. For questions please contact her via her website at <http://Tinygami.com/>

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

## GRATTAN TOWNSHIP

**Special Meeting 10:00 a.m.**  
**Synopsis of Minutes**  
**October 26th, 2017**

**Motions Approved:**

1. Repair the west furnace of the Township Hall.

**Our next Township Meeting will be November 13, 2017 At 7:00 p.m.**

The approved minutes may be reviewed on our website at [www.grattantownship.org](http://www.grattantownship.org)

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ISA

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~ Paul "Bear" Bryant

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# area churches



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### GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Halfway between Lowell & Saranac on M-21  
[www.goodshepherdlowell.org](http://www.goodshepherdlowell.org)

Worship Service ..... Sunday - 10:30 AM  
Sunday School..... 9:15 AM

Joseph Fremer, Pastor **897-8307**  
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897-7168 - [www.fbclowell.org](http://www.fbclowell.org)  
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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

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Website: [www.stmarylowell.com](http://www.stmarylowell.com)

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Confession: Saturdays 3-4:30 pm

Prayer & Adoration: Wednesdays 8 am to 7 pm  
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WORSHIP  
9 AM - Traditional • 11 AM - Contemporary  
Kid's Crew 11:15 AM  
Sr. Pastor - Brad Brillhart

<b>NOVEMBER 8</b> David Korte, Andrew Potter, Chamberlain.	<b>NOVEMBER 11</b> Mike Roudabush, Tom Roudabush, Dan Wingeier Jr., Rachel Burns, Zachary Ligman, Justin Warren, N. Steve Kelley.
<b>NOVEMBER 9</b> Roxanne Goff, Danielle Bundy, Katie Mendez, Carol Sue McGregor, Angie Briggs, Tom Mohr, Daryll Gildner.	<b>NOVEMBER 12</b> Harry Erickson, Deborah Malloy, Al Olszewski.
<b>NOVEMBER 10</b> Ann Bellah, Sarah Mogor, Alex Peel, Tyler Dewey, Jay Brown.	<b>NOVEMBER 13</b> Brian Gerard, Dan Schneider.
	<b>NOVEMBER 14</b> David Durkee, Doris Rhines, Deaken Roth.

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# Veterans Day Saluting Our Area Veterans

★ November 11



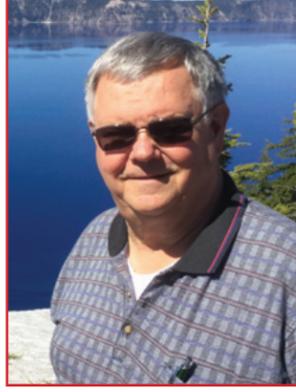
**Michael Cnossen**  
US Army  
2002 to 2008



**Karen Waid**  
US Army  
1975-1987



**Ron Janowski**  
US Army  
1976-1998



**Donald Viewig**  
Navy  
1966-1968



**Thomas Fox**  
Air Force  
1986 - 1990



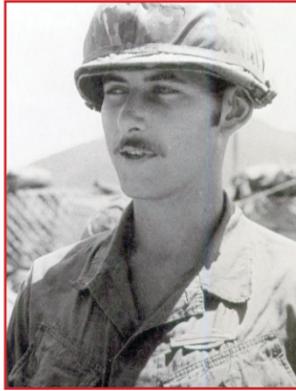
**Rachel Fox**  
Air Force  
2016 - Present



**Sgt Scott C. Cooper**  
United States Air Force  
2007 - present



**Scott Devroy**  
Army  
2009-Present



**Stephen L. Bibbler**  
101st Airborn  
1972-1974



**V Don Souser**  
Submarine Service  
1943-1946  
**Max Souser**  
USN 1909-1944



**William Bibbler**  
82nd Airborne  
1960-1962



**Brad Janowiak**  
Army  
1980-1983

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**Bill Wheeler**  
Certified Public Accountant

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Veteran's Day Nov. 11th

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**Veterans Day** November 11 **Saluting Our Area Veterans**



**Sgt. Allan Mull**  
USMC  
1969-1973



**Arnold DeLoof**  
Air Force  
1952-1952



**Bernard Bibler**  
101st Airborn  
1969-1972



**Berwyn L. Kloosterman**  
Navy  
Dec. 1950 – Oct. 1954



**Bill Hunter, Don Souser,  
Ed Meyers, Sonny Gumser,  
Burt Hawk**  
Navy 1943-1946



**Bob Wilczewski**  
USMC  
1968-1970



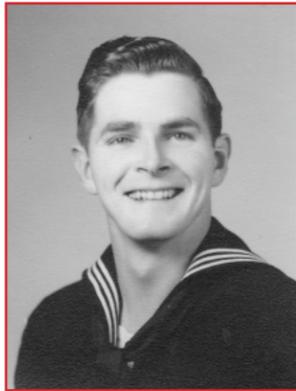
**Brian Baldwin**  
U.S. Army Airborne  
1981 - 1984



