

## Santa magic arrives in Lowell Sat.



by Emma Palova

The “Songs of Christmas” parade arrived in downtown Lowell with Santa’s float and others, like the Lowell High School Marching Band, on Saturday evening.

It was a misty cold night on Main Street with street lamps shining bright.

The Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce handed out goodie bags with candy canes and other treats.

Santa was on the Riverwalk with hot cocoa and cookies and photos by Bruce Doll. Rudolph’s

Craft Workshop took place at the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce and the Friends of the Englehardt Library had a book sale in the community room.

More holiday activities are coming:

Visit Santa on the Riverwalk on Saturdays from 10:30 am to 1 pm through Dec. 22.

Wednesdays 5:30 pm to 7 pm through Dec. 19.

There will be a “Night of Christmas Cheer” on Friday, Dec. 7 from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm.

Visit with Santa and get a free online photo. You can also take horse and carriage rides, visit Pickles the pony and friends or enjoy hot dogs, roasted chestnuts, hot cocoa and cookies.

**More parade photos on page 9!**



page 16

Fallasburg Christmas



page 8

City council meetings



pages 2 & 7



LHS sports page 11

## Impact Church about halfway done



The church as it looked on Monday of this week (above) and a drawing of how it’s expected to look sometime next summer (below).



by Tim McAllister lead reporter

They broke ground in April, now crews are about halfway finished building the new Impact Church at 11930 E. Fulton.

“It’s going great. They’re on schedule,” said Impact Church executive pastor Ryan Kresge. “Dan Vos has done a great job, they’re running a tight ship. It’s gone really smooth.”

Currently, workers are using drywall to turn the empty interior into all of the various rooms they’ll need.

“Right now, they are beginning to hang drywall in the interior,” Kresge said. “Most of the interior framing is done, partition walls and that kind of stuff. You can see the interior skeleton now, but it doesn’t

have any skin on it. It’s a lot of drywall to hang. I’m assuming that’s maybe a month-long process, maybe more. It could be a couple of months, we’ll see.”

Once the rooms exist, interior work will begin in earnest.

“Usually drywall is considered your midpoint mark, because then you’ve got all your interior finishes,” Kresge said. “You’re flooring everywhere, you’re painting everywhere, you’ve got electrical fixtures, plumbing fixtures, ductwork, grills, thermostats, trim, feature walls, accents, doors and hardware, all those details. It’s a big project.”

Earlier this week, Impact Church member Dave Van Keulen made a drone video of the construction site. He has posted this video on the church’s Facebook page.

“You can get an entire interior shot as if you’re walking through the space,” Kresge said. “I can tell you that the skeletal structure is up and the bones are going in, but you can actually see what that looks like on some of that drone footage. You get all the emotion that comes from motion, it’s neat stuff.”

For more information about Impact Church, visit their website, impact.church, call 616-897-8304 or find them on Facebook.

50¢





# City council takes no action, allows marijuana stores at Nov. 28 special meeting

by Tim McAllister  
lead reporter

Lowell city council took no action at their special meeting on Wednesday, Nov. 28, thus allowing recreational marijuana businesses to set up shop within city limits. The council had a Dec. 6 deadline to opt out by passing one of two ordinances that would specifically disallow such businesses.

About 25 people attended the one hour and 15 minute meeting. Of those, 11 voiced their opinions; city clerk Sue Ellery also read letters, phone calls and emails from ten further residents into the public record. In the Nov. 6 election, the majority of Lowell residents voted in favor Proposal 1, 984 to 689. Public opinion at the meeting was similarly split; out of the 11 people who spoke, seven were in favor of it and one just had a question.

"I do think it is something that you should consider," said former Lowell mayor James Hodges. "You can't chase it away, it's going to be around. You may as well deal with it straightforward and regulate it as best you can within our community."

"It's what the voters want, it's already been decided," said former Lowell resident Gary Stevenson. "Voters want to be able to get

recreational marijuana, so it doesn't make sense for you as representatives of those voters to tell them to go somewhere else to get it."

"If we put in facilities, you're going to see less people going to the black market, to those people, and it'll drive them out of business, plain and simple," said Sidney Twp. resident David Overholt.

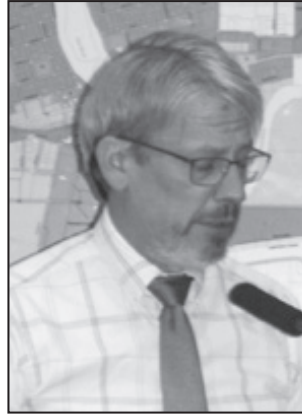
"They just did a study where they couldn't find one benefit of alcohol," said former Michigan state representative and former Grand Rapids city commissioner Roy Schmidt. "I had serious health issues. I got off Vicodin and methadone. All I take is ibuprofen and some medical marijuana at night."

"What negativity would [a dispensary] bring to our town," said local resident Derek Divine. "The people that are on the opiates, maybe they'll go and smoke a joint. Would it hurt them? Maybe they wouldn't do any more [opiates]. Maybe they would continue going to that store. Think about the people that are strung out on everything that could use this right in their town instead of dropping needles by the police station."

"I have been taking an



**Former Lowell mayor Jim Hodges (left) was one of many citizens who spoke out in favor of allowing recreational marijuana businesses in Lowell; Dr. Jim Reagan (right) was among a smaller number who said they were opposed to them.**



opiate since 2013 and I'm tired of taking the drugs, they're expensive and addicting," said local resident Debbie Miller-Nieto. "All I want is a dispensary here in my hometown, according to your rules and guidelines, because I'm not interested in growing the plant in my own home."

"With the opiates, people [are] having overdoses in Keiser's parking lot, which is in my back yard," said local resident Matthew Silverman. "I don't want that around. I'm not worried about somebody having a marijuana overdose in my back yard."

Three residents spoke out against recreational marijuana.

"You make a statement by putting this restriction that we do want to have caution still with this," said Christa Wetzel, executive director of Alpha Family Center. "[When] we just make it a little too easily accessible, we make a statement that there is no harm whatsoever."

"I encourage you to opt out," said Dr. Jim Reagan. "Let's not be the guinea pig municipality. [...] The current Lowell businesses who are here now are invested in their properties

and their businesses, obviously. They came here without pot shops next door. Some of the business owners need to be heard and listened to. [...] Yes, the residents of Lowell did vote in favor of marijuana, but a lot of them that maybe voted yes do not have to worry about a pot shop next to their house."

"I have seen so much effort done by [Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce executive director] Liz Baker and so many others who have moved this community to where it is now," said local resident Brenda Schreur. "I ask you, do you want to jeopardize this?"

The city received six anti-marijuana calls, letters and emails before the meeting, including some from Lisa Plank of the Lowell Area Historical Museum, former city councilor Jim Pfaller, Lowell High School teacher Al Eckman, Jim Doyle of King Milling and others. They got also four pro-marijuana letters from various local residents.

According to the new law, marijuana-related businesses must be more than 1,000 feet away from any school building and must not be in a residential area. At the meeting, before the council's

discussion, Lowell police chief Steve Bukala used a map to show everybody exactly where in town these businesses could and could not locate.

"Everything on E. Main St. is totally not in play," Bukala said. "Nobody can operate a facility in that area. [...] [On W. Main,] anything on the south side of the street from [LowellArts and west] is in play. [...] It cannot go on E. Main St., but there are places on W. Main St. where it can go, so yes, it can and will be on Main St. if you opt in."

The council discussed the two different ordinances they had to choose between. According to city attorney Dick Wendt, the first ordinance the council considered would have prohibited any marijuana facilities from opening in Lowell. Because this ordinance was an "emergency measure" and would take immediate effect, it would have required a supermajority - a "yes" vote from all four city councilors. There are normally five people on the city council; Jeff Phillips stepped down recently, so the council is one member short. The second potential ordinance did not say "emergency measure" and would not have taken immediate effect, so it would have only required three "yes" votes.

"We really need to respond to the voters," said city councilor Greg Canfield. "It was fairly black and white that a majority do support it."

"I don't think our downtown, I don't think our Main St. is where [a dispensary] should be," said city councilor Marty Chambers. "Obviously, there are places that it could be."

"The black market will not go away, I know that for a

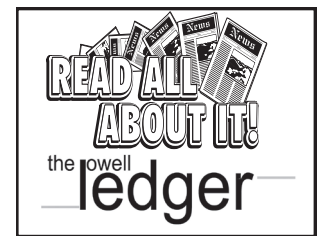
fact," said city councilor Jim Salzwedel. "I have always been an [opponent] of legalizing marijuana. Sitting on the council has made me look at different angles, different things that need to be done."

"Opting in doesn't mean it's going to be on every other corner like a gas station or a pizza place," said mayor Michael DeVore. "People think it's going to be a financial windfall. I don't. I don't personally think it's going to be a financial windfall. I think every dollar counts, sure, but I don't think we're going to be Scrooge McDuck in a vault full of money behind a couple marijuana stores. [...] I don't want it in downtown, I just don't."

After their discussion, during the final two minutes of the meeting, the council attempted to introduce and then vote on the two ordinances. The first ordinance was immediately declared "off the table" by Lowell city manager Michael Burns. The second ordinance was introduced by councilor Chambers, but he was unable to find anybody to second the motion, so the ordinance died. Because the council was unable to opt out before the Dec. 6 deadline, marijuana businesses will be allowed to open in Lowell.

Lowell city council's next regular meeting was at city hall at 7 pm on Monday, Dec. 3.

*Turn to page seven for a recap of that meeting.*



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# Bowne Center holiday celebration includes living Nativity

by Tim McAllister  
lead reporter

Check out the live Nativity scene at the Christmas Open House in Bowne Center, presented by the Bowne Twp. Historical Commission. Bowne Center is a cluster of historic buildings at the corner of Alden Nash and 84th St.

“We will have heat in our museum, so our annual Christmas Open House at the Bowne Twp. Historical Commission, which is on the 15th, will go on as scheduled,” said Dick Johnson, president of the Bowne Township Historical Society. “We will be open from 6 pm until 8 pm in both the museum and the school house museum.”

Actual human beings and farm animals will simulate the scene in the manger at the birth of Christ.

“The Alto Methodist Church puts on the live Nativity, which is set up on the west side of the school museum,” Johnson said. “Church members will be taking the roles of the Nativity and real animals will be taking part also. It is set up so you can drive by it or you can park your car and get out and walk around.”

There will also be cookies, warm drinks, gifts for sale and lots of interesting museum exhibits to wander through.

“The school museum will have something for the children and they will also be able to color and sign a Christmas card to put in the mailbox for Santa,” Johnson said. “In the museum building we will have cookies and hot drinks like cocoa, coffee, tea and cider. We also have several items for sale in the museum.”

This special, unique event will take place at Bowne Center from 6 pm until 8 pm on Saturday, Dec. 15.



