



**2017  
A  
YEAR  
IN  
REVIEW!**

In 2018 The Lowell Ledger will celebrate **125 YEARS** of bringing hometown news to our readers.

In these times it is a remarkable accomplishment for a publication to achieve this kind of longevity and we are committed to continuing to serve this community.

We are proud to be able to maintain this tradition knowing that there is no other publication where the local business news, the arts and celebrations, high school sports and current events are covered on a weekly basis.

Come celebrate with us in 2018!

50¢



## FROM lends a helping hand to make the holiday merrier for many Lowell families

by Kathryn Atwood  
contributing reporter

For 23 years Flat River Outreach Ministries has been giving the gift of Christmas to Lowell families struggling to put the magic in their holiday with gifts and a family meal. This year the organization and its many volunteers served nearly 300 grateful families with gifts donated by the same community it benefits.

FROM executive director Dawn Broene said two of the organizations original members developed the concept and executed the first Christmas distribution, "Christmas distribution started in 1994 by two

members of the Lowell United Methodist Church. These two members recognized that some of the members of the community were financially struggling during the Christmas season and they wanted to make sure that these people could know the joy of the holiday," explained Broene. "These members also were a part of the founding members of FROM. When FROM was organized in 1998, Christmas distribution became one of the first programs it offered."

After pre-registering for the event, families within the Lowell Area School District were randomly

assigned a pick-up time at the FROM facility located on East Fulton. Upon arrival participants were treated

as guests and greeted by cheerful volunteers who perfectly emulated Santa's happy elves. According

to Broene, 75 volunteers donated nearly 350 hours the day of distribution

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Christmas distribution volunteers, left to right: Dave Pasquale, Maureen Lutke, Paula Harris, Craig Harris, Karen Kearns and Tom Kearns.

## Civic leaders reflect on 2017 and look forward to 2018

Welcome to our final edition for 2017. As in years past, our Year-In-Review publication begins with us asking several of our local leaders to reflect on the year that has passed and to prognosticate about what could be in store for the year ahead.

**BETSY DAVIDSON,**  
owner, Addorio  
Technologies, LLC



**Do you have any kind of 'holiday message' for the citizens of Lowell?**

I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

**What would you say were some of the highlights of 2017 in Lowell?**

There were so many positives that happened in Lowell this year. Some of those were having our largest ever Lowell Rotary Auction with all money raised going to The Lowell Showboat and the City of Lowell receiving the grant for \$1 million for the Lowell Showboat.

**Any predictions for 2018 in Lowell?**

In 2018 we will be closer to closing the gap and making the connection with the Fred Meijer River Valley Rail-Trails which when completed will be a 125-mile rail trail, the fifth largest in the nation.

**What were some of your proudest accomplishments in 2017?**

We had our 23rd Annual Riverwalk Festival put on by the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce which was another successful year. We had our Kidz Zone in the new end of the Riverwalk which was hugely attended. To have an event continue to grow and bring in a large amount of people into Lowell's downtown is a great thing to be a part of. Events put on by all of our organizations and businesses is why Lowell is the next place to be.

**What do you have planned for 2018?**

I plan on traveling to visit family in Maine and Florida and continue to work hard with Lowell Rotary, Lowell Chamber and the Lowell Area Recreation Authority. These organizations, as well as many others, have so many events and activities planned that it will be a very exciting year.



**BRUCE DOLL,**  
Kent County Youth Fair  
**Do you have any kind of 'holiday message' for the citizens of Lowell?**

My message to the great people of Lowell is to make everyday a holiday. You don't have to wait until the holidays to help someone in need, or to volunteer to help out an organization, or to just smile at someone you see. In this busyness we live in, take the time to look around at where you live and the vast beauty that surrounds us every day.

**What would you say were some of the highlights of 2017 in Lowell?**

Highlights this year? There is not enough room to list them all here, but here are a few, the Kent County Youth Fair, the

Sizzlin' Summer Concerts, Riverwalk, Memorial Day, the Baronial Border War, River of Time, the Fallasburg Festival, the Fly In at the airport, the Impact Party, 'Tony and Tina's Wedding,' the Pancake Supper before the Christmas Parade, the Christmas Parade, pictures with Santa. Yes, there is always something to do in and around Lowell.

**Any predictions for 2018 in Lowell?**

Change and no change. There are some very big changes coming to Lowell, but I believe that these changes will be good for the town and people. Many of the changes are so big that they will take several years to complete, a new Lowell Showboat, Impact Church building a new church and the Kent County Youth Fair

moving. These changes will take volunteers to bring them to life. I predict that volunteerism in Lowell will reach an all time high in 2018.

**What were some of your proudest accomplishments in 2017?**

I am very proud to be part of the Kent County Youth Fair. Year after year, it gets better and better. Many people work very hard to bring the very best fair to the people of Kent County and beyond. This year I was presented with the Paul Harris Fellow award from the Rotary Club in Lowell. I am so honored to be recognized by our Rotary here in Lowell. The highest award in the Rotary is presented to people who exemplify 'service above self.' That is what I am, it is in my heart. Thank you to Lorain Smalligan for nominating me for this award.

**What do you have planned for 2018?**

Going to have fun with my new grandkids and my granddaughter Olivia. Having fun working on the Kent County Youth Fair and spending a little more time doing some of those

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# Civic leaders, continued

'hobbies' that I have not done for a while. Of course I will be taking a few pictures from time to time.

**Finally, do you have a holiday photo, a Christmas card photo or something like that?**

I have been helping out taking pictures of Santa and loads of kids, I even got to drive Santa around a bit. So much fun.

**KATHY BURCH,**  
program director,  
Curiosity Corner  
Preschool and  
TOTS Program



**Holiday message for citizens:**

Try to remember that Christmas isn't about the presents under the tree, but about those that are gathered around it.

**Highlights for Lowell in 2017:**

The Lowell Community Expo, Pink Arrow Pride, Sizzlin' Summer Concerts, Christmas Through Lowell and Girls Nights Out.

**Predictions for Lowell:**

More housing developments.

**Proudest accomplishments in 2017:**

Expanding Curiosity Corner Preschool and the

TOTS Program to meet the needs of families in the community.

**Plans for 2018:**

To open up more opportunities for summer-time activities for families.

**THOMAS ALBERT**  
State representative  
**Does the representative have any kind of 'holiday message' for constituents?**

I hope that everyone in our community has a great holiday season full of family, friends and snow. Please stay safe as you travel to your loved ones. It has been an honor to serve as your State Representative in 2017.

**Any comments on the events of 2017?**

Despite the negatively charged rhetoric surrounding national politics and government in 2017, the Michigan Legislature has been committed to good policy. It proved to be another year of the 'Michigan Comeback,' with statewide unemployment reaching its lowest levels in 17 years at one point in 2017. Lowell specifically continues to grow and thrive because it is a community with great economic potential. And it's a great place to live.

**What were some of the representative's proudest accomplishments in 2017?**

Receiving over 2,500 emails and phone calls from my constituents, leading school employee retirement reform and other reforms to address Michigan's debt, being named chair of a House committee as a freshman Representative having perfect voting attendance, being named to the Governor's Task Force on Responsible Retirement Reform and hosting 22 local office hours.

**What does the representative have planned for 2018?**

Throughout 2018 I will continue to meet with constituents from our district to discuss the issues that matter most to them. I will host monthly office hours, be available at community expos, and listen to concerns at town halls. Listening to members of our community guided my work in 2017 and will continue to do so in the new year.

I will also continue to work on a variety of policies that makes our community a better place to live and work.

**LIZ BAKER**  
executive director,  
Lowell Area  
Chamber of Commerce



**Do you have any kind of 'holiday message' for the citizens of Lowell?**

Wishing our community a great, productive and positive New Year. Working together as a community will only bring us closer together to accomplish success and that is what makes our community tick.

**What would you say were some of the highlights of 2017 in Lowell?**

One of our largest highlights was receiving a grant in the amount of \$1 million to assist with the rebuilding of the Lowell Showboat. Receiving this grant pretty much sealed the deal that the Greater Lowell Community will have a new boat, one that will carry many of our traditions for years to come.

**Any predictions for 2018 in Lowell?**

That we will have a new Showboat before the year ends and that 2018 will be another great year for business.

**What were some of your proudest accomplishments in 2017?**

Moving forward with the Lowell Showboat, increasing attendance and economic development at the many events and festivals the Chamber hosted throughout the year.

**What do you have planned for 2018?**

To stay focused on the Lowell Showboat project which includes fundraising,

continue to work in collaboration with the schools, city and townships, strengthen relationships with chamber members and work to bring value to their membership.

**STEVE BUKALA,**  
chief of police  
Lowell Police Department



**Do you have any kind of 'holiday message' for the citizens of Lowell?**

I would like to thank everyone for their continued support of the Lowell Police Department. We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

**What would you say were some of the highlights of 2017 in Lowell?**

I would like to say one of the highlights was the introduction and training of the LPD officers with Narcan and the saving of people who have overdosed on opiates, people continuing to clean up their property and making repairs and investments on their homes and members of the Elder Abuse Investigation coalition.

**Any predictions for 2018 in Lowell?**

I would like to see the new Lowell Showboat completed before the end of 2018. It would be nice if it could be dedicated by the end of the summer concert series, however that is a very lofty goal. The summer of 2019 is a more realistic goal.

**What were some of your proudest accomplishments in 2017?**

We held and graduated our first citizen's police academy in over 15 years with stellar reviews and we would like to have another academy in 2018. We provided the second annual Cold Weather Warriors project and was able to provide coats, snow pants, boots, hats and gloves to approximately 40 students in the Lowell schools that did not have proper snow gear.

**What do you have planned for 2018?**

Again we would like to run another citizen police academy and continue our community policing objectives. We will continue our Cold Weather Warriors

project and continue to provide coats and snow gear for families that may not be able to afford proper cold weather clothing. We are looking at expanding our ordinance enforcement for properties not being in compliance.

**MICHAEL BURNS,**  
Lowell city manager



**Do you have any kind of 'holiday message' for the citizens of Lowell?**

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

**What would you say were some of the highlights of 2017 in Lowell?**

There are a lot of new businesses and growth in the downtown. Community and state support for the showboat was phenomenal.

**Any predictions for 2018 in Lowell?**

No, I can't predict the future.

**What were some of your proudest accomplishments in 2017?**

We received a \$1 million [grant] for the showboat. This should expedite completion in 2018.

**What do you have planned for 2018?**

We are looking to make a number of improvements internally to update facilities and enhance service. We are continually working on establishing an infrastructure improvement plan to meet the needs of the community. We are working on building a new version of the Showboat.

**MARTY CHAMBERS,**  
Lowell city council



**Do you have any kind of 'holiday message' for the citizens of Lowell?**

Wishing everyone a very blessed holiday season.

**What would you say were some of the highlights of 2017 in Lowell?**

Being that I have had such a short time on the board I am proud that the Rebuild the Lowell Showboat Committee is going forward with the grants and the council looking into the medical marijuana effects on the city and people involved.

It shows that we are willing to take on the hard issues as a group. And as a group we are willing to poke fun of ourselves (ugly sweaters).

**Any predictions for 2018 in Lowell?**

A stronger thriving downtown with hopefully some second story renovations.

**What were some of your proudest accomplishments in 2017?**

Getting on the city council and being part of the boards that I have served on, the Planning Commission and Lowell Light & Power.

**What do you have planned for 2018?**

To make our fire department stronger with full time employees and to continue to help build a stronger community.

**DEANNE CROWLEY,**  
assistant principal and  
athletic director,  
Lowell High School

LHS Athletic Department is proud of our Red Arrow student-athletes who continue to excel in the classroom (14 teams earning All State Academic recognition) and work hard in the playing arena to represent our community with pride and dedication. Go Red Arrows.

**STEVE DONKERSLOOT,**  
general manager, Lowell  
Light & Power



**Do you have any kind of 'holiday message' for the citizens of Lowell?**

May you and your family be blessed with Joy, Peace, and Love during this Christmas and Holiday Season.

**What would you say were some of the highlights of 2017 in Lowell?**

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# FROM, continued

alone. "This doesn't account for the many volunteers who worked before the event to distribute barrels to the various drop off locations, organize the donations, set up for the event, coordinate pick-ups at each of the drop off locations and provide oversight to the entire event process."

Longtime volunteer and former FROM board member Rick Seese said that he continues to take part in this event not only because of the joy it brings those it serves but also for the joy he receives through the process.

"When you witness the joy that people feel when they know that their children will experience some happiness at Christmas, you feel that joy in your own heart. There were several moments this year when parents found out they will be giving their child a new bicycle for Christmas, that I shared their tears of happiness. The FROM distribution has become a meaningful part of my holiday season."

Local businesses also volunteer for the event allowing collection barrels

to be placed inside their shops and offering up new goods to be distributed. "FROM's Christmas distribution is a true testament to the generous community we live in. We again had an overwhelming response from the community who donated toys, gift cards, food and more to help make this event possible," explained Broene. "Starting in November, we began placing barrels and Christmas trees at various businesses around the Lowell area so that people can drop off their donations.

We also partner with area churches, businesses and groups who are interested in donating."

Because of the generous support, guests at the distribution center are able to tour through a variety of prepared rooms loaded with items such as toys, games, books, pajamas, hats, mittens, socks and stocking stuffers and select the items that best suit their children. Guests were also given a care bag loaded with soaps, shampoos, toothbrushes and other personal goods, as well as some gift wrapping accessories. Inside the food pantry portion of FROM guests picked up their last packages escorted by volunteers who helped them load their cars. Families were able to select either a ham or turkey dinner that came with all of the traditional fixings, including dessert.

Broene pointed to major contributors such as Meijer, The Lowell Moose Lodge, The Lowell Rotary Club, All Weather Seal, Lowell Women's Club and Enwork in addition to the event coordinators, volunteers and other supporters when directing her thanks. "This is truly a community effort and we would like to thank each and every one

who participated in our Christmas distribution in any way."

The FROM Christmas distribution is a fitting extension of the organization's overall mission which Broene says is helping neighbors in need by walking alongside them and helping them improve

their quality of life. "It demonstrates what FROM is all about, community helping community. Christmas distribution brings together businesses, churches, individuals and families to help our Lowell area neighbors. It's such a wonderful thing to watch this mission in action."



Diane and Dick Sherlock volunteered to run the event registration table. Photos submitted by Dawn Broene



FROM volunteer elves (l to r) Sue Majinska, Karen Whalen and Mandy McDonald.

# It's time to nominate your choice for Person of the Year

by Tim McAllister  
lead reporter

The Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce is now accepting nominations for two of their biggest annual awards: Person of the Year and Best Business to Watch (a.k.a. Most Promising New Business).

"For several years the chamber has recognized a person and a business for their contributions to our community," said Liz Baker, the chamber's executive director. "We are asking each of our chamber members to nominate someone of their choice

for the awards listed below. After the nominations are submitted, the person of the year selection committee and the chamber's board of directors will choose the final recipients."

The ideal candidate for the Person of the Year award will be somebody who donates a lot of time to the Lowell community.

"Over time, the candidate has freely donated considerable time to the community, school district, church or humanity," Baker said. "This is over and above the demands of their

regular profession. The community is a better place in which to live because of the efforts of the candidate. The candidate positively promotes the community in both word and action. The candidate possesses new and innovative ideas that benefit the community. The candidate cannot be a chamber board or foundation board member at the time of nomination."

Past Persons of the Year have included King Doyle, Ivan Blough, Al Eckman, Bob Pfaller, Luanne Kaeb, Dave Thompson, Jan

Thompson, Perry Beachum, Teresa Beachum, Noel Dean, Greg Canfield, Rick Seese and Greg Pratt.

The Best Business to Watch award, otherwise known as the Most Promising New Business award, is given the newest, most interesting businesses that have opened during the last year or so. Past winners have included River Edge Bed & Breakfast and Gathering Place, Main Street BBQ, New Union Brewery and Ability Weavers.

"The business must demonstrate the following

qualities and be a chamber member," Baker said. "Potential to improve the economic base within the greater Lowell community, new and/or innovative business ventures to the greater Lowell community [and] the ability to create excitement within the community."

Nominations must be in by Tuesday, Jan. 2. The form upon which to submit a nomination is available by contacting the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce at 616-897-9101 or info@lowellchamber.org

You must be a chamber member to either nominate somebody or be nominated. The awards will be presented at the chamber's "Annual Gathering of the Membership" dinner banquet at Deer Run Golf Club on Thursday, Feb. 15, 2018.

# The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act passed by Senate will benefit corporations and the wealthy

by Tim McAllister  
lead reporter

The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017, a.k.a. the Trump Tax Cuts, is a bill that will amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to create one of the biggest tax cuts for corporations and wealthy citizens in the history of the United States. The Tax Policy Center has estimated that 72 percent of taxpayers

will be adversely impacted by the Trump Tax Cuts starting in 2019. The bill is one of the most unpopular pieces of legislation in US history with approximately 32 percent approval, nearly all of it from Republicans. The House passed the final bill on December 19 and the Senate passed their final version on December

20. Next, it will be sent to President Trump to be signed into law.

The bill includes a reduction in tax rates for individuals and businesses, an increase in standard deduction and family tax credits, a new limit on the mortgage interest deduction and deductions for state and local income taxes and

property taxes, a new limit on the Alternative Minimum Tax for individuals and its complete elimination for corporations, a reduction in the number of estates impacted by the estate tax and a repeal of the individual mandate of the Affordable Care Act, which will result in up to 13 million fewer people covered by health

insurance as well as higher insurance premiums on the ACA exchanges.

It was very important to the wealthy and powerful to get this tax bill passed. In Nov. 2017, Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-SC) was quoted by NBC News saying that

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# Civic leaders, continued

All of the awesome activities and events that take place in Lowell seemingly every year. My personal favorite, though, is Pink Arrow, and 2017 was Year 10 (or 'X'). I'm not saying or pointing out anything new or profound, but Pink Arrow is not just about one day or a single sporting event. It's an entire community rallying together over the course of many months and a number of events for a common good. Every year Pink Arrow is a highlight and this year was no different.

## Any predictions for 2018 in Lowell?

After predicting the Cubs would win the World Series in 2016, I've called it quits. Thought I would go out on a high note.

## What were some of your proudest accomplishments in 2017?

I would like to change the word 'your' to 'the Lowell Light & Power team.' 2017 proved to be another great year with many accomplishments for LL&P. Among them were the growth of the entire LL&P team; the completed distribution projects that will improve the reliability and integrity of the electric system; the Siemens combustion turbine that was commissioned, which will provide peaking and backup power generation; the mobile application and platform that was released so that our customers can monitor their energy use, pay their electric bill electronically and much more; and the record response times to power outages because of the AMI Meter System.

## What do you have planned for 2018?

Start Strong. Stay Strong. Finish Strong. And somewhere in there, run a 10K race.

