

former lowell native's rotary award



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school board meeting



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after life communication



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City councilmembers sworn in after close election has DeVore holding seat by one vote

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

Elections don't get any closer than last week's Lowell city council contest. The top three vote-getters won seats on the council. Incumbent Gregory Canfield came in first place with 321 votes, new candidate James Salzwedel got 237 votes, incumbent Michael DeVore got 211 votes, new candidate Mark Ritzema got 210 votes and new candidate Jake Davenport got 129 votes.

"My hat's off to the other two, Mr. Ritzema and Mr. Davenport," Salzwedel said. "I wish them the best. Everybody ran a really good campaign. It was about the issues, it wasn't about each other. It was nice to see a really nice, clean election, all about things that matter to the community."

Lowell mayor DeVore barely held onto his seat on the council, winning by a single vote. If there is to be a

recount, the candidates have to request it. All involved said this is unlikely.

"Mr. Ritzema would have to request the recount himself," said Lowell city



Michael DeVore, Jim Salzwedel and Greg Canfield were sworn into the city council by clerk Sue Ullery at city hall on Monday, Nov. 13.

clerk Susan Ullery. "He has to wait until the Board of Canvassers has certified the election and then he has six calendar days to file a recount request with the county."

After the election, Salzwedel had a few special words for one of his opponents in particular.

"Mr. Davenport is young, maybe he doesn't have a lot of life experiences yet, so I'm going to encourage him to join one of the boards," Salzwedel said. "There are openings on the planning commission and the Lowell Light & Power board; I really encourage him to get involved with some of those and get some experience in the politics of Lowell."

Salzwedel will take the seat vacated by the retirement of longtime councilor James Hodges. This was Salzwedel's second attempt to join the council after he lost one previous election.

"I'm excited about the fact the citizens of Lowell had enough faith in me to elect me in," Salzwedel said. "I'm looking forward to the challenges ahead and working with the city management team from Mike Burns all the way down to his staff and working with the council."

I'm very excited. It feels good. I put some hard work into this campaign. The last campaign I didn't know exactly what to do. It was my first attempt at it and I learned a lot. Former councilmember Jim Hodges encouraged me to continue and gave me some ideas. I joined some different boards, got the name recognition out there. That helped tremendously over the course of the last two years. I don't have 23 years' experience in the city council like Jim Hodges, but I have a lot of life experiences that will help us move forward and I'm excited about that."

Salzwedel said he has some big plans in store and to look out for some announcements in the coming weeks.

"I feel like I have a lot to offer," Salzwedel said. "It's going to be a little bit different. I have some ideas and I'm looking to implement them. I will be making some announcements. I've already met with a couple city leaders and told them the top things that I would like to move forward on or get direct answers for. It will be out there during one of the upcoming council meetings."

Public input requested to discuss medical marijuana at special committee meeting

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

Lowell city council will have a special "committee of the whole" meeting about medical marijuana on Monday, Nov. 20 at 5:30 pm. The council and city leaders are looking for input from the public about whether or not the city should allow the company Buzz Solutions to open a marijuana provisioning center here.

"We will only be hearing from the public under the confines of our public comment procedures," said city manager Michael Burns. "I notified [Buzz Solutions owner] Connor Baker of the public hearing. I can never anticipate what a public body will do. My understanding is that the city council wants to hear from the community on this. To my knowledge the council is going to continue to listen on this matter and this will not be the final opportunity [for public comment]. To my understanding the council does not plan to make a decision on Nov. 20, 2017. I am not certain when they will decide."

The closest medical marijuana provisioning center to Lowell is in Lansing, making the medicine inaccessible to many patients in West Michigan. If allowed, the Lowell facility would provide safe, laboratory-tested marijuana to thousands of area residents who have medical marijuana cards. According to the most recently available data from the Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory

Affairs, 8,754 of the 218,556 medical marijuana patient cards issued by the state went to Kent County residents. However, it is not currently known which piece of local real estate the company will buy or lease for their operation. The Ledger reached out to Buzz Solutions for this story but did not receive a reply.

"I am not aware of where they [Buzz Solutions] would locate," Burns said.

If Lowell were to take full advantage of it, the Medical Marijuana Facilities Licensing Act, passed on Dec. 20, 2016, could put a few thousand badly needed dollars into city coffers. The law includes financial incentives for cities and counties that allow medical marijuana operations, as well as money for the State General Fund and police groups. If Lowell allowed marijuana businesses it could assess an annual fee of up to \$5,000 from each one to help offset administrative and enforcement costs. The MMFLA requires that all money collected from the taxes, fees, fines and charges imposed must be deposited into the Medical Marijuana Excise Fund. Then 25 percent of that money will be allocated to municipalities in which a facility is located, 30 percent to counties in which a facility is located, 30 percent into the State General Fund, five percent to the Michigan

Special committee meeting, continued, page 4

Christmas Through Lowell is this weekend



Christmas Through Lowell will be held this 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.

Maps and schedules are available at most Lowell area businesses or you can check out christmsthroughlowell.org for much more information.

50¢





along main street

Library reports landscaping improvements

Community members cannot help but notice the transformation taking place on the library grounds. The first phase of the Friends of the Englehardt Library Reading garden is now complete and the front entrance of the library is awash with the colors of fall streaming from the four large planters placed atop a lovely, brick walkway. “Engraved bricks have replaced the sidewalk and the tired barberry bushes that ringed the flag pole,” explained Joy Smith, president of the group. “The planters will be changed out quarterly to mirror our changing seasons. Currently, the planters feature yellow mums, ornamental cabbage and pansies creating an inviting entryway. More improvements are forthcoming in 2018. The Friends of the Englehardt Library have purchased reading benches to be

installed near the flag pole with a semi-circle of ornamental grasses completing the new look. Of course, projects of this magnitude do not occur without incredible teamwork. “We want to thank the city of Lowell Department of Public Works’ staff for all their hard work on this project. The unexpected heat of September did not deter them from completing the installation of the brick walkway,” said branch manager, Heather Wood-Gramza. The community also plays a great role in this effort. Many people have already purchased engraved bricks, plaques and benches in honor of friends and family. The sale of these items continues to be a source of funding for the garden. For those interested in supporting this effort, brochures are available at the library.

LOWELL SHOWBOAT 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.

GILDA’S CLUB LOWELL CLUBHOUSE
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.

Mindfulness Workshop – Tues., Nov. 21, 4:30-5:30 pm. Join other members to practice the emotional and physical benefits of mindfulness and learn how to incorporate it into your daily life. Please dress comfortably. Presented by Jan Miller, LPC.

Moving Forward: The Grief Journey during the Holidays – Tues., Nov. 28, 6-7:30 pm. For many, just thinking about special days and holidays can bring back a flood of happy memories. However for others, happy memories are dulled by the sorrow of experiencing the holidays without a loved one who has died. These are normal feelings and you are not alone in experiencing these emotions. Join Emmanuel Hospice to learn about ways to help you or a friend cope with grief during this time.

Lowell Clubhouse, 314 S. Hudson St. For more information call 897-8600 or visit www.gildasclubgr.org/pinkarrow

LOWELL 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.

ROGUE RIVER ARTISANS HOLIDAY SALE
Rogue River Artisans 35th annual juried fine art and craft holiday sale at Lowell High School. Dec. 2 from 9 am to 4 pm. Over 120 of the area’s finest juried artisans and craftsman. \$1 admission with proceeds going to Red Arrow special activities. A holiday lunch is available.

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 include pottery, paintings, photography, jewelry, textiles, glasswork, handbags, woodwork, metalwork, wreaths, basketry, 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

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.

The Lowell Showboat Garden Club Presents
Dr. Richard (Rich) Peters
Vegetable Gardening
November 20, 2017
6:30 p.m.
at The Englehardt Public Library

Seating is limited so please call Carol at 897-1259 to reserve a spot

Rich is a retired pathologist from Michigan, and now devotes his time to his passion for gardening which includes from growing, cloning and teaching about children, but his passion also extends to growing vegetables. He is a certified instructor for Square Foot Gardening and will talk to us about a variety of subjects pertaining to vegetable gardening.