## CITY OF LOWELL KENT COUNTY, MICHIGAN

### AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 22.1, “BILLING AND ENFORCEMENT,” OF CHAPTER 22, “ELECTRIC UTILITY RATES AND CHARGES,” OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF LOWELL

The Lowell City Council adopted Ordinance No. 18-08 amending Section 22.1, “Billing and enforcement,” of Chapter 22, “Electric Utility Rates and Charges,” of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Lowell on December 3, 2018. Ordinance No. 18-08 (a) reduces the amount of the deposit required of electric utility customers who are tenants and responsible for payment of the electric utility charges from 3 months to 2 months of the estimated monthly bill and (b) permits a property owner who leases property to a tenant who is responsible for paying the electric utility charges to agree that unpaid electric utility charges are a lien on the property eliminating the need of a deposit by tenant.

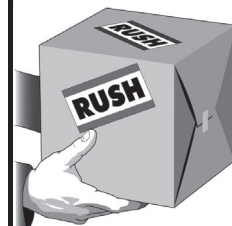
A copy of Ordinance No. 18-08 is available for inspection at City Hall, 301 East Main Street in the City during regular business hours of the City.

Ordinance No. 18-08 is effective 10 days after this publication.



Susan Ullery  
City Clerk

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## Fatal house fire Thur.



On November 29, 2018 at 11:03 PM, the Lowell Fire Department, Kent County Sheriff's Office and Lowell Police Department responded to a house fire in the 13000 block of Grand River Dr. SE in Lowell Township. A 50-year-old male was transported from the scene by Rockford Ambulance to Spectrum Hospital, where he was pronounced dead. The fire remains under investigation by the Kent County Sheriff's Office.

Assisting agencies included Ada Township Fire, Cascade Township Fire, Bowne Township Fire, and Saranac Fire.

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...  
**The last refuge of the insomniac is a sense of superiority to the sleeping world.**  
 ~ Leonard Cohen (1934-2016)

## NEWSPAPERS Outperform Cable Television in Michigan

More adults in Michigan read a newspaper than watch news networks\* on cable television.<sup>1</sup>

Nearly **7 in 10** the lowell ledger

Less than **4 in 10**

**Newspapers are the most trusted media source.<sup>2</sup>**

Adults, across all generations, identify newspapers as their most trusted source of news and information – well ahead of radio.

**65%** of U.S. adults say television ads are intrusive, and **42%** feel unfavorably about them<sup>3</sup>

**43.3%** Only 43.3% of U.S. adults purchased or sought out information about a product as the result of a television ad<sup>6</sup>

**Newspapers are the preferred source of shopping information over television.<sup>3</sup>**

**47%** of adults in Michigan choose newspapers for shopping information.

Michigan adults make more purchases as the result of newspaper ads than television ads.<sup>3</sup>

**Cord Cutting is Increasing.**

- 25%** of all U.S. households have eliminated cable or satellite television services.<sup>4</sup>
- 61%** of new cord cutters will be married.<sup>5</sup>
- 56%** of new cord cutters still have children under 18 in their home.<sup>5</sup>
- 54%** of new cord cutters will have household income over \$75,000.<sup>5</sup>

**Top 5 Frustrations Driving Cord Cutting<sup>6</sup>**

1. Not getting competitive, reasonable rates/pricing
2. Having to pay for channels/content not watched
3. Being nickel and dimed with multiple fees and charges
4. Can no longer afford paid television/it was too expensive
5. New customers get better deals than existing ones

\*2017 Release 2 Nielsen Scarborough Report. Copyright 2018 Scarborough Research. All rights reserved; <sup>1</sup>Triad/Coda Ventures - The Newspaper Generation Study; <sup>2</sup>Morning Consult; 4GfK Ownership and Trend Report from The Home Technology Monitor™; <sup>3</sup>Forrester Research; <sup>4</sup>cg42 Cord Cutter & Cord Never Study; <sup>5</sup>NAA

## LOWELL AREA COMMUNITY FUND ACCEPTS GRANT PROPOSALS

To be considered, all proposals must be submitted online by **December 21, 2018.**

Visit [www.grfoundation.org/lowell](http://www.grfoundation.org/lowell) to submit your application.

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



# viewpoint



## 125 years ago Lowell Ledger December 9, 1893

The grippe is with us again. There are a great many cases in Lowell and vicinity. In most cases the disease is not as severe as in former but in many cases it runs into pneumonia, which is a serious matter especially with elderly people. The names of the sick ones are too numerous to mention.

A petition was presented to the village council at its last meeting signed by a large number of business men asking for the appointment of a second night watch. It was laid on the table, the reason given for the action being heavy drafts upon the treasury for other purposes and the belief that the business men themselves should employ the needed watchman without taxing the rest of the village for it.

A warrant was issued Wednesday afternoon by Justice Court Clerk Robinson, of Grand Rapids, on complaint of Ludwig Alben of Cannon, for the arrest of Abraham Metzger of the same township. According to the complainant, Metzger threatened the well being of complainant with a hickory club.

## 100 years The Lowell Ledger December 5, 1918

Detroit-Grand Rapids Post Flyer is to stop here. Of all the sites suggested to City Manager Fred H. Locke as available for an aviation landing field and aerial mail route terminal, the west end of the Hodenpyl woods property and the field adjoining it on the west is deemed best for practical reasons and for the beauty and attractiveness of surroundings.

Dr. S. S. Lee, newly appointed village health officer, informs The Ledger this Thursday morning that the local influenza conditions -- village and county -- are improving rapidly: and it is expected that the ban will be lifted and that schools will reopen December 16.

A petition praying for a light to be placed at the corner of Jefferson and North streets, signed by J. H. Althaus and several others was read and referred to the Light & Power committee.

## 75 years The Lowell Ledger December 9, 1943

Kent County's 64,825 housewives could feed 6,950 soldiers for a year with the food wasted annually in homes of the county, an official of the country's leading

food distributor estimated this week. This amazing figure is based on accurate government statistics which indicate that at least 32,477,325 pounds of food are wasted annually in Kent County homes, according to Harvey A. Baum, head of A&P Tea Company's produce-buying operations.

Charles Keech, 16-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. William Keech of near Fallasburg, is in serious trouble with the law as the result of robbing the store of Ralph Townsend early last Thursday evening, and on Sunday night taking a sedan, belonging to William Christiansen, from its parking place on Main St., after which he held up a service station at the intersection of US-16 and M-66 at the point of a gun, robbing four truck drivers who were eating in the place, and appropriating the money from the cash register, securing about \$25 in all.

Mrs. George DeGraw of the local Ration Board, announces that all persons having ration books belonging to members of their family who have left for service of have died, should turn the books into the office. An unfair distribution of available food products will result if this is not done, she added.

## 50 years The Lowell Ledger December 5, 1968

Lowell police celebrated a holiday too, with practically no automobile mishaps recorded over the long Thanksgiving weekend. Thomas Alexander, 6, of 209 Brook, Lowell, was crossing the street at Lincoln Lake near Elizabeth Street on Monday at 3:10 p.m. The youngster was taken to a doctor's office for examination and was released, apparently suffering from bruises only. The driver of the car, a 16-year-old youth from Lowell, also was on his way home from school.

Three Lowell youths were among five arrested on a charge of glue sniffing following a raid on a Belding apartment by Belding police and Ionia County sheriff's deputies on November 26.

To make a bed is one thing; to lie in it still another. Last week, 1,123 voters in the Lowell Area School District went to the polls and voted "no" to a proposal by the Board of Education that sufficient operating millage be raised to sponsor an educational program that, at best, would be average.

## 25 years The Lowell Ledger December 8, 1993

"Lunch Break" provides a forum to Lowell Middle School students with literary interests, to display their taste for writing. Laurie Wagner, Lowell Middle School eighth-grade English teacher, took note of the large writing interest at the first LMS Gazette (school newspaper) meeting.

A headline in a Detroit newspaper read "Engler gets wish on charter schools." The Governor got his wish to the extent that charter school legislation was approved by the Michigan House. Beyond that, many proponents of the Governor's charter school program outlined in his education reform plan believe that the compromise bill was so watered down that the program's intrigue and substance was washed away.

Frank Averill, Jr., a life long resident of Ada, has graciously donated land to the Ada Historical Society for the location of a new Averill Historical Museum of Ada. The lot is bounded by Headley, Thornapple River Drive and Teeple Streets.

## Treasury: Online holiday shopping use tax can be paid at tax time

Michigan's use tax generally applies to purchases made when a retailer does not collect sales tax. This often happens when individuals purchase items through online or mail-order retailers or television shopping networks without physical locations inside the state of Michigan.

Michigan's use tax generally applies to purchases made when a retailer does not collect sales tax. This often happens when individuals purchase items through online or mail-order retailers or television shopping networks without physical locations inside the state of Michigan.

"With the kick-off of the holiday shopping season happening after Thanksgiving Day, be sure to check if you are being charged sales tax when you purchase items online," said Deputy State Treasurer Glenn White, who oversees Treasury's Tax Administration programs. "If the online retailer doesn't charge sales tax, state law requires you to

keep a running total and pay your outstanding use tax when you file your annual state income tax return."

Taxpayers paid millions of dollars in use tax through their state income tax return this filing year, helping fund schools and local police and fire departments. Most of the dollars collected from taxpayers through the use tax go to the School Aid Fund, General Fund and to the Local Community Stabilization Authority

The use tax is calculated at the rate of 6 percent of the total purchase. Items subject to use tax include appliances, books, clothing, computers, DVDs, CDs, electronics, furniture, pre-written computer software and tobacco products.

Taxpayers can report their total outstanding use tax annually when filing their Michigan Individual Income Tax Return between January and April.

To learn more about the state of Michigan's use tax and other taxes, go to [www.michigan.gov/taxes](http://www.michigan.gov/taxes).

## We love to hear from you!

*The Lowell Ledger welcomes letters to the editor from readers, but there are a few conditions that must be met before they will be published.*

The requirements are:

- All letters must be signed by the writer, with address and phone number provided for verification. All that will be printed is the writer's name and community of residence. We do not publish anonymous letters, and names will be withheld at the editor's discretion for compelling reasons only.
- Letters that contain statements that are libelous or slanderous will not be published.
- All letters are subject to editing for style, grammar and sense.
- Letters that serve as testimonials for or criticisms of businesses will not be accepted.
- Letters serving the function of "cards of thanks" will not be accepted unless there is a compelling public interest, which will be determined by the editor.
- Letters that include attacks of a personal nature will not be published or will be edited heavily.
- "Crossfire" letters between the same two people on one issue will be limited to one for each writer.
- In an effort to keep opinions varied, there is a limit of one letter per person per month.
- We prefer letters to be printed legibly or typed, double-spaced.