## State senator DAVE HILDENBRAND



As 2017 comes to an end I would like to take this opportunity to thank the greater Lowell community for the incredible honor and privilege it is to serve in the Michigan Senate and represent their interests.

We have much to be thankful for in Michigan

– a beautiful state; a better economy; and generous and caring family, friends, and neighbors.

But many new challenges will face Michigan in 2018 and I stand ready to continue our work to rebuild and improve our great state.

My biggest legislative accomplishment in 2017 was securing the funding for two new state veterans home in Michigan – one in Grand Rapids and one in the Detroit area. These will be modern, state-of-the-art facilities that will better care for our state's veterans. I will continue to monitor the progress of these homes as final location and design work continues.

After the New Year, we will quickly begin work on the 2018-19 state budget. As the Senate budget chair I am intricately involved with this process each year and remain committed with getting the state budget balanced and completed by July 1 in an open and transparent budget process.

Again, thank you for the incredible opportunity to serve as your state senator and from my family to yours, I wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

## AMY PALLO, principal, Lowell High School



## Holiday Message:

Thank you for trusting us with your kids each day. We are honored and privileged to work with each one of them. Enjoy the festivities of the season.

## Highlights:

Student achievement and many students involved both in and out of the classroom, community service and projects that helped many within the Lowell area.

## Predictions:

Another great year.

## US Senator GARY PETERS

Happy holidays, Michigan. This special time of year brings together family and friends to celebrate our many blessings and share in the hope of a new year. As we gather with loved ones, I also want to recognize America's servicemen and

women who are deployed abroad and away from their families during the holiday season. Thank you for your service and sacrifice on our behalf and thank you to the people of Michigan for allowing me to serve as your United States senator. From my family to yours, best wishes for a peaceful holiday season and a joyful new year.

## LISA PLANK, executive director, Lowell Area Historical Museum Do you have any kind of 'holiday message' for the citizens of Lowell?

Lowell is a wonderful community of caring people. We wish everyone a joyous holiday season.

## What would you say were some of the highlights of 2017 in Lowell?

The Museum put on a summer youth pageant that brought Lowell's early history alive to both the participants and their audience.

2017 saw new businesses come to town that have made our Main Street even more vibrant. Lowell Arts moved to Main which enhanced the cultural presence of our historic main street.

## Any predictions for 2018 in Lowell?

Lowell will continue to be a vibrant community with an active cultural scene.

## What were some of your proudest accomplishments in 2017?

The museum's summer camp was a week-long camp this year. Local

youth learned parts for the pageant that told the story of Lowell's Odawa, fur trade and early settler history. They created the sets, made their own costumes and put on a wonderful performance for a large crowd.

## What do you have planned for 2018?

The Museum has an emphasis on educating area youth about local history. In 2018 we will be expanding the Museum Immersion two day program for third graders to more classes. We are also looking forward to working with the Fallasburg Historical Society through a joint internship and with Lowell Township on interpretation in the new township park.

## GREG PRATT, superintendent, Lowell Area Schools

Lowell Area Schools wishes everyone a happy holiday season. As we reflect on last year, it is easy to see all of our student successes. We continually see student success whether it's in the classroom, participation in extra-curricular activities, or noted by outside agencies such as the Washington Post. In a 2017 article, the Post identified Lowell High School as one of America's most challenging high schools. Our success is attributed to the wonderful families, hardworking students, and tremendous staff.

As we move into 2018, we look forward to the challenge of the new third grade reading law and the

mandate to have every student read at grade level by the end of 3rd grade. We will also continue to use the sinking fund dollars to update our facilities by finishing the high school roof, repaving entry roads and ensuring that our facilities are safe and secure. Our students have wonderful opportunities in front of them in 2018 and I hope that together we will find them success.

## LORAIN SMALLIGAN, executive director, LowellArts



## Do you have any kind of 'holiday message' for the citizens of Lowell?

At LowellArts we reflect on the excitement that 2017 brought us. Moving into our new Main Street location was a dream come true. Please accept our sincere thanks for your support of LowellArts. We could not have done it without you. Happy New Year and best wishes to you and yours.

## What would you say were some of the highlights of 2017 in Lowell?

Chair-A-Tee community fundraiser for Pink Arrow and Gilda's Club with 50 artists partnering with Flat River Gallery, LowellArts and Lowell Businesses. It was wonderful to see all the chairs displayed around Lowell during the summer months and then auctioned off at a reception at LowellArts.

## Any predictions for 2018 in Lowell?

It will be an exciting time for the Lowell Showboat Sizzlin' Summer Concerts with a new Lowell Showboat on the Flat River and a new performance stage for the musicians. This will draw our neighbor's attention to this wonderful city and bring in more tourists and Lowell residents to downtown Lowell.

## What were some of your proudest accomplishments in 2017?

Getting very close to wrapping up the \$1,250,000 Moving to Main Capital Campaign for the new LowellArts home on Main St.

## What do you have planned for 2018?

At LowellArts we will be expanding our performing arts offerings that include House Concerts in the gallery during art exhibitions including free Sunday concerts for families and children, additional theater productions at LowellArts and year-round classes for youth and adults.

# Lowell - one of Santa's favorite places

by Tim McAllister  
lead reporter

It might seem unusual that a famous public figure like Santa Claus would spend so much time hanging out on or near the Lowell Showboat, visiting with local children. West Michigan and especially Lowell are, apparently, one of Santa's favorite areas in the US.

"Lowell is one of my favorite locations," Claus said. "One of the reasons that I come to Lowell is because Lowell's schools are my favorite colors with the red and the white. I have made a lot of friends here in Lowell and I just like to come here and visit them. I just love West Michigan. I spend a fair amount of time here during the holiday season. I have been all over West Michigan recently. For instance, I was in South Haven two days ago and I was up [the] Sparta way a week ago. One part of my magic is that I am able

to move quickly from one place to another, just like when I travel around the world delivering Christmas presents, so I am able to make it from Lowell to other places rapidly."

Claus said he liked his room upstairs on the Lowell Showboat just fine, but said the building he's using while the showboat is out of commission is fine too.



Santa Claus met hundreds of Lowell area children this year.

"The room that Mrs. Claus and I are using now is very nice," Claus said. "It is decorated very cute, everyone loves how it looks and the spot where our photos are taken is decorated like a small log cabin. We even have a real sleigh inside that children can get their pictures taken in. Another plus is that the room is larger than the space we had on the showboat, so we can get more visitors inside than we could on the showboat. If you liked visiting me on the Lowell Showboat, the same people have decorated the room that we are using now. It is right across the sidewalk from the showboat and this room is heated. You also will be able to see drawings of what they hope the new Lowell Showboat will look like when it's built in the next couple of years. Then Mrs. Claus and I will be able to visit all the children

Santa,  
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# viewpoint

## sharing the vision



LAS Superintendent Greg Pratt

### school board month

As citizen leaders, individual school board members face complex and demanding challenges. They are alternately described as having the most important volunteer jobs in the country and facing the toughest challenge in elected American government. Yet school board members are just ordinary citizens with extraordinary dedication to our nation's public schools. All Michigan citizens should recognize the vital contributions of these men and women and the crucial role they play in the education of our children.

Public education is the backbone of American society and local school boards are deeply rooted

in U.S. tradition. It's the foundation on which our democracy was built. Today local school boards continue to do the most important work of their communities - that of educating our youth.

Their job is to establish a vision for the education program, design a structure to achieve that vision, ensure schools are accountable to the community and strongly advocate for continuous improvement in student learning. The job of a school board member is tough, the hours long and the thanks few and far between. Too often we're quick to criticize school board members without really understanding the complex nature of their decisions. Now's the time to

thank them for their untiring efforts.

School board members come from a variety of backgrounds, yet they share a common goal - helping students achieve in school and life. As a state, Michigan has faced many challenges, but the key to a brighter future is a strong public education system.

We often forget about the personal sacrifices school board members make. Board members contribute hundreds and hundreds of hours each year leading their districts. The time spent in board meetings represents just a small fraction of the hours school board members spend leading their districts. Collectively, they spend more than 7,500 hours on professional development to keep abreast of the latest trends in educational leadership, are deeply involved in community activities and spend many hours at extracurricular

events. They continually advocate for the children of our state and in the past year school board members made more than 1,100 passionate pleas to legislators, speaking out against budget cuts and pushing for smart reforms.

The month of January marks the annual observance of School Board Recognition Month. This is a time to show our appreciation and begin to better understand how local trustees work together to prepare today's students to be tomorrow's leaders. In January, join with others from throughout our district and state to salute the men and women who provide grassroots governance of public schools.

Jim Turner, president  
 Brian Krajewski, vice-president  
 Gary Blough, treasurer  
 Pat Nugent, secretary  
 Tom Kaywood, trustee  
 Laurie Kuna, trustee  
 Dan Stephens, trustee

## outdoors

### backyard birds

Dave Stegehuis

Birds of different sizes and plumage drop out of the wooded backyard at the edge of our yard to land on and under our birdfeeders. What would normally be a still white landscape is a bevy of activity. The birds provide entertainment as well as a way for us to get personally involved with wildlife and make life a bit easier for our feathered friends. It is remarkable how such delicate creatures are able to survive and actually thrive under harsh winter conditions.

During warmer months, birds are dispersed over large areas and hidden by summer foliage. Cold and snow make it more difficult to find natural food sources, so the birds are drawn to backyard feeders for an easy meal. Birds are bolder and spend a lot of time against a white background.

One challenge when bird feeding is keeping squirrels and raccoons from devouring the seeds before the birds get to it. We employ several different home-made barriers which are working for now. It has been interesting and fun to experiment with possible solutions to foil the unwelcome visitors. Commercial baffles are

available. Another option is to provide an alternative preferred food site to buy off the wild raiders.

Different species favor certain seeds and mixes. Offering a variety of food will attract more kinds of birds. Providing a water source, if possible, is helpful in freezing temperatures. Feeder location is a factor in attracting birds as well as insuring their safety. Windows, for example, can be a hazard. Predation by birds of prey and roaming cats can be avoided by feeder style and placement. Disease is a possibility when large numbers of birds congregate, so keeping feeders and the area cleaned up is a good idea.

A bird identification guide makes feeding a more interesting and educational experience. Audubon Society web sites provide about everything you want or need to know about feeding and observing birds.

Observing most wildlife species takes special effort and usually some luck. Birds on the other hand reside everywhere and can be watched from your recliner. Feeding birds is an enjoyable way to take advantage of wintertime in Michigan.

## health

With Drs. Paul Gauthier, Wayne A. Chritenson III, John G. Meier & Tracy Lixie

### - chronic kidney disease

The kidneys clean the blood by removing waste products, which then leave the body through the

urine. The kidneys have an important role in balancing the body's fluids. They also help control blood pressure,

keep bones strong and make red blood cells.

Chronic kidney disease happens when the kidneys are damaged and can't clean the blood or do their other jobs. Many different things can damage the kidneys. The two most common causes of chronic kidney disease are diabetes and high blood pressure.

If you have chronic kidney disease, you may not feel anything unusual. However, you may experience the following symptoms: tiredness, stomachache, muscle weakness, less urine output, swollen legs or puffy eyes.

If you are over 60 years old, have diabetes or high blood pressure or if you have family members with

kidney disease, you should be tested for kidney disease. This can be checked by blood and urine tests to find out how well your kidneys are filtering your blood and to see if there is any protein in your urine.

It is important to stay away from things that can hurt your kidneys. You may need to stop smoking, keep your blood sugar at healthy levels through diet, exercise and medications, lower your cholesterol, maintain a healthy weight, take medication to slow down damage to your kidneys and avoid medications called nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (or NSAIDs). Examples of these medicines include ibuprofen and naproxen.

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# Happy New Year!

## Tax cuts, continued

“financial contributions will stop” coming to the Republican Party if they couldn’t get the bill passed. Rep. Chris Collins (R-NY) also said to the Associated Press, “My donors are basically saying, ‘Get it done or don’t ever call me again.’”

The non-partisan Congressional Budget Office reported that under the Act, individuals and pass-through entities like partnerships and S-corporations would receive approximately \$1,125 billion in tax cuts over ten years while corporations would receive approximately \$320 billion in benefits. The individual and pass-through tax cuts

fade over time and become net tax increases starting in 2027, while the corporate tax cuts are permanent. The Congressional Budget Office estimated that implementing the Act would add an estimated \$1.455 trillion to the national debt over ten years, in addition to the \$10 trillion increase forecast with current policies and the already-existing \$20 trillion national debt.

Bottom line, businesses and individuals with high incomes will benefit while those with lower incomes will either watch their benefits fade or have to pay more taxes. The Joint Committee on Taxation estimated that during 2019,

each income group will receive a tax cut compared to the current rate. However, in 2021 those earning between \$10,000 and \$30,000, 24 percent of taxpayers, will start to pay more in taxes. In 2023 and 2025, all of those earning between \$0 and \$30,000, 34 percent of taxpayers, will pay higher taxes. During those same years, people earning between \$30,000 and \$40,000, nine percent of taxpayers, will not see a rate change. In 2027, all income groups below \$75,000 (65 percent of taxpayers) will begin to pay more in taxes while tax cuts will always remain in place for those earning \$75,000 or more.

## happy birthday



**DECEMBER 31**  
 Marcie Page, Bill DeHaan, Charles Boerema.

**JANUARY 1**  
 Tory Abel, John Wenger, Alice Hesche, Carolyn Yonker, Amanita Fahrni.

**JANUARY 2**  
 Rose Nead, Helen Kuiper, Angie Sloan.

**DECEMBER 27**  
 Mark Nyp, Jay Clark, Foster Skoog.

Joe Hunt, Stacey Craig, Joshua Gee, Maliree Trierweiler, Matthew Trierweiler.

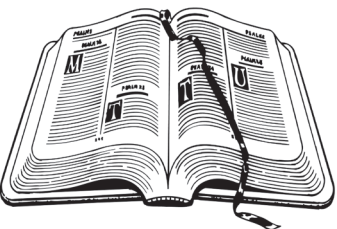
**DECEMBER 28**  
 Lisa Stormzand, C.J. Sokolowski, Matt Francisco, Randy L. Smith.

**DECEMBER 29**  
 Amanda Martin, Donna Baker, Lauren Malone.

**DECEMBER 30**  
 Stacy Thomas, Ben Hodges, Kyle Triplett,

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# Santa, continued

on the showboat again. Plus there will be a lot more room on the new boat for our visits.”

Claus wanted to reassure Lowell area children that, despite what their parents may say, he is not that strict about his naughty and nice lists.

“My list is much different than mom and dad’s list of whether their kids are being nice or naughty,” Claus said. “It’s much easier to make it onto the nice list, unlike

mom and dad’s. The kids in Lowell are predominantly good. That’s another one of the reasons that I like to visit Lowell and the West Michigan area. It has so many good kids living in this area. Kids have right up until Christmas Eve to make it onto my good list. Even if a kid has gotten into a little bit of trouble recently, that doesn’t mean they’re stuck on the naughty list. Overall, as long as a kid is trying to be good, that’s what matters to me.”

After months of hosting thousands of kids on his lap, you’d think Claus would have caught multiple varieties of exotic colds and flus, but he said this was not the case.

“I take good care of myself, health-wise, with a flu shot, eating proper foods, a lot of vitamin C and a lot of zinc,” Claus said. “I haven’t had a cold yet this year. Right after Christmas when I just kind

of relax and let myself go, then my immune system becomes much weaker and fairly often that’s when I’ll get a cold. Right after the season.”

Some kids who visit him on the showboat bring Claus gifts. He said he eats anything that’s edible and hangs the artwork on the refrigerator in his workshop at the North Pole.

“I eat lots of cookies, lots of sugar and candy this

time of year,” Claus said. “Kids bring me gifts that range from beef jerky to cookies to candy canes to candy bars. Santa doesn’t usually get a lot of presents, so when kids bring a treat or something, that moves them up a little higher on the list.”

Claus said he does everything he can to promote peace, love and joy during the holiday season.

“I love Christmas,” Claus said. “I love Lowell.

I love all the children here in the Lowell area. I would like to wish each and every one of them the best of Christmas and joy to every one of them. This is what I do. This is what I live for. It’s the kids. I love the kids. There is nothing you can do that brings you closer to kids and brings you more joy and love. You can see it in their faces and their parents’ faces as well.”

## EARTH TALK Questions & Answers About Our Environment

**Dear EarthTalk:** I’ve been having trouble sleeping and my doctor suggested that indoor air pollution could be a contributing factor. Do you have any tips for how to improve my home’s air quality without breaking the bank?

-- Jennifer Abromovitch, Putney, VT

The key to a healthy indoor environment is clean air, but many of the finishes and furniture in a typical home or office off-gas pollutants that can compromise air quality. While opening a window might help, it also could make matters worse by introducing auto exhaust and other noxious emissions in. So, what’s a clean air lover to do about keeping the indoor environment safe?

For starters, it can’t hurt to change the filters on your furnace and air conditioner(s) on a regular, scheduled basis. Manufacturers recommend changing out furnace filters every three months, but mileage may vary depending on square footage and other factors. (When you install a new filter, write the date on it when it should be changed to keep yourself honest.) Also, getting your HVAC air ducts cleaned once every few years—or more frequently if you have pets or lots of people using the space in question.

Another way to help filter your indoor air is the all-natural way: with house plants. While humans have always had a special relationship with the plants around them, it wasn’t until NASA published research in the 1980s that we knew just what an important role house plants could play in ridding indoor environments of noxious chemical pollutants. Plants scrub particulates from the air while taking in carbon dioxide and processing it into oxygen, thereby creating more clean air for us to breathe. Garden mums, spider plants, dracaenas, ficus, peace lilies, Boston ferns, snake plants and bamboo palms are great choices given their especially powerful air purifying abilities.

Yet another relatively easy fix would be to purchase an air purifier that plugs into the wall and uses carbon filtration or other methods for filtering contaminants out of the indoor environment. The Coway Mighty and Winix 5500-2 share top rankings from leading consumer review service, Wirecutter, while the Dyson Pure Hot+Cool Link gets kudos for great air cleaning with style.

If you really want to go all out, think about repainting interior walls with paint formulations that use little or no volatile organic chemicals (VOCs) that have been linked to respiratory problems, headaches, nausea, dizziness and fatigue, among other health worries. AFM Safecoat is the industry leader in low- and no-VOC paints and finishes, but the big players like Sherwin-Williams and Benjamin Moore now also have healthier formulations for a quickly increasing number of eco-conscious home improvement customers.



Another easy albeit more costly way to green up your indoor environment would be to get rid of those old couches, mattresses and other furniture which were required by law to contain flame retardant chemicals before we knew how harmful they could be to our indoor environment and health. Now that California has mandated that new furniture products cannot contain these noxious chemicals, more and more manufacturers (including Ikea and Pottery Barn) are starting to phase them out, so it’s a great time to replace that old mattress with a new one that won’t off-gas carcinogens every time you plop down onto it.