**Casey Brown**  
U.S. Army  
1994-97



**Cecilia Bibler Best**  
U.S. Navy  
1953-1955



**Darle Ray Rickert**  
Navy  
Jan. 1951 – Nov. 1954



**CDR Dave Thompson**  
Navy  
1955-1957



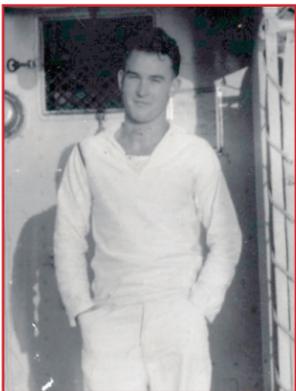
**Dave Fehlig**  
USMC  
1964-1970



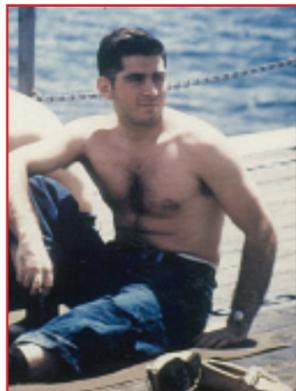
**David Lee Neubecker**  
Army  
1977-1980



**David S. Harding**  
Army  
1956-1957



**Gerald (Joe) James Ellis**  
U.S. Navy  
Wounded, Dec. 7, 1941  
Died, Dec. 10, 1941



**Gordon Newell**  
U.S. Navy  
1950-1954  
29 months Korea



**Chief Herb Rice**  
Navy 1952-1977  
24 years of service



**Herman Weststrate**  
Army  
1966-1969



**Jacob Clayton Callier**  
Army  
1971-1974



**W. James 'Jim' Sowle**  
U.S. Navy 1953-1955  
Fireman on a harbor tug



**Louie Dudeck**  
Marines  
19463 - 1967



**Jerry Vredevelt**  
Navy  
1949-1953



**Joe Rinard**  
U.S. Army  
1973-1975



**Joel Uzarski,**  
Commander U.S. Navy  
2000-Present



**John K. Erickson**  
Army Korea 1947-1953  
33 months POW



**John Homan**  
Army  
1969-1971



**John R. Timpson**  
Navy  
1951-1955



**John Wilcox**  
Marines  
1992 - 1996



**Joseph Daniel Schreur**  
Coastguard  
2011 - present



# Veterans Day Saluting Our Area Veterans

November 11



**Leo Peters**  
Army  
1945 – 1985



**Lyle Covert**  
Army  
June 1945 – July 1946



**Staff Sgt. Lyle Royston**  
U.S. Army  
1948-1952



**Mark Stinchcomb**  
USMC  
1976-1982



**Phil Covert**  
Army 1943-1944  
Killed in action



**Phil VanDuinen**  
U.S. Army  
1969-1970



**Ray Covert**  
National Guard Infantry  
1909-1915



**Richard Bibbler**  
82nd Airborne  
1951-1954



**Richard C. Bieri**  
Army  
Nov. 1950 – Sept. 1952



**Richard Stull Jr.**  
US Navy  
1967 - 1970



**Robert Alan Schreur**  
Coastguard  
2011 - 2017



**Robert Bibbler**  
101st Airborne  
1966-1969

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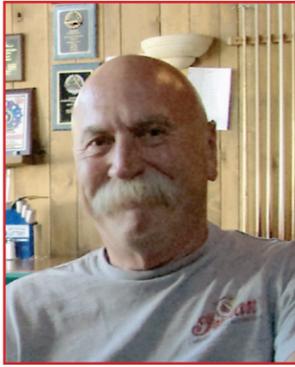
manpowerjobs.com

# Veterans Day Saluting Our Area Veterans

November 11



**Robert Ellis**  
Army Airforce  
1942-1945



**Robert Moyer**  
Army  
1969-1970



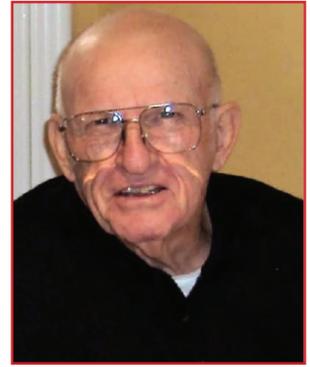
**Roger L. Kropf**  
Army National Guard  
1960-1966



**Lawrence Mikulski**  
Navy  
1964-1968



**SFC Ron Thomure**  
Army  
1956-1995



**Russel Harig**  
Air Force  
20 years



**Kyle M. Neubecker** Marines 2006-2011  
**Jon Lyons** Army 2002 -  
**Keith A. Neubecker** Marines 2009-2012



**David Carroll**  
Army  
1984 - 1988



**David L. Neubecker**  
U.S. Army  
1977 - 1980

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**VETERANS' DAY**  
November 11

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Red Arrow

- WRESTLING

# SPORTS

## Girls earn second state championship, remember Cora Gonzales

by Kathryn Atwood  
contributing reporter

Please pardon the dust, the Lowell girls wrestling team is building a new dynasty. Within just two years the team can now boast a second state title after out-grappling the competition at the MIGWAY team state dual championships last weekend at Battle Creek's Kellogg Arena.

The team faced both Gladwin and Lakeview high schools to earn the recognition going 1-1 in the dual challenges before being crowned the victors. Along the way the team picked up an individual state champion in 114 pound freshman Isis Lett, two state runners-up and four other wrestlers in the top four in their respective weight classes.

Round one of the championship pitted Gladwin against Lakeview with the former garnering a 20-16 win. Moving on to compete against Lowell, Gladwin's streak was short-lived as the Arrows outmatched them 21-15 in round two action. Red Ruthie Smith earned the team's only win by fall in the round taking out her opponent at 2:12 in the 126 lb. weight



Back-to-back state champions, the Lowell Red Arrows pay homage to Cora Gonzales.

class. Heavyweight Katie DeYoung picked up her win by 5-3 decision, while Lili Kline Baker at 90 pounds and Abby Carey at 102 pounds earned points via forfeits. On the losing end were Lett, who lost by a slim 2-1 decision and 139 pound Amber Brown and 155 pound Cheyenne Steffen who both lost by fall.