# HEALTH

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



## Do you think your income-related Medicare premium is incorrect?

Medicare is our country's health insurance program for people age 65 or older. Certain people younger than age 65 can qualify for Medicare, too, including those with disabilities and those who have permanent kidney failure.

If you're a Medicare beneficiary who has been informed that you must pay more for your Medicare Part B or Medicare prescription drug coverage premium because of your income, and you disagree with the decision that you need to pay a higher premium amount, you may request an appeal. The fastest and easiest way to file an appeal of your decision is by

visiting [www.socialsecurity.gov/disability/appeal](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/disability/appeal).

You can file online and provide documents electronically to support your appeal. You can also file an appeal online even if you live outside of the United States. You may also request an appeal in writing by completing a Request for Reconsideration (Form SSA-561-U2) at [www.socialsecurity.gov/forms/ssa-561.html](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/forms/ssa-561.html).

If you don't have access to the internet, you can request a copy of the form by calling us at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778).

Learn more by reading our publication Medicare Premiums: Rules for Higher-

Income Beneficiaries at [www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/EN-05-10536.pdf](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/EN-05-10536.pdf).

Know someone who hasn't signed up for Medicare yet? They can use our online Medicare application if they:

ready to start receiving retirement benefits. They can opt out of beginning to receive retirement benefits now once they are in the online application. Then they can apply online for retirement benefits later.

### - smoking cessation

Quitting smoking is one of the most important things you can do to improve your health. People who stop smoking decrease their risk of cancer, heart disease, stroke, and early death. Women who stop smoking before or during pregnancy reduce their risk of infertility or having a low birth-weight baby. Most smokers in the US report they want to stop smoking, but kicking the smoking habit can be difficult. Most people try to quit several times, often as many as eight to ten times, before they are successful. The results are definitely worth the effort.

Be committed to quitting. Keep in mind why you want to quit and stay motivated. Get help from your doctor and continue to follow up regularly. Choose a firm date and mark it

on the calendar. Begin to cut back prior to your quit date. Consider joining a stop smoking program. Many doctor's office have information on local programs. Remove smoking from your environment. Avoid places where people congregate to smoke. Remove cigarettes from your car, home and work. Eat a healthy diet and stay active to help with stress and to minimize weight gain.

Nicotine replacement therapy helps relieve the withdrawal symptoms that many smokers say prevent them from quitting. There are several formulations available, including lozenges, gum, patches and inhalers. There are also prescription medications to help stop smoking. Talk to your doctor about appropriate therapy for you.



## happy birthday



**DECEMBER 5**  
Christopher Vickers.

**DECEMBER 6**  
Katie Blough, Kristopher Vezino, Maria Blough, Christopher DeBold, Marc Wernet.

**DECEMBER 7**  
Jennifer Berry, Jeni Buck.

**DECEMBER 8**  
Mike Cummings, Ellen Miller.

**DECEMBER 9**  
Allen Metternick, Sara Triplett, Deb Schuitema, Alison Nugent, Ben Nugent, Noah VanLaan.

**DECEMBER 10**  
Bill Fluger, Barbara Decker.

**DECEMBER 11**  
Dave Rhodes, Kathryn Zalewski, Amber Waldron, Mike Kline, Billie Fallstrom, Pete Osborne.

- Are at least 64 years and nine months old;
- Want to sign up for Medicare but do not currently have ANY Medicare coverage;
- Do not want to start receiving Social Security benefits at this time; and
- Are not currently receiving Social Security retirement, disability, or survivors benefits.

Remind them that they should sign up for Medicare three months before reaching age 65, even if they are not

You can learn all you need to know at [www.socialsecurity.gov/benefits/medicare](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/benefits/medicare) and easily share these resources with family and friends.

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

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# area churches



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103 Bluewater Highway (Missouri Synod)  
Halfway between Lowell & Saranac on M-21  
[www.goodshepherdlowell.org](http://www.goodshepherdlowell.org)  
Worship Service ..... Sunday - 10:30 AM  
Sunday School..... 9:15 AM  
Joseph Fremer, Pastor 897-8307  
All facilities are wheelchair accessible

**CALVARY CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH OF LOWELL**  
897-7060  
Rev. Dr. Paul Mpindi PHD  
1151 West Main Street, Lowell, MI  
Morning Worship..... 10:00 AM  
Sunday School..... 11:20 AM  
Evening Worship..... 6:00 PM  
Nursery available at both services  
Barrier-Free

**St. Mary Catholic Church**  
402 Amity Street • 616-897-9820  
Website: [www.stmarylowell.com](http://www.stmarylowell.com)  
Weekend Masses: Sat 5 pm; Sun 10:30 am  
Confession: Saturdays 3-4:30 pm  
Prayer & Adoration: Wednesdays 8 am to 7 pm  
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**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC**  
865 Lincoln Lake SE • 616.897.5906  
Pastor Jon Propper  
Worship Service - Sundays 10 AM  
Lowell's Open Table - Thursdays 5 - 7 PM  
Serving meals and providing fellowship to the greater Lowell community  
**OPEN AND AFFIRMING**  
[www.lowellucc.org](http://www.lowellucc.org)

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF LOWELL**  
CHRIST-CENTERED, KINGDOM-FOCUSED HOMES  
2275 West Main Street - (Barrier Free)  
897-7168 • [www.fbclowell.org](http://www.fbclowell.org)  
Pastor Jon Pickens • Lead Pastor  
Pastor Andrew Bolkom • Pastor of Discipleship  
Christi Swain • Director of Children's Ministries  
**SUNDAY WORSHIP..... 9:30 AM** (Nursery provided)  
**LIFE GROUPS..... 11:00 AM** (Nursery-Adult)  
**Awana** (K-5 during school year) **Wednesday, 6:15 PM**

**LOWELL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
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897-5938  
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Kid's Crew 11:15 AM  
Sr. Pastor - Brad Brillhart

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# Lowell city council discusses city income tax at Dec. 3 regular meeting

by Tim McAllister  
lead reporter

Lowell city council had their latest regular meeting at city hall on Monday, Dec. 3. The meeting lasted 55 minutes and was attended by nine citizens.

Lowell police chief Steve Bukala described the heroics

out and pull the occupant to safety. They immediately realized he wasn't breathing and they started CPR. [...] When I say it was at great risk to themselves, there was an oxygen tank inside that home, as the resident of the

implementation. However, this would be reduced by an estimated \$151,224 in administrative costs and by about \$480,000 from a 4 mill property tax cut that would accompany the city income tax, leaving Lowell with an estimated \$851,776 in additional revenue.

"We've probably reached a crisis point in local government finances, so I think the city income tax is becoming a more attractive option in more cities," Kleine said.

"If you don't have good public services, people are

going to leave," Bean said. "That'll probably have as much negative impact as high taxes, so you've got to have a balance."

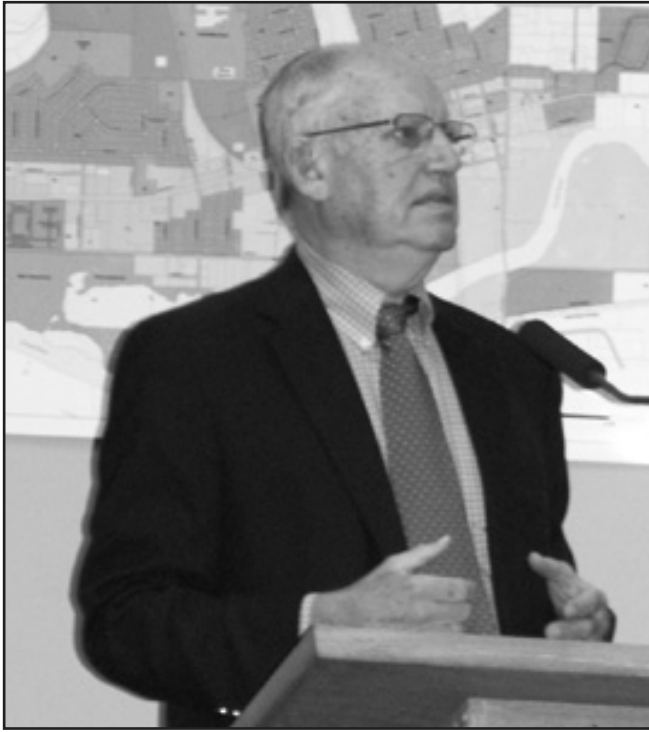
There are currently 24 cities in the state that have an income tax. Usually these are cities with large employers whose employees tend to live elsewhere, such as Ionia with its large prison or Walker where Meijer is headquartered. City voters would have to approve any income tax.

"Just the general fund, which basically most of our services are provided

from - most of our DPW, police, fire, administrative [and] city hall costs - it's about \$3 million," said city manager Michael Burns. "Property taxes we receive in the city to pay for that is about \$1.5, \$1.6 million, roughly, so we're at about 50 percent of what we get to run the city is on property taxes. When you look at our community in comparison to some other communities, we have a very low value. We generate \$99,000 a mill for one mill of taxes, and where a lot of communities, for example Rockford, is double that, and then East Grand Rapids, which is six times that. We're constrained by the fact that we have lower property values in the city to begin with, and we're at the point, obviously, now where we have infrastructure needs that we can't pay for right now. Whatever way you go... Maybe a city income tax isn't for you, I don't know, but we need to start thinking about how we're going to be able to address these needs or else, quite frankly, we have to start thinking about different things that we want for our city, and I don't think that's a positive thing, either."

The council briefly discussed their next steps for dealing with recreational marijuana. They decided to discuss the issue in detail during a "committee of the whole" meeting at city hall at 5:30 pm on Tuesday, Jan. 22. The council must decide how many of each type of facility to allow and which areas will be acceptable.

Lowell city council's next regular meeting will be at city hall at 7 pm on Monday, Dec. 17.



Mitch Bean (pictured) and Bob Kleine from Great Lakes Economic Consulting presented the council with information about a potential city income tax.



Lowell police chief Steve Bukala described the Thursday night heroics of officer Chris Hurst and firefighter Cory Velzen.

of a Lowell police officer and a Lowell firefighter at the scene of a fire on Thursday, Nov. 29.

"Sgt. Chris Hurst and the Lowell police department responded to an active house fire on Grand River Dr.," Bukala said. "Sgt. Hurst was the first one on the scene. He was joined shortly after by Lt. Cory Velzen of the Lowell Fire Department. At great risk to himself, with heavy smoke and flames visible in and outside the residence, Sgt. Hurst and Lt. Velzen found a lone occupant just inside the sliding glass door. They were able to smash the glass

home was on oxygen. That tank exploded shortly after they pulled him out of that house."