**CONTACTS:** Coway, [coway.com/Product/Detail?prod\\_disp\\_no=47](http://coway.com/Product/Detail?prod_disp_no=47); Winix, [winixamerica.com/product/5500-2](http://winixamerica.com/product/5500-2); Dyson, <http://www.dyson.com/air-treatment/purifiers/dyson-pure-hot-cool-link-evo/overview.aspx>; NASA’s “Indoor Landscape Plants for Indoor Air Pollution Abatement,” <https://goo.gl/j7WzPU>; AFM Safecoat, [www.afmsafecoat.com](http://www.afmsafecoat.com).

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## Ex-spouse benefits and how they affect you

Just like during tax season, it’s good to have all the information you need early so you can prepare and get any money you are due.

If you are age 62, unmarried, and divorced from someone entitled to Social Security retirement or disability benefits, you may be eligible to receive benefits based on his or her record. To be eligible, you must have been married to your ex-spouse for 10 years or more. If you have since remarried, you can’t collect benefits on your former spouse’s record unless your later marriage ended by annulment, divorce, or death. Also, if you’re entitled to benefits on your own record, your benefit amount must be less than you would receive based on

your ex-spouse’s work. In other words, we’ll pay the higher of the two benefits for which you’re eligible, but not both.

You can apply for benefits on your former spouse’s record even if he or she hasn’t retired, as long as you divorced at least two years before applying. If, however, you decide to wait until full retirement age to apply as a divorced spouse, your benefit will be equal to half of your ex-spouse’s full retirement amount or disability benefit. The same rules apply for a deceased former spouse.

The amount of benefits you get has no effect on the benefits of your ex-spouse and his or her current spouse. Visit *Retirement Planner: If You Are Divorced at*

[www.socialsecurity.gov/planners/retire/divspouse.html](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/planners/retire/divspouse.html) to find all the eligibility requirements you must meet to apply as a divorced spouse. Our benefits planner gives you an idea of your monthly benefit amount. If your ex-spouse died after you divorced, you may still qualify for widow’s benefits. You’ll find information about that in a note at the bottom of the website.

Visit [www.socialsecurity.gov/planners/retire/divspouse.html](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/planners/retire/divspouse.html) today to learn whether you’re eligible for benefits on your ex-spouse’s record. That could mean a considerable amount of monthly income. What you learn may bring a smile to your face ... even on tax day!

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~ Abraham Lincoln (1809 - 1865)

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Red Arrow

- BASKETBALL

# SPORTS

## Girls top Byron Center 57-49 in double overtime

by Kathryn Atwood  
contributing reporter

Stacking up an impressive 4-1 non-conference record before heading into holiday break, the Red Arrow girls varsity basketball team warded their way to a 57-49 double overtime win over the Byron Center Bulldogs last Tuesday evening on the road.

It was a back-and-forth battle for the two teams who came into the contest with matching victory goals, but fueled by very different season starts. The Arrows were looking to bounce back after having their undefeated

3-0 season derailed by the East Grand Rapids Pioneers the previous Friday. The Bulldogs were looking to even up a losing record after only picking up two wins in their first five games. It was Lowell who outlasted the competition winning the race on the hardwood.

The Red Arrows out shot the Bulldogs in the first 14-9 and then saw the Bulldogs nearly perfectly reverse scoring in the second topping them 14-8. The nearly identical half left the Arrows up by just one point 24-23 heading into the locker room. Similar scores

continued to be a theme in the second half when Lowell put up 10 to Byron Center's nine in the third and the two teams tied in the fourth, both lighting up the scoreboard by eleven leaving the team's knotted at 43 at the end of regulation.

Some missed opportunities kept the Arrows to just three points in the first overtime period, but their tally once again matched the Bulldogs who also netted just three forced into a second overtime to decide the match up the Arrows blasted by the

Bulldogs in the final minutes utilizing their strong defense and some clean shooting from the free throw line to top their opponent 11-3 for the victory, 57-49.

Senior Red Arrow co-captain Cassie Dean led the team's offensive effort netting 17 points in the contest. Her scoring efforts were followed by that of junior Regan Coxon who produced 13 points and senior Emily Depew who chipped in eight. Depew is one of several seniors stepping up this season, according to head coach

Heath Kent. "Emily is in her second year as a starter and is a huge reason for our success because of her versatility."

Rich in experienced upperclassmen, the team also has a few new faces not yet topping the stat sheet but making a difference in game play. Kent expressed high hopes for the new to varsity trio, "In addition to the returners this year, we add junior Allyson Lange, junior Ava Frederickson and sophomore Molly Frederickson. All three bring something different

to the table. Ava has been starting for us and gives a nice post presence, while Ava and Molly are both guards who have been off to good starts this season."

The Lady Arrows will resume their schedule on Friday, January 5, when they host Ottawa Hills High School for their first OK White showdown of the season at 5:30 pm. They will also battle with former league foe the Jenison Wildcats at home on Tuesday, January 9, starting at 7 pm.

## Sports Summaries

### BOYS BOWLING

Red Arrow boys varsity rollers put up a nearly perfect performance in the OK White last week Wednesday at Eastbrook Lanes where they toppled league foe Forest Hills Northern 29-1. Sharp spare shooting and a solid list of starters helped the team propel to victory led by junior Carson Clark who rolled a 208 and a 218 and Marcel Primeau who tallied a 221. Next up for the gents is the Jenison Invite to be held at Hudsonville Lanes on Saturday, January 6 at 9 am following the Arrows seasonal break.

### ICE HOCKEY

The co-op varsity hockey team consisting of Lowell, Caledonia and South Christian icemen suffered a 2-1 defeat last week Wednesday on the road versus a tough West Ottawa squad. The squad will compete several times over Christmas including home events at the East Kentwood Ice Arena against Reeths Puffer High School on Friday, December 29 at 8 pm and Walled Lake Northern on Friday, January 5 at 7 pm. Road dates will include bouts against Grand Rapids Christian and Forest Hills Central.

### COMPETITIVE CHEER

Lowell varsity competitive cheer earned their best finish of the season last Wednesday placing third at the Jenison Invite with a score of 576.50. Their top finish was highlighted by a first round score that crested the 200 point mark for the first time this year. The ladies will enjoy a two week competition break for the holidays before returning to the mat on Saturday January 6 for the NorthPointe Christian High School Cheer Invitational which is scheduled for 11 a.m. Their first OK White conference competition will take place four days later on January 10 at Cedar Springs.

### GIRLS BOWLING

Despite dropping the contest 20.5-9.5, the young Red Arrow girls varsity bowling team continued to make improvements on the lanes last week against OK White rival Forest Hills Northern logging their best finish of the season. The team also pulled out their first regular game win in the second round of competition during the event. The ladies are currently 0-4 in dual play and will next take to the lanes in January when they head to the Jenison Invite on Saturday, January 6 at 9am.



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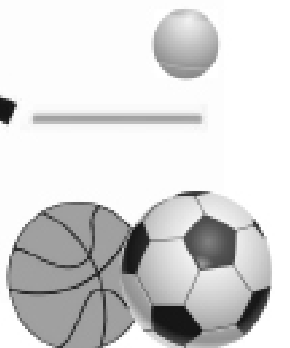
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## Catch Up On Lowell High School Sports

the lowell

# ledger









## Fifth grade students from Alto Elementary were asked,

# “Who, in your family, does most of the holiday cooking and what do they cook?”

My grandma cooks sugar cookies ever year. When I call her on the phone and she says, “Do you want to help with cookies.” “Yes” I always said. I go over to her house (she lives across our yard) and help. Once the oven dings she opens the oven heat flies out the smell is like when cake comes out. We then decorate the sugar cookies they look like little snowflakes, ordaments, and stars.

Tori Steward  
Mrs. Breen

Most of my holiday cooking is done by my mom and my grandma. They make realy good sugar cookies. They are shaped by Brooke and I.

Natalie Brigham  
Mrs. Breen

My mom makes reindeer cookies every year. My mom also does alot of the holiday cooking. The reindeer cookies are peanutbutter cookies for the cookie part. The ears are choclate covered pretzels, The eyes are choclate chips and the nose is a red m-ms.

Sophie Konyndyk  
Mrs. Breen

My mom does most of the holiday cooking. She makes the most exquisite cheesy mashed patatos. The smell of mild cheddar cheese, fresh patatos. Creamy, soft, and melty.

Danielle Topolinski  
Mrs. Breen

My mom and her friends make sugarcookie they all make a pack for me and my sister. I’ve seen them make it and I loved the way it smelled, it smelled like someone just mad a jinjerbread house.

Johnell  
Mrs. Breen

My mom does most of the holiday baking in my house. The cookies are shaped like Christmas Trees, Bells, and Stars. The smell of the cookies coming out of the oven is so delightful.

Gavin Stewart  
Mrs. Breen

My mom and I do the cooking and we bake some yummy soft baked m&m cookies and they smell so good when my mom and I take them out out of the oven, there’s water coming in my mouth when I see the marvelous cookies.

Rabina  
Mrs. Breen

I am the one person in my family who does the holiday cooking. I always make sugar cookies. M,M,M. The smell, smells like burnt cookies when I make the batter I always eat a little bit of the sugar cookie dough. I LOVE baking so much.

Gabrielle Sluss  
Mrs. Breen

My grandma, on my mom’s side, makes the most (and best) food. For example, she makes these chunky mashed potatoes. When she makes them, her entire house smells of butter.

Ooh! They are delicious! Also, my grandma makes ham. When it’s in the oven, it sizzles all over! When it come out of the oven, she glazes in something sweet. Finally, the best cook ever, makes the angel cookies. She bakes the doe, and my sisters and I put the frosting on them! My grandma got the cookie recipe from her sister, Joyce, who hardly ever made anything out of a box!

Lauren Seevers  
Mrs. Breen

My mom does the cooking for the holiday along with my grandma. My Mom makes crunchy sugar cookies, I help lots of times. We wait for the dough to sit

over night. In the morning we punch shapes out of the dough. Then, I watch the dough rise in the oven. Finally, me crunch down into the sweet lumpy cookies.

Sam Konyndyk  
Mrs. Breen

My mom dos most of the cooking. My mom cooks her famus meetloaf.

Kayla Wever  
Mrs. Breen

My astonishing mother does all the holiday cooking in my family. She makes the desserts. My favorite is oreo cookie dessert. It is vanilla ice cream with mashed oreo’s mixed in.

Ava Halfmann  
Mrs. Breen

The person in my family that does the most cooking is my mom she cooks the fatest, plumpest, and juicest turkey she can find. Also she cooks very



Jessi Foster

delicious cookies in which your mouth waters before the cookie even hits your tongue.

Landon Foss  
Mrs. Breen

In my family my Mom does all of the cooking. She makes grayish, pink juicie ham along with buttery mashed potatoes. Also soft, warm rolls. And to finish it all off we have nice creamy pumpkin and chocolate pie.

Caden Witten  
Mrs. Breen

My Mom makes our Christmas dinner. My favorite food she make’s is mashed potatoes they are so creamy and smooth. But I don’t just like my moms mashed potatoes I also love her pumpkin pie and we have to eat it last to the suspention is dreadful.

Kenzie Moore  
Mrs. Breen

In my family my grandma makes the most food. My grandma makes gingerbread cookies and it makes my grandmas house smell like sweets and delicousness and all I want to do is stay there all day long.

Molly Landgren  
Mrs. Breen

My mom cooks deserts like brownies and cookies.

Mason Stiegemeier  
Mrs. Breen

My Grandma, she makes Christmas shaped cookies. She also makes a turkey with all sorts of stuff inside like fruits veggies and meat. For breakfast she makes pancakes with fruits and homade whip cream. We have potatoes and gravy usualy and ginger snap cookies. That is all the stuff my grandma makes for christmas.

Logan Mix  
Mrs. Breen

My Mom does most of the cooking. My favorite is the lemon cookies. The taste of the ever lasting powder sugar makes my mouth water. The suspension of waiting for them to bake is so annoying. Once they are out they are mocking me because I’m not allowed to eat them. Finnaly I get to take a bite.

Wyatt Remar  
Mrs. Breen

My Mom does most of the holiday cooking in my family. My mom always makes chocolate chip cookies, sugar cookies, panut Butter chocolate chip cookies.

Autumn Jousma  
Mrs. Breen

My Grandma makes holiday suger cookies. The smell of the cookies baking in her small black oven waft into my nose as I lay in a blanket on the blue couch. As she pulls them out, my mouth waters as if it’s a fountain. She pulls out the lime frosting and starts smothering the cookies. The frosting glides back to the shelf as millions of sprinkles start to fall upon the frosted cookies. The tree shaped lumps of goodness call my name as I hop up. I throw them into my mouth, one by one.

Conner Casarez  
Mrs. Breen

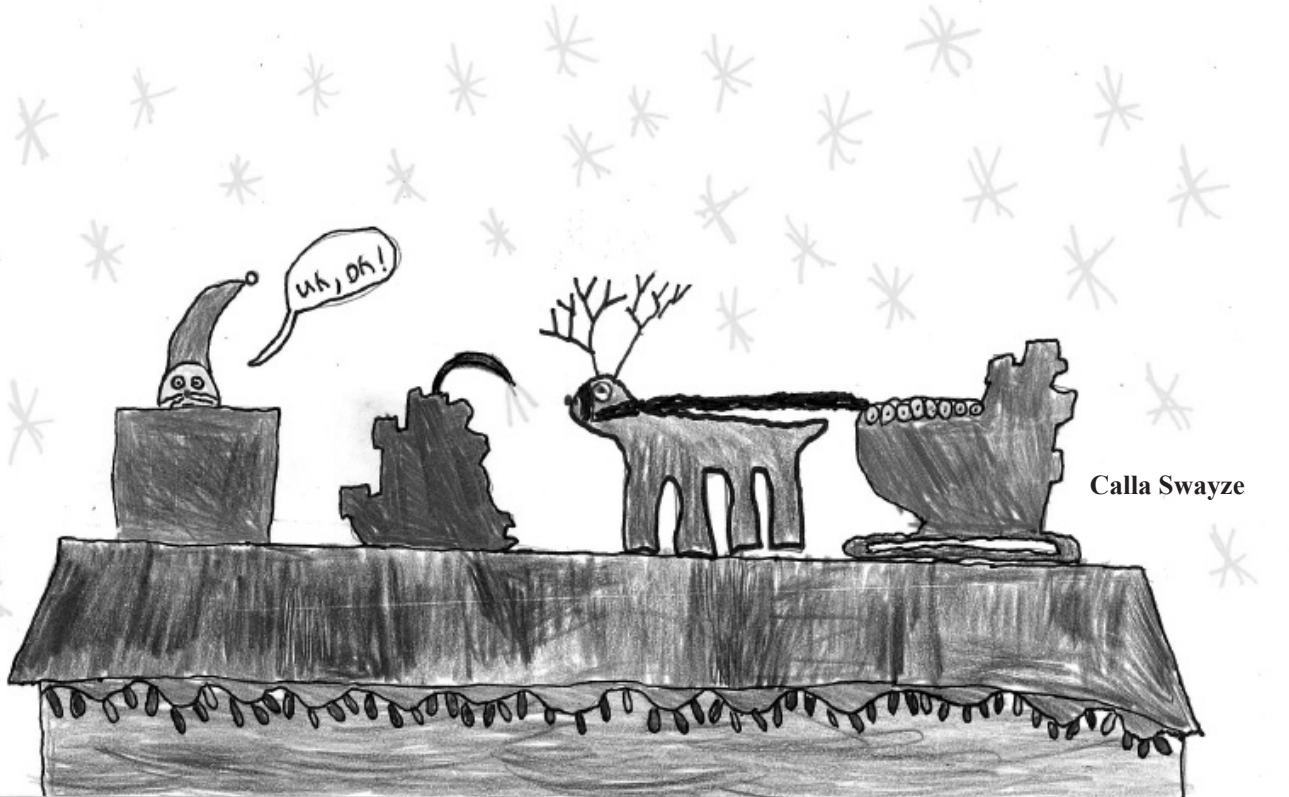
My father does most of the holiday cooking, and he cook’s chicken for Christmas dinner, and has two specialties: he makes the best mash patotoe’s, and always knows good spices to put on the chicken.

Deaken R.  
Mrs. Dimmick



Gavin Stewart

Uh, Oh! Santa is stuck! I guess he had a few too many cookies...



Calla Swayze



# Alto Elementary, continued

My grandma usually makes most of the food for my family. My grandma makes the ham. Also, my grandma makes mashed potatoes. The best food my grandma makes is her homemade Christmas cookies.

Abby G.  
Mrs. Dimmick

My mom and I do all the cooking. Mom and I cook a special turkey.

Chase M.  
Mrs. Dimmick

Many people in my family cook for Christmas Eve this year my job is dessert I think I am bring cupcakes. Also Christmas morning I make pancakes, my mom makes eggs.

Briana  
Mrs. Dimmick

In my family grandma Sylvia, does the most holiday cooking. She makes crabs, salads, steak, burgers, potatoes, (mostly sweet potatoes) beans and pie.

Kiah B.  
Mrs. Dimmick

My grandma does most of the cooking. Her specialty is making holiday ham. I know that it is Christmas when my grandma makes her special delicious ham.

Rowan W  
Mrs. Dimmick

My mom does the holiday cooking and sometimes she makes brownies on Christmas. She even makes a feast of any kind.

AJ  
Mrs. Dimmick

My mom and I do most of the cooking. We make the dow for the Chirstmas cookies. Then, my bother and I decorate the Chirstmas cookies.

Anika F.  
Mrs. Dimmick

Mostly, all the adults do cooking. The make green bean casserole, turkey, ham, mashed potatoes and cookies. Some things might come here and there. For example; stuffing. I may have people coming that may pass a dish but the food is always delicious!

Adrianna C.  
Mrs. Dimmick

My Mom does most of the Christmas cooking. Her specal part of the meal is the pumpkin pie. But the fondue is also my favorite part.

Dalton C.  
Mrs. Dimmick

Mom does most of the cooking. On Christmas she makes keackish.

Mosa V.  
Mrs. Dimmick

My mom dose the holiday cooking and makes pie, choclate cake, hot choclate, and white chili and it tells me that christmas is here.

Travis B.  
Mrs. Dimmick

My mom and I both cook. My mom makes stuffing. I cook the Christmas cookies. I also make one giant one.

Ashlyn R.  
Mrs. Dimmick

My mom makes chicken soup with corn and you can put lettuce in it. The soup taste really good and keeps you warm.

Yovani  
Mrs. Dimmick

My grandma, mom, sister, and I do most the holiday cooking. My sister and I share doing the Christmas cookies, my mom makes the deviled eggs with me, and my grandma makes mashed potatoes with my sister.

Julie C.  
Mrs. Dimmick

Many people in my family do the cooking. My dad does the steak and mashed potatoes, and my mom and I do thumb print cookis and some with powderd sugar.