Following the win, Lowell went back into

action against Lakeview eventually falling by just four points 22-18. Smith and Lett picked up wins by fall in their weight classes at the 2:45 and 4:15 marks, respectively and the team picked up another six points via forfeit forging their 18-point total. Lowell wrestlers Grace Fassett at 90 pounds, Brown and Steffen logged losses for the team.

After calculations, it

was the Arrows on top with Lakeview claiming second and Gladwin in third. The back to back win was a huge moment according to team medalist Lett. "It was amazing! The glory of being two-time state champs is a once in a lifetime opportunity that I will never forget."

To earn the team's lone state championship Lett

defeated her Lakewood opponent by fall, defeated her own teammate Carey in the same fashion in the semifinals and then topped her final round opponent from John Glenn High School by 3-2 decision to earn the title crediting much of her success to her coach Dave Strejc. "My coach has helped me excel as an individual wrestler and a team player because he has taught me to be gracious when I win and to except defeat and to learn from my losses," she said continuing, "My relationship with my coach is that of friendship and brotherhood because he knows what I am going through as a wrestler and knows exactly how to help each of us improve."

Earning state runner-up titles were Cheyenne Steffen (155) who lost her first match but won the next three by fall and Grace Fassett (90) who earned three decisive wins by fall before succumbing in the final round. Third-place finishers were DeYoung (hwt), Kline Baker (90), and Brown (139). Smith (126) rounded out top five finishers landing in fourth.

The rest of the Red

Arrow individual field finished as follows: Carey (106) sixth place, Elisa Alvarado (126) fifth place and Allison Williams (126) sixth place.

After receiving their hardware the Arrows posed for a photo holding a special team banner cupping their hands into Cs in honor of young Cora Gonzales who recently lost her life after a tragic traffic accident. The Gonzales family is heavily involved in the Lowell wrestling program with father George coaching and his children competing on the mat and eleven-year-old Cora was a part of the wrestling family according to Lett, "Knowing Cora personally and her being like a sister to me, I was very much affected by her passing. Throughout the ending of my season I have solely wrestled with her in my mind. I know the rest of the team has also held her close to their hearts," she said as she explained the extra meaning that came with the repeat title win.

"Her loss has driven us to be resilient throughout hard times and to come through when needed most."

- VOLLEYBALL

## Arrows shut out by Rams but look forward to next season

by Kathryn Atwood  
contributing reporter

After wrapping up a 0-2 conference season that netted a second-place finish in the OK White, the varsity volleyball team busted in and out of the postseason in one match last Tuesday evening against the Rockford Rams.

Utilizing their home court advantage, the Rams took the match by the horns topping the Arrows in all three sets. Rockford won by the scores of 25-21, 25-20 and 25-17 ending Lowell's season. Head coach Julie Quist said that despite the season being cut short, she is extremely pleased with the performance of the eleven teammates over their successful season. "Rockford is ranked number one in the state. We competed and it was some great volleyball from two amazing programs. I was proud of them, we played with heart. We had a great season!"

Stat leaders for the night included seniors, Sydney Powell with three aces and 22 assists, Jill Fidler with

20 digs and Abi Mangus with eight kills. They, along with fellow class of 2018 member Kelly Reitsma, have been instrumental in the team's success leaving behind a legacy.

"In the beginning of the season I asked each one of the seniors to leave something behind," explained coach Quist. "I believe they have left an impression on their team through their hard work and leadership but more importantly how they loved, cared for and supported their team."

Returning members for next season include juniors, Carly Hoekstra, Emily Stump and Joslynn Battle, who hope to earn some hardware during their final season as Red Arrows. Up-and-coming underclassmen already making waves on the varsity court includes sophomores, Meghan Meyer and Ryleigh Blough, responsible for three blocks each against Rockford; and Kambry Kloosterman, all of whom Quist is excited to see develop over the next

few seasons. "I am excited about the underclassmen. They are fun, dedicated and love volleyball. I've seen a maturity about competition that is beyond their age."

The last returning member, freshman Jenna Reitsma, is expected to be an influential force over the next three seasons. "Jenna

is only a freshman, but I see so much leadership through her words, hard work and confidence. She is versatile, coachable and takes responsibility for her performance on the court, always striving to get better and lead her team to success," said Quist of the

young Red Arrow. "She is passionate for the game and her excitement motivates her team. She is also joyful, hilarious and supportive to her teammates. We are fortunate to have her on our team."

The team's second-place 10-2 league finish was

only tarnished by eventual OK White champions the Forest Hills Northern Huskies, who dealt the team their two conference losses. Their only other loss on the season in dual competition was against Lakewood High School in early October.

## Sports Summaries

### GIRLS GOLF

Lowell girls varsity golf team was recently recognized for achievements in the classroom. The group was honored by the Michigan Interscholastic Golf Coaches Association earning all-academic team honors in Division II with a cumulative grade point average of 3.712. Senior Isabelle Dial received individual recognition as an all-academic.

### GIRLS SWIM & DIVE

The Lowell/Caledonia/South Christian girls varsity swim and dive team performed admirably at the two-day MHSAA Tier II conference meet earning a second consecutive conference victory. The champs of the co-op team were led by Division I individual state qualifiers Sid Schering in the 100- and 200-freestyle and the freestyle relay team of Schering, Emma Pohlad, Emma Norman and Kaylin Schering. Diver Alina Hensel qualified for regional competition this Thursday. Recognized for all-conference seasons were AJ Meduna, Norman, Schering, Schering, Lexi Singstock, Anna Luurtsema and Pohlad. The team will next compete at the state finals November 17 and 18 inside the aquatic center at Oakland University.