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

THE LOWELL CITY COUNCIL WILL HOLD A PUBLIC HEARING ON

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2017
AT 5:30 P.M.
AT 301 E. MAIN STREET
UPSTAIRS IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS
FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING
MEDICAL MARIJUANA

PLEASE NOTE THE PUBLIC HEARING WILL CONTINUE INTO THE REGULAR SCHEDULED CITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD THE SAME NIGHT AT 7:00 P.M. IF NECESSARY

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business matters

Greenridge Realty announced that Joshua McCracken received Realtor of the Month in October. This award recognizes McCracken for his outstanding success and achievements.



Joshua McCracken

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LL&P discusses selling truck purchased in 2014

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

The Lowell Light & Power board of directors had their latest regular meeting at their Broadway St. headquarters on Thursday, Nov. 9. The meeting was about two hours and eight minutes long and included the sale of a truck and the purchase of some wire for a project.

“For those of you who do not know, in September of 2014, Lowell Light & Power purchased for

\$45,000 a used [2000] Mack truck for the purpose of hauling manure for the biodigester project,” said L&P general manager Steve Donkersloot. “Obviously for the last year that project has not been running. In discussions with LEAD, whether it operates or not, under no circumstance will we need that truck for the transportation of manure or anything else. Instead of it sitting unused at our Chatham site, collecting

dust, further depreciating and paying insurance on it, it’s my belief and [the] staff’s as well, that it’s in our best interest to sell the truck.”

L&P paid \$45,000 for the truck three years ago and spent \$19,000 on improvements to the truck. It had 394,000 miles when they bought it, now it has 401,000. On L&P’s “fixed asset register” dated Oct. 31, 2017, the truck’s value was listed at \$39,486.21.

“We only expect to get \$10,000 to \$15,000 for the truck,” Donkersloot said. “Really it just comes down to a bad purchase that was made three years ago and I do not know why or how that purchase was made. I talked to [L&P retiree] Tom Russo. He thought it was kind of a last minute purchase and we were underneath the gun. It really doesn’t do us any good speculating on why or how we purchased that in the past.”

The second action item during the meeting was the purchase of wire for the S. Broadway utility project that will change King Milling’s service from overhead to underground. The company will reimburse L&P the \$43,945.35 for the wire.

“It really is more a wire order for the S. Broadway project,” Donkersloot said. “You may remember that with the overhead to

underground project that’s going to be taking place on S. Broadway that really relates to King Milling, all that infrastructure will be owned and maintained by King Milling.”

The Lowell Light & Power board’s next meeting will be at 127 N. Broadway on Thursday, Dec. 14 at 6 pm.

Volunteer of the Month at Murray Lake Elementary

Heather Eveland has been named Murray Lake Elementary Volunteer of the Month for October. Lori Cyrocki nominated her for helping run The Mustang Market each month and for volunteering in classrooms.

“Being able to serve the community by volunteering in the classrooms is a way to show students and teachers

they are appreciated. I love watching students grow throughout the year and reach those milestones they have been working so hard to accomplish! Volunteering also allows students to receive one-on-one help that they may desperately need. It may allow the teacher to work with a focus group during daily five. Or it may



Heather Eveland

even save a teacher an extra hour at the end of his/her day by cutting out spelling words. Rewarding students for their positive behavior is just one of the amazing things here at Murray Lake. Students make their mark by being ‘Safe, Responsible,

and Respectful’ each day. The Mustang Market is a way to thank those students for making those choices each day. It brings me so much joy seeing all those smiles on the students’ faces as they shop the market,” commented Eveland.

Kent Transition Center Student of the Month



A Lowell High School student has been named Student of the Month at Kent Transition Center. Shianna Sawdy, 11th grade, is enrolled in the early child care program.

Shianna Sawdy

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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: vergennesshp.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@vergennesshp.org

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Special committee meeting, continued

Commission on Law Enforcement Standards to train local law enforcement officers and five percent to the Department of State Police.

"I have not analyzed how much we would receive," Burns said. "However, I know it is not much money. The city of Ann Arbor is only projecting approximately \$50,000 in new revenue with their opt-in of the law. I suspect ours would be less."

The MMFLA includes a provision stating that a dispensary or growing operation "may not operate in a municipality unless the municipality has adopted an ordinance authorizing that type of facility." Cities also have the choice to opt out of medical marijuana altogether simply by taking no action.

"The council would have to pass an ordinance allowing this," Burns said. "The council would have

to decide what types of facilities they want to allow for. The council would need to revise zoning regulations to ensure the facilities they choose are in compliance with the zoning ordinances. The city attorney would draft the language for the ordinance. I am not certain as to time length. [The] ordinance becomes effective 10 days after it is posted in the newspaper of record."

LHS Students of the Month at KCTC

Two Lowell High School students have been named Student of the Month at Kent Career Technical Center. Michaela Duursma, 11th grade, is enrolled in the information technology program; and Brayden VanAmburgh, 12th grade, is enrolled in the criminal justice program.



Michaela Duursma

Brayden VanAmburgh

...
 "It is the mark of an educated mind to be able to entertain a thought without accepting it."

~ Aristotle



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viewpoint

to the editor

crossing main street

Editor,

The issue of crossing Main Street has been a source of frustration for the 15 years we have had our store in Lowell and from what I understand, it was an old issue when we arrived.

The latest chapter has resulted in our chief of police and city manager explaining that if drivers do stop for pedestrians on Main Street (M-21 is a Michigan highway) and they are rear ended, then the person stopping could get a traffic citation. Fantastic - if you do the polite thing, you might get a ticket.

We have been asking MDoT for a crosswalk with a light at the Riverwalk

entrance for years. It is time to continue to ask - maybe even demand such safe passage for pedestrians. Since MDOT last looked at Lowell, we have seen huge growth in our downtown, including but not limited to, the opening of a brewery, a brew pub and a new restaurant. We have a big, beautiful furniture store. LowellArts has relocated to a fantastic new facility. My block is 100 percent occupied for the first time in decades and we added about 40 new paved parking spots to our public parking inventory. We have an inn that is full so often, the

cookie drive success

To the Editor and the Lowell Community,

The 10th annual Cookie Drive for the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans was held on Saturday, November 11, 2017 and in true Lowell fashion, we collected 906 homemade cookies which made 302 packages of three cookies, one package for each of the 300 Veterans who live there. You may recall we were asked to cut back the number of cookies we've provided in previous years.

We expect this may be the last year we will be allowed to provide any homemade food items at the Veteran's Home.

Also delivered was a large box of personalized cards and letters from school children and an assortment of candy, two large boxes of underwear and socks, a box of numerous (new) games and another box full of warm hats, scarves and gloves for the coming cold weather. Also included were some

owner is seeking to provide more rooms across the street. We have new shops for women and we have thriving antique shops, which is to say nothing of the businesses that have remained open for decades.

I am urging people to call the office of State Senator Hildenbrand on Monday, November 20th. His number is 517-373-1801. Thank the senator for all the great work he has done for Lowell lately. Inform him about all the wonderful growth and change in our downtown. Ask him to lean on MDOT for a lighted crosswalk at the Riverwalk so people can safely cross the street and enjoy everything Lowell has to offer. We do not need to wait until someone gets injured or worse.

I would also like to encourage our city manager, DPW chief and police chief to join us in our effort to get a crosswalk. You have done a great job explaining the point of view of the state and the traffic law to us - now, how about explaining the point of view of Lowell business owners, residents and visitors to our great town to the stubborn folks in Lansing? We have stood by our city leaders through some trying times, please reward our steadfastness with some support on this issue gentlemen.

If you want to cross Main Street safely, then let Lansing know about it.

Cliff Yankovich
Lowell

men's trousers, three pair of new shoes and a new warm winter coat for some Veteran. A special surprise this year included nine beautifully hand quilted lap blankets made by Pat Williams and three other warm handmade blankets provided by others.

This continued support for Veterans once again proves that Lowell is the "Best Place To Be." We hope this event will be able to continue

in future years despite more and more governmental restrictions that impede our willingness to be of help to those who may need a little assistance from time to time.

Again, from our Veterans and those of us who have worked to support them, we say thank you to all of you who have helped.

Jan Thompson
Lowell

anywhere in the state, and other great bargains. If you want any of these goods call soon before all are sold. Star Clothing House.