The council listened to a PowerPoint presentation about a potential one percent city income tax by financial experts Mitch Bean and Bob Kleine of Great Lakes Economic Consulting. Kleine was Michigan's treasurer from 2006 to 2011; Bean served as director of the Michigan House Fiscal Agency from 1999 until 2011. The pair stated that, according to their calculations, the city could collect an estimated \$1,483,000 in income taxes the first year of



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## NOTICE VERGENNES TOWNSHIP ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE AMENDMENT 2018-06

Notice is hereby given that amendments to the Vergennes Township Zoning Ordinance regarding the Zoning Ordinance Map were adopted at a regular meeting of the Vergennes Township Board on November 19, 2018 and are summarized as follows:

The Vergennes Township Board approved to rezone the property owned by Kent County Road Commission known and addressed as 1000 Cumberland Ave from R-1 to R-A to permit the location of the Kent County Dispatch Authority's new 300' telecommunications tower for the purpose of improving public safety communications between 1st responders in all areas of the County. There will be 12 towers/antennas placed throughout Kent County to update the county's public safety 911 dispatch system that the voters approved in 2016.

The complete text of Ordinance 2018-06 is on file at the township office, located at 10381 Bailey Dr., Lowell, and on the township website at [www.vergennestwp.org](http://www.vergennestwp.org).

**This ordinance shall become effective seven (7) days after publication.**

## CITY OF LOWELL PUBLIC NOTICE


**The December Board of Review will meet as follows:**

**Tuesday, December 11, 2018  
at 11:00am**

**ACT 14 OF 1985**, being Section 211.53(b) of the General Property Tax Laws, provides for corrections of clerical errors or mutual mistakes of fact relative to the correct assessment figures, and the corrections of Principle Residence Exemptions, these shall be verified by the local assessing officer and approved by the board of review at a meeting held for that purpose, to be held on any day of the week of the 2nd Monday in December.

On December 11, 2018, a meeting will be called for this purpose at 11:00am in the City Hall, 301 East Main Street, Lowell, MI 49331, to conduct business as provided for in Section 211.53(b), Michigan Compiled Laws.

City of Lowell Clerk  
Posted November 30, 2018  
Sue Ullery




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# Pioneer Christmas party at Fallasburg Park

by Tim McAllister  
lead reporter

Celebrate an old-fashioned country Christmas at Fallasburg Village, 13944 Covered Bridge Rd., from 6 until 8 pm on Saturday, Dec. 8. The historic little town will be tastefully decorated for the holidays and there will be plenty of food and entertainment, plus a gigantic bonfire.

“[There will be] good, hearty holiday fare, like turkey and stuffing, Swedish meatballs, salads, potato dishes, soups and plenty of dessert items from the kitchens of local volunteers,” said Ken Tamke, president of the Fallasburg Historical Society. “This year Addie Abel, JoAnn Childs, Patty Brechbiel and Melanie Brim will provide a lion’s share of our food, but there’s always a few more isolated, yet appreciated goodies that will find their way to our tables. We serve some libations for adults, hot cider, coffee and soda pop for kids. We pretty much have to clear out the school of desks and exhibit items to accommodate the crowd and buffet tables. We ask for a \$20 donation.”

The party starts at 6 pm, then folks go outside and enjoy a massive bonfire.

up, got a burn permit and set it ablaze, tending it until it burned out. Beginning in 2006, and with a whole year to prepare, Woody created his first masterpiece. He collected broken wooden pallets from a pallet company, the construction of which allows air in at the bottom of the pile to form the base of the fire. During the course of the year, wood scrap, tree branches and logs were carefully added with the entire neighborhood contributing. Like jack straws, the pile grew. The end result was a spectacular blaze that burned itself down to ash with nary an unburned piece left over. Each subsequent year the pile seemed to get a little bigger, with flames leaping a little higher and tail feathers becoming a little warmer. The current incarnation of the fire to be is something to behold. We often joke it should garner ArtPrize consideration for construction. The pile, which will be lit at about 7:30 pm on Dec. 8, is approximately 20–25 feet long by 15–20 feet wide by 10–15 feet high. Woody’s fire, like FHS’s party, brings the community together to celebrate the



variety of wild game entrees and side dishes that might have been served when John Wesley Fallas and family first settled in Fallasburg in the 1840s. Space was limited due to the size of the parlor and downstairs area of the house. This was a catered affair, not a potluck like our current party. While the gathering was very festive and gastronomically adventurous, costs to pull it off were high [and] attendance [was] low. The FHS Board decided to go in a different direction in 2005, as we couldn’t afford to throw a costly dinner party. Moving over to the Fallasburg school house seemed a natural progression for the event. The evolution of the current party has not gone through many changes since its inception. The early potluck menu spearheaded by Dottie Blain has remained pretty much the same.”

Local folk group Hawks & Owls have performed at the event every single year of its existence. The group is led by 1975 LHS graduate Bruce Ling.

“I [have] been playing for the Fallasburg Historical Society Fundraisers for a number of years, [since] in my 20s I recall,” Ling

said. “That was through being recruited by Priscilla Lussmyer. Priscilla had been the president of that organization for many, many years. She got me on the stage of that Fallasburg Art Fair when I was 15 to play a bunch of Neil Young songs. I’ve played that festival for years now, with my band Hawks & Owls. She’d also get me leading sing-alongs at Snyder Manor. My grandma, Marie Ling, was the very first resident there when it opened. My other grandmother, Bernice Oberg, was the first secretary for the Lowell Senior Citizens. As I said, I got to know Priscilla very well starting when I was in my mid 30s. This is how it started. I was playing for the Fallasburg Historical Society Fundraiser, which was happening in the summer as well, and it had an authentic old-time baseball game, a Civil War muster, old-time craftspersons, old-style food vendors, the participants in period clothing, etc. I was leaning up against the oak tree next to the school house playing my fiddle, which I was tasked with, and I saw a friend arrive and start heading towards me. Simultaneously, Priscilla came out of the school house

and headed towards me as well. They both met at the same time in front of me, and I introduced Priscilla to my friend as someone that I had just been starting to get to know recently. Priscilla snorted like she did when she was provided with information that didn’t quite fit reality, and said ‘Getting to know you! I got to know you well enough when you were 13 and in my Sunday school class at the Methodist Church. I’ve had my eye you!’ I asked her why it had just been recently that we been having tea together and hanging out. She laughed and said that it wasn’t ‘til recently that I had anything to say. My friend laughed, but I felt deeply honored to realize that I had arrived at a place in my life where someone as wise as Priscilla Lussmyer found my conversation worthy. Looking back, I could recall many times through my life when I’d run into her and she’d offer advice, or admonishment. From my mid 30s, through my 50s, ‘til she moved to Whidbey Island [in Washington] we spent a lot of time together. I’d visit every other week for tea and a chat, a walk in the woods, a drive on

the back roads, a sit by the Flat River. I’d get advice on my electrical company and my life, short and to the point. I miss her. She was a visionary, a dowser, could change a person’s bad habits with hypnotism, knew all the plants and what to use for medicine or food, knew where the lost Native American burial grounds were located in the area, could whistle bird calls and bring them in, chickadees sat in her hand and so much more.”

Christmas at Fallasburg Village is an opportunity to celebrate Christmas the way they did when the village was first settled back in the 1800s.

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

For more information about this event and Fallasburg Village in general, check out their website, fallasburg.org, or call 616-682-0785.



Hawks & Owls have performed in the school house at this event every year of its existence.

“The bonfire in adjacent Fallas Field [has] gotten bigger and bigger and bigger,” Tamke said. “Long-time Fallasburg Villager, Craig ‘Woody’ Wood, is the architect of the fire. That first year [he did the fire] in 2005, without much of a head start, Woody pulled together landscaping debris, fallen trees and wood scrap gleaned from the village, stacked it

season and everybody is invited.”

The event was conceived 13 years ago to replace the expensive, unpopular wild game dinner they used to throw.

“In the early 2000s, FHS hosted a sit-down dinner at the Fallas House intended to be a fundraiser,” Tamke said. “The dinner was pioneer themed, and featured a

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT SPECTRUM TV SERVICE

Effective on or after January 8, 2019, EPIX will be available for subscription only as an a la carte service. For more information, or to add EPIX as an a la carte service, call 1-855-70-Spectrum.

To view a current Spectrum channel lineup visit [www.spectrum.com/channels](http://www.spectrum.com/channels). To view this notice online visit [www.spectrum.net/programmingnotices](http://www.spectrum.net/programmingnotices).

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT SPECTRUM CHANNEL LINEUP

Communities Served: Townships of Bowne & Lowell MI.

Effective on or after January 4, 2019, Star India will cease providing programming to Spectrum for the following channels: Star Plus on South Asian View channel 394 and Star Plus HD on South Asian View channel 874.

For a complete channel lineup, visit [Spectrum.com/channels](http://Spectrum.com/channels). To view this notice online, visit [Spectrum.net/programmingnotices](http://Spectrum.net/programmingnotices).



# Lowell holiday festivities, Saturday, Dec. 1



Photos by Emma Palova





# First trimester Lowell High School Honor Roll

*First trimester term GPA must be a 3.000 or higher to qualify based on final grades*