### FOOTBALL

Red Arrow football recently accepted a check in support of their athletic programming from local supporter Zeigler Ford of Lowell following the annual Drive 4 UR School event. Zeigler Ford donates \$20 to the cause for each participant that test drives a new Ford model. Red Arrow football supporters showed up in big numbers rallying together to generate \$6,000 for the program, the maximum amount allowed through the fundraiser.

### SCHOLAR ATHLETES

Lowell High School seniors Megan Summerfield and George Gonzales were selected to receive the Wendy's High School Heisman award recognizing excellence in education, athletics and character. School winner Summerfield is active in the community, a top student and a successful four-year starter for the Red Arrow varsity softball team. Gonzales has likewise racked up volunteer hours, achieved good grades and is a multi sport athlete participating in the football and wrestling programs. The scholarship program is born of a partnership between Wendy's restaurants and the Heisman Trophy Trust.

# obituaries

## DAVID

Michael Anthony David, age 64 of Lowell, passed away Friday, November 3, 2017. He was preceded in death by his parents Louis



and Dorothy David; and brother Matthew David. He is survived by his wife of 19 years, Valerie David; children Paula (Kent Harris) Stanton, Michael David Jr., Amy David, Pat (Heather Watkins) David, Tony (Melanie Bowles) David, Amy (Justin) Sias, Joshua (Jennifer) Hoppough; brothers Ken (Judy) David, Bill (Dorothy Kluitter) David, Dennis David, Jerry (Laura) David, John David; sister Mary (Don) Ogden; brothers and sisters-in-law Ken Sunday, Bill (Jean) Sunday, Deb (Dan) Trinter, Dick (Linda) Sunday, Patti (Steve) Townsend, Eric (Dorothy) Sunday, Sandy (Steve) Lehman, Vicki (Bill) Mead, John Sunday, Sue (Steve) Eissinger, Kay Udry and Rick Bowling; 8 grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews. Michael was a loving husband, proud father and grandfather to his 7 children and 8 grandchildren. He retired from Jedco Inc. in Grand Rapids, and enjoyed the outdoors. A member of American Legion Post #305, Caledonia, he was a proud Navy veteran. Visitation will be held Wednesday, November 8, 2-4:00 p.m. and 6-8:00 p.m. at Roth-Gerst Chapel, 305 N. Hudson, Lowell; with a rosary prayed at 7:30 p.m. Mass of Christian Burial will be held Thursday, November 9, 11:00 a.m. at St. Mary Catholic Church, 402 Amity St. Lowell, MI. Rev. Aaron Ferris presiding. Interment St. Mary's Cemetery, Lowell. Memorial contributions may be made to American Legion Post #305, 9548 Cherry Valley Ave. SE, Caledonia, MI 49316; or the American Cancer Society, 129 Jefferson Ave. S.E., Grand Rapids, MI 49503.



## DOANE 1953 -- 2017

John Laverne Doane, age 64, of Lowell, passed away unexpectedly at home on Saturday afternoon, October 21. He was born in Lansing, on June 18 1953, the son of John Leonard and Irene May (Stull) Doane. John attended Lowell schools and worked most of his life as a custom metal fabricator. He was a great tinkerer, enjoyed fishing, playing guitar and the great outdoors. He lived most of his adult life in Missouri, but moved back to Lowell about eight years ago to be near his parents and siblings. John is survived by his dear mother, Irene M. Doane of Lowell; his beloved daughter, Marisa (Brandon Halvin) Doane, of Lees Summit, Missouri; a granddaughter, Braelyn Faley; his loving siblings, Vickie (Dennis) Drougel of Grandville, Ann (Louis) Switlik of Kentwood, Jim (Linda) Doane of Lowell and Bill (Heather) Doane of Lowell; and several nieces, nephews, cousins and friends. He was preceded in death by his father, John Leonard Doane, in April of 2017. John's family is planning private remembrance services. A donation in John's memory can be made to Support Dogs for the Deaf. For additional information, please contact the funeral home at (616) 794-1300 or verdunfh.com, who is caring for the arrangements.



## VIDEAN

Florence E. Videan, age 96 of Ada, went to be with her Lord Wednesday, November 01, 2017. She was preceded in death by her husband, Russell Videan Sr.; daughter-in-law Ruth Videan; son-in-law Harvey Eickhoff; granddaughters Ute and Debra; and great-grandson Dylan. Surviving are two daughters, Shirley Eickhoff of Lowell, Corrine (Tom) Bogerd of Ada; five sons, Donald (Margaret) Videan of Saranac, Robert Videan of Lowell, John (Amalia) Videan of San Antonio, TX, Russell (Sandra) Videan Jr. of Saranac, Dennis (Jacque) Videan of Alto; 45 grandchildren; 83 great-grandchildren; 45 great-great-grandchildren; one sister Geraldine Aprill of Grand Rapids; and many nieces and nephews. Thanks to Faith Hospice, Amanda, and other caregivers for their service. Funeral was held Saturday, November 4, at South Boston Bible Church, Lowell. Pastor Ron Tuinstra officiated. Interment Findlay Cemetery, Ada. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made in Florence's name to The Gideons International, PO Box 97251, Washington, DC 20090-7251.