Aliina F.  
Mrs. Dimmick

My grandma and dad dose a lot of cooking. On Christmas Day we have pancakes.

Gwyn T.  
Mrs. Dimmick

My Grandma does most of the holiday cooking. She makes sugar cookies, jello salad and chicken.

Madison D.  
Mrs. Dimmick

My mom does the cooking for the holiday. Her specialty is sugar cookies.

Ben A.  
Mrs. Dimmick

My Grandma does most of the cooking but, we all end up bringing something. My mom makes the main course it is a special sandwich. Grandma makes all the dessert.

Brady B.  
Mrs. Dimmick

My grandma does most of the holiday cooking. She loves to cook extra chocolate chip cookies and hot chocolate. This combo makes up feel warm of loved.

Charlotte B.  
Mrs. Dimmick

At my Grandmas house, my Grandma makes lots of pies; charry pie, apple pie, and pecan pie.

Claire O.  
Mrs. Dimmick

My mom dose most the cooking and she cooks are special cristmas casserole.

Gavin R.  
Mrs. Dimmick

My mom, every holiday my mom make mash potatos and my gramma make her favirte peanut butter oreo pie. In the morning of Christmas I have hot coco.

Analashia R.  
Mrs. Dimmick

My grandpa and grandma do most of the holiday cooking. They always make ham.

Jackson R.  
Mrs. Dimmick

My mother does most of the cooking and makes the best mashed pototatoes.

Jacob  
Mr. Wright

My mom does most of the holiday cooking and my mom makes cookes and others.

Logen  
Mr. Wright

My mom. She cooks ham, mashed potatoes (and gravy), corn, buns (bread), and mixes drinks like 7-up, Sprite, and cranberry juice to make a delicos beverage.

Rudy Shearer  
Mr. Wright

My mom cooks and my dad cooks. My dad prepares meat, and my mom makes everything else.

Ben  
Mr. Wright

My mom does a lot of they holiday cooking at my house. One thing that my mom cooks is ham. We also make cookies and hot cocoa. Every year we have a wonderful holiday meal.

Vivienne Skinner  
Mr. Wright

My mom does most of the cooking because of her magnificent skills. My mother mostly cooks ham and Caesar salad.

Nico Binns  
Mr. Wright

My mom does most of the cooking around the holidays and usally cooks treats such as cookies and brownies.

Lucas Chanboneau  
Mr. Wright

My Grandma cooks most of the holiday cooking. She cooks a delicious ham and stuffing.

Owen Dennings  
Mr. Wright

My mom does all the cooking for the holiday's she cook's ham with mashed potatoes.

Joey Nelson  
Mr. Wright

My Mom and dad do most of the cooking (My mom does more) (but I didn't want to let my dad down.) But I'm definitely giving my mom the credit for the pies.

My grandma dose all the cooking and she cooks ham and turkey.

Autumn LaRaus  
Mr. Wright

My mom does most of the holiday cooking. First thing when we wake up is we go down stairs to my mom making waffles. She makes the batter from scratch.

Romyn Slagell  
Mr. Wright

My mom always makes roast ham and makes a pinaple glaze to go over the ham.

Carol Carothers  
Mr. Wright

My Grandma Wickie does most of the holiday cooking in my family. She cooks ham, makes homemade mashed potatoes, and a fruit salad. She also always has cheese, crackers, veggies and dip, black olives, and green olives out for hours devoures. For desert she usally had a varitey of pie, cake, and Christmas cookies my sisters, cusions and I have decorated.

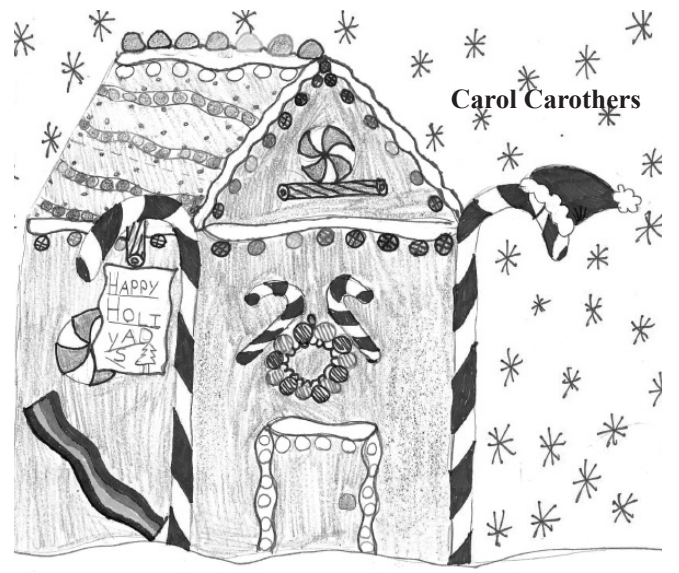
Jessi Foster  
Mr. Wright

In my family my grandma is the one who does the holiday cooking. Some items she makes are cookie dough truffels, tomato soup (with cream cheese), and creamed corn. It is all absolutely delicious!

Elsie Ries  
Mr. Wright

My mom is the one who cooks and she makes cookies, ham, veggies, and potato for our meals on the holiday.

Abigail  
Mr. Wright



My dad does most of the cooking in my family during the winter season. He normally cooks Christmas dinner, along with turkey and sweet potatoe casoroll.

Hannah Flickinger  
Mr. Wright

My mom does the most and the best holiday cooking. My mom make best holiday cookies and others.

Frankie Vogt  
Mr. Wright

My mother makes steak, corn, mashed potato with gravy, buns and milk and wather.

Hunter  
Mr. Wright

My dad does most of the cooking and he makes the ham or turkey.

Ethan Swanson  
Mr. Wright

My Mom dose most of the cooking during the holiday season. She enjoys to make sugar cookies with butter cream forsting. Then we usally decorate them with different decorations.

Leah Krieger  
Mr. Wright

As I read that question, my Mother's perfectly made mashed potatoes filled my mind, the blissful aroma wafting through the air. My Mother's homeade holiday dishes will make you want to eat nothing but her browned turkey, and leafy green salad. And her cake... well...its to kill for. her holiday dished are by far, the best meal of the year.

Calla Swayze  
Mr. Wright

My grandmother does most of the Christmas cooking. She cooks multiple dishes, healthy or not! But the main dish, is the ham. Everybody loves how she cooks it.

Olivia Seevers  
Mr. Wright

My Grandmas' cook a big feast of foods when we come over. The food we eat the most of, is ham.

Canon Z.

During the Winter Holiday season me and my cousins go to our grandmas and deckorate cookies. My grandma makes delicious sugar cookies.

Natalie Thopson  
Mr. Wright

My mom and dad do the holiday cooking. My mom dose the vegetables and my dad dose the ham or the meat.

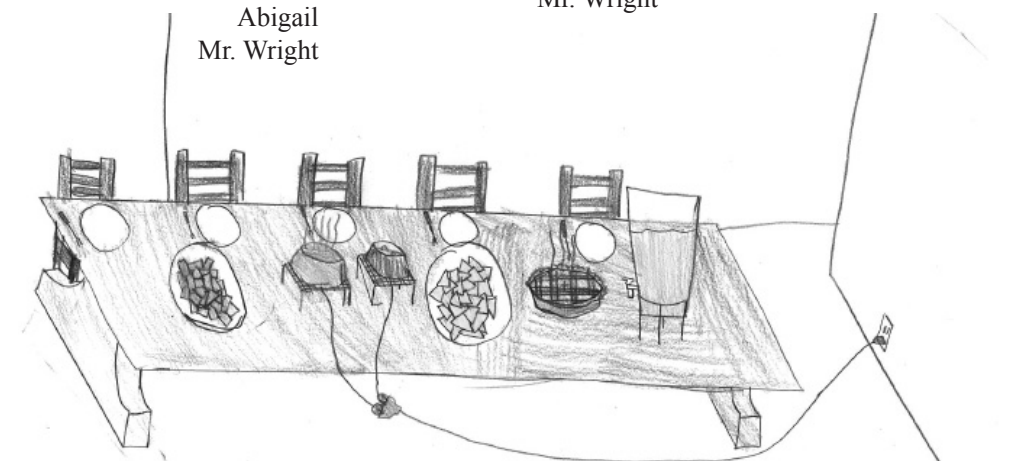
Hope Gale  
Mr. Wright

My Grandma makes all the cooking in my family and she makes turkey, mash potatos, and carrots.

Allye Risner  
Mr. Wright

The parents usually do the cooking because there are alot of people in my family so it's a team effort. They make turkey, ham, mashed patatoes, and

Kailyn Gustin  
Mr. Wright



Dalton C.



# Fifth grade students from Murray Lake were asked, "If you could wish for anything, what would it be?"



Kaci Reynolds

If I could ask for anything, I would ask for every one to have clean water, so on Christmas it would just make my day. Also, to see Santa.

Corbett Phillips  
Miss Teasdale

I would wish for money to buy my family lots of gifts and money to buy candy!

Isabel German  
Miss Teasdale

If I could wish for anything it would be a Blue Heeler. I would name her Bijou. That's french for jems. Her nickname would be Jou Jou Beans.

Josephine Rose Hackett  
Miss Teasdale

If I could wish for anything I would wish for 100 transformers.

Phoenix (PJ) Jones  
Miss Teasdale

If I could wish for anything I would wish for all the books in the world to be in a private library just for me. I would love that.

Joe A. Elkins  
Miss Teasdale

If I could wish for anything, I would wish for a tablet.

Andrew Johnson  
Miss Teasdale

If I could wish for any thing I would want a sprinkled donuts cause some people take the last one's that makes me very sad.

Makayla Totch  
Miss Teasdale

If I could wish for anything this christmas it would be to spend time with my brothers and my Dad, and my step mom on Christmas day. It would be such a plesure if I could.

Kayla Fabbri  
Miss Teasdale

If I could wish for anything, I would wish for a white christmas!

Kaya Bender  
Miss Teasdale

If I could wish for anything, I would wish for a white Christmas!

Ariana Fredricks  
Miss Teasdale

If I could wish for anything, it would be to get a kitten. p.s. plus a litter box! I'd also name the kitty, Sir. Meow Meow.

Irene Williams  
Miss Teasdale

If I could wish for anything it would be a trillon's of dolors.

Elijah  
Miss Teasdale

If I could wish for anything I would wish for Snow tons of it.

Kari Petersen  
Miss Teasdale



Brylee

If I could wish for anything it would be an airsoft sniper and I want a 1964 dodge challenger.

Cody William  
Nieuwkoop  
Miss Teasdale

If I could wish for anything it would be a phone.

Graham  
Miss Teasdale

I would wish for 500 trillion dollars.

Johnny Pike  
Miss Teasdale

I would wish to be able to walk. I have SMA type 2 which means I can't walk. I was diagnosed with SMA when I was 3, so I have been in a wheelchair since then.

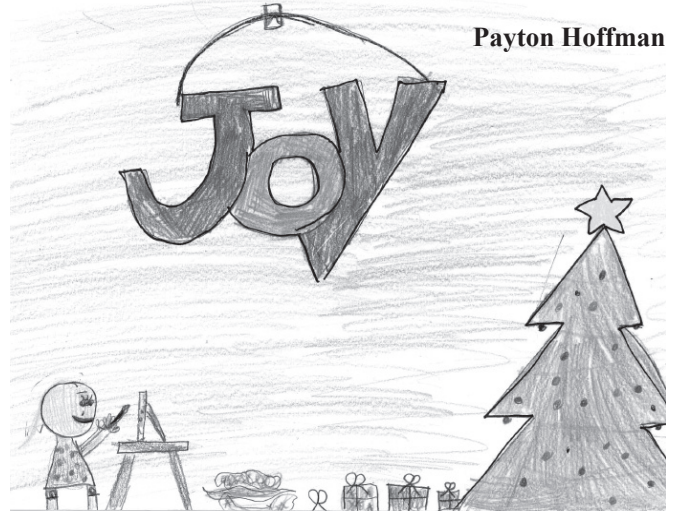
Ezequiel Gonzalez  
Mrs. Pupel

If I could wish for anything it would be fifty snow days.

Megan Lillie  
Mrs. Pupel

If I could wish for anything I would wish for my sister, Andi, to be closer to home. My sister currently attends The University of Findlay. This school is in Findlay, Ohio. I want her to be closer to home because I miss her everyday. She does come home quite a bit, but that is still not enough time together! We do kitty fight, but we still love each other! She is my role model, rock and hero. She is the best sister I could ask for.

Kaci Reynolds  
Mrs. Pupel



Payton Hoffman

If I could wish for ANYTHING, I would wish for snow on Christmas. (Unlike the years before!) I say that because snow is what make Christmas Awesome!

Liam TenHarmsel  
Mrs. Pupel

I would wish for World Peace.

Anderson Stoner  
Mrs. Pupel

To be a professional softball player or gymnast.

Julia Meier  
Mrs. Pupel

If I could wish for anything for Christmas It would be Rollerblades. Because when my family all had gone to this roller place we could go but I was the only kid without actually any rollerskates/rollerblades. I asked but then I said "I will try to forget about it." When I saw this I knew I had a 1% chance but I just wanted to get these Roller Blades. Thank you lowell Mason Bazzett 2017

Mason Bazzett  
Mrs. Pupel

If I could wish for anything, I would wish for a real hoverboard. I would want one because I could go around anywhere I wanted and do awsome tricks. I really wouldn't mind if it was the ones on the ground. I like the thought of being able to hover above the ground. I would want a light blue one with hot pick and neyon yellow slashes with maybe a little bit of black a white mixed in. I would want the razor brand to. We have lots of hard floor in our house and we also have a dirt road. I thought it would be fun to go on the bumpy surface with a hoverboard. I do have one more thing to add I wish that this country would be be healed and that the people with disabilities would also be healed.

Kaylee Bogaski  
Mrs. Pupel

If I could wish for anything, I would wish for a Laptop, because I've been wanting a laptop since 3rd grade.

Grady Proctor  
Mrs. Pupel

I would wish for No school.

Gracie Gasper  
Mrs. Pupel



**Your visits are always a pleasure, and we're looking forward to serving you in 2018!**

**We hope you enjoy a safe and happy New Year's Eve celebration.**

**Best wishes for the New Year!**



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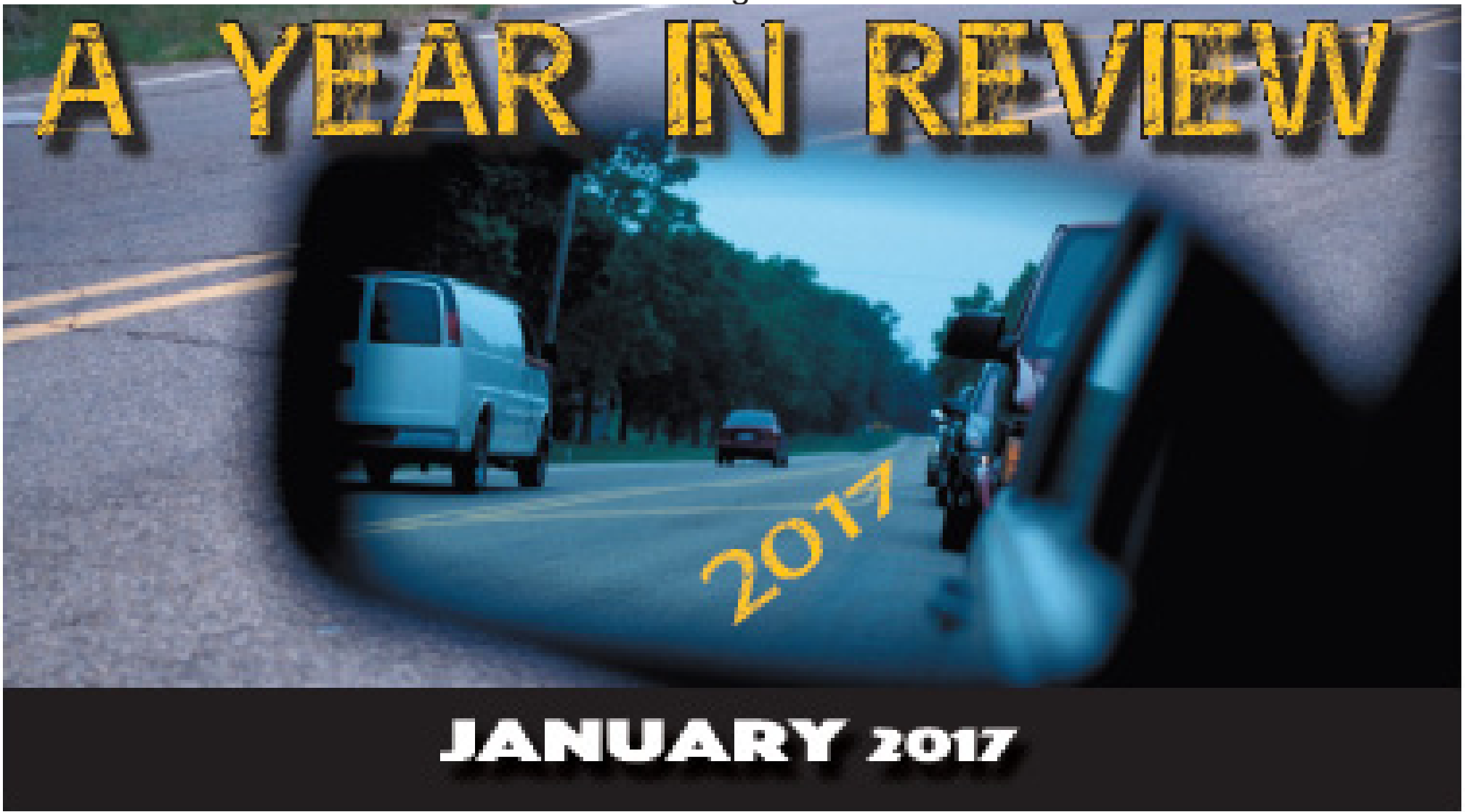
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TIM MCCORMICK  
616-421-7615  
tmccormick@bettenbaker.com

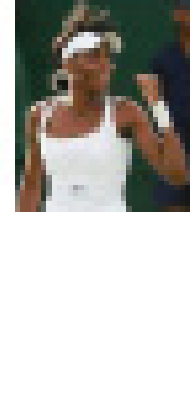
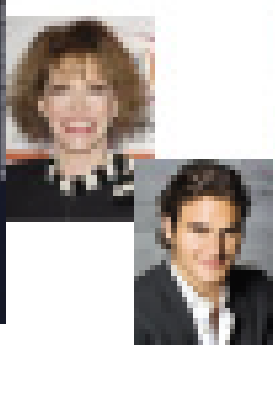
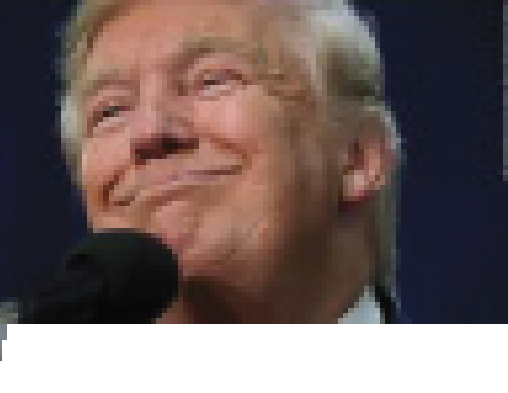
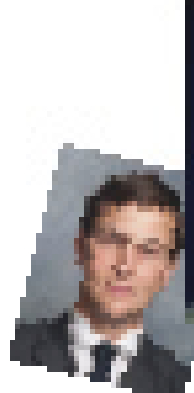




# A YEAR IN REVIEW



## JANUARY 2017



**JANUARY 4, 2017**  
 The year began with a bang in the city of Lowell as the Lowell Chamber of Commerce celebrated its 100th anniversary. The event was held at the Lowell Convention Center and featured a variety of activities, including a parade and a fireworks display. The Lowell Chamber of Commerce is a non-profit organization that promotes economic development and tourism in the city.