100 years ago The Lowell Ledger November 15, 1917

A rousing patriotic rally of the people of Lowell and vicinity was held at the City hall Monday evening, in the interests of the big drive for the Army and Navy Y. M. C. A. fund now being raised throughout the nation and in which Kent county and Lowell are to do their part. The Lowell Home Guards band played several selections outside the hall before the meeting opened; and a quartet composed of Messrs. Yeiter, Sterkin, Maynard and Sisseem sang patriotic songs during the evening. D. G. Look was chairman and Messrs. Henry and Mitchell had a part in the program, the latter speaking of the Boys' part in the Y. M. C. A. drive. Editor Booth of the Grand Rapids Press made a stirring address in behalf of the cause, justifying the war and the administration and urged support to the limit of the Y. M. C. A. and its work for the men of the Army and Navy, as being essential to the success of our arms in the great conflict. Mr. Van Aiken, formerly general secretary of the Y. M. C. A. in Grand Rapids,

outdoors

responsibility

Dave Stegehuis

Recreational opportunities abound off the pavement in the fields and forests and on the lakes and streams across Michigan. State and local rules and regulations are designed to protect people and our natural resources. Sound judgment and common sense on the part of participants support this effort.

One is usually alone out there and must take personal responsibility for his or her safety as well as making ethical decisions regarding wildlife and the environment. Coach John Wooden once said that the test of a man's character is what he does when no one is looking.

Campers and hikers must clean up their campsites and properly extinguish campfires before departing. Many wildfires have been started by careless campers. If a hiker is able to carry a full container in, surly he or she is able to carry the empty container out. Camping fees at more isolated campgrounds are often placed in a tube. The honor system applies here.

Fishermen are expected to limit their catch according to the number of fish kept as well as a

specified length. Invasive species damage is reduced by properly disposing of bait and cleaning boats and trailers before re-launching.

Hunters also must follow an extensive set of regulations in their hunt area in order to balance wildlife populations with existing habitat and reduce the spread of disease within the deer herd. A clean kill results when hunters take the shot only when conditions, equipment, and their skill level promise a high percentage shot.

Off road vehicle enthusiasts must be sure that they are riding on trails open to such activity. Staying on designated trails, wearing proper safety equipment, and following safe riding practices make trail riding fun for all and leads riders to interesting out of the way places.

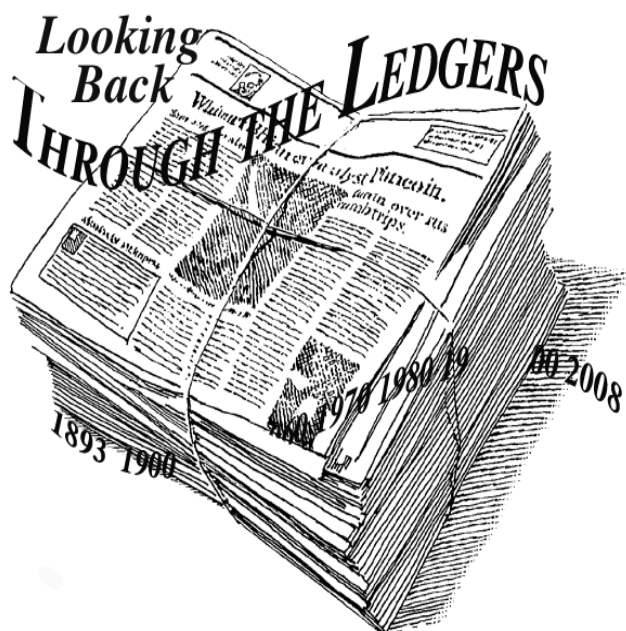
These and many other outdoor activities usually take place out of public view and where official law enforcement may only be occasional. It is up to the individual to act responsibly to ensure that everyone can continue to share the special opportunities we have in the outdoors in Michigan.

We love to hear from you!



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.



125 years ago Lowell Journal November 16, 1892

Overcoats at nearly 50c. on the dollar in that sale of clothing bought of that Chicago firm at nearly 50c. on the dollar by the Star Clothing House, of Grand Rapids. There are a great many overcoats, such as gray double breasted, worth \$4, for \$2; ribbed chinchilla, worth \$7, for \$5; extra fine black, blue, drab and light brown kersey, for \$10, these overcoats are worth \$15

Veterans luncheon at Senior Neighbors

There was a special Veterans Day luncheon at Lowell Senior Neighbors, 314 S. Hudson, on Thursday, Nov. 9. The lunch was attended by approximately

30 people and included dessert. "We have invited the Veterans of the Lowell community to come and our members here at Senior

Neighbors have paid for their lunches," said Senior Neighbors coordinator Terra Beineman. "We thanked them, did a couple poems

and a prayer. It's just a way to treat them and honor them for their service, to give back to them and honor them today."



Local Veterans, Don Souser, Dave Thompson, Leo Peters, Vicki Sue Condon, Herb Rice, Jerry Vredevelt, Russ Harig and Richard Polderdyk, attended the Veterans Day luncheon at Lowell Senior Neighbors.

In The Service

U.S. Air Force Airman 1st Class Lawrence G. Patrick III 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.

Patrick is the son



Lawrence G. Patrick III

of Lawrence G. Patrick of Lowell and Kim B. Golombisky of Saranac.

He is a 2017 graduate of Lowell High School.

HEALTH

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



- umbilical hernia

A hernia is a defect in the muscles and connective tissues in the abdomen. Sometimes fat or some bowel can push through this defect, causing pain and a noticeable bulge. An umbilical hernia is a defect of the abdominal walls near the belly button. This is caused by the muscles not closing around the hole left by the umbilical cord and is usually present at birth. Adults usually notice a bulge at their belly button that is caused by increases in abdominal pressure. Most people who have umbilical hernias have no problems related to the hernia apart from the noticeable bulge, if present.

If you notice a hernia, it is best to see your doctor to determine the appropriate causes of action. In children, umbilical hernias usually close by themselves as the child ages. If the hernia is noticed in children older than five years, often it is usually repaired surgically. For adults, very small hernias that do not cause symptoms are often watched, but adult umbilical hernias that become painful or increase in size are often surgically repaired. The surgery can be a minimally invasive repair or open repair. Recovery time is minimal and the success rate of this surgery is very high.

Christian Life Center to host free Thanksgiving Day dinner

Christian Life Center, 3050 Alden Nash SE, is again, for the second year, hosting a free Thanksgiving Day dinner, November 23, from noon until 3 p.m. Pastor Robert Holmes said the dinner is open to anyone in our community. The

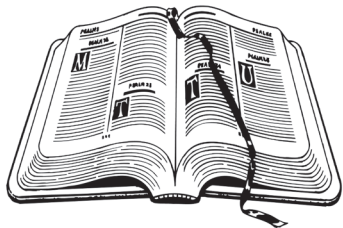
dinner menu features roasted turkey and ham, mashed potatoes and gravy, stuffing, vegetables, dessert and beverages.

Christy Hamm of the outreach team at Christian Life Center said, "Our goal is that we want to continue

to be a blessing to our community and to show the love of Christ, helping to fulfill our church's mission of loving God and loving people." Reservations are appreciated and can be made by calling 897-1100 to leave a message or by emailing

christianlifecenter.lowell@gmail.com. Walk-ins are welcome as well. Christian Life Center is located a quarter mile south of the Lowell Township offices on Alden Nash.

area churches



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Lowell's Open Table - Thursdays 5 - 7 PM
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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

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

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Sunday School..... 11:20 AM
Evening Worship..... 6:00 PM
Nursery available at both services
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happy birthday



NOVEMBER 15
Beth Stouffer, Emily Myers, Gina Gildner, Doug Decker, Alyssa Rash, Dave Hildenbrand, Janet Allison.

NOVEMBER 16
Cherryl Lilley.

NOVEMBER 17
Scott MacNaughton, Cory DuBridge, Tyler Shindorf, Mary Schutts, Anastasia Barnes, Ali Wernet.

NOVEMBER 18
Brent Noskey, Sandy Roe, Lindsey Sherman.

NOVEMBER 19
Ken Mulder, Jamie Zoodsma, Marlene Nash, Lewis Powell, Betsy Maki.

NOVEMBER 20
Brian Brown, John Butler Sr., Michelle Wernet.