## ZYWICKI

James A. Zywicki, age 77 of Lowell, passed away Tuesday, October 31, 2017. He is survived by his wife of 56 years, Nancy; children Kathleen (Bruce) Nichols, Tina (David) Fennessy, Jamie (Angela) Zywicki, Kerry Zywicki; grandchildren Patrick and Nicholas Fennessy, and Bailey Zywicki. James was born in Cedar, MI, in a family of 12. In 1959, he graduated from Holy Rosary High School. He loved the Detroit Tigers, camping, fishing and gardening. Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Monday, November 6, at St. Mary's Catholic Church, Lowell. Rev. Aaron Ferris presided.



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## NOTICE VERGENNES TOWNSHIP

**Applications for Township Treasurer and Other Appointments**

Vergennes Township is seeking applicants for the following:

- 1 Planning Commission -term ending 12/2020
- 1 Planning Commission -to fill vacancy -term ending 12/2019
- 1 Zoning Board of Appeals- term ending 12/2020
- 1 Board of Review -Alternate- to fill vacancy - term ending 12/2019

**These 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 office located at 10381 Bailey Dr., Lowell, MI 49331. The office is open Monday and Wednesday from 9am to 3pm, and Thursday 9 am to noon. All applications are due Monday, December 11, 2017 at 3 p.m.

In addition, the Township Board is seeking applications for an appointment to Township Treasurer. The appointment will be effective until the electors choose a Treasurer in November of 2018. Interested persons should submit a cover letter and resume to the Township Board by Monday, December 11, 2017 at 3:00 pm. More information is posted on the township website at [www.vergenneswp.org](http://www.vergenneswp.org)

**Heather L. Hoffman**  
Vergennes Township Clerk

## LEGAL NOTICE

PUBLICATION OF NOTICE OF HEARING STATE OF MICHIGAN The Probate Court for the County of Kent

In the matter of RUBY HARDIN Guardianship File No. 17-202,235-GA

Co. Probate Court, 180 Ottawa NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503 before Judge David M. Murkowski (P35026) for the following purpose: Appointment of a Guardian.

Dated: November 1, 2017

Adult Protective Services, DHHS, Petitioner 121 Franklin St. NE Grand Rapids, MI 49507 (616) 401-5242

VAN ESSEN AND ASSOCIATES PLLC Attys. for Petitioner by Amanda Van Essen Wirth (P75001) 3425 Kelly St. Hudsonville, MI 49426 (616) 633-0196

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS including Clay Hardin, David Hardin, Jamie Hardin, and Travis Hardin, and any other children, whose address(es) is/are unknown and whose interest in the matter may be barred or affected by the following: TAKE NOTICE: A hearing will be held on November 29, 2017, at 1:30 P.M. at Kent

office hours:  
Mon-Thu. 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
Fri. 8 a.m. - noon  
closed Sat. & Sun.

# classifieds

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# COMING EVENTS

**PLEASE NOTE** - Coming Events are for non-profit organizations. If you are charging admission for an event - it is considered an advertisement. Coming events are at a space inside this ad. **ARE NOT GUARANTEED** if you do not include your organization's name, address and phone number. We will not accept any change of date (including postponement) or changes to coming events should be submitted by the 15th day of the month. For more information contact: **PO Box 100, Lowell, MA 01801 or in person: 105 N. Broadway**

**TECH HELP** - Wednesdays by appointment from 1:30 p.m. Help with internet searching, computer basics, Facebook, websites, library databases. Books, etc. **Charlotte Ave. Library, 100 S. Main, Lowell, MA 01801**

**BOULEVARD LIBRARY** - Mon-Fri, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sat., 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.; Sun., 1-4 p.m. **100 S. Main, Lowell, MA 01801**

**LOWELL AREA HISTORICAL MUSEUM** - open Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday & Sunday 1-4 p.m. **100 S. Main, Lowell, MA 01801**

**LEONARD THE LIBRARIAN** - open Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday & Sunday 1-4 p.m. **100 S. Main, Lowell, MA 01801**

**LEONARD THE LIBRARIAN** - open Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday & Sunday 1-4 p.m. **100 S. Main, Lowell, MA 01801**

**THE LOWELL BOARD OF EDUCATION** - second Monday of the month at 7 p.m. at the University Center, 100 S. Main, Lowell, MA 01801

**FLAT RIVER WATERED COUNCIL** - Meet 1st Monday of each month at the Main Street Community Center, 100 S. Main, Lowell, MA 01801

**BBQ PARTY OF LOWELL** - 1st Monday of each month at the Main Street Community Center, 100 S. Main, Lowell, MA 01801

**FLAT RIVER OUTREACH SERVICES THROUGH THE RIVER TRUST** - Tues, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.; Wed, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. **100 S. Main, Lowell, MA 01801**

**TECH HELP** - Wednesdays by appointment from 1:30 p.m. Help with internet searching, computer basics, Facebook, websites, library databases. Books, etc. **Charlotte Ave. Library, 100 S. Main, Lowell, MA 01801**

**ALPINE FAMILY CENTER OF LOWELL** - 117 S. Main, Lowell, MA 01801

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**STORYTIME** - Tuesdays, 10 a.m. with Ms. Shari at Charlotte Ave. Library, 100 S. Main, Lowell, MA 01801

**MOTHERS WHO BREAST FEED** - something new every month in the history. We are meeting on the 1st Wednesday of every month. For more info call Sally 978-686-1111

**LOWELL AREA PRAYER & HEALING GROUP** - based at the FROM Building, 100 S. Main, Lowell, MA 01801

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Monday - Thursday 9am to 5pm, Friday 9am to noon



### NOVEMBER 1 - NOVEMBER 7

- Yet another assault weapon, toting murderer has carried out a deadly mass shooting at a Sutherland Springs, Texas church. The gunman died of a self-inflicted wound after fleeing the scene but, not before he killed 26 people. His victims ranged from age 17 months to 77 years. He had a history of domestic violence and animal cruelty.