<b>9th Grade</b>		<b>10th Grade</b>		<b>11th Grade</b>	
Kylie Albert	Brianna Laux	Raven Jake Adamczak	Jenna Lachniet	Madelyn Wester	Kara Korcek
Ocean Angelo	David Lay	Madison Alcalá	Abbie Ladner	Jillian Weston	Lucas Kramer
Alyssa Atkins	Madison Liley	Laura Amengual Menendez	Ryan Landgren	Taylor White	William Kuhns
Amber Backing	James Link	Ashley Anheuser	Mason LeBarre	Zachary White	Brianna Lachowski
Kira Bailey-Waldron	Hayden Lowrie	Lauren Austhof	Jacob Lee	Olivia Winn	Grace Langdon
Norah Baker	Ella Luers	Lauren Austhof	Aubri Lemke	Bailey Wolters	Jared Lardie
Bryce Balabuch	Jackson MacNaughton	Jacob Bauer	Rachel Leppert	William Wurtz	Keegan Laux
Zachary Bannan	John McCarthy	Delaney Beimers	Kacey Leverage	Chlorisa Young	Phoebe Looman
Emma Barnhart	Canaan McKinney	Joshua Beke	Rachel Lezan	Jona Young	Jenavieve Lyon
Paige Barnhart	Kaylee McLarty	Ethan Bierlein	William Link	Teryn Zandstra	Luke Maksymetz
January Basinger	Aidan McWayne	Kayla Boersen	Samuel Lixie	Carolina Zook	Karissa Mansfield
Blake Bennett	Mason Meadows	Jacob Bonney	Samantha Lombardo		Natasha Marsh
Samantha Bennett	Benjamin Mika	William Brandt	John Lothian		Matthew Martin
Kendra Berg	Nicholas Momany	Casper Broene	Grant Lupton		William Martin
Alexis Berrington	Ramsy Mutschler	Madison Brown	Phillip MacDermaid		Ford Maudsley
Carter Blough	William Neeley	Lisa Bruckner	Aiden Malone		Grady McDonald
Hanna Bogoski	William Neeley	Dayle Brushaber	Kendra Martino		Neely Bardwell
Sedona Bonter	Marisa Nicolet	Addison Bruwer	Kobie Mast		Justin Barnes
Madison Borrelli	Branch Nietling	Zachary Callihan	Lilly Mattausch		Lexi Barry-Coulier
Elyse Bosscher	Morgan North	Celia Chaplotte	Matthew Mayhew		Krin Beach
Travis Boyd	Kaden Northup	Jacob Chrisman	Marlie McDonald		Emma Bennett
Robert Brabant	Kyra Northup	Nathaniel Clark	Zeke McMeeken		Marissa Berg
Mariah Bracey	Cole Opperman	Kassidy Cole	Joshua Meier		Jacquelyn Bileth
Caleob Brooks	Peter Ostrander	Kylie Collins	Brooke Meijer		Jayleigh Bileth
Eric Bryce	Olivia Outman	Caroline Cooper	Oscar Melby		Emma Blakie
Hayden Burt	Maureen Paquette	Kristina Dalessandro	Molly Meyers		Ryleigh Blough
Kaylee Byrne	Madalin Petersen	Andrew Davis	Mackenzie Miller		Ashley Boehr
Cailey Calhoun	Tyler Peterson	Parker Davis	Carissa Mitchell		Lauren Booth
Liam Carpenter	Luc Pohly	Lucia De Izaguirre Garcia	Derek Mohr		Ricky Braman
Owen Carpenter	Ethan Post	Doak Dean	Marta Montiel Navas		Mary Buechler
Elise Charron	Noah Proctor	Emalie DeBoer	Cristina Morcillo Ruiz		Carlos Campos
Nathan Cleaver	Eliot Raimer	Darl DeCator	Ginevra Moretti		Brady Chambers
William Compton	Aubrey Rasch	Mason DeRaad	Kassandra Morgan		Collin Clark
Liberty Cook	Caleb Ray	William deVoest	Maloryn Mrozinski		Jacob Cleaver
Carra Couturier	Colton Ritchie	Nathaniel Dewitt	Sydney Munson		Madeline Cole
Madison Coviak	Carlee Rogers	Kaylee Diamond	Brady Musser		Audrey Conrad
Kalel Creasy	Kadience Rogers	Rohan Dixon	Devin Nelson		Jennifer Cooper
Jacob Cremer	Dominick Ronchetti	Samuel Dougherty	Grace Nielsen		Lillian Cooper
Emma Cross	Alexis Royer	Austin Douma	Keegan Nugent		Jarrett Corder
Ella Cusack	Chloe Sandborn	Isabelle Duhr	Noah Oswald		Lucas Cossar
Emma Dawson	Dana Sanders	Sean Edwards	Amanda Oudbier		Savanah Crace
Ella DeRuiter	Jadan Sanders	Dorothy Estes	Vitor Paganini		Danica Cupp
Hanna DeVries	Cierra Sayer	Olivia Ettinger	Cameron Parker		Nolan Cusack
Aiden Dial	Catherine Schipper	Melissa Field	Emma Parsons		Abigail Davis
Anna Doyle	Emma Schmidt	Matthew Fisher	Cameron Pawloski		Olivia DeCator
Brenden Duhr	Isabella Schmidt	Miranda Flier	Ethan Pawloski		Logan DeKok
Jared Elliott	Evyn Schneider	William Forney	Emma Pearson		Olivia Dennie
Mackenzie Elve	Emma Schulte	Aaron Foster	Alana Peters		Jaron DeVito
Savannah Escobedo	Evan Schulte	Jonathan Franz	Asher Peters		Hannah Diamond
Joshua Fabis	Noelle Schwarz	Paige Frazer	Tyler-Jacob Pett		Bernie Diekevers
Justus Farrell	Andrew Serne	Aurora Fredricks	Paige Phillips		Ellery Droog
Mikayla Faust-Boehm	Emily Shay	Ashlyn Fryers	Pauline Pohacker		Miles Droski
Connor Fitzpatrick	Lucas Sloma	Pau Galmes Nadal	Sophia Powell		Delaney Duimstra
Aden Folk	Gage Snarski	Ella Galusha	Karsyn Preston		Lauren Dykstra
Greta Forward	Jeselyn Spaulding	Joelle Garcia	Mallory Price		Tristan Ellsworth-Bristol
Jackson Fowler	Kyler Spike	Aleiha Gates	Skylie Raab		Brett Evink
Sawyer Fowler	Cassandra Sprague	Erin Gibbons	Jason Reitsma		Benjamin Fabiano
Emmalynne French	Savannah Steffen	Josiah Gissendanner	Jenna Reitsma		Akalia Foreman
Winton Garrelts	Lara Steffens	Hallie Greenop	Brooke Rempalski		James Fotis
Malia Garrison	Kelsey Stephens	McKenna Grody	Jakob Reynolds		Aaron Fox
Brooklyn Gavitt	Zachary Stevens	Amber Grover	Reid Reynolds		Ember Fox
Emily German	Haleigh Strouse	Averi Haas	Kodi Richards		Molly Frederickson
Shannon Gibbons	Emily Struckmeyer	Amber Hadley	Evan Richter		Aaron Fritsma
Jerald Gieske	Skye-Ann Sturgeon	Lauren Haff	Russell Richter		Riley Fuller
Aiden Glass	Lauren Swain	Pauli Hakli	Steven Rickert		Anna Gaskin
Rosemary Goodwin	Joseph Swanson	Hailey Halfmann	Skyler Ripmaster		MaKenzie Givens
Shea Goodwin	Brody Swift	Emma Hall	Logan Rose		Sidney Gordon
Danton Goulet	Avery Szymanski	Ethan Hall	Izabel Rutz		Brayden Gould
Joseph Graham	Leonardo Tavarone	Andrea Hardman	Logan Ryan		Evan Groeneweg
Grace Griffin	Mia Tavarone	Hannah Hardy	Bradley Salgat		Madison Halfmann
Gavin Guild	Moira Thayer	Hannah Hardy	Hannah Schmidt		Braiden Hamilton
Aaron Gutowski	Kaitlynn Thompson	Alissa Hare	Ian Schwartz		Zander Hamilton
Leah Halstead	Olivia Torline	Alex Harrison	Emma Seddon		Emma Hancock
Lanndon Hamilton	Justin Troost	Travis Harvey	Hyo Jin Seo		Ashlie Hathaway
Caleb Hasapis	Jennie Underwood	Jake Hessler	Autumn Serylo		Khloe Hayes
Dethan Hawk	Samuel VandenHout	Dillon Hieshetter	Bryce Shelley		Danielle Hess
Zachary Hayes	Bryson VanderMeulen	Sierra Hieshetter	Carter Sherman		Ronald Hofmann
Robert Hays	Cole Vandervest	Kathryn Hock	Ethan Shindorf		Roy Hoin
Cole Herring	Haley VanGorp	Kara Hoffert	Luke Skinner		Sophia Hornik
Alexis Hofmann	Taryn VanNoy	Emma Hollern	Christian Smith		Jacob Hough
Taylor Holdridge	Alexis Verstrate	Sophie Hruska	Anna Snell		Craig Hudson
Alyvia Hopkins	Madelynn Visscher	Alexander Hudson	Brett Spanbauer		Logan Hudson
Brynn Jackson	Jordyn Vriesman	Cole Huisman	Sydney Spanbauer		Elliana James
Brett Johnson	Tyler Vroman	Tressa Huizinga	Tyler Spinella		Dawson Jankowski
Jaymie Johnson	Alexander Weber	Sydney Hulst	Faith Stepek		Abraham Jannenga
David Kaczanowski	Kennedi Weed	Nora Jannenga	Terrick Stewart		Willem Jewell
Samuel Kaminski	Sterling Weeks	Kira Jungblut	Abigail Stickney		Adrienne Johnson
Ava Kamradt	Jonah Wegschaidler	Alexis Kapcia	Ava Tavarone		Ashley Johnson
Delaney Kelley	Chase Weiss	Caeden Kaufman	Riley Taylor		Jacob Kanoza
Tyler Kelley	Amelia Wells	Mikayla Keller	Kyle Teachworth		Sophia Katsul
Kayla Kermeen	Alexander Wenger	Elliott Kelley	Mason Thomas		Collier Kaufman
Evan Klein	Marissa Wever	Gavin Kelly	Benjamin Thompson		Mya Kaywood
Brooke Knottnerus	Shelby Wilcox	Lauren King	Samantha Todd		Andrew Kehoe
Ty Knottnerus	Allison Williams	Cassie Kinyon	Kendal Topp		Aidan Kelley
Amber Koepsell	Julia Wilterink	Joseph Kopecek	Julia Tuuri		Benjamin Kinnucan
Lillian Kooistra	Logan Wurtz	Kari Kroll	Anniek van Dijke		Benjamin Klein
	Nathan Yon-Ryan	Kelci Kurti	Bradley VandenHout		Alexander Kleinedler
	Aaron Young		Hannah VanDeWeert		Connor Kleinedler
			Ryan Virsik		Kambry Kloosterman
			Allison Weiss		Connor Kooistra



# LHS Honor Roll, continued

## 12th Grade

Chase Anderson  
 Drake Anderson  
 Liako Anderson  
 Nichole Anheuser  
 Lauren Aud  
 Rachel Baldwin  
 Danielle Barnes  
 Joslynn Battle  
 Zoe Bennett  
 Emily Bessey  
 Kyle Bibbler  
 Bryan Bitterman  
 Halaina Bladey  
 Anna Bodemann  
 Breanda Boersma  
 Mikayla Boersma  
 Renee Boersma  
 Savanna Boersma  
 Anneke Breuker  
 Tyler Brown  
 Hunter Browning  
 Warlo Bruns  
 Nathan Bush  
 Eddy Butare  
 Connor Cater  
 Bridgett Clay  
 Amber Clouse  
 Eleanor Cooper  
 Gavin Coxon  
 Regan Coxon  
 Morgan Cremer  
 Tyler Cross  
 Andrew Davidson

Linnae DeBoer  
 Blake DeHaan  
 Sarah DeKam  
 Conner DeKok  
 Savanna Dempsey  
 Jordan Dent  
 Emily Depew  
 Mackenzie DeRaad  
 Easton DeWitt  
 Ella Dougherty  
 Michaela Duursma  
 Sarah Ellsworth  
 Logan Everhart  
 Zachary Fabis  
 Laine Fleszar  
 Kaitlyn Florian  
 Tristan Fogarty-Thomas  
 Taegan Folk  
 Jace Forward  
 Marlie Fowler  
 Mitchell Franck  
 Riley Frazer  
 Ava Frederickson  
 Ethan Furtaw  
 Lora Gable  
 Nevada Gale  
 Lin Gallagher  
 Parker Georgacakes  
 Charity Gerig  
 Harlie Gerth-McMullin  
 Dejah Gissendanner  
 Mason Godbold  
 Kohl Goldsmith  
 Zane Goldsmith