Lowell's first mayor, John D. Wainwright, was born in Lowell on January 4, 1817. He was a prominent businessman and politician who served as the city's first mayor from 1837 to 1840. Wainwright played a key role in the city's early development and is remembered for his leadership and vision.

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# Alto Elementary, continued

I would wish for everybody to be safe on christmas. Also for my family to be together. Finally, all I want is money so I can start a toy drive.

Bella Butler  
Mrs. Pupel

If I could wish for anything for Christmas it would be a Christmas tree with the branches/pine needles made up of \$100 bills. Also with a drone that has a camera on it.

Patrick Hoke  
Mrs. Pupel

Everbody will be home and thankful for the holidays.

Corey Sandman  
Mrs. Pupel

A real harry potter wand.

Colin Garrison  
Mr. Jablonski

If I could wish for anything it would be to have more snow days, to spend time with my family. What Dose Christmas mean to you. Chrismtas mean to me family, trees, prens, and ordments and snow.

Claire Uzarski  
Mrs. Pupel

Christmas is here everyone, that means you can wish for something you want. What I wish for christmas is art supplies, I would love art supplies because art is my hobby. for art things I would want paints and canvas draw/paint what I did, or what I see or saw. I wish you a Merry Christmas, and a happy new year.

Payton Hoffman  
Mrs. Pupel

A Blue Skateboard.  
Maya Schilling  
Mr. Jablonski

That all cancer patients would get well.

Claire Comeaux  
Jacobus

A pet dragon.

Anna F.  
Mr. Jablonski

What I wish for is a ukele or a new karaoaky machine.

Grace Cadwell  
Mr. Jablonski

If I could wish for anything it would be a Lamborghini Huracan red and black.

Brenden Hill  
Mr. Jablonski

If I could wish for anything, it would be one of Santa's reindeer.

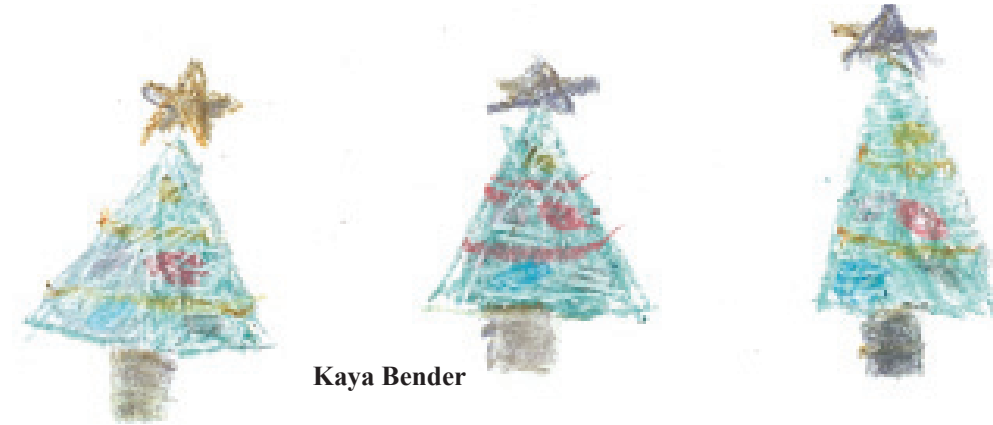
Brylee  
Mr. Jablonski



Patrick Hoke



Kaylee Bogaski



Kaya Bender

*Wishing the Community the Best in the New Year to Come*

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**LOWELL**

Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce  
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**2018**

**Happy New Year!** It's a fresh start, and we hope it brings 365 days of happiness to you! Good friends and neighbors like you make us feel like celebrating, and we look forward to seeing you again soon in the New Year!

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Andrew Johnson





Anika F.



Rudy Shearer

The Christmas Bogie



Adrianna C.



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for the New Year  
from the Gerst Family and Staff*

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# A New Year Is Here!



We hope 2018 is your best year yet. We're so grateful for friends and customers like you.  
*Happy New Year!*

## BOWNE TOWNSHIP

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HOURS: W 9 am - 3 pm • Th. 9 am - 5 pm • F 9 am - noon

Supervisor - Randy Wilcox; Clerk - Sandra Kowalczyk  
Treasurer - Tammi Wingeier;  
Trustees - David Fuss & Robert Flynn



## Our Best Wishes

As we wrap up another year, we'd like to share our thanks and well wishes with all of you.  
**Happy New Year!**

## VERGENNES TOWNSHIP

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www.vergennestwp.org

HOURS: M & W, 9 am - 3 pm • Th. 9 am - noon

Supervisor - Tim Wittenbach; Clerk - Heather Hoffman  
Treasurer - Janine Mork  
Trustees - Rick Gillett and Duane Rasch







# Fifth grade students from St. Patrick's Elementary were asked, "If you had all the money you needed, what special present would you give and who would get it?"

If I had more than enough money I would buy a nice car with a full tank of gas and a care basket.

Brady Hurley  
Mrs. Markules

If I had all the money in the world I would buy an orphanage and give kids a better life!

Cate Marshall  
Mrs. Markules

If I had one-million dallors I would donate 3 quarters of my money to a homeless shelter and use the rest for education for my family and other people.

Sara Goffier  
Mrs. Markules

I would get an R.V. and give it to the homeless.

Cody Foss  
Mrs. Markules

If I had all the money I would need I would donate it to the poor and homeless so everyone can have a great Christmas.

John Seif  
Mrs. Markules

If I had all the money I needed I would give money to the Armed Forces. Because they are away from their family.

Caleb Dye  
Mrs. Markules

If I had \$1,000,000, I would buy food for the poor in my community. I would also give money to the poor, so they can buy what they need.

James Albert  
Mrs. Markules

If I had all the money in the world I would use it to travel to places to teach people about God.

Bella Squier  
Mrs. Markules

If I had all the money in the world I would give it all away so, I could feel homeless peoples feelings and pain.

Brody Hurley  
Mrs. Markules

I would give half of it to the poor. So that they could buy a home and food.

Tony Denardo  
Mrs. Markules

If I had all the many I needed I would give Health, dental care and Education to the world because some people don't have Education or dental care and Health. Everyone devereds Health, dental care and Education.

Emma  
Mrs. Markules

If I had all the money that I needed I would give it to my family so they could get every thing they want and need! I also with the money left would help hurricane causes.

Jack Lamoreaux  
Mrs. Markules

If I had all the money I needed I would buy coats for homeless people and I would also buy them groceries and other things they need.

Sam Richmond  
Mrs. Markules

If I had all the money I needed to buy a gift for someone I would buy someone food that they needed. Also buy Christmas decoration.

Charles Brooks  
Mrs. Markules



James Albert



Bella Squier



Sam Richmond



Emma

**Jolly, Happy Christmas**

Hats off to you, our valued customers and friends, at Christmastime! We'd like to take this opportunity to thank you for your goodwill and support year-round. We certainly do appreciate it.

Here's hoping you and your loved ones enjoy a most merry season. May it be filled with all of the special things that make the holidays so magical and memorable.

*Best Wishes!*

**City of Lowell**

301 East Main  
Lowell  
897-8457  
www.ci.lowell.mi.us

City Manager - Michael Burns  
City Clerk - Susan Ullery  
Treasurer - Suzanne Olin

Councilmembers: Greg Canfield, Mike DeVore, Marty Chambers, Jeff Phillips, Jim Salzwedel

**It's Time**

The New Year is drawing near, so we're sending best wishes to our good friends here! Thanks for your support in 2017. We look forward to serving you again soon.

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- High water alarms installed







# MARCH 2017, CONTINUED



**John Hiding • 3/1-17**  
 One of the highlights of the Lowell High School girls' basketball team was on the night of the Lowell High School girls' basketball team. The team was crowned Lowell High School girls' basketball team on the night of the Lowell High School girls' basketball team. The team was crowned Lowell High School girls' basketball team on the night of the Lowell High School girls' basketball team.

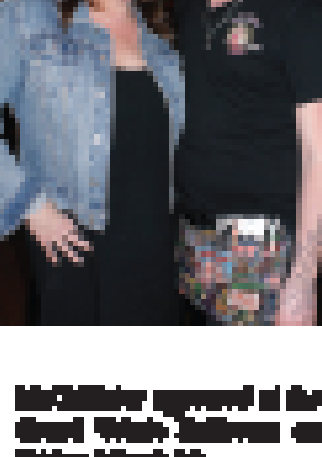
**Theresa Thompson**  
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**Lowell High School**  
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**MARCH 1, 2017**  
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**At the last city council meeting, Mayor DeStefano announced that he will not seek reelection this fall, but he will be stepping down as Mayor in November. He is a member of the Lowell City Council and has been serving since 2011. He is a member of the Lowell City Council and has been serving since 2011.**

**MARCH 15, 2017**  
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**McCarthy announced at the Lowell High School girls' basketball team was crowned Lowell High School girls' basketball team on the night of the Lowell High School girls' basketball team.**

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**Lowell City Council**  
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**Mayor DeStefano**  
 Mayor DeStefano is standing behind a table during a meeting. He is wearing a white shirt and a green tie. He is holding a small object in his hands. There are other people and tables in the background.



**Lowell City Council**  
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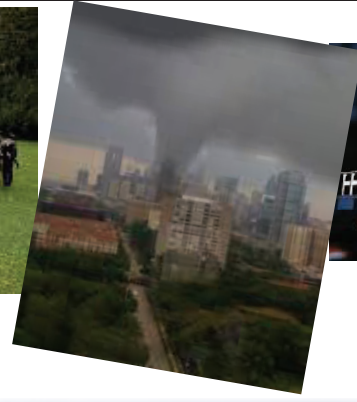
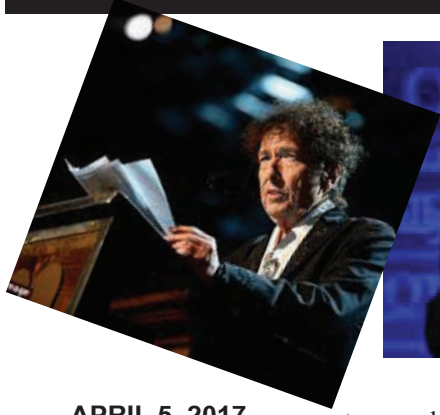
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# APRIL 2017



## APRIL 5, 2017

Rookies Sportcards Plus, 106 W. Main, is celebrating their 25th anniversary in business in Lowell soon. Don Reedy Sr., a realtor and sports card collector, opened the store on April 12, 1992. His

tap and they have some interesting beer experiments in the works.

"It changes from week to week, but right now the most popular beers are the North Country Ale, the Red Arrow Amber, the Midnight

A fitness trainer used an AED machine and her CPR training to save the life of a man who had a heart attack at the Lowell YMCA on Thursday, March 9. Brad Janowiak would have died if not for the quick action of Tabitha Goldsmith, a certified personal trainer and group fitness instructor from Lowell.

## APRIL 19, 2017

Lowell Township board discussed a change to their zoning laws that would allow the sale of the Noon Equipment property to Impact Wesleyan Church, but decided to table the issue until their May meeting so that they can obtain a legal opinion about the matter.

Among the many things that attracts visitors to Lowell are all of the walking trails in the area. Lowell is also the location of the national headquarters



at their March board meeting and made many changes and revisions. A copy of the strategic plan is available to read on the Lowell Light & Power website.

"Going forward I would anticipate reviewing the action items semiannually and taking a brief look at the strategic plan annually," Donkersloot said. "I don't think it's necessary to constantly tweak the

citizens attended the meeting.

Minutes began by approving the agenda, the filing of the minutes from the council's last meeting and the authorization of payments due in the amount of \$619,488.02. Councilman Greg Canfield abstained sighting conflict due to a current invoice due between the city and his business Canfield Plumbing & Heating.

The council moved forward by opening the floor for citizen comment. Lowell resident Perry Beachum, of 924 Riverside Drive, reiterated concerns already expressed to the city planning commission. "My question to the planning commission was why weren't we paving the parking lot and driveway at the softball complex at Rec Park. I was told that we weren't. Obviously I think it is because of funding, money, but my question would be to the council. We require that of residents and businesses to have hard surfaced parking lots, driveways and sidewalks, why isn't the city following their same rules?"

Andrea Ketchmark's appointment as the new executive director for the North Country Trail Association (NCTA) was announced this morning by Ruth Dorrough, president of the NCTA board of directors. "We couldn't be more pleased and excited that Andrea Ketchmark has agreed to move into this leadership role for our association," said Dorrough. Ketchmark will assume these duties upon the July 31st retirement of Bruce

Matthews, NCTA executive director since 2007.

## APRIL 27, 2017

Villains were severely outnumbered last Thursday evening in Lowell as superheroes took over looking to do battle against the winter blues with a warm spring evening of shopping during the Lowell Area



Chamber of Commerce Girls Night Out.

There is an election on Tuesday, May 2 and the single thing on the ballot will be a Kent Intermediate School District millage called "The Strong Schools, Strong Communities proposal." If passed, it would mean a small increase in property taxes for a ten year period starting this summer, but increased revenue to educate children.

Lightning struck the Ken and Kim Wittenbach home at 2655 Lincoln Lake early on the morning of Thursday, April 20. Nobody was hurt, but the home was totally destroyed.

Year-In-Review,  
continued



son Jack Reedy is now the owner and operator of the store, one of the only places to buy comics, cards, toys and games between Grand Rapids and Lansing. Jack and Don worked side by side at the store until Don passed away in 2010.

The clock is ticking if you want to run for a seat on the city council in the Nov. 7, 2017 election. There are three seats up for grabs on the council, those currently occupied by Greg Canfield, James Hodges and mayor Michael DeVore.

The Lowell city council held their latest regular meeting at city hall on Monday, April 3. The council discussed sewers, bought some equipment and nine citizens attended the meeting, which lasted just under 40 minutes.

The council approved resolutions to finance the purchase of \$831,500 worth of equipment over several years; a natural gas compressor for \$605,500, a wheel loader for \$179,000 and a skid steer loader for \$47,000.

It has been standing room only at New Union Brewery, 400 W. Main, since Tyler Velting and Ryan Stoepker opened Lowell's first brewery last November. There are currently 11 different kinds of beer on

Blackberry Wheat and the Big Squeeze Grapefruit Cream Ale," Velting said.

## APRIL 12, 2017

The National Weather Service issued a flood advisory for areas along the Grand River, including Lowell. The NWS notice noted flooding to the fairgrounds, as well as sections of Bowes Rd., Division, Front St. and Jackson St.

"The river crested Sunday evening at about 15 feet, eight inches," said Mark Mundt, superintendent of Lowell's wastewater treatment plant. "What that means is the water was 15 feet, eight inches deep at the Hudson St. bridge. In comparison, during the flood of 2013 the water level by the bridge was 19 feet, two inches. As of [Monday, April 10] the water level is at 15 feet, two inches and is receding.

Inspired by the works of J.K. Rowling, J.R.R. Tolkien, L. Frank Baum and C. S. Lewis, Lowell High School student Lucas Sherman began his own writing journey in the third grade. Seven years and many stories later, the now sophomore recently received a top award in Kent District Library short story contest for his efforts as a wordsmith.



of the North Country Trail, which is 4,600 miles long and goes through New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota and North Dakota. There are currently two projects underway that are intended to expand and connect local trails into a network.

Lowell Light & Power talked about buying a new truck and adopted their strategic plan at their latest regular board meeting on Thursday, April 13.

The board spent a great deal of time discussing the organization's strategic plan

strategic plan to a major degree, but to look at the action items that are part of the strategic plan, especially before a budget comes out every year."

The board discussed the purchase of a used forestry truck. A brand new forestry truck would cost around \$150,000.

The regular Lowell City Council meeting was held on Monday, April 17 and covered several agenda items. The council heard just one public comment during their brief 20-minute session. Just over a dozen



# Fifth grade students from Cherry Creek Elementary were asked, "What do you think is the best thing about the holiday season?"

Do you love spending time with family? Well I do! It's the best thing about the holiday season. Having Time off school is great, not because it means less school, but because you get to spend alot more time with family. I like giving gifts to show I care about them. And frankly, it seems like they feel the same. My moms birthday is during December, so I get to show I care even more! Every year, we work together to make a tasty treat for some close friends during the holiday season, and normally we make some for ourselves, too. We always make chocolate covered pretzels, but occasionally we make peanut butter fudge or brownies instead. This year, I'll make brownies with my mom and we always have fun making them! I wish we could do this stuff more often.

Lily Clemens  
Mrs. Young

The holiday season is apou us and that means food. but before that we have to prepare I get to try the mashed potatoes before we set it out. Last year even my cats wanted some food! We normaly have mashed potatoes, green beans, steak, and broccoli. When we eat I can smell the food. I finally sink my teeth in to the first peice of broccoli.

Adria Herring  
Mrs. Young

Do you like Christmas? I do. My name is Juan Angel and I am here to tell you some reasons why I like Christmas. Also what I do to enjoy my Christmas. First we put up a tree we put candy canes on the

tree along with ornament's Then we get presents for evryone. We set them under the tree. Last but not least we always have a party before Christmas break in school. I always bring a treat. Christmas makes me feel better because it brings my whole family together. I hope you can enjoy Christmas like I do.

Juan Angel Acosta  
Mrs. Young

Fa-la-la-la-la-la-la, what is the best part about Christmas? Presents!! I think the best part about Christmas is unwrapping presents with my family. The first example I like about opening presents is I get to see relatives I haven't seen in a long time. My second reason I love opening presents the best is I like to help my parents shop and wrap presents. It can be so fun to help wrap presents since I knew what they get! And the third reason I like presents the best is my family always buys dog toys for my dogs and they get so excited and its so cute! I have such a great family, pets, and city and giving presents can make you feel so good inside! That is why I thing presents are the best part about Christmas.