- Astronaut Dick Gordon who flew to the moon but never got a chance to walk on the surface died at his California home at age 88.



- The World Health Organization is worried about an increasing epidemic of drug-resistant infections, and has begun a campaign to cut the use of antibiotics in pigs, chickens and cattle that are raised for their meat. They are calling on governments to follow the example of Denmark and the Netherlands, which have banned the use of these drugs to make animals grow faster or simply to protect healthy animals from getting sick.

## Looking Back, continued

### 50 years ago Lowell Ledger November 9, 1967

The Lowell City Council Monday night passed a resolution asking the State Highway Department to improve M-21 to Lowell instead of halting improvements at Ada. The 2.8 million dollar project to rebuild M-21 from the I-96 freeway to Ada was announced by the highway department last week. A five lane highway in place of the inadequate 2 lanes was announced as part of the next five year plan. Work is scheduled to begin in 1971.

Al Hermans revealed this week that he is retiring from business as soon as the stock in the Gamble Store on West Main Street can be liquidated. Al and his wife, Mildred, have operated the Gamble Store here since 1944, and both have been active in civic and social affairs of the community. The store will be closed November 8 and 9 to remark the stock for the going out of business sale.

State Savings Bank will be sending out checks amounting to some \$25,000 to 300 Christmas Club members in the community next Tuesday. The members of the 1968 club just starting will be eligible to purchase a two record album for \$2 as a get started special, the bank announced.

A short lived and comparatively calm strike at the Attwood Corporation in Lowell went into effect last Friday at 12:01 a.m. when the 250 workers belonging to Metal Workers, Buffers, Platers and Helpers, Local No. 7 AFL-CIO, refused to work until a satisfactory new contract could be drawn between company and union.

### 25 years ago The Lowell Ledger November 11, 1992

The thought process behind a change order for the new high school site was clear. The value attached to the change order was not so clear to a number of school board members. By the narrowest of margins, 4-3, with Norm Byrne casting the decisive yes vote, the school board approved a change order from Burggrabe Masonry, Inc. in the amount of \$26,460. The recommendation from Owen Ames and Kimball Co. dealt with a technical aspect of filling the top level of each cement block wall around both floors of the entire building with a different material than was originally designed.

If at first you don't like the bids, bid out the project again. Lowell Schools re-bid the television component of the Alto Elementary telecommunication project due to the first television bids being too high. The end result is a second bid that will save the school \$3,000. ... The total cost includes 22 27-inch units and one 13-inch unit.

Sheri D. Calleja D.D.S., has come to the rural community of Lowell to cultivate her practice. Calleja will use the extended hours practice program at the office of D.D.S. Clark Vredenburg. Calleja hopes that in five years she will have cultivated a successful practice in the area. "I like Lowell for its calming, slow pace," she explains. "The people in this area are friendly." The St. Clair Shores native met Vredenburg through his daughter Michelle, who Calleja went to school with. Calleja is married to Michael Martin.

## EARTH TALK™

Questions & Answers  
About Our Environment



Folding bikes like this model from London-based Brompton can be folded up and brought on-board a bus or train, not to mention inside your office. Photo credit: Jeremy Tarling, FlickrCC.

### Dear EarthTalk: What are planners and designers doing to solve the so-called "last-mile" problem regarding transit? -- Ginny R., via e-mail

Solving the "last mile" (or "first-mile") problem—that is, getting transit riders from their bus stop, train station or ferry terminal "the last mile" to the doorstep of their home or workplace—has plagued urban planners since the dawn of public transportation.

"Most people in the United States are 'comfortable' walking less than a quarter mile to or from public transit stops," says Alex Gibson of TransLoc, which works on solutions to transit problems using app-based technologies. "The problem arises when a potential rider is further than a 'comfortable distance' to the necessary fixed-route stop."

Widespread suburbanization across the U.S. is part and parcel of the problem, given that fewer and fewer of us now live within walking distance to public transportation options. The result is more private cars on the road (and the accompanying carbon and air pollution) and underutilized public transit systems.

So, what can be done to overcome this last-mile hurdle? Some municipalities and counties run feeder buses that circle the 'burbs and bring riders right from their homes or a nearby corner to a transit hub. Likewise, Uber, Lyft and other ridesharing services can help transit riders fill in this gap, especially in a pinch. But these are hardly the most cost- or energy-efficient fixes to the last-mile problem.

One time-tested solution is bicycles. Many regions have stepped up their commitment to installing more bike lanes accordingly. While a bike, either the traditional kind or one of the new battery-assisted models, works fine if you have somewhere safe to lock it up or can bring it inside, folding bikes may be a better option for "intermodal" commuters (who pair biking with a bus or train or ferry). Hip London office workers swear by their folding Bromptons. Another

increasingly viable option is hopping on a pay-as-you-go share bike which you can pick up in one part of town and drop off in another. Beyond bikes, e-scooters—check the Stigo E-Scooter and Segway's new MiniPro—are gaining traction and market share across the country.