Jailine Gomez-Tellez  
 Allexis Gonzales  
 Claire Gossman  
 Samantha Graves  
 Tyler Greenop  
 Kollen Gruizenga  
 Gwendolyn Hackett  
 Kevin Hadley  
 Emily Haefner  
 Amaya Hansen  
 Matthew Harrison  
 Addie Hart  
 Shannon Havlik  
 Jaklyn Hayes  
 Sierra Heintzelman  
 Jackson Helder  
 Logan Hesche  
 Carly Hoekstra  
 Evangeline Hoke  
 Alyvia Holdridge  
 Jared Hough  
 Megan Houghtaling  
 Brett Hudson  
 Aileen Hussey  
 Callie Ingram  
 Ashleigh Jarrard  
 Annabelle Johnson  
 Olyvia Johnson  
 Madison Jordan  
 Olivia Kamradt  
 Tyler Kapcia  
 Patrick Kargl  
 Ethan Kelley  
 Karsten Kirkendall

Rylee Kovalick  
 Justyn Kreps  
 Kelly Kroll  
 Samantha Kurti  
 Emily Labron  
 Meghan Landgren  
 Sara Landon  
 Allyson Lange  
 Emily Larson  
 Jeffrey Leach  
 Anya Lehman  
 Paige Lewis  
 Brittney Losey  
 Emily Lothian  
 McKenzie Lythgoe  
 Kenzie Madden  
 Matthew Mahalic  
 Addison Mallindine  
 Gramm McCormack  
 Connor McLane  
 Megan Meadows  
 Madison Melle  
 Corah Miller  
 Tori Miller  
 Alyssa Milton  
 Eric Mooney  
 Mia Munger  
 Jada Murley  
 Avry Mutschler  
 Hadyn Nash  
 Ella Nauta  
 Haley Nieuwkoop  
 Isaiah Ogle  
 Case Olesko

Grace Ostrander  
 Natalie Paiz  
 Andrew Parsons  
 Alexis Pawloski  
 Katherine Peal  
 Trevor Petroelje  
 Brendan Philo  
 Tyler Pitcher  
 Mattelyn Pollema  
 Zackery Post  
 Nadia Preston  
 Ethan Ray  
 Elias Reed  
 Isabel Remar  
 Ivan Reynolds  
 Sydney Riffle  
 Ruben Rios Soriano  
 Nathan Roest  
 Ryan Roest  
 Leanna Rose  
 Andrew Russell  
 John Russell  
 Madison Sage  
 Saige Saldivar  
 Shianna Sawdy  
 Robert Schneider  
 Tyler Senneker  
 Lucas Sherman  
 Wyatt Shuck  
 Calvin Simmet  
 Mason Simmet  
 Samuel Simmons  
 Dwayne Simpson Jr  
 Grace Sinen  
 Marleigh Skibbe

Ryan Slopsema  
 Gabriel Smith  
 Haley Sobie  
 Maggie Spoelstra  
 Daniel Staup  
 Cheyenne Steffen  
 Joel Steinebach  
 Kylee Stephens  
 Nicholas Struckmeyer  
 Emily Stump  
 Alex Summerfield  
 Matthew Summerfield  
 Faith Tava  
 Alexander Taylor  
 Xavier Taylor  
 Briana Thompson  
 Philip Thompson  
 Irene Trierweiler  
 Mackenzie Uhen  
 Joshua Underwood  
 Michael VandenHout  
 Colin VanderWarf  
 Nathaniel VanDeWeert  
 Taylin VanDyke  
 Kendra VanOverloop  
 Sara Visser  
 Abigail Wester  
 Nicholas Weston  
 Abigail White  
 Korbin Williford  
 Hope Winters  
 Mason Winters  
 Madelynn Wittenbach  
 Tyler Yeary  
 Regan Zimmerman  
 Anna Zook

# Sports Summaries

## BOYS FRESHMAN BASKETBALL

The Red Arrows freshmen began their game with a pressing man-to-man defense against the Wayland Wildcats. At the end of the first quarter, the Red Arrows were behind 21 to 6. Wayland was victorious with a score of 47-20 at the end of the game. Wayland was led in scoring by Kaden Coughlin with 18 points. Gage Snarski was Lowell's leading scorer with six points. "A well-played game by both teams," said Lowell's coach Marc Woolery.

## BOYS VARSITY BASKETBALL

The Lowell varsity basketball team, coached by Travis Slanger, opened the 2018 season at Wayland with a tough loss. Wayland had only a five-point lead at the half, with the score being 30-25. The Red Arrows fought back to a 42-41 lead by the end of the third quarter. The Wildcats came out hot in the fourth quarter, outscoring the Red Arrows by 15 points for a final victory of 58-44. Wayland was led in scoring by Cory Ainsworth with 23 points. Robby Schneider and Nolan Cusack led Lowell's scoring with nine points each.

## BOYS JV BASKETBALL

The boys JV team went into the home of the Wayland Wildcats and came away with a hard-fought victory in overtime. The score was 55 to 50. Lowell was led in scoring by Troy Taylor with 18 points. Taylor scored six points during overtime. Austin Reeder led scoring for Wayland with 12 points. Lowell's JV team is coached by Brandon Barber.

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Red Arrow Fall  
**SPORTS SCHEDULES**

**BOYS VARSITY WRESTLING**  
 \* Denotes a home game  
 12/15 at 8 am Kent County Classic

**BOYS VARSITY SWIM & DIVE**  
 12/11 at 6 pm EK Christmas Quad  
 12/11 at 6 pm Grand Rapids Union

**L GIRLS GYMNASTICS**  
 \* Denotes a home game at LHS  
 1/5 at 10 am Rockford Flip Flop Invite

**L GIRLS VARSITY BASKETBALL**  
 \* Denotes a game at LHS main gym  
 12/11 at 7 pm West Catholic\*


**BOYS VARSITY BASKETBALL**  
 \* Denotes a home game at LHS main gym  
 12/11 at 7 pm at West Catholic

**L GIRLS COMPETITIVE CHEER**  
 12/14 time TBA Aquinas Competition

**L BOYS VARSITY HOCKEY**  
 \* Denotes a home game at Kentwood Ice Arena  
 12/8 at 3:30 pm Portage Northern at Wings Stadium  
 12/14 at 7:30 pm Grand Rapids Christian\*  
 12/15 at 3:30 East Grand Rapids\*

**L BOYS & GIRLS BOWLING**  
 \* Denotes a meet at The Bowling Alley - Ionia  
 12/10 at 3:30 pm at Caledonia  
 12/11 at 3:30 pm at Caledonia  
 12/12 at 3:30 pm FHN at Eastbrook Lanes

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 50¢ each additional sheet

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**Lowell Little League**

**Lowell Little League extends our thanks to the Board members who stepped down during or after the 2018 season:**

**Thanks for a Great 2018!**

**Anne Blazo  
 Mike Hoevenaar  
 Bobby Hughes  
 Jack Proctor  
 Kendra Proctor**

**Thank you all for helping make the 2018 season a success!**



# obituaries

## GAHAN

Roberta "Bert" June Gahan, age 83 of Lowell, passed away Saturday, December 1, 2018. She was preceded in death by her daughter, Margaret Merryman; and eight siblings. She is survived by her husband of 52 years, Michael; children Terri (Ed) Mooney, Marie (Jim) Peterson, Michael Gahan Jr., Sharon (Kelly) Landman; son-in-law, Kevin Merryman; brothers Ralph Marshall, Marvin Marshall, Leroy Marshall; grandchildren Tom, Christopher (John), June, K.C. (Lenae), Alyshia, Jayme, Grant, Joey, Gavin, Gabrielle, Caden, Caitlyn, Logan, Luke, Jacquelyn; five great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews. Bert had the biggest heart and loved all people unconditionally with all her heart. Visitation will be Wednesday, December 5, from 2-4:00 p.m. and 6-8:00 p.m., with a rosary prayed at 7:30 p.m., at Roth-Gerst Chapel, 305 N. Hudson, Lowell, MI 49331. A Mass of Christian Burial will be Thursday, December 6, at 11:00 a.m., with a visitation one hour prior to the mass, at St. Patrick Catholic Church, 4351 Parnell Ave. NE, Ada, MI 49301. Rev. Thomas Cavera presiding. Interment St. Patrick Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made in Roberta's name to a charity of one's choice.



## LABINE

Armose "Armie" William LaBine, age 61 of Lowell, passed away Wednesday, November 28, 2018. He was preceded in death by his mother-in-law, Phyllis VanCamp; brother-in-law Don Blain; niece Nyree VanCamp; and beloved dog, Morgan. Armose is survived by his wife of 38 years, Cheryl; daughters Amanda Sigler, Amber LaBine; parents Budd and Shirley LaBine; grandchildren Caiden, Tessa, Ava, Evan, Lucas, Alaina; brother Frank (Sue) LaBine; sisters Diana (Dennis) Snow, Donna (Jim) Barnaby, Renee (Mike) Robinson, Cindy (Ron Feuerstein) Powell; father-in-law Gary VanCamp; brothers-in-law Ron (Gloria) Blain, Gary VanCamp Jr., Gerry (Tracy) VanCamp, Geoff (Donna) VanCamp, Greg VanCamp; sisters-in-law Kathy (Mark) Totch, Christine Rowland, Cindy (Joe) Haynes; several aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews; and several close friends. The family would like to say a special thank you to the staff at Atrio at Home for the wonderful care they provided. Armose worked for King Milling for over 30 years. He loved the outdoors, especially boating, camping and fishing. He enjoyed music festivals and dancing. Armie had an infectious laugh, and was always playing around and joking. He would always extend a handshake in greeting, and did so until the end. His love for his family was deep; he especially was protective of his "girls." He will be deeply missed. Mass of Christian Burial was Monday, December 3, at St. Mary Catholic Church, Lowell. Rev. Aaron Ferris presided. Interment Oakwood Cemetery, Lowell. Memorial contributions may be made to Emmanuel Hospice, 2161 Leonard Street N.W., Grand Rapids, MI 49504; Flat River Outreach Ministries, 11535 Fulton St. E, Lowell, MI 49331; or to St. Mary Catholic Church, 402 Amity St. Lowell MI 49331.