Sarah Harper  
Mrs. Young

I think the very best thing about the holiday season is joining together as a family! One reason I like joining together as a family is when my cousins from Lansing and Pennsylvania come over and we play in the snow. Another thing is you get to give presents to people and we have 1 person opening a gift at a

time. Also, at dinner you get to talk about memories from past Christmas and we have a kids table and adults table and we each share a memory then we can eat. So, whats your favorite part or time of the holiday season?

Reese Wagamon  
Mrs. Young

Yay! It's Snowing and Christmas is near! I love the holiday Season and I think the best thing about it is being with family. One way is that I can see family that lives far away from me! I also can hang out with my sister, mom, and my dog over winter break! Another reason is that I can see family that I rarely see throughout the year at Christmas partys. Finally I get to be with my family at Christmas partys and I can have fun with them and see them. That is why I think that being with family is the best thing about the holiday season!

Erin Fife  
Mrs. Young

Awesome! I think the best part of the holiday season is spending time with family. At least that is my oppinion. I think spending time with family is the best part of the holiday season because you don't see them very much. One of the reasons is becouse they are at work. Also, we are at school most of the time. I like spending time with family for christmas. I like spending time with them because they make me laugh. Next, they always want to sit by me when I eat all the deliceous food my Grandma makes. Lastly, they like to give me lot's of things for christmas. I like



spending time with family for Christmas. it truly is the best part.

Wyatt Baker  
Mrs. Young

"It's the holidays"! Nothing's better at the holidays than decorating the Christmas tree. Decorating the Christmas tree leads toward family bonding time. It also makes up funny memories. When you decorate the Christmas tree you can see all the ornaments you have received over the years. My favorite ornament is my ugly sweater ornament, it makes me laugh a lot. Last, if you didn't know it is really fun to decorate the tree in my famiy. Last year my dad used the grabber (which was very hard to find) to put the angel on the tree. I hope he doesn't have to this year or my sister and I might not be awake to see the tree light up.

Marisa Miller  
Mrs. Young

When its Christmas time my mind thinks about opening gifts with my family. My faverit thing about Christmas is opening gifts with family because, we have a spcial order for unwrapping gifts. Second of all its all of the colorful wrapping paper because I love the colors and designs. I mean its so colorful and I love it! Finally its spending time with my family. What I mean by that is my family usually don't spend this much time with each other. While we open gifts were laughing with each other and making memories.

Happy Christmas  
Quinn Mitchell  
Mrs. Young

Do you like Christmas I do. But Christmas is not just not about family it's about celebrating jesus's birthday. The people of the world chose this day to be a holiday and so they started calling it Christmas so that's how it got it's name. Are family

tradition is eating ham, corn, beans and drink milk. This is how they ate the same thin. This is we celebrate Christmas every year in our house. It's a holiday have fun this Christmas.

Jesse Bliss  
Mrs. Young

My family have a Christmas party on the 17th. First what we do is eat dinner then we play cards and santa come's and then we open Christmas presents. We pray next we go home and have a cake. I wish that the Christmas party was forever and ever. I remeber when my brother Mike and my moms cousin threw my brother head first into the snow.

Caleb Souders  
Mrs. Young

**2018**

**It's your year. Go ahead and make the most of it!**

We wish you all the best in 2018. Thank you for all you have done to make this past year a success for us.

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**Happy New Year**

Hope your New Year's Eve is a blast, and may peace, love, friendship and prosperity light up each day of 2018. Thank you for brightening our year with your visits!

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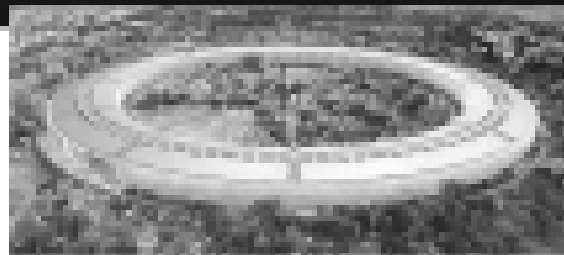
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# MAY 2017

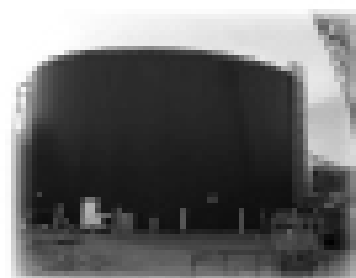


### MAY 3, 2017

The speed limit just went up on hundreds of miles of Michigan roads effective May 1. On over 600 miles of freeway and 900 miles of non-freeway, the speed limit increased from 70 to 75 miles per hour and the limit for trucks went from 60 to 65. New signs are going up, a project that will be completed by November. The change is the result of a law passed by the legislature and signed by the governor in January.

There still is no final agreement between LEAD, the company that runs the biodegester, and the city of Lowell.

"The city attorney



[Dick Wenz], [Lowell Light & Power general manager] Steve Denkersloot and I have been going back-and-forth with LEAD toward a proposed resolution, but nothing has been formalized to be presented to the city council and/or Lowell Light & Power," said Lowell city manager Michael Burns. "We are hoping to have something on that in the near future."

There should not be any odors emanating from the facility because the biodegester is not operational and the tanks were power-washed in December 2016.

"To my knowledge there has been some dismantling of equipment," Burns said. "However, they have not submitted a wastewater discharge permit nor have I approved one. They cannot operate the biodegester without that permit, which they are not currently."

Three Lowell High School students and their teacher were part of an advanced scientific conference in Grand Rapids on Saturday, April 22.

"Three seniors from the research class, Jasmine Peters, Riley Nicholson and Zachary Weston, presented



a poster last weekend at the 8th annual Midwest Cytosolubility Elegance Meeting at the Van Arkel Institute," said Heather DeLonga, LHS science teacher. "This was the culmination of the school year's collaboration on research with the Van Arkel Institute. These students were from the Lowell High School research class second trimester."

### MAY 10, 2017

Lowell residents switched from their Sunday shows to their meekers last week to participate in the annual CROP Hunger Walk. Hosted by the Lowell United Methodist Church and headed up by Pastor Matt Seel of the Stageman United Methodist Church, the event raises funds through walker pledges to provide food assistance to those in need, both close to home and abroad. Apart from an overseas donation, the monies raised through the effort will also benefit Lowell Senior Neighbors and Flat River Outreach Ministries here in Lowell.

With healthy eating and organic food all the rage these days, most grocery stores have a farmers' market and Lowell is no exception. It's moving again this year, to the parking lot by Veterans Memorial park on Main St., directly across the street from the entrance to the Riverwalk.



Lowell's latest microbrewery, Big Boiler Brewing, will open at 218 E. Main this June. Construction crews are currently putting the finishing touches on the interior.

The completed brewery will have 12 beers on tap, a full restaurant menu, banquet facilities, catering and a private party room upstairs.

### MAY 17, 2017

At their latest regular meeting on Monday, May 15, the Lowell Township board of trustees passed an ordinance allowing churches in the commercial



district. This will allow the sale of the Noon Equipment property, 1190 E. Fulton, to Impact Wesleyan Church.

The meeting lasted just under an hour and 15 minutes and was attended by nine local residents. Board trustee Carlton Blough was absent.

Before discussion started, board supervisor Jerry Hale recused himself due to a conflict of interest; he is the real estate agent listing the property.

There was very little discussion, the board simply voted unanimously to pass "Ordinance 01-2017, Churches in the Commercial District."

A group of Lowell area women is collecting thousands of McDonald's coffee lids in a bid to get into the Guinness Book of World Records. They currently have 1,172 lids and are still slipping away.

Wanda Lehman, Phyllis Phillips, Sue Boate, Kathy Grainsong, Denise Donnet, Sue Lindhout, Julie Eddy, Velma Perry, Peggy Idema and Barb



Hess have been friends for decades. After their various activities at work, church or volunteering, they meet for coffee at the Lowell McDonald's nearly every single day. A little over a year ago Wanda Lehman, Velma Perry and Julie Eddy began collecting the lids from the group's many, many cups of coffee.

Jan Thompson was

recently named "Woman of the Year" by the Lowell Women's Club. Thompson has served multiple terms as the organization's president and is one of their most active members.

"I am excited and honored," Thompson said. "I am very, very honored to be named Woman of the Year. There is a list of past Woman of the Year winners and I am in such exquisite company. I am so honored to be in with that group."

### MAY 24, 2017

On Friday, May 19, Kent County Sheriff Lawrence Selma led a special service and dedicated a new memorial plaque at Oakwood Cemetery to honor Lowell police officer Charles A. Knapp, who was murdered in the middle of Main St. in broad daylight by bank robbers on May 24, 1932.

"This memorial will stand to recognize his sacrifice forever," Selma said during his graveside remarks. "We cannot forget what Charles Knapp gave up for our community."

In a solemn scene, a bagpiper performed "Taps," then a US flag was presented to Lowell mayor Michael DeFino and city manager Michael Burns.

On a Sunday, May 23, LowellArts held a special event, the Community Celebration of the Life and Art of Janet Y. Johnson. Family, friends and members of the community enjoyed her prominently-displayed artwork and shared memories of Johnson, who passed away at home on Feb. 28, 2017, age 86. Her husband Philly died in 2004.



A delegation from the Weyland city government spent Friday, May 19, getting to know their counterparts and touring the city of Lowell. The event was called Mayor Exchange Day. Weyland will host Lowell's city government in June. The group from Weyland was led by mayor Tim Bala, city manager Timothy McLean and other members of their city council and city staff.

### MAY 31, 2017

On Monday, Veterans, soldiers and patriots gathered for Lowell's annual Memorial Day parade and observances.

The civic committee plans for some improvements to the Lowell City Airport, 739 Lincoln Lake. The airport currently has one paved runway and two turf

runways, but the paved runway is damaged. Airport manager Casey Brown said that could change this year.

King Milling Company, 113 S. Broadway, has been improving their facilities since the company started in 1890. When finished, the current construction project will add several new, large industrial buildings to their portfolio.

The former LEAD biodegester at 625 Chatham is once again bustling with activity. A company called

Business Commercial Investments has taken over the facility and plans to use it to pretreat wastewater from Lighthouse before sending it on to the municipal wastewater treatment system. This process should not cause any foul odors.

There are a lot of changes underway at the Englishbook Library, 280 N. Monroe. The new granite chess board was covered in the Lowell Ledger last week and they also plan to put in a roofing deck, expand their wireless internet coverage area and remodel the entrance.

Local business owner Cliff Vankovich has written a new book, "Over War a Single-ish Dog," published by Scholastic Books/Chapbook Press.

Tina De Borden, continued



# YEAR IN REVIEW, CONTINUED

## JUNE 2017



### JUNE 7, 2017

Sunny skies were the order of the day for Lowell High School's 138th commencement ceremony last Sunday celebrating the class of 2017.

Students began with the traditional procession to Red Arrow Memorial Stadium down the winding hill as the band played Pomp and Circumstances. The ceremony lasted just over an hour.

Lowell city council had a big night with re-meetings on Monday, June 5. They approved a union contract, discussed a potential city income tax, approved a 50 percent tax abatement on Linthouse's latest expansion and more during the back-to-back meetings.

Giving back to the community on their last day of scheduled classes, Lowell High School Class of 2017 recently turned out into the community to participate in the annual Senior Give Back Day. Modeled after the freshman service learning project, the day gives graduates the opportunity as students, to

help out their community. Now in its seventh year, the day of community service is both planned and executed by members of the class who secure locations, schedule trains and arrange for proper transportation and supervision.

Lowell High School will add another trophy to their massive collection this week after the Red Arrow varsity baseball team blew through Northville, Rockford and Greenville en route to the Arrow's fourth district championship.

### JUNE 14, 2017

It's official, the Kent County Youth Fair is moving. Starting in 2020 the fairgrounds will move to the property currently occupied by Deer Run Golf Course, 13935 Cascade Rd. SE. The golf course will close its doors in spring 2019.

The KCNY's sponsoring organization, the Kent County Youth Agricultural Association, signed a purchase agreement to buy the 140-acre property and convert it into fairgrounds, a meeting center and a campground. The purchase was backed by a \$2.5-million

grant from the Michigan Economic Development Corp., contributions from area foundations like the Wege Foundation and the Chemical Bank Foundation, and donations from private individuals.

The exact total is still being added up, but the Lowell Rotary club's Dimes & Diamonds auction raised about \$60,000 to rebuild Lowell's iconic Showboat. The auction took place at the Grand Yacht on Friday, April 28 and was attended by about 380 people. There were 175 donors who donated 159 items to be auctioned off. At the last Rotary auction in 2013, 56 donors donated 188 items. My list included things like trips to Africa, Florida and Mexico, a five water heater installation, paintings, antiques, tickets to sports games, dinners and more.

### JUNE 21, 2017

Lowell city council discussed the re-biodigester and got an update about the police chief during their meeting at city hall on Monday, June 19. The meeting lasted about 25 minutes and was attended by 15 people.

At the beginning of the meeting, during the time reserved for public comment, Kent Pope, owner of Advanced Water and Energy Solutions, addressed the council about the property where the biodigester used to be. Pope's company AWES was

hired by the biodigester's anonymous investors to investigate what went wrong at the facility. "I have been working over at the 625 Chatham facility doing an audit since about January, with a team of professionals, to determine what went wrong with the facility there," Pope said. "I've sent you folks an email and I'd like to extend a personal invitation again. I would like to have you come and see the facility. There are a lot of unique things that we've unpacked and uncovered. Seeing and touching would give you a clear indication of the things that went wrong with the operation and some of the changes of that facility. The audit is just about complete."

Pope said that his team discovered the reason the biodigester stunk and why it failed.

"The primary problem was the pre-treatment design of the holding tanks that we



because it was sub-optimal. It was a hidden defect in the design system that caused the odor, caused the decay and the tremendous growing odor. It was a design that was progressively failing as it went until we had the catastrophic event in November. That is initially the overview of what [the audit] is going to show, but with a lot more detail. The results, the summary is going to include the fact that the lack of experience and knowledge in combination with design, operation and execution [failure] was the shortfall of the project. I'm anxious to get [the audit] out to everybody. It's probably three or four weeks away."



will be the initial operation and pre-treatment tanks at the facility," Pope said. "That's what I really want people to take a look at and see. What happened was 178,000 gallons tanks were contained gradually to where, at the end they were only treating 20 percent of the water that was coming in, unbeknownst to anyone

Sen. Scott Hilderbrand has helped secure a \$1 million grant from the state of Michigan to help rebuild the Lowell Showboat. The funds will be available after Oct. 1, 2017.

"The Showboat is the heart of our community," Hilderbrand said. "When I heard the boat was no longer safe for public use, I went to work to find funding to assist in its rebuilding."

Music lovers took a trip down under last Thursday evening at the first Lowell Showboat Sirelial Summer Concert of the season. Harper & The Maddest Kind took to the stage bringing a bit of Australia along to the premier of the thirteen week concert series.

### JUNE 28, 2017

Big Boiler Brewing was bustling with people on Saturday evening, who were there in support of the Lowell Arts blowing to Main campaign.

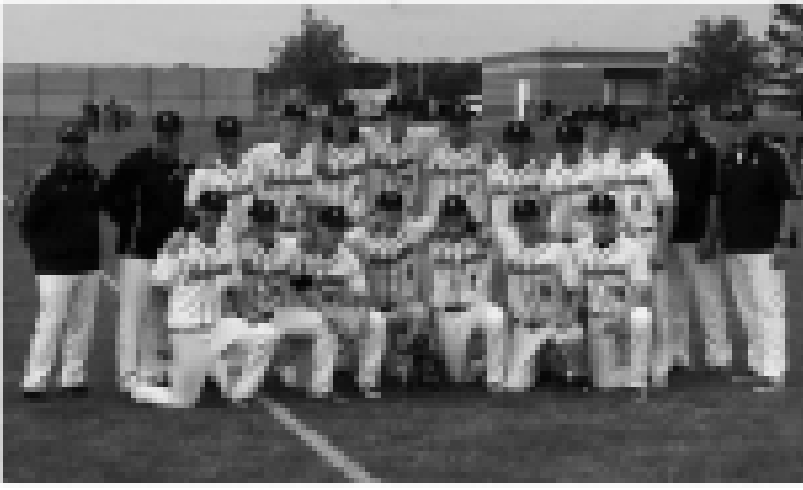
"It was an opportunity for us to do something good for a nonprofit here in town," said Brent Slagell, one of the five partners and the visionary of Big Boiler Brewing. "Lowell Arts brings a value to the city and enhances what we want to have here and we wanted to be a part of that."

Teams consisting of local families, businesses and organizations gathered at the Lowell Riverwalk last Saturday for the twelfth annual Lowell Relay For Life fundraising event. Dressed in grass skirts, leis and floral pattern skirts the crowd of cancer crusaders gathered for the twelve hour long themed event. At the closing ceremony the individuals and sponsors involved had raised more than \$18,000.

St. Patrick's Festival was held at the church located just northwest of Lowell in Fenell.

Originating in 1850 as a parish picnic, the event has evolved over the years becoming a homecoming celebration in the early 1990s and eventually a fundraiser with live entertainment, activities and the festival's famous chicken dinner. Thousands of yearly visitors raise funds for the church and contribute to the education fund.

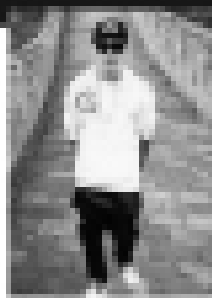
Tom H. Davies, continued





# YEAR IN REVIEW, CONTINUED

## JULY 2017



### JULY 5, 2017

Uniquely painted chairs by 70 artists from all around the Grand Rapids area, including Lowell, Calverton, Hastings and Grand Rapids will be displayed along Main Street outside of businesses and organizations from July 5 through August 18 to raise funds for Pink Arrow Pride.

Jewelry bench along with three reasons why they could use a bench makeover and a wish list from the Staller tools catalog. On June 8, Yankovich received a call from Staller saying DeNico had won the Fix My Bench contest.

### JULY 12, 2017

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



On Saturday, June 24, at Stoney Lakeside Park, the Lowell Amateur Radio Club participated in the American Radio Relay League's annual field day event, where amateur radio operators and clubs all over the country take their equipment into the public and set it up as they would if there was an emergency situation.

The three-day festival began Thursday evening with dinner and a concert and extended through Saturday night with a fireworks finale.

Lowell city council discussed new voting equipment, a change to the city's purchasing policy and more at their latest regular meeting on Wednesday, July 5. The meeting at city hall lasted just over half an hour and was attended by 18 local residents, only one chose to speak during the portion of the meeting dedicated to citizens comment.

"Our organization and many in the community fully support [Lowell police] chief [Steve] Bukala regardless of the charges and we hope that he chooses to stay on as our chief," said Jeff Dickerman. Bukala is on unpaid leave after being charged with misuse of the Michigan Law Enforcement Information Network, a misdemeanor punishable by 90 days imprisonment, a \$500 fine or both.