NOVEMBER 21
Michael Hewitt, Tammy Gildner.

FFA raises funds at annual hog roast and auction

by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

When Lowell High School agriscience instructor Kevin Nugent was a Red Arrow student in the early 90s, he was a member of the FFA, working with his classmates to put on the annual auction.

Now the advisor, Nugent and today's students recently hosted the fundraiser combined with a hog roast. The auction raised just under \$4,000 with more than 100 supporters, family members and friends of the FFA showing up for the event and the free dinner inside the LHS cafeteria.

The items up for bid were donated by local businesses. It was a leadership exercise for the students who spearheaded the event. According to Nugent, "In the weeks leading up to the auction, letters are sent to local business asking them to donate items to the auctions. Those letters are followed up with visits from the FFA members. Also, many parents or supporters will

bring items to donate the night of the auction."

The ability to work cohesively to put together an event like the auction is one of many skills learned through involvement in the program. "The typical FFA member is a student that is interested in agriculture and natural resources but also is looking for a way to become involved at school. In addition to working on their own projects at home, whether it is raising animals for the fair or jobs, students in FFA participate in community service activities and contests that help to develop leadership skills for the future," explained Nugent. "I think the leadership skills and confidence that FFA members develop from participating in the different activities really allows them to stand out from some of their peers. The FFA offers a wide range of activities, from judging contests to public speaking, where any student is able to find an

activity that interests them and where they are able to excel."

Funds raised will be used to support three scholarships given out

each year by the group to graduating seniors and to send members on a week-

long leadership conference in Washington D.C. in 2018.



Volunteer auctioneer Paul Lettinga and FFA chapter president Connor Nugent.

EARTH TALK™

Questions & Answers
About Our Environment

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; Stigo, stigobike.com; Segway, segway.com; Brompton, brompton.com; StreetsBlogUSA, usa.streetsblog.org.

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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. Credit: Jeremy Tarling, FlickrCC.

LEGAL NOTICE

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

In the matter of WILLIAM H. ERNST Guardianship File No. 17-202,212-GA Conservatorship File No. 17-202,264-CA

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

Dated: November 13, 2017

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS including his sister, Janet Shangle and any siblings or 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 Co. Probate Court,

Adult Protective Services, DHHS, Petitioner 121 Franklin St. NE Grand Rapids, MI 49507 (616) 258-1182

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

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United Nations honors former Lowell native Frisch in Geneva for being a champion of peace

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

Lowell native Dr. Ann Frisch was honored by the United Nations for her work to protect civilians in violent conflicts. Frisch was named one of six 'Rotary People of Action: Champions of Peace' and made a presentation about her work at the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland on Saturday, Nov. 11, which was Rotary Day at the UN.

"I got the peace champion award for my work in bringing in the skills and knowledge of unarmed civilian protection into Rotary," Frisch said. "This means that Rotary can bring in Nonviolent Peaceforce protectors or be trained in the peacekeeping strategies of physical presence, monitoring and information gathering, building relationships and capacity development."

She was honored by the UN for her work in collaboration with Rotary clubs in Thailand to conduct civilian-to-civilian protection trainings as part of the Southern Thailand Peace Process. She co-wrote the first manual on

unarmed civilian protection, administered by the UN Institute for Training and Research, the department that trains all UN personnel. The goal is for unarmed civilians to keep unarmed civilians safe when there is a war going on or other strife.

"The Nonviolent Peaceforce, for which I have worked as a peacekeeper in Guatemala in 2007 and for outreach and advocacy since 2006, partnered with United Nations Institute for Training and Research," Frisch said. "It offers online courses to provide the first training in unarmed civilian peacekeeping and uses the manual as the basis for the instruction. It is interactive and is a full university online course. We gave three all day workshops on the civilian peace process in Southern Thailand, in Hatyai, Pattani and Bangkok, to the Rotary clubs there to let them know how civilians were trying to bring peace. There is also a formal peace process, with Malaysia being the intermediary between the hostile forces. The important thing about this is that we were able to get a district

grant to train Rotarians under a new rule from The Rotary Foundation that allows Rotarians to be the beneficiaries of Rotary funding if it helps us do our job of making peace. The Nonviolent Peaceforce is both unarmed and non-partisan. We don't take a side in armed conflict because there are civilians on both sides that may need protection. If we side with one, the civilians we protect are targeted by the other. Being unarmed and non-partisan helps keep us and the civilians we protect safe. We are not a target of any armed party. In fact, we seem to build relationships of respect with all the armed parties. We may need to tell them we disagree with some of their actions if they hurt people."

The Nonviolent Peaceforce has several projects in the works that address various problems in parts of the world where the political situation makes daily life perilous.

"One area where Rotary could use protectors is when they are giving immunizations for polio,

which is Rotary's major project, in areas where immunizations are seen as a stealth technique to hurt their opponents," Frisch said. "Rotary vaccinators have been killed and injured by some parties where Rotary is working because of this resistance. Children suffer when they are not vaccinated. The strategies of building relationships with all the parties, staying non-partisan, never having weapons of any kind and the fact that we are international with protectors from many different countries could mean less resistance. We have not done that yet, it is just potential. We have two projects underway where Rotary and the Nonviolent Peaceforce are partnering to bring safe spaces for dialogue. The Nonviolent Peaceforce just sent a team into Cox's Bazaar in Bangladesh to explore the protection needs of the Rohingya people fleeing from Myanmar. The Rotary Club of Dhaka Mahanagar in Bangladesh invited the Nonviolent Peaceforce. The members assisted our team in getting acquainted with



Dr. Ann Frisch was honored by the United Nations for her work to protect civilians in violent conflicts.

government officials who have responsibility for the Rohingya refugee camp. The credibility and good relationships Rotarians have

with local officials is very important in getting access to the Rohingya people.

United Nations honor,
continued, page 10



Talent Investment Agency offers assistance to connect Veterans with in-demand jobs

Military Veterans are highly skilled and trained, possessing many valuable skills such as teamwork, leadership and technical

skills. Individuals with these talents are vital components of the talent pool needed to fill the many in-demand jobs here in Michigan. The Talent Investment Agency (TIA) is working daily to connect our Michigan Veterans with the training and other assistance needed to develop new careers as they return to our communities after active military service.

TIA recognizes the many sacrifices made by our valued Veterans and their families. This recognition occurs every day through the many training and employment services provided by the entire TIA team and through our many partners, including our Michigan Works! teams across the state

"Time and time again, we have seen Veterans exceed employer expectations," TIA director Wanda M. Stokes said. "Veterans bring unique qualities to the workforce such as a commitment to

teamwork and diversity, leadership and technical skills. Employers with hard-to-fill jobs should look to Veterans and their skills."

TIA programs and resources designed to assist Veterans leverage their talents and skills to develop new careers include:

- The MiTalent.org website has a dedicated section aimed at helping Veterans find jobs, with links to other benefits. The page also includes links for programs aimed at employers looking to hire Veterans.
- Michigan Works! offers workshops and training to increase chances for finding employment.
- The Michigan State Approving Agency is located within TIA and approves education/training facilities to allow Veterans and other eligible dependents to make use of their GI Bill benefits in Michigan. The state has more than 700 approved educational institutions,

apprenticeship training and on-the-job training sites offering training to military personnel, Veterans and others who are eligible.

- Our new career Pathfinder tool at pathfinder.mitalent.org
- TIA has Veterans career advisors, located in Michigan Works! service centers dedicated to helping Veterans overcome potential barriers to employment.
- Veterans and spouses are eligible for a priority of services for a variety of Michigan Works! programs. For more information call: 1-800-285-WORKS (9675).
- Veterans may be eligible for VA education benefits while participating in approved apprenticeship programs.
- TIA's Veterans Employment Services Facebook page provides information on Veterans' services, programs and employment opportunities throughout Michigan.

Be alert for pedestrians and bicyclists in the evening

The Michigan Department of Transportation reminds motorists, now that it is dark one hour earlier, it is important to watch out for pedestrians and bicyclists on the drive home because they are much less noticeable. Research from the University of Michigan Transportation Research Institute confirms that pedestrians are more at risk of serious injury from a motor vehicle crash in the weeks following a return to standard time. The most dangerous time is the first hour of darkness.