## OPPEWAL

Jessica Oppewal (Leestma), age 94 of Lowell, passed peacefully in the arms of family on Wednesday, November 21, 2018. She was preceded in death by her husband of 69 years, Donald on May 19, 2018, who affectionately called her Jetske; sons-in-law Joel Beversluis, Tom Boersma; daughter-in-law Peggy Ronzo; and her brother John Leestma. Jessica will be dearly missed by her six children, Gwen Beversluis, Jo Boersma, Dan and Mary Oppewal, Jim Oppewal, Donna Oppewal, Paul and Tammy Oppewal; and by her 15 grandchildren, 35 great-grandchildren, and 3 great-great-grandchildren, who knew her as "Beppe"; and by her sister Ann Piersma; and brother Herm Leestma. She was born to David and Gertrude Leestma on February 17, 1924 in the Netherlands and immigrated to the United States in 1925. Graduating from Grand Rapids Christian High School in 1942, Jessica then graduated from Blodgett Memorial School of Nursing in 1945. She raised six children, and continued her nursing career for 25 years at Grand Rapids Metropolitan Hospital on Boston, as well as several years at the Calvin College Health Center. While she was prolific at knitting and crocheting, she also enjoyed vegetable gardening, cooking and baking. Jessica specialized in soups, her famous Beppe cake with coconut topping, Christmas baking, and sharing of Bannek. Thank you to Faith Hospice for walking with us, as we accompanied both our mom and dad on their journeys to their home in heaven. A Memorial Open House is planned for Saturday, January 5, 2019, from 2-4pm at Ada Christian Reformed Church, 7152 Bradfield SE, Ada, Michigan.



## PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

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



## NOTICE VERGENNES TOWNSHIP

### 2019 MEETING SCHEDULE

All meetings are held at the Township Hall Board Room, located at 10381 Bailey Dr., Lowell, Michigan at 7 pm. For further information, phone 897-5671 or visit the township website at [www.vergennestwp.org](http://www.vergennestwp.org).

The Vergennes Township Regular Board Meetings for 2019 are scheduled as follows: January 21, February 18, March 18, April 15, May 20, June 17, July 15, August 19, September 16, October 21, November 18, December 16

The Planning Commission Meetings for 2019 are scheduled as follows: March 4, June 3, September 9, December 2

The Annual Meeting of the Electors will be held at 6:30 pm on March 18, prior to the Regular Board Meeting.

The Zoning Board of Appeals meets as required or requested.

Heather Hoffman  
Vergennes Township Clerk

## NOTICE VERGENNES TOWNSHIP

### SEEKING APPLICATIONS FOR BOARD AND COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS

Vergennes Township is seeking applications for the following:

- Board of Review –term ending 01/2021
- Planning Commission- term ending 12/2021
- Zoning Board of Appeals- term ending 12/2021
- Construction Board of Appeals- term ending 12/2021

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

Deadline for application submission is Thursday, December 13 @ 12 p.m. Applicants will be considered at the December 17, 2018 meeting of the Vergennes Township Board.

More information is posted on the township website at [www.vergennestwp.org](http://www.vergennestwp.org)

Heather Hoffman  
Vergennes Township Clerk



**office hours:**  
**Mon.-Thurs. 8 a.m.- 5 p.m.**  
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# classifieds

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If you or a loved one were diagnosed with ovarian cancer after use of TALC products such as Baby Powder or Shower to Shower, you may be entitled to compensation. Contact Charles H. Johnson 1-800-535-5727. (MICH)

**services**

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**services**

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**TWO BROTHERS AUTO SERVICE** - 5400 Ivan Rd., Saranac, 642-9180. Dave Traver, head mechanic, formerly of McCaul's Auto Service. 30 years experience, state certified, licensed & insured. Mon. - Fri., 8 am - 5 pm.

**MAKE SURE YOUR BUSINESS IS LISTED** - in the 2019 Lowell City Directory! If you run a business out of your home or have a cell phone number for your business, there is a charge to put your phone number in the Lowell City Directory. The cost is only \$20. Please call Tammy at 897-9560 or email: lowellcitydirectory@gmail.com for further info. All orders must be paid by Dec. 31, 2018.

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RSVP by emailing your name to [jobfair@bradfordwhite.com](mailto:jobfair@bradfordwhite.com) to reserve your spot and receive additional information. If you are unable to attend the on-site event, please email resume to [recruiting@bradfordwhite.com](mailto:recruiting@bradfordwhite.com).  
 Must be 18 or older, able to successfully complete pre-employment physical, hair sample drug screen and background check.



# FREE WILL astrology

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## Aries

(March 21-April 19)

When I write a horoscope for you, I focus on one or two questions because I don't have room to cover every single aspect of your life. The theme I've chosen this time may seem a bit impractical, but if you take it to heart, I guarantee you it will have practical benefits. It comes from Italian author Umberto Eco. He wrote, "Perhaps the mission of those who love humanity is to make people laugh at the truth, to make truth laugh, because the only truth lies in learning to free ourselves from insane passion for the truth." I swear to you, Aries, that if you laugh at the truth and make the truth laugh in the coming days, you will be guided to do all the right and necessary things.



## Taurus

(April 20-May 20)

You have a cosmic mandate and a poetic license to stir up far more imagination than usual. It'll be healthy for you to unleash many new thoughts about experiments that would be fun to try and novel feelings you'd like to explore and people whom you'd like to meet. But please note that the cosmic mandate and poetic license do not necessarily extend to you acting out your fantasies. The important thing is to



let your imagination run wild. That will catalyze a psychic healing you didn't even realize you needed.

## Gemini

(May 21-June 20)

In my continuing efforts to help you what you need and need what you want, I've collected four wise quotes that address your looming opportunities. 1: "What are you willing to give up, in order to become who you really need to be?" - author Elizabeth Gilbert. 2: "Leave the door open for the unknown, the door into the dark. That's where the most important things come from." - Rebecca Solnit. 3: "You enter the extraordinary by way of the ordinary." - Frederick Buechner. 4: "Happiness is like a butterfly which, when pursued, is always beyond our grasp, but, if you will sit down quietly, may alight upon you." - Nathaniel Hawthorne.



## Cancer

(June 21-July 22)

I've called on author Robert Heinlein to provide your horoscope. According to my astrological analysis, his insights are exactly what you need to focus on right now. "Do not confuse 'duty' with what other people expect of you," he wrote. "They are utterly different. Duty is a debt you owe to yourself



to fulfill obligations you have assumed voluntarily. Paying that debt can entail anything from years of patient work to instant willingness to die. Difficult it may be, but the reward is self-respect. But there is no reward at all for doing what other people expect of you, and to do so is not merely difficult, but impossible."

## Leo

(July 23-August 22)

What does "beauty" mean to you? What sights, sounds, images, qualities, thoughts, and behavior do you regard as beautiful? Whatever your answers might be to those questions right now, I suggest you expand and deepen your definitions in the coming weeks. You're at a perfect pivot point to invite more gorgeous, lyrical grace into your life; to seek out more elegance and charm and artistry; to cultivate more alluring, delightful magic.



## Virgo

(August 23-September 22)

You know the expiration dates that appear on the labels of the prescription drugs you buy? They don't mean that the drugs lose their potency after that date. In fact, most drugs are still quite effective for at least another ten years. Let's use this fact as a metaphor



for a certain resource or influence in your life that you fear is used up or defunct. I'm guessing it still has a lot to offer you, although you will have to shift your thinking in order to make its reserves fully available.

## Libra

(September 23-October 22)

Libran rapper Eminem is renowned for his verbal skill. It may be best exemplified in his song "Rap God," in which he delivers 1,560 words in six minutes and four seconds, or 4.28 words per second. In one stretch, he crams in 97 words in 15 seconds, achieving a pace of 6.5 words per second. I suspect that in the coming weeks, you will also be unusually adept at using words, although your forte will be potent profundity rather than sheer speed. I encourage you to prepare by making a list of the situations where your enhanced powers of persuasion will be most useful.



## Scorpio

(October 23-November 21)

In May of 1883, the newly built Brooklyn Bridge opened for traffic. Spanning the East River to link Manhattan and Brooklyn, it was the longest suspension bridge in the world. But almost immediately people spread rumors that it was unstable. There was a growing fear that it might even crumble and fall. That's when charismatic showman P.T. Barnum stepped in. He arranged to march 21 elephants across the bridge. There was no collapse, and so the rumors quickly died. I regard the coming weeks as a time when you should take inspiration



from Barnum. Provide proof that will dispel gossipy doubt. Drive away superstitious fear with dramatic gestures. Demonstrate how strong and viable your improvements really are.

## Sagittarius

(November 22-December 21)

Robert Louis Stevenson published his gothic novel *Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde* in 1886. It was a bestseller, and quickly got turned into a theatrical production. In the ensuing 132 years, there have been well over a hundred further adaptations of the story into film and stage productions. Here's the funny thing about this influential work: Stevenson wrote it fast. It took him three feverish days to get the gist of it, and just another six weeks to revise. I suspect you could also produce some robust and interesting creations in the coming weeks, Sagittarius.



## Capricorn

(December 22-January 19)

A blogger on Tumblr named Ffssh composed a set of guidelines that I think will be apt and useful for you to draw on in the coming weeks. Please study these suggestions and adapt them for your healing process. "Draw stick figures. Sing off-key. Write bad poems. Sew ugly clothes. Run slowly. Flirt clumsily. Play video games on 'easy.' OK? You do not need to be good at something to enjoy it. Sometimes talent is overrated. Do things you like doing just because you like doing them. It's OK to stink."



**Aquarius**  
(January 20-February 18)



Aquarian athlete Michael Jordan is the greatest basketball player who ever lived. He was also the first to become a billionaire. But when he was growing up, he didn't foresee the glory that awaited him. For example, in high school he took a home economics class so as to acquire cooking abilities. Why? He imagined that as an adult he might have to prepare all of his own meals. His ears were so huge and ungainly, he reasoned, that no woman would want to be his wife. So the bad news was that he suffered from a delusion. The good news was that because of his delusion, he learned a useful skill. I foresee a similar progression for you, Aquarius. Something you did that was motivated by misguided or irrelevant ideas may yield positive results.

## Pisces

(February 19-March 20)

The Bible does not say that Mary Magdalene was a "sinner." Delusional ideas about her arose in the Middle Ages, instigated by priests who confused her with other women in the Bible. The truth is that the Bible names her as a key ally to Christ, and the crucial witness to his resurrection. Fortunately, a number of scholars and church leaders have in recent years been working to correct her reputation. I invite you to be motivated and inspired by this transformation as you take steps to adjust and polish your own image during the coming weeks. It's time to get your public and private selves into closer alignment.



## NEWS OF THE weird

### Wait, What?

Akihiko Kondo, 35, of Tokyo, spent \$18,000 on a Nov. 4 wedding ceremony to marry the love of his life, Hatsune Miku a computer-generated hologram with big eyes and long, turquoise hair. Kondo told Reuters he found Hatsune Miku, who has thousands of fans around the world, singing on the internet. The wedding ceremony included traditions such as the exchange of rings (hers was placed on the finger of a stuffed doll created in her image) and friends and relatives in attendance, although Kondo's parents did not attend. "I believe the shape of happiness and love is different for each person," Kondo said.