And let's not forget about the oldest last mile option of all: walking. Denver, Nashville and Los Angeles have made strides in fixing infrastructure to encourage transit riders to go the extra mile on foot. "Because most riders in high ridership systems walk to catch buses and trains, transit stops must be supported by well-designed streets and sidewalks," reports the Transit Center, a foundation that supports transit reform advocacy. "Yet many cities in America have built streets without sidewalks, or allowed property owners to encroach on or neglect them."

Even more important than spiffing up sidewalks would be macro-level changes to how municipalities manage development. "Transit-oriented development and zoning changes are other highly effective strategies that put more people within walking distance to transit," reports Angie Schmitt of StreetsBlogUSA. "Removing barriers to walking and transit-oriented development are likely to yield better ridership and financial return on investment than others designed to draw transit riders from suburban environments—the transportation equivalent of swimming upstream."

CONTACTS: TransLoc, [transloc.com](http://transloc.com); Stigo, [stigobike.com](http://stigobike.com); Segway, [segway.com](http://segway.com); Brompton, [brompton.com](http://brompton.com); StreetsBlogUSA, [usa.streetsblog.org](http://usa.streetsblog.org).

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# Lowell blacksmith creates decorative and useful products using scrap metal

by Tim McAllister  
lead reporter

Frank Leasure is the owner of Tuckertown Forge, the traditional blacksmith shop on Pratt Lake Ave. in Lowell. Leasure has literally created a ton of decorative and useful products out of bent, twisted metal, much of it scrap.

"The main function of a blacksmith is to take something and change its shape into something functional, something fancy or something ornamental," Leasure said. "It's kind of an upcycling thing. People get a kick out of that, seeing what it was and how you molded it into something else. I like, for example, taking wrenches and coming up with something that maybe you wouldn't. It doesn't feel like a job. It's not a hobby either, though. I come up with stuff and people buy it. It's full time, I work seven days a week when I can."

He goes through scrapyards and picks through junk to find interesting looking chunks of metal like scissors, crow bars, silverware, frying pans or rakes that he can put to proper use.

"We make new things all the time because our regular customers don't want to buy the same thing over and over," Leasure said. "Being metal, a piece is virtually going to never wear out. You might get some rust but that's about it. I do almost 200 different pieces on a daily basis, a little bit of everything. I can do a lot of stuff. I concoct different things out of pieces that I find. It's just amazing the amount of things that can happen. The owls that are laying outside are made out of shovel ends, the corn stalks that are made out of steel and you put ear corn on them to feed animals; we do a lot of animals like penguins, flamingos and turkeys out of different items, bees out of nuts and washers, railings for churches, we do stuff with chain and with square nails, we do cook sets, luminaries with Mason jars, drink holders, toilet paper holders out of horseshoes, a boot and mitten rack which holds the boots upside down."

This time of year he does a lot of Halloween decorations. He is currently busy preparing for Christmas Through Lowell, which is on Nov. 17, 18 and 19.

"This time of year I make pumpkins out of propane tanks," Leasure

said. "We go get those out of the scrapyards after other people have exhausted them. Customers want the rust on them or the bullet holes in them, they like them dented or whatever. People do not want those pumpkins painted."

Tuckertown Forge has sent products all over the world, even to movie sets. Potential local customers can find them at most craft shows. They also have a heavy Internet presence.

"We have an Etsy store, a Facebook page and a website and I ship all over the world," Leasure said. "East Grand Rapids, Traverse City, Los Angeles, England, Germany, Israel, that sort of thing. It's kind of mind boggling to think that I can create something and it's going to be used in a place like that. We also travel to Chicago for shows."

Leasure has been working with metal for four decades. Tuckertown Forge came about after Leasure was inspired by his experience working at a traditional blacksmith shop in Hastings.

"I bought my father-in-law's business, Dey Machine and Tool, in 1986," Leasure said. "That was modern things like lathes, mills and welders. It was north of Lowell. I worked at that for several years, then I thought I might like to try other stuff and go back in time a little bit. I spent a lot of time in Charlton Park [in Hastings] at their blacksmith shop. My daughter was going to kindergarten every day and it allowed her to come with me. We had period time clothing and we would work in the blacksmith shop. When school kids would come, she would work in the hotel with the older ladies stoking the wood fire, then I did demonstrations in the blacksmith shop and my interest just took off from there."

Tuckertown Forge is a family business that puts the whole family to work, even the in-laws.

"My eldest daughter Theresa Goldner takes care of the Etsy website and coordinates our craft shows," Leasure said. "Then my middle daughter Patty Leasure who lives in Lake Ann takes care of the Facebook and the website and sells stuff up there. My youngest, Mary Leasure, is finishing up college and she also works in the shop with me and does some of the craft show stuff. So does

my son-in-law Lyle Goldner. My wife Laura Leasure takes care of the craft shows a lot and makes sure we've got enough inventory."

Leasure named it "Tuckertown Forge" to honor the land's original settler, E.W. Tucker.

"This land has been in our family since 1958," Leasure said. "E.W. Tucker settled on the land in 1839 and built the house. It's the basic old farmhouse, but there was a stagecoach stop here. It's kind of funny because the rooms upstairs had no closets because back then they were considered a room and you got taxed on every room in your house. People would come and stay overnight upstairs. He had a sawmill here, a lumber mill and he manufactured 80,000 board foot of lumber. [City of Lowell's sexton] Don DeJong has been doing research and every time he comes across Tuckertown he gives me that information. We don't have tons but we've got pages of stuff. He did knobs, handles and rakes, that kind of stuff. He patented a bed frame and he also patented a scythe that they used to cut wheat with. Before the men would cut the wheat and kids would gather it up and put it on the wagon. He patented a cradle so that when you cut the wheat it would stay on there and when you swung it, would go up onto the wagon. It cut a step out, an extra person to work. Most forges have unique names like Black Heart Forge or Thunder Forge, whatever you want. We thought it would be kind of fun and historical to honor him being a manufacturer of things on the land."