"Driving through school zones becomes more challenging for motorists during the first week of the time change," said state transportation director Kirk T. Stuedle. "Pedestrians and bicyclists should wear brighter, reflective clothing in order to be seen more easily and those behind the wheel need to pay close attention and eliminate distractions while driving."

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 5,987 pedestrians died in traffic crashes in 2016 and an estimated 70,000 were injured in 2015 (8,000 of these injuries happened to children 14 and younger). The majority of pedestrian fatalities (70 percent) occurred during dark conditions between 6 pm and 5:59 am in 2015.

MDOT is working with partners statewide on the Toward Zero Deaths safety campaign based on the National Strategy on Highway Safety, which is intended to influence driver behavior and improve safety. For more information on the Toward Zero Deaths campaign, visit MDOT's website at www.michigan.gov/zerodeaths

Lowell couple investigates supernatural activity

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

Nicole and Matthew Walkington founded After Life Communications, a paranormal investigation firm, in their Jefferson St. home in 2014. The pair use technology, extrasensory perception and old-fashioned research to figure out what is causing alleged 'supernatural' incidents in private homes.

"Mostly what we do is just debunking," Nicole said. "Phenomena can be explained most of the time, which makes it hard, but fun. So far we've been able to tell people what was going on. For the business, I do most of the paperwork because we have small children, so I stay home. I went with Matthew on one or two of them, though and that has been fun."

Matthew has a growing collection of gadgets that he uses to detect ghosts. His current arsenal of electronic tools includes a K2 meter, a non-contact thermometer, a video camera, a digital camera, a laser grid and audio recorders.

"People probably think that it costs a bunch of money to get into this," Matthew said. "I started out with a \$35 digital camera and a \$.99 compass. For \$36 I got into the paranormal field. A K2 meter measures electromagnetic fields. When spirits or entities are trying to manifest themselves they draw energy. They will disrupt a magnetic field. That's why I bought the compass, it's the same basic principle. When it starts moving weird or points in a completely different direction..."

"This is another part of the debunking," Nicole said. "If there is old wiring or bad wiring in a house, it can make a person feel uncomfortable or hallucinate. That's another thing that we look for in a house, to make sure that's not what is happening. If we find that a house needs rewiring, we're not electricians so we let the owners deal with that by themselves. We check for many, many different things before declaring that a phenomena is paranormal, before we would ever say that for sure."

When a homeowner requests a paranormal investigation from After Life Communications, the process begins with an interview and an extensive questionnaire, page after page of questions like, 'Did the apparition cast a shadow,' 'What was the apparition wearing,' 'Were there any animals present at the time' and 'Heard any rapping, walking or knocking?'



Nicole and Matthew Walkington, founders of After Life Communications, pictured with one of their favorite cryptos, Santa Claus.

"First I would come to your home," Matthew said. "I would bring a lot of paperwork plus my black bag. It's got my smaller equipment so I can get a baseline reading on everything. I walk through the whole place unless they say it's localized to one room or one area. And we don't do it without the homeowners being there. It's about a two hour process depending on how much the homeowners like to talk. It's a good hour and a half in just questions, but that way I can get as much information as possible. There are some questions that get kind of personal and we tell our clients if they don't feel comfortable answering, that's fine."

"We will ask them questions like, 'Were you taking any medicines that day,' or 'Do you use alcohol or drugs daily,' because we don't want any sort of doubt to get in the way," Nicole said. "If they're smoking funny stuff, that's obviously going to change how they see."

Next, Matthew and Nicole research a location's history going back hundreds of years. This can take weeks and include visits to libraries, archives and museums.

"A lot of it is research," Matthew said. "I would say that 99 percent of a paranormal investigation is bookwork and the actual on-site investigation is one percent of the job. We try

to find as much history of the location and the land as possible, that way we can track what that property has gone through. We see if there were any deaths in the house or if a previous occupant who maybe grew up in that house died in a different location. That property is what they were used to so they may have come back."

"I think sometimes spirits get bored or they want to be with family still," Nicole said. "Some of the time all they want is just to be noticed."

"Spirits many times don't even know they're spirits," Matthew said. "If it's a really sudden or tragic death like a car accident, they might not know they're dead so they go back home. They aren't aware of what's happened."

If the Walkingtons determine that the entity in a home is evil or demonic, they will cease operations immediately and turn the case over to a different team.

"We don't deal with demonic presences," Matthew said. "We never have, we never will. I witnessed an exorcism once, I don't want any part of that for any reason. As soon as we walk into a location to do the pre-investigation interview, we can sense whether it's evil, whether it's something demonic. I tell my clients straight up, if I feel it's something demonic, I will not handle

it and I will turn it over to another team that will."

"We always make sure that what we do is completely safe before even going," Nicole said. "We always surround ourselves with the white light of the Holy Spirit or we ask for St. Michael's protection."

Nicole identifies as a medium, meaning one who is able to communicate with 'the other side.' As a young child, her best friend was an invisible little boy named Nick.

"I have always felt a little sensitive to the other side," Nicole said. "I always try to keep my Reiki [healing] stones on me and meditate with them, that helps me a lot. My first best friend was a spirit. I didn't really make friends well with the living, so that was my only friend growing up for a good seven years. I called him Nick. I couldn't hear him, but I could see him. He was just a light figure, but I could tell he was male by the figure. One time when I was about five or six years old my mother was baking. All of a sudden she felt like

something grabbed her hips and picked her straight up before she could put the pies in the oven. She said, 'Well, that was weird!' I said, 'Oh, that was just Nick. He said you were going to burn your finger' and kept drawing. I got a weird look for that one, but she knew who I was talking about because all I talked about was Nick."

Matthew said he became a believer in the supernatural after he had experiences with what are called 'Shadow People.'

"The first time was about 12 or 13 years ago," Matthew said. "I was watching an episode of 'Ghost Hunters' on TV and a couple nights after that I saw two shadow figures pop up behind my loveseat. I ran down the hallway and as soon as they got to where the hallway started, they were gone. It happened two nights in a row. The first night, I didn't know what to think. It was late at night, I had worked all day, I just figured I was tired

Supernatural activity,
continued, page 10

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Supernatural activity, continued

and my mind was messing with me. The next night it happened at the same exact time, but I was well-rested, I didn't work all day, so I knew something was there. Just last year I was sitting there watching TV and all of a sudden I saw a black figure appear. It appeared in the kitchen. The only light that was on was our TV. I couldn't see through it, it was solid black. The shadow people that I see, I can't see through. It came back three nights in a row. I couldn't see any facial features, but I could tell by the shape that it was a male, approximately six foot two, six foot three, slender, wearing cowboy boots, jeans and a uniform shirt. When it happened the first time, I was getting ready to fight. As soon as I

realized what was going on, it was gone. I told Nicole, 'If this thing comes back tomorrow, I'm going to do an investigation. I'm going to ask this thing questions.' I did an investigation and found out that it was my grandpa who passed away in 1997. We were really close and I think he was checking in to see if I was still doing all right, to see how I turned out. That's what most spirits are. Most of the time it's a friend or family member."

They started the business after their interest in the supernatural grew beyond what could reasonably be referred to as a hobby.

"After doing research on some local haunted locations, I thought, 'How can I turn this into

something,'" Matthew said. "I started doing research on the different equipment I would need. I contacted a couple other local paranormal teams and did a paranormal investigation with the West Michigan Ghost Hunters Society out of Grand Rapids. That was at the Belding museum. That was interesting. I debunked a couple things for them that they had overlooked or not thought of."

"We get a lot of strange calls but the most calls we get are around Halloween time," Nicole said. "Everybody's spooked, everybody thinks their house is haunted."

The price for a paranormal investigation depends on how much one is willing or able to pay.

"We do this on a donation basis only," Nicole said. "We do this to help people more than for the money. We're just ordinary people trying to help others."

"We work off donations only," Matthew said. "If the only thing you can offer me at the end of the interview is a handshake and a smile, I'm good with that. My goal is to help them get the answers they want and deserve and to bring them closure."

The Walkingtons said that the planet is crawling with supernatural beings.