### Christmas Comes Early

A Bank of America ATM in Houston was the scene of a near-riot on Nov. 25 when it began dispensing \$100 bills instead of \$10s, reported Click2Houston. After the first lucky driver posted his score on social media, a crowd showed up and stood in line, with a few fights and arguments breaking out over about two hours, until police were summoned and the free money was

shut down. Bank of America released a statement the next day that would have galled Ebenezer Scrooge: "Customers will be able to keep the money dispensed." Turns out the blame lay with a vendor who incorrectly loaded \$100 bills into the \$10 slot. There was no report of how much money was withdrawn.

### Awesome!

All good things must come to an end, and so it seems for Robert Craig Davis, 70, of Key Largo, Florida. Drivers in South Florida had reported seeing a Chrysler Pacifica minivan rigged with a clever device that lowered a black cloth over its license plate each time it drove through an automated toll plaza. But on Nov. 17, according to FLKeysNews.com, an off-duty Florida highway patrolman spotted the vehicle as it passed through the Bird Road toll plaza and he alerted his fellow troopers. Sgt. Carlos Vanegas soon stopped Davis, according to the arrest report, and found a remote control device used to operate the license plate cover. "The actions of the defendant showed an ongoing course of conduct

with intent to defraud the SunPass toll system," trooper Dennis Gallo wrote in his report. Davis was charged with organized fraud and petit theft.

### Compelling Explanations

It happens all the time: A vehicle crashes into a building, causing damage and sometimes injury, because brakes don't function or a driver steps on the wrong pedal. In the case of Keith Rio Cavalier, 28, however, there was more to the story. WLOX reported that Cavalier drove his 1997 Toyota Tacoma into a glass wall at the Harrison County courthouse in Gulfport, Mississippi, on Nov. 10 at around 6 a.m. The building was empty, so there were no injuries, and Cavalier can be clearly seen on surveillance video climbing out of the truck and leaving the scene. When police caught up to him, Cavalier told them he intentionally struck the building in order to report drug paraphernalia had been stolen from him. It will come as no surprise that Cavalier was found to have been driving under the influence and arrested; he was held at the county jail on \$25,000 bond.



**STATEPOINT  
CROSSWORD**

**THEME: CARTOON  
CHARACTERS**

**ACROSS**

- 1. Middle Eastern staple
- 6. What I do with my little eye?
- 9. Cookbook abbr.
- 13. Potato State?
- 14. Romanian money
- 15. Sign of a saint, pl.
- 16. \*Rabbit's first name
- 17. Brow shape
- 18. Like Bananas Foster
- 19. \*Scooby-Doo's best friend
- 21. \*Eric of "South Park"
- 23. \*Mr. Duck, to friends
- 24. Hippocrates' promise
- 25. TV tube in days yore
- 28. Vegan's staple
- 30. Islamic scholars
- 35. Hems and \_\_\_\_\_
- 37. \*Tramp, e.g.
- 39. Mountie uniform fabric
- 40. A lightbulb signifies one in many comics
- 41. Straight ones in a drafter's toolbox
- 43. Agitate
- 44. Wharton's "The House of \_\_\_\_\_"
- 46. \*What Charles Schulz did with Snoopy
- 47. \*Flapper Betty
- 48. \*The Sailor Man
- 50. Black cat, e.g.
- 52. Abba song
- 53. Front part of a ship
- 55. \*#48 Across' Swee' \_\_\_\_\_
- 57. \*Pink feline
- 61. \*The youngest Griffin

CROSSWORD														
1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8		9	10	11	12	
13						14				15				
16						17				18				
	19				20			21	22					
			23				24							
25	26	27		28		29			30		31	32	33	34
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57	58	59	60					61				62	63	
64						65	66			67				68
69						70				71				
72						73				74				

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**DOWN**

- 1. Club on a card
- 2. Beware of these in March
- 3. Strip of wood
- 4. In the lead
- 5. "\_\_\_\_ Your Password?"
- 6. Kill a dragon
- 7. A pop

- 8. New Mexico's state flower
- 9. Bunch of hair
- 10. Hat part
- 11. First name in frozen desserts
- 12. Hammer part
- 15. Port in Denmark
- 20. \*Gnomeo or Juliet
- 22. Cash dispenser
- 24. Become too mature
- 25. \*Paul Frank's Julius
- 26. AM/FM device
- 27. Pipsqueak
- 29. \*He's "hunting wabbits"
- 31. \*Phineas' friend
- 32. \*Huey, Duey, Louie and Blossom, Bubbles, Buttercup, e.g.
- 33. \*Chilly Willy's home
- 34. Oozes
- 36. Fill beyond full
- 38. Do like bees
- 42. Hid under a rug

- 45. What Toulouse-Lautrec and Zeta-Jones have in common
- 49. "But I heard him exclaim, \_\_\_\_\_ he drove out of sight,"
- 51. Vital
- 54. Artemis' companion
- 56. In the know
- 57. Attention grabber
- 58. Antioxidant-rich berry
- 59. He's one behind Belichick
- 60. Mother Goose' "Dame \_\_\_\_\_ and Her Cat"
- 61. What victim did in court
- 62. Fairway club
- 63. Book \_\_\_\_\_, pl.
- 66. \*"Beavis and Butt-Head" channel
- 68. "\_\_\_\_ Spot go"

Puzzle solutions on page 12

**SUDOKO**

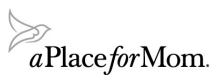
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Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.



**THANKS**  
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**Online  
POLL  
QUESTION**

*With Christmas just weeks away how is your budget looking*



- Plan on spending more
- Plan on spending less
- Not sure, haven't started yet

**TO VOTE, GO TO -**  
**WWW.**  
**thelowelledger.com**

**Then watch for the results in**



*Lowell's Only Hometown Newspaper!*

**LAST WEEK'S  
ONLINE  
POLL  
RESULTS**

*Our poll asked ...*

*Do you think it's a mistake for GM to cut the Chevy Cruze, Volt and Impala?*

- Yes ..... 25%
- No ..... 50%
- Unsure ..... 25%

**WWW.**  
**thelowelledger.com**





This is the first installment of the Lowell Ledger's new series of feature articles about the many different types of artisans who do business in the Lowell area. Some use the Internet as their storefront, others sell their wares out of a brick and mortar location. All of them are fascinating people and incredibly talented.

If you know of somebody who makes things and sells them, we want to do a story about it! Contact the Lowell Ledger at 616-897-9261 or send a message to [ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com](mailto:ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com)

## Kaleidoscope Laser Gifts

### Couple offers wide variety of locally made products

by Patrick Misner  
contributing reporter

Floyd and Debbie Seese are the artisans behind and the owners of Kaleidoscope Laser Gifts, located on 218 East Main St. in downtown Lowell. Kaleidoscope shares the space with Martha Davis's Tap House Boutique, which features items made by Floyd and Debbie along with other Michigan artisans.

Kaleidoscope makes everything from Michigan shaped cribbage boards to custom engraved leather cup sleeves to large custom signs. They specialize in laser engraving, CNC [computer numerical control] routing, vinyl graphics and screen-printing.

The husband and wife team began engraving on their own in January 2011 when they got their first laser engraver. Soon after this,

"We had a trailer; we were at Kent County Youth Fair and Ottawa County Fair," said Debbie. We would make

their tractors to display the make and year. Kaleidoscope eventually expanded beyond these nomadic venues and started selling items out of a storefront they built onto their pole barn outside of Saranac.

"The problem was, it was [on] a dirt road and it's a hilly bumpy dirt road," remarked Debbie.

They have made it easier for customers by slowly moving into their current Lowell location, beginning in April of this year.

"We started off in [the downtown location] as just pick up and drop off inside of Tap House Boutique," Debbie said.

The collaboration between the two companies worked out so well that just six weeks into the arrangement, the two decided to share the space equally.

Floyd and Debbie use their backgrounds in manufacturing to diversify their products. While the store has a variety of items for direct sale, many of the items are customizable such as corn hole sets,

dolls for craft fairs. They were asked to make leather name tags that were to be sown on the dolls. The couple has also recently made labeled plates for a local manufacturing plant.

The range of products they are asked to make has resulted in jokingly creating the catch-all motto, "We make stuff." Again, their broad background helps them be flexible in their production.

"[Floyd] has manufacturing background. We both have carpentry



Silver Dome, he is now using those skills for smaller scale projects.

"I have been doing lasers and programming now for almost nineteen years," Floyd said.

Although the machines require computer input, much of the actual designing is done by hand then scanned and incorporated into the program.

"I do a lot of design work," Floyd said.

"Basically, I tell people: it's their ideas and I put a little art on it. [...] [Customers] give me a call and tell me what [they] want, I draw a picture, send it back to [them] and say 'how does that look?' If they say it's okay, I put it on something."

The variety of the work is part of what makes it exciting for

Floyd and Debbie, but it is proving to be an obstacle when it comes to figuring out the finer details of Internet retail. Kaleidoscope is currently in the process of making their products available online.

"We just had this conversation," Debbie said. "How do you ship? Because you look at the variety of things that we make and do, and you try to establish prices and what it is going to cost—it takes time."

They have an Etsy, but none of their products are posted on it yet. For now, the best way to browse and purchase Kaleidoscope's items is to stop into their downtown location or check out on their website, [kaleidoscopelasergifts.com](http://kaleidoscopelasergifts.com). They can also be contacted by phone at 616-318-5644.



custom belts and custom license plates, cut vinyl graphics, engrave glassware."

Tractor shows became another common venue for their work as well. They would create the magnetic plates that entrants would put on

thermoses, and signs.

"We [sell] about 85 percent custom [products]," said Debbie.

Besides gifts and boutique items, much of their work is done for other businesses. One recent example includes a job for a fellow artisan that makes Scandinavian

backgrounds," said Debbie. "I do commercial sewing. We tell people to bring us... ideas. We can probably figure out how to make it happen."

While they love the creative aspect of the work, it is the selling portion where they particularly appreciate their collaboration with Martha and Tap House Boutique. They do not necessarily consider the business side of things to be their strong point.

"Trying to do the store bit, that's hard for us," Debbie said. "We don't get it. Whereas Martha, the marketing and that retail, she gets that. So for us to come

together with her has been huge."

Another recent change has been the addition of a CNC router, which helps expand their production capabilities. While the laser engraver is the size of a small desk, the CNC router takes up nearly the size of a single stall garage in their pole barn. Floyd uses a computer program to make designs for both the laser engraver and the CNC router. He gained much of his knowledge for the programming from his previous manufacturing job. Instead of cutting large sheets of steel for commercial industry locations such as the