Sometimes they have troops of Boy Scouts come camp out and earn their merit badges in blacksmithing.

"We've had troops from Michigan, Indiana, Ohio, the Chicago area, the Detroit area," Leasure said. "They come visit us and stay the weekend and work their tails off. They can do other projects once they finish the merit badge. I designed a candleholder that incorporates a lot of the merit badge work that they're required to do. Instead of bringing home a piece of metal and mom says 'great,' they put it on the mantle and it doesn't do anything, this is functional. It's really amazing to see the parents show up and find their kid really made something."

Despite shipping his work all over the world, selling it at arts and craft shows and garnering acclaim for its beauty, Leasure said he feels more like a craftsman than an artist.

"Hundreds of people

have called me an artist but I have a really hard time thinking of it that way," Leasure said. "It's kind of like my own little world where I can express myself. I know that sounds like I'm explaining exactly like what an artist is, but I just don't

look at it that way. I have fun making things, then people buy them."

For more information visit [tuckertownforge.com](http://tuckertownforge.com), call 616-889-1418 or email [frank@tuckertownforge.com](mailto:frank@tuckertownforge.com)



Lowell blacksmith Frank Leasure hard at work in his shop, Tuckertown Forge.

An advertisement for Christmas cards. The background is red with white and gold decorative elements. At the top, it says "Christmas Cards Personalized for you!". Below that, it lists "5x7 flat cards w/envelopes" and "Matte, gloss or magnetic". It also mentions "Different set-ups to choose from or bring in your idea. Fast turn-around". A photo of a baby in a red Santa hat is featured. At the bottom, it says "Call or stop in today! 897-9261" and "105 N. Broadway Lowell". The logo "LITHO" is at the bottom left, with the website "litho@lowellbuyersguide.com" below it.

# “A Wrinkle in Time” performed by LHS students

by Kathryn Atwood  
contributing reporter

Arts’ supporters in the Lowell community took a trip through time and space last weekend at the Lowell Performing Arts Center. Lowell High School presented three performances of the classic tale “A Wrinkle in Time.”

The all-school production was directed by LPAC director Julia Crawford and theater instructor Laurie Summerfield, along with student assistant director Halie Sobie who fronted a tremendous student crew. According to Summerfield, “She has been instrumental at making this show happen and keeping me sane. Maddie Anderson is in charge of projection and she’s done a marvelous job. Many crew and actors have put forth great effort to help each part of the show transpire. They are a true ensemble.”

Penned by American writer Madeleine L’Engle and first published in 1962, “A Wrinkle in Time” has been adapted several times over as an illustrated novel and in film. The LHS stage adaption starred gifted freshman Sierra Hieshetter as heroine Meg Murry, an

awkward teenage math genius born to a family of brilliant scientists. She, her mother and her three younger brothers mourn the loss of their father who has gone missing while working on an important mission.

The journey to find him takes Meg through an intergalactic journey alongside youngest brother Charles, played by Ivan

Reynolds and her slightly older first love interest Calvin O’Keefe, brought to life by Zane Goldsmith. It begins after Meg meets the new flamboyant neighbor and secret supernatural being Mrs. Whatsit played by Eden Nethercott who mentions time travel known in the book as “tesseract” or “wrinkling.” After meeting Mrs. Whatsit’s equally

eccentric friends Mrs. Which and Mrs. Who, portrayed by Linnae DeBoer and Tayler Chertos respectively, the six follow Meg’s father’s own scientific clues to bring him home.

After locating him on the dark conforming planet of Camazotz, a planet shrouded by a powerful black cloud connected to a central computerized brain referred to as “It.” It can only be defeated by love which Meg uses to free her father and then “wrinkle” back home to reunite with family.

Using projection, lighting and sound effects to move the cast through time and space the production was a fast-paced delight made better by the talented actors who took on the roles. According to Summerfield, “Sierra Hieshetter is a

talented freshman and very bright which makes my job easy. Her younger brother is played by Ivan Reynolds. He’s another amazing actor who’s been in the past two productions of mine. He’s a gifted artist and actor. The three witches are played by Eden Nethercott, Tayler Chertos and Linnae DeBoer. I chose these girls for their talent, brains and hair! It has been a blast to see them create these magical ladies.”

Other main performers in the cast included Kohl Goldsmith, Taegan Folk, Eryn Dent, Emma Bennett, Brooke Rempalski, Ashlyn Fryers, Jared Sweet, Isiah Perysian, Rachel Lezan, Jenna Perry and Tyler Sikkenga. The show also featured a baker’s dozen of narrators known as “readers” played by Emma Parsons, Willem Jewell,

Rempalski, Sikkenga, Lezan, Perysian, Reynolds, Sky Angelo, Perry, Fryers, Sweet, Luke Landman and Kacey Leverence.

Summerfield said that participation in theater benefits all students. “It helps students with self confidence as taking risks in class and performing for an audience teach students to trust their ideas. It also teaches cooperation and collaboration as theater combines the creative ideas and abilities from its participants.”

The next play scheduled to take place at the LPAC is the school’s annual holiday show which will run from December 14-16 and feature the green Christmas icon The Grinch and a village of who children as they present “A Suessified Christmas Carol.”



Linnae DeBoer and Sierra Hieshetter on stage during the performance.

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