Preis & Newhof engineer Brian Vilson was on hand for the council's discussion about the municipal parking lot at the intersection of Broadway and Main, across the street from King Milling. Vilson said that the parking spaces are too short and come



vehicles to stick out into the street; the area is crowded with dangerous trucks doing dangerous maneuvers; it's cramped and it's congested.

The council voted to change the city's bidding and purchasing policy. Previously, the city manager was required to set a minimum of three bids for any purchases over \$5,000. The council added a new section to the policy that says the city manager will not have to seek bids if he finds this task either "impractical or unjustifiable." Lowell treasurer Suzanne Olin said the change "will allow, in certain instances, the city to purchase from preferred vendors."



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

"This [Fallsburg] is just a little gem of a village tucked away that time forgot," said Patty Breschick, secretary of the Fallsburg

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

Bicyclists could choose between seven tour options: 12, 18, 40, 50, 62, 78 or 180 miles; 61 bicyclists designated which route they were going to complete, while 27 did not

declare how far they would ride. The 30-mile ride being the most popular option this year, after tallying the miles, six participants pedaled 12 miles, 14 riders rolled 18 miles, 33 bicyclists rode 30 miles, another six riders took on 75 miles, and two die-hards cycled all 180 miles.

### JULY 19, 2017

The Kent Intermediate School District (KISD) completed a waiver through the Michigan Department of Education that is allowing them to bypass the State law and start school on August 21, prior to Labor Day.

The Lowell Area School District is following

suit, starting school on August 22.

"We're not excited about change either to be very honest, but at the same time, how do you make it most valuable to your students and your families?" said Greg Pratt, superintendent of Lowell Area Schools.

Lowell city council discussed food trucks and



signs at their meeting on Monday, July 17. The meeting lasted about 28 minutes and was attended by nine local residents.

Lowell Light & Power ratified a union contract, approved a few special projects and took care of some write-offs at their latest regular meeting on July 12.

The Headhunters, Lowell's most famous 60s rock band, reunited last weekend for two special concerts. Terry DeMita, Dick Newark, Tom Speranza and Roger MacNaughton got the band back together to play at Lowell High School class of 1967's 50 year reunion on Saturday night.

### JULY 28, 2017

Nearly 50 young actors gathered at the convergence of the Flat and Grand rivers at the Kent County

fairgrounds last Saturday afternoon for a special pageant-style performance of the founding of Lowell.

Members of the Area Active Achievers 4H group performed the piece of history alongside friends and supporters of the Lowell Area Historical Museum. The performance was produced by the museum's education director Louisa Kuch; the play was written by a member of Kuch's family.

The Lowell Showboat Sizzler's Summer Concert series packed a one-two punch last week with a pair of shows featuring eclectic Michigan based band Lindsay Lou & the Flatbushys with a special patriotic performance from the US Army Band "The Governor's Own."

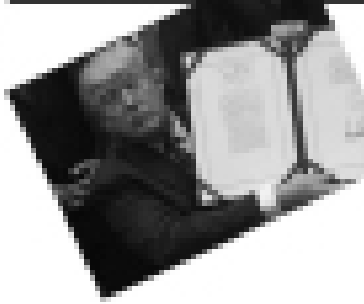
See-to-Review, continued





# YEAR IN REVIEW, CONTINUED

## AUGUST 2017



### AUGUST 2, 2017

Eight students from the Junior Master Gardener program at the Wintambach Pige Center had their freshly-harvested vegetables for sale at the Lowell Farmers' Market on Thursday, July 27. The kids meet once a week for eight weeks during summer, culminating in their trip to the market to sell their goods.

"Our gardens were very lush this year," said SPWC director Courtney Choers.

a specialized associate's degree tuition free in five years through a hands-on early college program, Launch U.

"Early Middle College is a career focus type of program that ultimately prepares students to go directly into the workforce or to continue on with school," said Ron Cariff, superintendent of the KUSD.

Lowell city council had a regular meeting at city hall on Monday, Aug. 7. The council

with a brand new digital scale which will wear a plaque in her husband's name. Sara was not at the occasion as she was overseas with emotion.

Groundbreaking female wrestlers his Lori and Katie DeYoung set their sights on success last season when they took to the mat as part of the first Lowell girls wrestling team and came out alongside their teammates with a state championship trophy. This summer the pair set their sights on the Amateur Athletic Union's Junior Olympic Games and once again succeeded competing this past week in Novi, Michigan.

having a nice evening here at the museum. We had a good turnout. Lots of new food and drink vendors here this year. Both of the new breweries in town are here and so is Painted Turtle Hard Cider from out by Murray Lake. We're happy to have a lot of local groups represented. Everybody gets to enjoy the museum and we get to show our history off."

A mysterious engraved stone from 1874 was recently discovered hidden behind some junk in a barn at Fallsburg Park. The stone is engraved on the front with the words "Dist. # 2, Lowell, 1874" and along the bottom with the name J.C. Hare. The stone was found by Fallsburg Historical Society treasurer Alan Rambaugh when he was cleaning out the interior of a barn.

last Friday. Burns cited an online petition with 1,876 signatures, the resignation of Trelander and the recent violence in Charlottesville, VA, as some of the reasons for the removal.

A little rain didn't hurt attendance at the Thursday, Aug. 17 Pink Arrow Health Fair. Hundreds of people enjoyed free lunch, free ice cream, a blood drive, mammograms and lots more.

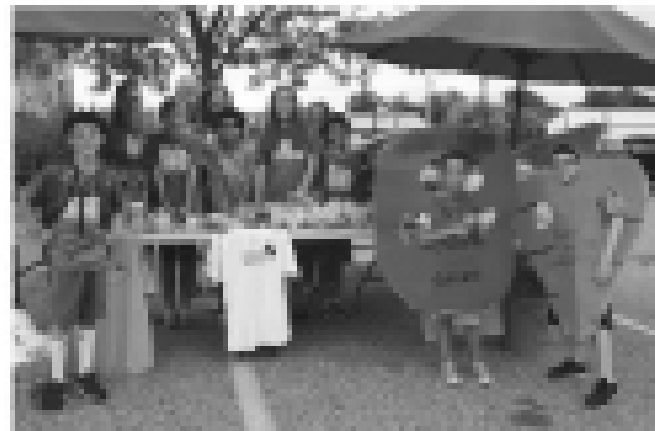
"It's going well, the mechanics of the whole event are going beautifully," said Pink Arrow Pride organizer Teresa Bowsham.

The Lowell Showboat Sizzle' Summer Concert was back in full swing last Thursday as local indie favorite Olivia Mairville

### AUGUST 28, 2017

After concluding their regular season last Thursday, with one of the Midwest's premier jazz, funk and R&B bands Hip Pocket, the Lowell Showboat Sizzle' Summer Concert Series recommenced Friday evening for a special fundraising event featuring six jamming local bands in support of the rebuild of the famous Lowell Showboat.

Radical for the Showboat was the idea of local rocker Dale Knopf of the popular classic rock group Alive & Well, seasoned veterans of the Showboat stage. Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce, other supporters and volunteers including LowellArts joined forces to bring the idea to fruition working with local talent and vendors.



In this November's election there are five candidates running for three open seats on Lowell's city council. Incumbents Michael DeNore and Gregory Carfield are running for reelection along with new candidates Jake Desjardis, Mark Ricerna and James Salvendy. During the next several weeks the Ledger will profile the candidates and get their views on some of Lowell's important issues.

### AUGUST 9, 2017

Lowell city council had a special meeting at 5:00 pm on Monday, Aug. 7. At this special meeting the council discussed whether or not to allow marijuana businesses to operate in the city of Lowell. The council heard from medical marijuana patients, caregivers and opponents during the hour and 20 minute discussion. About 17 local residents attended the meeting. The council was joined by city attorney Dick Wesch.

Kent Intermediate School District (KUSD) students are now given the opportunity to earn a high school diploma and

discussed the showboat, food truck licensing, the police chief's case, labor contracts and more at the meeting, which lasted about 25 minutes and was attended by 12 constituents. The council was joined by city attorney Dick Wesch.

The council passed a pair of ordinances that will allow food trucks in Lowell for a licensing fee that varies depending on who owns the truck and where they want to park it. City manager Michael Burns said the guidelines were based on Muskogee's because they have "become a place with a strong food truck presence in their downtown."

Tim Dougherty was passionate about the Kent County Youth Fair. He had walked, worked and played on the fairgrounds as a child and knew the value of participation. Two years before his untimely death, he guided his youngest daughter as she showed her swim at the fair, following in his footsteps.

Last Wednesday, Dougherty's widow Marcia honored his love of the event and the special bond he formed with his daughter Sara. The KCYF swim department was presented



### AUGUST 23, 2017

Guests at the third annual Summer Fest at the Lowell Area Historical Museum, on Friday, August 18, spent an idyllic summer evening on the museum grounds sampling local food and drink and listening to live music.

"It's going great," said Lisa Plank, executive director of the Lowell Area Historical Museum. "We're

Lowell city councilor Alan Trelander gave an emotional speech as he resigned from his seat on the council at their regular meeting on Monday evening, Aug. 21. The council also discussed the showboat, POWs and Airbab rules at the meeting, which lasted about 42 minutes and was attended by approximately 20 people.

Less than one minute into the meeting, city manager Michael Burns read a statement about the Lowell Showboat. The name "Robert E. Lee" was removed from the boat

and The Aquatic Troupe were invited to take the stage.

Delayed one week due to poor weather and a second week to make room for performances at the Kent County Youth Fair, the series experienced slightly lower attendance than usual as gray skies were again loomed over the Riverwalk. The dark vintage folk set of Olivia Mairville and The Aquatic Troupe was a perfect fit for the overcast conditions offering up haunting vocals well-suited to the weather.



Year-to-Review, continued



# YEAR IN REVIEW, CONTINUED

## SEPTEMBER 2017



**SEPTEMBER 8, 2017**  
It's Pink Arrow Week in Lowell and the big game is Friday, Sept. 8!  
Be sure and pick up your 2017 T-shirt - and show your support!

Michigan state senator Mike Nadeau (R-Battle Creek) has received a \$350,000 Michigan Enforcement Grant for the restoration and rehabilitation of Whites Bridge. If a small amount of additional funding from the MDOT Local Bridge Fund is approved, construction should occur at some point in 2018.

Last Wednesday Lowell police chief Steve Bukala entered a plea for one of the charges against him and received the punishment in Barry County. Bukala has been on unpaid leave since April after he was accused of misuse of the Michigan Law Enforcement Information Network.

According to the prosecutor's office, Bukala pled guilty to one charge of "Willful Neglect of Duty by a Public Officer, MCL 156.478, a misdemeanor carrying a maximum penalty of 1 year in jail. The remaining charges, all misdemeanors carrying lesser penalties, will be dismissed."

Larkin's Other Place is having a stand-up comedy show with stars Bill Dushan and opener Mike Chambers on Saturday, Sept. 8. Larkin's has their comedy night on the second Saturday of each month. Doors open at 7 pm and the show will start at 8 pm. Tickets are \$10 each and can be purchased in advance.

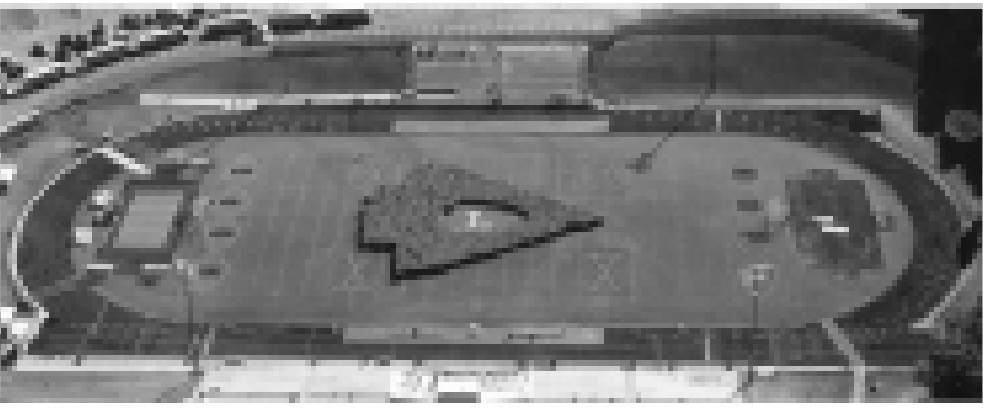
From his workshop outside of Lowell, 39-year-old A.J. Oesch harvests local wood to make gongoras, unique examples of artisan furniture.

"My wood is all local," Oesch said. "It's from Kent County. Mostly white oak, red oak, walnut, pine, a lot of hard wood from around Alto. I also take down old barns for barn wood. You can make mantles and stuff out of the beams. Logs, to me, are like people. They're all different on the inside and the outside. When you open them up there are different characteristics and they're beautiful inside."



float in the air. It's made from tall wood and white oak.

**SEPTEMBER 13, 2017**  
Lowell city council had their latest regular meeting at city hall on Tuesday, Sept. 5. The council filled a vacant seat and discussed medical marijuana, the police chief's return and more at the meeting, which lasted about 20 minutes and was attended by about 10 people.



The first order of business was to fill the vacant seat left by the resignation last month of city councilor Alan Teulander. The city received a single application for the empty seat, from Martin Lee Chambers Jr.

This year, the Pink Arrow Pride organization celebrated 10 years of helping local residents through their cancer journey. A special pull-out section on pages 7 through 9 illustrates the good time and captures some of the feeling of this unique annual event.

Bonda Auto Centers have outgrown their building and moved to a new location at 1351 Bowers Rd.

"We moved to a new location on Sept. 4," said owner Dan Bonda. "We're right across the street from the Lowell Dog Park."

It took ten years, but Lowell lost a Pink Arrow game for the first time last Friday night against the East Grand Rapids Pioneers. The Pink Arrow Pride event is a lot more meaningful for Lowell than just winning or losing a sports game, though. Attendees enjoyed live music, fresh food,

games and entertainment, plus many touching tributes to cancer survivors and those who lost their battle with the disease. There was also a special salute to Teresa Beaudoin, the person most responsible for putting the huge event together every year and raising over a million dollars for Lowell area residents suffering from cancer.

Be on the lookout starting this week for some interesting, colorful stones

The Lowell Police Department recently hired a new officer. The Ledger's request to interview the new officer or the police chief were declined. Instead, city manager Michael Burns supplied this statement:

"The city's newest part time police officer is officer Jason Diaz. Diaz is from the city of Wyoming and has an associate's degree from Grand Rapids Community College.

Harvest Festival & Car Show the community of Alto gathered last Saturday to enjoy food and entertainment.

**SEPTEMBER 27, 2017**  
A late summer heat wave has pushed temperatures into the 90s for over a week, setting all kinds of new weather records and helping to make the case for climate change. Several of Lowell's schools have closed for half days recently because of the excessive heat.

"This is a very unusual warm weather streak that we had," said Lowell Area Schools superintendent Greg Pratt. "High temperatures are setting 100 year records over the past week and a half. It really has been difficult for some of our equipment to keep up with this type of heat in the case of buildings that we have, and the schools."

Poultry Management Systems, Inc. had an open house and a ribbon cutting ceremony at their new location, 890 S.E. Bieri Industrial Dr., on Wednesday, Sept. 20. PMSI makes computerized equipment for cage-free egg production. Their new building is 18,000 square feet, twice the size of their old facility and contains areas for software development and manufacturing of electronic components. The new facility should create over 20 new jobs.

The Lowell City Council meeting Monday, Sept. 18, lasted about 24 minutes and was attended by about 15 people.

For its first order of business, the council appointed Greg Canfield to the post of mayor pro-tem, a position previously held by Alan Teulander, who resigned from the council last month.

Lowell Area Schools Board of Education had their latest regular meeting in the Randiman Building on Monday, Sept. 11.

The board hired 18 new staff members this year.

Celebrating the season with their 37th annual

Year-In-Review, continued



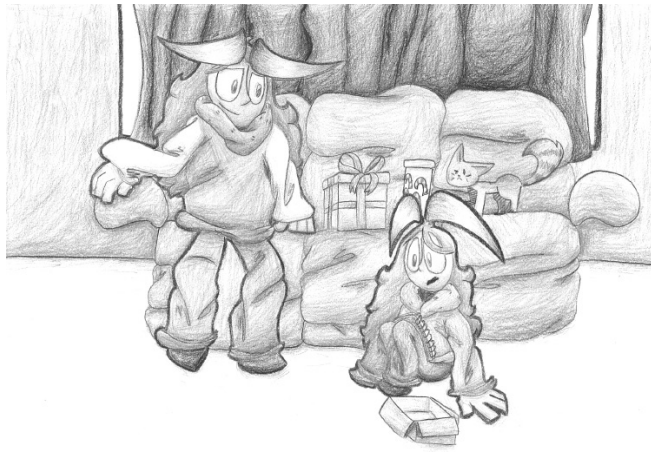
**SEPTEMBER 20, 2017**  
For the 49th year, artists, musicians and non-profits converged at Fallsburg Park last weekend for the Fallsburg Arts Festival.

An estimated 25-30,000 people attended the annual gathering which combines elements of education, entertainment and family-friendly fun to their local selected artists sales.





# Cherry Creek Elementary, continued



It is Christmas the most wonderful time of the year. My favorite thing on Christmas is family my family and I can play monopoly or talk about are day or funny stuff. I also like no school you go to school alot so a break is nice. Present are nice to because you can get things you have always wanted like a video game.

Nathaniel Haywood  
Mrs. Young

The best part about the holiday season is the... hot cocoa! First of all the hot cocoa is delicious and sweet. Seond of all, hot cocoa is so hot ouch! it is perfect after you come in from the snow. Third of all, hot cocoa is perfect when you'er watching a movie. My forth reason is it is so chocolaty and sweet and it goes great with whipped cream, sprinkles and marshmallows! that is why I think hot cocoa is the best thing about the holiday season!

Lily Boland  
Mrs. Young

I like spending time with my family outside in the snow. My family and I build snowmen with sticks, rocks, and gloves. Next we have a snowball fight. Ther are 2 teams. 3 on each side. I'm the first to get out with my brother. But at the end my team wins. Later my brother and I have a race down the hill on our sleds. I have only won one time. But this year I'll win. At last we get to go in side to watch Christmas moives and then will laugh and laugh. Then after the moives are Mom and Step-Dad tells us to go to bed for the night.

Jordan Tyler  
Mrs. Young

The best thing about the holiday season is decorating the tree. I like the tree because of the lights. The lights make the tree look beautiful. I also like the light because of all of the colors. Red, blue, green, yellow, and orange. you do not want just a plain old tree do you? I also like the angel/star on top of the tree. It makes me feel so happy I could just burst out joy. I wish everyone a great Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Jeremey Granholm  
Mrs. Young

I wait about 365 days a year for this holiday. I think the best part of the holiday is giving gifts. I like to see the excitment on everyones face when they get a gift. It fun when people make me gift's too. I always get the greatest feelling when people are having fun opening gifts together. one gift I gave was a pair of headphones to my brother and he loved them. Want do you think is the best part of the holiday?