"I think that there are spirits and other sorts of supernatural things absolutely everywhere," Nicole said. "It's just a question of who is more

able to listen, to be able to see them and hear them. Most of the time the people who don't believe in it or are scared of it don't want to admit that it's there. I believe the earth is so old and so big that of course it's everywhere. You just need to open your eyes in a different sense."

"There are more spirits in this world than there are living people," Matthew said.

"A lot of people don't believe in it, but we know it's there," Nicole said. "You either accept it or you don't."

"Things don't just happen for no reason," Matthew said.

"If you think positive and act positive, eventually

it'll spread like a virus," Nicole said. "There is so much negativity right now that it's hard to see the positive in the world today. All we're trying to do is spread the good vibes and get people more knowledge of the supernatural and cryptozoology."

If you or somebody you know requires the busting of a ghost, there are several ways to contact the Walkingtons. You could find the After Life Communications page on Facebook, you could send an email to afterlifecommunications@gmail.com or you could call 616-337-6169 or 616-337-9643.

United Nations honor, continued

The second project is an exploration into how the Nonviolent Peaceforce might address conflict in Nigeria. Park rangers in the National Parks have challenges with cattle keepers who need food and water for their animals. With the Nonviolent Peaceforce's experience with cattle keepers and farmers in South Sudan, our protectors are in a good position to know how to bring together the parties and provide safe spaces for fruitful discussion. No one need fear of being harmed while they are talking because we are there and trustable. The Rotary District has offered to host the project."

Frisch, known as Ann Mullen back in those days, attended Lowell schools from kindergarten through high school and graduated with LHS class of '58. She lived in Lowell from 1944 to 1962, when she finished college. She went to the University of Michigan and graduated in 1962 with a major in French, in 1972 with a master's in social work and in 1985 Frisch got her PhD in human ecology from Michigan State University. She has lived in New York City, Guatemala, Ann Arbor, East Lansing, Albuquerque, Oshkosh and Malaysia. Today she lives in White Bear Lake, MN, a small town about 20 miles away from the Twin Cities. Frisch grew up in homes on Jefferson St. and Segwun Ave. in Lowell. Her father, Don Mullen, worked at WLAV and then the Grand Rapids Public Library. Also living nearby were her aunt and cousin Blossom and Gerald Mullen and her grandparents, Claude and Zella Mullen.

She was involved in a lot of extra-curricular activities in school and even worked at the Ledger for a little while.

"I remember wonderful things about Lowell," Frisch said. "I remember Boyd's Store and the train going by every day. We watched and counted cars. We rode our bikes up and down Segwun and down along the river road. My mother, Blanche Mullen, was the art teacher. I remember art class and the art shows, making enameled jewelry and paper sculpture. The senior play, I did advertising for the school play 'Onions in the Stew' and I played flute in Lowell High School band. My favorite classes were Latin, French and history. In the work study class with Mr. White, as [a] senior in high school, I worked for the Lowell Ledger, first setting type, the paper ribbon punch code and then as assistant editor and photographer. I covered the big fire in 1957 on Main St. I woke up that morning, raced to the Ledger office to get the Leica and take the pictures. I was also a camp counselor for the YMCA while I was in college."

Frisch comes back to Lowell now and then for various reasons and said she has been impressed by the city's growth over the years.

"I came back for a reunion several years ago and have come several times to see family," Frisch said. "I took my daughter Stirling to Lowell when she was young, in the 70s, to see where I grew up in South Lowell. The house was torn down when they rebuilt the road. The last time I visited Lowell was about three years ago with my sister Noel Feeney

to visit friends and see my old house on Jefferson. Though I haven't lived there in years, I understand Lowell is a vibrant cultural place with music and arts. My mother had David Davis as an art student and he later opened a gallery there. My mom was very proud of that. My dad died in 1966."

Frisch had some practical advice for Lowellians on how they can help make the world a more peaceful place.

"Probably the most important thing we can do is to read widely about conflicts and be open about

their resolution," Frisch said. "There are good and caring people on all sides. With our children, it is important to be non-partisan in their disagreements while we protect them. Be imaginative about how conflicts we are in can be resolved with good will and willingness to commit to good resolution for the opponent. Let people make their own decisions about how conflict is resolved and keep them safe while they do it. Don't demonize our opponents. We are quick to label people as

'crazy' or 'idiotic' when we disagree with them. It makes it harder to find common ground if we say mean things about them. We can disagree on facts, we can try to persuade on the basis of facts, but treat our opponents with the respect they deserve and disagree, if needed, with their behavior. If they treat us badly, reach out to them, ask to be heard. If needed, take a non-partisan person with you to keep the conversation respectful. Protect people who might be in danger of harm from bullying or name

calling. Walk with them, advocate for them, listen to them about their needs. If challenged, be respectful of the challenger, let people speak for themselves and stand up for their right to decide for themselves. Support building relationships with people who are not like us, new people in our community and schools. Welcome them, have them for dinner, champion good policies and practices in our communities to do unto others as we would have them do unto us."



Dr. Ann Frisch, far left, with the five others honored by the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland.

Red Arrow SPORTS

Lowell students receive all-conference honors



Fourteen students at Lowell High School were selected by the Michigan High School Athletic Association as all-conference student athletes in the OK White.

Representing the Red Arrow varsity football team were seniors: Addison Buckius, Brady Douma, Connor Douma, Andrew LeFebre, Cody McGee and Garrett Pratt. Seniors, Jay Stadt, Elijah Dixon and Jonny Draigh, were given honors for their participation in varsity soccer. Seniors Abi Mangus and Sydney Powell were honored from the varsity volleyball team, Will deVoest in varsity tennis, Morrison Ismond from cross country and junior Mackenzie Uhen for varsity golf.

Photo submitted by Lowell High School.

Sports Summaries

BOYS SOCCER

Lowell varsity soccer was recognized by the Michigan High School Soccer Coaches Association for their classroom accomplishments receiving the team all-academic award. Six individual Lowell kickers, seniors, Caleb Mast, Alex Laird, Ryan Noffke, Austin Pollock, Jonny Draigh and Elijah Dixon, were each recipients of all-academic honors.

SCHOLAR ATHLETES

Red Arrow Keana Fahrni was selected to represent Lowell High School as the Fox Motors Prep Athlete of the Week. A three-year member of the varsity sideline cheer team and two-year captain, senior Fahrni also maintains a 3.3 GPA in the classroom. Active in extracurricular activities, Fahrni has appeared on stage in theater productions such as "Legally Blonde" and "Peter Pan," is a member of the FFA and serves as the secretary for the Lowell orchestra and the Lowell

ladies ensemble vocal group where she is also a section leader. Fahrni plans to attend Ferris State University where she will pursue a career as a nurse.

HOCKEY

Winter sports at Lowell High School began its unofficial kickoff last Friday evening when the cooperative Lowell/Caledonia varsity hockey team took to the ice in Georgetown for a four-team scrimmage at the two-rink arena. The matches pitted the LC icemen against West Catholic, Grandville and Kenowa Hills in a trio of showdowns. While stats and scores were not tallied at the event it was excellent prep for the team as they head into their rigorous four month schedule. Last season the team finished fourth in the new Tier II conference and earned the program's first regional championship and

made their first state quarterfinal appearance. After a three-week road schedule that includes a Thanksgiving tournament, the boys will host their first home match December 2 against Manistee at the Kentwood Ice Arena.

VOLLEYBALL

After wrapping up a 10-2 OK White conference season and a second-place finish, the Red Arrow varsity volleyball team added four more accolades to their post-season collection. Four teammates were selected by the Michigan High School Athletic Association to receive all-conference honors for their athletic performances. Seniors Abi Mangus and Sydney Powell were given the top award, while senior Jillian Fidler and sophomore Meghan Meyer were selected for honorable mentions.

LHS alumni takes position as varsity lacrosse coach

by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

Lowell High School recently announced their fourth boys varsity lacrosse coaching change in as many years. Austin Buckius will officially take the reigns this spring.

A 2012 Lowell graduate, Buckius is a former multi-sport athlete who was part of the Red Arrow lacrosse team's championship season in 2011. Pursuing a career in HVAC/R through an apprenticeship since leaving LHS, Buckius said he has always felt a pull back toward the sport.

"Ever since I graduated, I have always wanted to be involved with the program. I also have two younger brothers who play(ed) the game as well. Their love for the game has brought back my own memories from when I was in high school."