Spencer Orth  
Mrs. Young

"I can't wait for my friends and family" I say in my head I think they are my favorate thing about the holiday season I'm still waiting at the door with my purple coat looking back at the old times Like when we played games outside in the snow. "Knock Knock" my mum opens the door. "Wheres my little girl!" my grandma yells. She hugs me and kisses me. I see all of my friends and family. I race down the stairs and give them a hug. Then my brothers and my friends and I plan to make the biggest snow ball fight ever.

Kristin O'Neill  
Mrs. Young



Kaylee Elve

My family puts lights on our trees and arond whindows and our doors. I put lights in my room and I keep them on at night to have it Bring lights out for I can see when I decorate I do it with family it is more fun to do it with family. to celebrate Christmas.

Hope Brandt  
Mrs. Young

I believe Christmas is the best holiday seasons because you can go sledding and spending time with family. Christmas is awesome, because you can start a snowball fight with your friends. The reason why i like snowball fights is, because its a fun outdoor activity to do with all your friends. Another reason why i lik snowballs is, because you can gather all friends and then throw a snowball at them all. I cant wait for Christmas. In fact, i wish it was Christmas! Hopefully, this year i can set up the Christmas tree! I wish everyone a merry Christmas!

Ethan Roush  
Mrs. Young

Christmas Is so fun there are sledIng, bakeIng, drinkIng hot cocoa, and openIng gifts. But theIrs one thIng I love, Its family. Becasue you can do all those things but laugh, Ilke when I hIt my brother In the face with a snow ball. I could see mom wearing a funny blueberry coat. And my brother squels wIth delIght when he sees the lIghts and presents, I wish It was ChIstmas now!

Lukas Ober  
Mrs. Young

Twas the night befor Christmas. I like waiting for Santa Claus, becaus he make me happy sometimes. I leave cookies for Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus that why Christmas so important to Santa Claus.

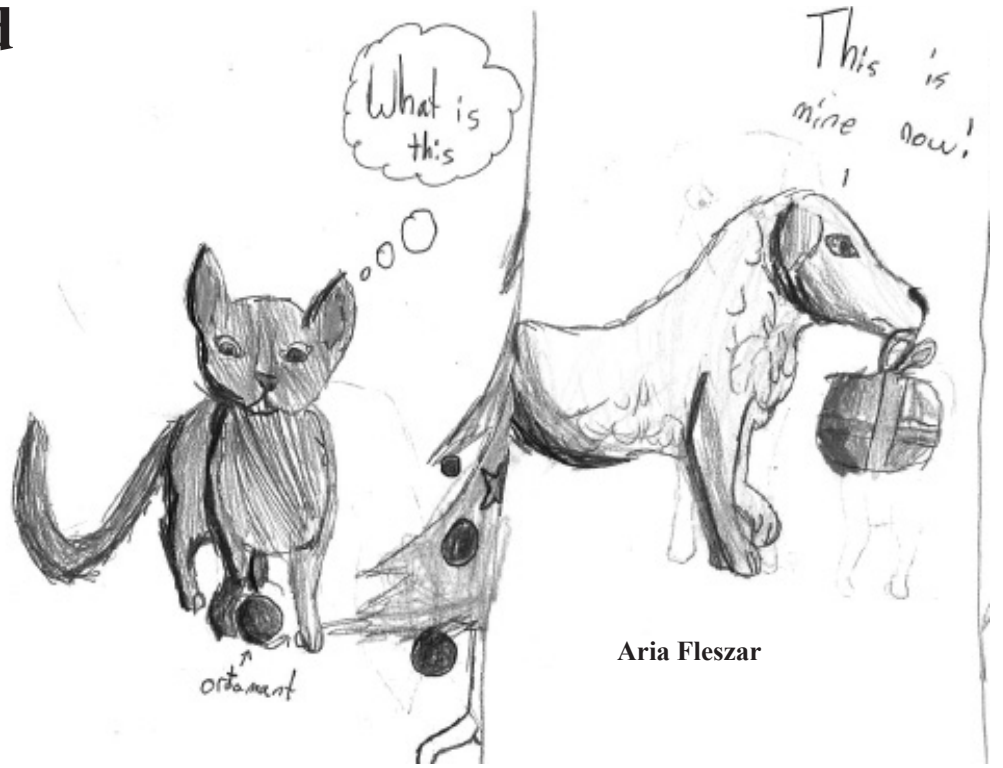
Emilee-Mahony  
Mrs. Young

I think the Best thing about the holiday season is that you are with your friends and family. And the food chocolate fudge and the eggnog makes the holiday Awesome.

Logan Kaufman  
Mrs. Young

The best part of the season is Christmas. One Reason is because There are Presents on Christmas Day. Family Gathering by the tree with Love, carring, sharing, freindship. we Also have Blessing's on Christmas. To be thankfull for what we have.

Garrett Hendrick  
Mrs. Young



Aria Fleszar

I think the best thing about the holiday season is sitting around the tree and building snow man.

Raleigh Sloma  
Mrs. Smith / Ferrentino

I think the best thing is gatering around the tree watching TV opning presents and plaining in the snow and drinking hot cocoa and spending time with my famly.

Landon Wolfe Pearce  
Mrs. Smith / Ferrentino

Famly snow, Jesus and opening presents, chrismas movies, new years, hot cocoa baking, elf on the shelf,

Brady Devore  
Mrs. Smith

That family's get together and How we get to have Christmas Movie night.

Bella Rairigh  
Mrs. Smith

I think the best thing is opening presents.

Braddock King  
Mrs. Smith

I think the best thing about the holidays is Jesus.

Lillyan Andrews  
Mrs. Smith / Ferrentino

Opening presents because you get new fun stuff to play with!

Rylan  
Mrs. Smith

I think the best thing about the holiday season is all the happiness and all the joy everybody has and how much everybody loves the snow.

Joash Kooi  
Mrs. Smith

I think the best part about the holiday season is waking up Christmas morning with a good breakfast and lots of great presents.

Carter Ray  
Mrs. Smith

Opening presents.

Tyler Miller  
Mrs. Smith

I like to spend time with my family and pets. I also I like to put up the tree and deckorations.

Autum Cross  
Mrs. Smith

What I think is the best thing about the holiday season is decareting the tree.

Jacob Webb  
Mrs. Smith

Buying gifts.

Kaitlyn Wilczewski  
Mrs. Smith

Christmas Break.

Leland  
Mrs. Smith

I think the best thing is geting to spend the holiday with my family and opening presents and watching them being opened.

Kadence Granholm  
Mrs. Smith

Setting up the Christmas tree with family.

Franklin Kraft  
Mrs. Smith

The warm feeling wen your with your family.

Chris W. Raymor  
Mrs. Smith

I like snow, snowball fights, sledding, and prasents.

Rylee Hull  
Mrs. Smith

Hanging out with family opening presents on Christmas, also to selebrate Jesus and his Birth day.

Kaylee Elve  
Mrs. Smith

Being with your family because you dont get to see them alot and Jesus birthday.

Casey Engle  
Mrs. Smith

When Jesus was born to take away our sin.

Noah Chipman  
Mrs. Smith

Celabrating Christmas with family and friends.

Ady Krieg  
Mrs. Smith

The tree and present's.

Gabby Gahan  
Mrs. Grooters

My Favorite part about the holiday season is giving presents, getting presents, snow days, going shopping, and going to party's!

Ava Boruta  
Mrs. Grooters

I think the best thing about the holiday season is spending time with family or snow days!!!

Avah VanderMeulen  
Mrs. Grooters

The Presents and geting together with family members and friends.

Jero Carrasco  
Mrs. Grooters

The best thing about the holiday season is spending time with family.

Landon DeVito  
Mrs. Grooters

To spend time with family, and have fun.

Elijah Wilterink  
Mrs. Grooters

giving presents going shopping & seeing family.

Izzy  
Mrs. Grooters

talking with family at my houses table and playing with my cuzins.

Zaiden Keith  
Mrs. Grooters

Giving Gift's to others. and spending time with family and friends.

Kaylee Ybarra  
Mrs. Grooters

Christmas brake.

Leon Kelly  
Mrs. Grooters

Ho! Ho! Ho! Merry Christmas!!!!

Hope Worsley  
Mrs. Grooters



# YEAR IN REVIEW, CONTINUED

## OCTOBER 2017



### OCTOBER 4, 2017

The annual Community Clean Up Day was held at the fairgrounds from 9 am until noon on a sunny, sunny Saturday, Sept. 23. People who live in the Lowell school district were encouraged to bring all of their old junk to be disposed of and recycled. Volunteers accepted and sorted through objects, such as computers, monitors, printers, fax machines, photocopiers, TVs, telephones, cameras, pesticides, fertilizers, chemicals, tires, furniture, light bulbs, paint, propane tanks and lots, lots more... "Two hours in line, but it was well worth it," said local resident Lou Glinsk.



two shows will focus on Lowell musicians.

Deputy Sheriff Todd Summerhays was recently named the Outstanding School Officer of the Year by the Crime Prevention Association of Michigan.

The new bakery and cafe Sweet Seasons at 387 E. Main opened for business

5 & 18E Trail Run and Walk, which raised funds to support music therapy programs.



New board member Dan Stephens was appointed to replace trustee Maureen Flood, who has taken a job in another school district. Stephens has worked at General Motors for 32 years, been married for 28 years, lived in Lowell for 21 years and has seven children.

There will be a reception with guest artist Karen Godfrey at Flat River Gallery and Framing, 219 W. Main, from 3 until 8 pm on Thursday, Oct. 18. Godfrey currently has an exhibit in the gallery titled "Women's Wisdom" with her work in sculpture, painting and assemblage art.

### OCTOBER 18, 2017

This year's Lowell Harvest Celebration on Saturday, Oct. 14, was soggy, windy and a little chilly, but the event was still well-attended and lots of fun.

"I think it's going pretty well considering the weather," said Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce

executive director Liz Baker. "Lots of people are here. Not as many as normal but it's been a steady flow. We've had no rain this year, really, to speak of. We did need it, although maybe we didn't need it today."

Lowell city council had their latest regular meeting at city hall on Monday, Oct. 16. The meeting lasted about 28 minutes and was attended by nine residents.

There were a few items during the meeting. First, Lowell resident Herb Vanderbik said the council should be aware of two possible state laws regarding short-term property rentals like Airbnb.

"There are two pieces of legislation that are being proposed," Vanderbik said. "[The bills] are designed to keep local governments from banning short-term rentals. I think we should keep an eye on that and be aware of that in our planning."



"I am very familiar with those and I will let the council know of that," city



manager Michael Burns replied.

Later in the meeting, Dr. James Reagan asked the council to read information on the website of an anti-marijuana organization called "Smart Approaches to Marijuana" before making any decisions on the issue.

The Lowell Light & Power board of directors had their latest regular meeting at their Broadway St. headquarters on Thursday, Oct. 12. The meeting was about two hours long and included an audit presentation and the purchase of some new utility poles.

First up was the annual presentation of the financial audit of Lowell Light & Power performed by Vanderbik Haefner, an accounting firm based in Grand Rapids.

"We received a clean audit which means that we didn't have anything that needed to be fixed, which was great," said L&P financial manager Megan Kopyot.

### OCTOBER 18, 2017

The Kent County Youth Fair held a public forum at the King Building on Wednesday evening, Oct. 18. The meeting was attended by about 20 local residents who expressed their concerns, ideas, recommendations and other topics.

"There are a lot of different perspectives and opinions to share," said fair director John Sebat. "That is what tonight is partially about, getting ideas and starting to map the design process. At tonight's meeting we want to gather ideas from people from all different walks-of-life.

It's a very dynamic process with a lot of different perspectives across different generations."

The Lowell Area Hops direct theater production of "The Dixie Swim Club" is now open at Larkin's Other Place, 301 W. Main.

"The Dixie Swim Club" is set in a cottage on the Outer Banks in North Carolina. There, five women who met on the swim team in college gather for an annual weekend where their only rules are "no men, no kids, no work."

The next time you take a cold, frothy sip of your favorite craft beer there is a chance that the brew may have been created with hops grown right here in Lowell.

Owners of 43 Degrees Hops Farms, Cory and Gretchen Deeds, moved to the area in 2005 raising two children, Lauren and Evan. Together, they managed an engineering firm, Motion Controls Company, over the next decade before entering the hops business. The already industrious couple were drawn to the business by both the excitement of a new adventure and the opportunity to nurture the same good work ethic in their children.

Year-In-Review, continued



Lowell Middle School chess club members, past and present, were happy to present the granite chess table and benches to the city of Lowell on Friday, Sept. 29, in front of Englishfork Library. This four-year long project, part of the Riverwalk development plan, is now in place and ready for use. You can enjoy a game of chess with a beautiful view of the river. Pictured are past and present members of the LMS chess club. Hasan Krzyzik, standing at right, presented the table and benches to the mayor of Lowell, Mike DeVito. Krzyzik was first president of the Lowell Middle School chess club and is now a senior at Lowell High School.

The Lowell Arts House Concerts are a series of intimate live music performances that will begin on Saturday, Oct. 14 and run through May 2018. The first

in June to little factories or racios. Their homemade baked goods and coffee drinks have steadily built a following since then and now they can hide in the shadows no more

After three days of difficult competition, the Lowell varsity volleyball team garnered the 2017 Division II championship.

### OCTOBER 11, 2017

Putting their creative minds and helping hands in action the Lowell High School leadership class was out in full force last week selling fundraising bracelets to benefit those in need after a trail of hurricanes ravaged the southern United States.

The 200-acre Franciscan Life Process Center grounds were alive with the sound of music and the pitter patter of supporter's feet for the Franciscan Rhythms



# Cherry Creek Elementary, continued

The best thing about the holiday season is spending time with my family or snow-days.

Abby Gregory  
Mrs. Grooters

Haveing fun and Drinking hot coco.

Nick Goos  
Mrs. Grooters

Christmas!

Laidyn Dirlkiewicz  
Mrs. Grooters

I think the Best thing About the Holiday season is spending time with my family.

Mercie Fuentes  
Mrs. Grooters

Spending time with my friends and family.

Norah Orth  
Mrs. Grooters

Snow Days.

Isaac Bouwman  
Mrs. Grooters

Giving presents to my family.

Carter Cichocki  
Mrs. Grooters

I think the food is the best part of the holiday season!

Titus Rhodes  
Mrs. Grooters

Cumeing toger and eating alot presents, to famley.

Austin  
Mrs. Grooters

The best thing about the holiday season is snow days and toys.

Owen Kamradt  
Mrs. Grooters

Christmas break.

Paul Fowler  
Mrs. Grooters

My favoraite thing about Christmas is spending time with my family. I love when they open the presents I got them. I also love sitting next to the fire place and drinking hot chocolate. In addition, I love putting ornaments on the Christmas tree. That's why the Christmas holiday is special to me.

Eliana Thompson  
Mrs. Severts

My favorite thing about Christmas is either staying up on Christmas Eve with my brother Evan or having A snowball fight with my family, I love staying up because we usually play A game, watch tom and Jerry, eat cookies, and play legos. I love snowball fights because

my family and I build forts to Block the snowballs from hitting us. Plus I hit my brother A lot! Christmas is my favorite time of the year!

Natalie  
Mrs. Severts

My favorite thing to Do During the Holidays is to look At Christmas lights i love to set up lights too one time A house in my neighborHood was on the radio. There was Christmas lights evreywere around the House. There was rainDeer, santa and snow angles. My mom and my always like to set up lights. I Love Lights.

Mason  
Mrs. Severts

My favorite event in the holiday season is meals with my family. The food is so good! My grandma makes most of the food, but all of my family makes great additons.

Noah Burton  
Mrs. Severts

My favorite thing to do on the holidays is seeing my family and relatives on Christmas. We play games and laugh a lot. We play a lot of monopoly and when we play monopoly we laugh a lot.

Jackson  
Mrs. Severts



Adria Herring



Sarah Harper

## Be the Life of the Party.

**Stay Safe...Don't Drink and Drive and Don't Let Friends Drive Drunk.**



The Insurance Institute for Highway Safety reports that New Year's Day is one of the worst days of the year for fatal crashes involving drunk drivers. Don't let the good times cloud your good judgement. As you make your New Year's Eve party plans this year, be sure to include plans for safe and sober transportation.

**Thank you for all your support and generosity throughout 2017. Here's to good health and lasting friendships in the New Year!**

*Pink Arrow Pride urges you to be aware, be responsible and be safe on New Year's Eve.*



## Rejoice in the Gifts of the Season

**May Christmas deliver the best gifts of all to you and yours this year:**

**Peace, Love, Health, Happiness & Friendship**

**Merry Christmas and best wishes for a blessed New Year.**



**1151 Bowes Rd, Lowell  
616-608-1717**

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email jsejst@puroclean.com**









Ezequiel Gonzalez



**Mercantile**  
Bank of Michigan

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

mercbank.com

**Merry Christmas**

*The halls are decked, the lists are checked;  
Christmas is here, bringing good cheer.*

There's just one thing we've left to do:  
Send our very best wishes to each one of you!

Thanks to our customers and neighbors all around town for your friendship and support. We wish you and yours all the best at Christmastime and in the New Year. Happy Holidays!

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP Lowell**

2910 Alden Nash • Lowell  
Phone 897-7600  
www.twp.lowell.mi.us  
Hours: M-Tu. 9 - 5 • Th. 9 - 1

Supervisor - Jerry Hale • Clerk - Monica Burt • Treasurer - Ronda Benedict  
Trustees - Carlton Blough, Mark Anderson, William Thompson, Steve M. VanderZiel



# YEAR IN REVIEW, CONTINUED

## DECEMBER 2017



female sex 2 : EFFEMINACY  
 fem-i-nise Brit var of FEMINIZE  
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**DECEMBER 26, 2017**  
 For the last few years, the Level 300 Department thanks to our Old Winter Weather program. In parallel, we have had the ability to have our own weather program in preparation.

During Level 300, we have been able to have our own weather program. In parallel, we have had the ability to have our own weather program in preparation.



**DECEMBER 4, 2017**  
 During our annual community event, we had the honor of having the Mayor of the City of Lowell, Dr. H. Marjorie St. Pierre, at the event. This year, we had a special guest, the Mayor of the City of Lowell, Dr. H. Marjorie St. Pierre, at the event.

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**DECEMBER 26, 2017**  
 The "City of Christmas" event took place on the 26th of December at 10:00 AM. Dr. H. Marjorie St. Pierre, Mayor of the City of Lowell, was at the event. This year, we had a special guest, the Mayor of the City of Lowell, Dr. H. Marjorie St. Pierre, at the event.



This year, the event was held in the community room. We had a special guest, the Mayor of the City of Lowell, Dr. H. Marjorie St. Pierre, at the event.

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