Buckius was also steadily impressed each season with the progression

of skill his brothers and the Lowell team had on the field. "I see a lot of things that my younger brothers do that I wish I could of pursued. Each year, I feel the talent in each sport increases," he said.

Last year, he accepted the lacrosse coaching position at Lowell Middle School, "Once that season came to an end, I had to make the decision to stay as the middle school coach or go try for the varsity position," explained Buckius. "I see so much potential in the Lowell lacrosse program that I wanted to take it upon myself to make these boys the best that they can be."

Once selected for the position, Buckius said he has been welcomed warmly by athletic director Dee Crowley and the Lowell athletic community. "Mrs. Crowley has been extremely welcoming and I'm excited

to work and coach for a program under her. I am thankful for each and every person who has been giving advice, giving referrals and making me feel welcome."

Buckius said he is looking forward to building a newer program full of learning and success when the season starts. He said he will focus on camaraderie as his number one rule and set his expectations high as they compete together for the first time.

"I am the type of coach that has high goals set, wants athletes to succeed and will train them until the very end. I want each and every boy I coach to understand the importance of playing for each other and playing for the name on the front of their jersey. I am excited and beyond thankful for the upcoming season and the opportunity to coach young men in my hometown."



Austin Buckius, far right, will be the new lacrosse coach this spring.

Photo submitted by Austin Buckius

obituaries

KEECH

Daryl Edith Keech, age 84 of Saranac, passed away Friday, November 10, 2017. She is survived by her husband of 63 years, Robert Keech; children, Yvonne (Robert) Ortiz, Pamela Henning, Robert (Teresa) Keech, Gordon (Lori) Keech, Brenda (Ken) Braginton, Randy (Bonnie) Keech; several grandchildren; great-grandchildren; 1 great-great-granddaughter; and several nieces



and nephews. Daryl enjoyed flowers, gardening and crochet; and she loved playing cards with her husband, Bob. Visitation will be held Thursday, November 16, 2-4:00 p.m. and 6-8:00 p.m. at Roth-Gerst Chapel, 305 N. Hudson, Lowell, MI. Funeral service will be Friday, November 17, 11:00 a.m. at Roth-Gerst Chapel. The family will greet friends and relatives one hour prior to the service at the funeral home. Interment Alton Cemetery. Memorial contributions can be made to DaVita Dialysis, 101 S. Greenville West Dr., Greenville, MI 48838.



VAN CAMP

Nancy (Kelley) Van Camp, age 71 of Lowell, passed away at home Saturday, November 11, 2017, after a long illness. She is survived by her husband of 37 years, Rod; brothers Darryl and Pat Kelley; sister Joyce Grilley; sons Todd and Brian Ryder; daughters Robin Isman, Abbygail and McKenna Tobin; grandchildren; and great-grandchildren. The family would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the staff of Emmanuel Hospice for their care. Visitation will be held Wednesday, November 15, 6-8:00 p.m. at Roth-Gerst Chapel, 305 N. Hudson, Lowell, MI 49331. Graveside service will be held Thursday, November 16, 11:00 a.m. at Graceland Memorial Park, 4321 Cascade Rd. SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49546.



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Looking Back, continued

but of late associated with the work among the soldiers at Waco, Texas, also plead for support of the great nonsectarian movement for the spiritual, moral and social benefit of our allied armies. Frequent hearty applause evidenced that the sympathy of the large audience was with the speakers and the cause they so ably presented.

Knocks war tax – arrested for unpatriotic remarks made at the Grand Trunk depot Monday, a man who had been visiting and, probably, drinking here, was jailed on the arrival of his train in Grand Rapids. He growled about the fare tax, said the government had no right to ask it, etc., etc. An old man resented the talk and with a commercial traveler warned him to quit, under penalty of arrest. Persisting in his meanness, the knocker drew his reward, as aforesaid. People have got about through standing for it! Yes.

75 years ago The Lowell Ledger November 19, 1942

There was some speculation by Lowell residents a few evenings ago as to what caused the lights to go out about 8:30 in the evening, in the absence of a storm or other obvious causes. The Ledger learns from Frank McMahon, superintendent of the Lowell municipal plant, that a large crane, near White's Bridge, flew into the wires with such force that they became tangled in the high tension wires, thus burning out both telephone and light wires and the hoist that raises the gates at the plant.

The public does not always realize what big things newspapers accomplish for home town development, through their publicity. Improvement or community projects need public support. If they had no publicity, people might not be interested, and it would be difficult or impossible to put them over. The home newspaper gives that publicity with enthusiasm, and it gets people interested in these improvement or development ideas. When the people get interested, obstacles disappear, objections are removed, opponents are likely to modify their criticisms, and money is raised if necessary. The pushing force of the newspaper is behind the whole thing and giving an impetus which helps the organizers of the idea to win success.

50 years ago Lowell Ledger November 16, 1967

Due to concern of parents because of the recent death of a Grand Rapids student who was sent home for books after having reached school, a new set of rules for the release of children from school is being considered. The superintendent presented a suggested plan that would prohibit any student from being sent home without permission of the building principal. No elementary student would be released from school without notifying a parent or by being accompanied home by an adult from the school. Requests to release students must be approved by principal and the parent or legal guardian must pick up the child from the school. In case of illness the parent who is not going to be home should have an emergency plan set-up with the school. In case the school is closed for an emergency situation, parents will be notified by means of area radio and TV stations. No student will be allowed to ride on any school bus except the one assigned. The school board is studying the policy for release of children and will vote on the proposed plan next month.

25 years ago The Lowell Ledger November 18, 1992

The steel bars that crisscross the length of Burroughs Bridge are spotted with rust. Its floor is weakened by the years of travel it has enveloped and the weathering it has endured. Burroughs Bridge is tired. The bridge is closed now until it can be refreshed. Based on discussions between the Kent County Road and Park Commission and the Committee to Save Burroughs Bridge it is safe to say both sides concur. While the County would like to replace Burroughs Bridge, the Committee to Save Burroughs Bridge would like to see it restored.

This Sunday morning started unlike any other at the Jim Nauta home. Jim rolled out from the comfort of his warm bed to begin fixing breakfast for a crew of roughly 10 deer hunters (family and relatives) who all dreamed of tagging the ultimate buck on opening day. Breakfast was filled with pancakes, sausage, hot chocolate, coffee and anticipation of the hunt that lie ahead. With bellies full and guns loaded, the crew left the Nauta home at 6:30 a.m., each headed to what they believed would be the lucky location. Jim set up camp in Parnell on the Vern Nauta (brother) farm in a cornfield just outside the woods. He was there less than a half hour when he heard some rustling noises coming from within the cornfield. A short while later the origin of that rustling became apparent as a buck chasing two does came out of the cornfield and into the clear. "The buck was about 30 yards from me," Jim Nauta recalls. Using a 20-gauge, Nauta fired once, hitting the six-point buck (150 pounds) in the upper back and dropping him to the ground immediately. For Nauta, in his 27th year of hunting, this was buck number six. He's also bagged three does. Thinking someone probably had already brought a buck to the Lowell Ledger office, Nauta was going to drive back home to tell his wife. On second thought, he stopped by the Ledger office at 8 a.m. It was a good choice, he was the first hunter in with a buck.

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

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

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Frequently asked Social Security questions

Question: How are my retirement benefits calculated?

Answer: Your Social Security benefits are based on earnings averaged over your lifetime. Your actual earnings are first adjusted or "indexed" to account for changes in average wages since the year the earnings were received. Then we calculate your average monthly indexed earnings during the 35 years in which you earned the most. We apply a formula to these earnings and arrive at your basic benefit. This is the amount you would receive at your full retirement age. You may be able to estimate your benefit by using our Retirement Estimator which offers estimates based on your Social Security earnings. You can find the Retirement Estimator at www.socialsecurity.gov/estimator.

Question: I have never worked but my spouse has. What will my benefits be?

Answer: You can be entitled to as much as one-half of your spouse's benefit amount when you reach full retirement age. If you want to get Social Security retirement benefits before you reach full retirement age, the amount of your benefit is reduced. The amount of reduction depends on when you will reach full retirement age. For example, if your full retirement age is 66, you can get 35 percent of your spouse's unreduced benefit at age 62 (a permanent reduction); if your full retirement age is 67, you can get 32.5 percent of your spouse's unreduced benefit at age 62 (a permanent reduction).

The amount of your benefit increases if your entitlement begins at a later age, up to the maximum of 50 percent at full retirement age. However, if you are taking care of a child who is under age 16 or who gets Social Security disability benefits on your spouse's record, you get the full spouse's benefits, regardless of your age. Learn more about retirement benefits at www.socialsecurity.gov/retirement.

Question: A few months after I started receiving my Social Security retirement benefit, my former employer offered to take me back. It's a great offer.

Can I withdraw my retirement claim and reapply later to increase my benefit amount?

Answer: Social Security understands that unexpected changes may occur after you begin receiving retirement benefits. If you change your mind, you may be able to withdraw your Social Security claim and re-apply at a future date. This withdrawal must occur within 12 months of your original retirement, and you are limited to one withdrawal during your lifetime. Keep in mind, you must repay all of the benefits you received. You can learn more about the one-year period when you can postpone your benefits at www.socialsecurity.gov/retire2/withdrawal.htm

Question: How do I apply for disability benefits? And, how long does it take to get a decision after I apply for disability benefits?

Answer: You can apply for disability benefits online at www.socialsecurity.gov/disabilityssi/apply.html. To get a decision on your disability application usually takes three-to-five months. The time frame can vary depending on

- The nature of your disability;
- How quickly we can get your medical evidence from your doctor or other medical source;
- Whether it's necessary to send you for a medical examination; and
- Whether we review your application for quality purposes.

Learn your claim status at www.socialsecurity.gov/claimstatus.

Question: I am 57 years old and I currently receive Social Security disability benefits. Can I still get my regular Social Security retirement benefits when I reach full retirement age?

Answer: If you are still receiving Social Security disability benefits when you reach your full retirement age, we will automatically switch you from disability benefits to retirement benefits at that point. The money amount will remain the same. For more information, visit our website.

Question: If I go back to work, will I automatically lose my Social Security disability benefits?

Answer: No, Social Security has several work incentive programs to help people who want to work. You may be able to receive monthly benefits and continue your health care coverage during a trial work period. For information about Social Security's work incentives and how they can help you return to work, you should:

- Visit our special work site at www.socialsecurity.gov/work;
- See the Red Book on work incentives at www.socialsecurity.gov/redbook; or
- Check out our publications at www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs and type "work" in the search box.

For more information, visit our website at www.socialsecurity.gov or call us toll-free at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778).

Question: I have been receiving my Supplemental Security Income by direct deposit for years, but I need to change my bank account. How can I do that?

Answer: For SSI benefits, you can complete changes in direct deposit by calling or visiting your local field office. In addition, you may call 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778) between the hours of 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. For more information regarding direct deposit, please visit www.socialsecurity.gov/deposit.

Question: I lost my Medicare card. How can I get replacement?

Answer: The easiest and newest way to get a replacement Medicare card is by using your *my Social Security* account. Go to www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount for more information on how to create an account. You also can get a replacement Medicare card by calling us toll-free at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778). Keep your card in a safe place. You don't want anyone getting hold of your Social Security number. They could steal your identity.

LEGAL NOTICES

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

In the matter of
ROBERT HOWLAND
Guardianship File No.
17-202,137-GA

TO ALL INTERESTED
PERSONS including
his daughters:
Sara, Rebecca, and
Jennifer Howland, 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 December 8, 2017,
at 9:00 A.M. at Kent

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 13, 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
Phone (616) 633-0196

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

In the matter of
DORA WILLIAMS
Guardianship
File No. 15-198,295-GA

TO ALL INTERESTED
PERSONS including
her sons: Eric Williams,
Spencer Williams, 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
December 11, 2017, at
3:30 P.M. at Kent Co.
Probate Court, 180

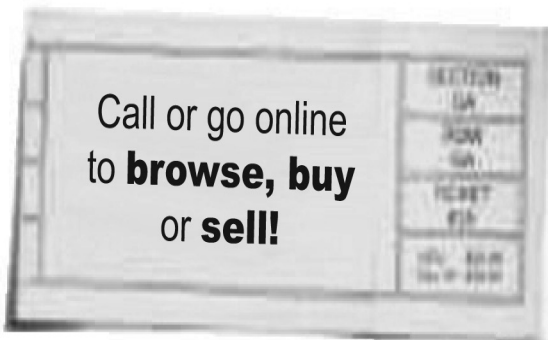
Ottawa NW, Grand
Rapids, MI 49503
before Judge David M.
Murkowski (P35026) for
the following purpose:
Appointment of a
Guardian.

Dated:
November 14, 2017

Adult Protective
Services, DHHS,
Petitioner
121 Franklin St. NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49507
(616) 690-7176

VAN ESSEN AND
ASSOCIATES PLLC
Attys. for Petitioner
by Amanda Van Essen
Wirth (P75001)
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At regular Lowell School Board meeting, labor contract is approved and board receives positive results of financial audit

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

Lowell Area Schools Board of Education had their latest regular meeting in the Runciman Building on Monday, Nov. 12. The meeting lasted just over an hour and was attended by about 11 local residents. One citizen, Dr. Jim Reagan, spoke during public comment.

“The city of Lowell is considering having medical marijuana dispensaries in the city,” Reagan said. “They [Lowell city council] are getting public information next Monday [Nov. 20] from 5:30 until 7 pm [at city hall]. I am encouraging the superintendent and the school board to come back with a uniform response to that idea.”

The board announced the approval of a labor contract with both the Lowell Education Association, that represents the district’s teachers and the Lowell Education Support Personnel Association, that represents aides, bus drivers and other staff.

“We’ve been working on a dental insurance change for almost two years now,”

superintendent Greg Pratt said. “Obviously things have changed in the world of work in a public school setting with the caps that are in place, so these changes will help individuals make better choices for insurance. They’ll have four insurance plans that they can select from starting Jan. 1. In 2018 there is a 1.5 percent pay increase on the salary schedule.”

The board received very positive results from a financial audit performed by accountant Carol Schachermeyer of the Grand Rapids firm Hungerford Nichols.

“Lowell once again received an unmodified opinion, which, in auditor talk is a very good opinion, the best opinion you can receive,” Schachermeyer said. “There were no internal control deficiencies or material weaknesses in any of your processes that we noted. I believe, actually, there were no adjustments that we needed to make to any of the accounts in order to present these financials, which is very good news. It

means that the information you’re getting from John [Zielinski, chief financial officer of Lowell Area Schools] and from Cindy [Brenk, finance manager of Lowell Area Schools] throughout the year is very accurate. It’s important to make decisions based on accurate financial information.”

Alto Elementary principal Paul Papes and fifth grade teachers Jacqui Dimmick and Julie Breen gave a presentation about the citizenship skills students are learning at that school. Students have worked in the community with a huge list of local organizations including FROM, Pink Arrow Pride and Schneider Manor.

“We do a lot to give back and to think about others,” Papes said. “That’s really what we want more than anything, is to develop individuals that do not only think about themselves but they think about their family, their school, the people in Alto and Lowell, the people in the state, the country and the world.”

“I like to think about it as doing for others but also with others and including others in that doing,” Dimmick said.

The school board’s next meeting will be in the Runciman Building, 300 High St., at 7 pm on Monday, Dec. 11.



Alto Elementary fifth grade teachers Jacqui Dimmick and Julie Breen described to the board the various citizenship activities their students take part in throughout the community.

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Murray Lake’s Staff Member of the Month

Julie Fuss has been named Staff Member of the Month for October at Murray Lake Elementary School. Robin Picarazzi nominated her for being such a great teacher. She also commended Fuss on her patience and perseverance with students saying, “Mrs. Fuss also has great grant-writing skills because she got us iPads as well.”

“This is my 12th year teaching at MLE. While

here, I’ve taught fourth and fifth grade, as well as special education. Every year I’m presented with new faces and challenges. The students and parents of Murray Lake are always positive and supportive. The staff at Murray Lake is my family away from home. I’m proud to be a teacher working in a district that has such a supportive community. There’s nowhere else I’d rather be,” commented Fuss.



Julie Fuss with a few Murray Lake Elementary students.

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