

### Cindy's Suds



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50¢



## HAVE A SAFE AND HAPPY CHRISTMAS!



## “North Pole’s Got Talent” show at LPAC



by Patrick Misner  
contributing reporter

Lowell students performed “North Pole’s Got Talent,” written by Lavinia Roberts, three times this past week at the high school’s Performing Arts Center on December 13, 14, and 15. The play centers on a North Pole talent show in the style of NBC’s “America’s Got Talent.”

Hosted by Holly and Mistletoe, played by Kylie Albert and Lauren Austhof respectively, the audience watched different North Pole characters display their Christmas-themed talents. The set included performances by Santa’s

reindeer, the Jingle and Bell duo and a Nutcracker-esque puppet show among others.

While these groups stuck to song and dance, Jack Frost, played by Kohl Goldsmith, and Snow Queen, played by McKenna Grody, sought to impress the judges with the science behind Jack Frost’s snowflake-making ability. After receiving low scores, the two eventually returned to get revenge on the contest - threatening to freeze the judges and the other competitors. Luckily, the North Pole inhabitants’ Christmas spirit

and liberality with the prize cookies, was able to quell their anger. Peace returned to the North Pole and the show concluded with a joyful full-cast a cappella rendition of “We Wish You a Merry Christmas.”

The 36-student cast and 11-student crew were joined by elementary school students from different Lowell schools in the performance. The young performers had their own act within the “Got Talent” contest and joined the rest of the cast at the end of the play for the sing-along.

Students were aided in the production by director Laurie Summerfield, stage manager Emma Organek, props and costume manager Linne Bunn and fine arts director Jules Crawford. The director, Laurie Summerfield, said this was about the fifth consecutive holiday performance at the LPAC. This shorter production, lasting about forty minutes, came between the high school’s November performances of “12 Angry Jurors” and the upcoming performances of “Mary Poppins.”

The director was pleased with the Friday evening performance and noted the diversity of experience in the cast, this being some students first time on stage acting amidst many seasoned performers. She is looking forward to begin casting auditions for “Mary Poppins” after Christmas break. The performances of “Mary Poppins” will take place March 8, 9, 10, 15, and 16 at the LPAC inside Lowell High School.



# City council continues income tax discussion



Assistant city manager Rich LaBombard, police chief Steve Bukala, city manager Michael Burns, mayor pro tem Greg Canfield, mayor Michael Burns, city attorney Dick Wendt, city clerk Sue Ullery, city councilors Jim Salzwedel, Cliff Yankovich and Marty Burns wore their ugliest Christmas sweaters to the meeting.

by Tim McAllister  
lead reporter

Lowell city council had their latest regular meeting at city hall on Monday, Dec. 17. The meeting lasted one hour and seven minutes and was attended by 18 citizens, including a local Boy Scout troop.

Two citizens spoke during public comment. First, local resident Perry Beachum took the opportunity to inform local residents about a bill that was recently signed into law by Gov. Rick Snyder.

“[The new law] will require drivers to slow to ten miles per hour below the posted speed limit as well as yield their lane, if possible,

trucks, maintenance and utility vehicles that have an amber light flashing.”

Next, local resident Christine Beard offered to assist the council with any decisions related to marijuana businesses.

“I’m still willing to help in any way that you’d like me to help,” Beard said. “I hope to someday be part of an LLC and have a Class A grower’s license.”

The council resumed their discussion of a city income tax from a previous meeting. They took no action and will continue their discussion at a later meeting. For now, they are tentatively looking

“If this was to be put in front of the voters or voted in front of the people, you’re looking at approximately about \$1.2 million in new revenue through the tax,” said city manager Michael Burns.

“What would be proposed is that you were to reduce the property millage rate by four mils. That’s \$400,000 to the general fund [and] \$80,000 to the DDA fund. If you implement it and reduce the millage rate by that, in essence the income tax would take into account that \$480,000. You’d want to take that money first to basically replenish the general fund, because even though you’re

city hall, facilities – all of those things come out of the general fund. We’re really at the point right now where, unless we want to really consider diminishing services, there’s not much you can cut. And [what] you also have to remember too is every year we, obviously, have increased personnel costs. We’re going to see significant increases to [the Municipal Employees’ Retirement System] contributions every year because of the unfunded liability, so that’s anywhere

but at what cost? We’re at 15.7 mils now. Granted, we generate \$99,000 a mil, where, in comparison to many communities in Kent County, that’s on the lower end, but it’s still a significant amount of money. [...] With a city income tax, you could probably designate somewhere between \$600,000 to \$700,000 a year that you could dedicate to streets. Maybe you only have the city income tax for 10 years, maybe you have it for 15 years, but you could consider that.”

information about the status of the city’s water pipes, which were assessed by the firm and rated on a scale of 1 through 5, or “good” through “failed.”

“For the past few years, Prein and Newhof has been working on the city’s behalf in developing our stormwater asset management plan,” Burns said. “They are here tonight to start beginning to present to you information so you can start making sound planning for capital improvements that we’ll need to make for the SAW [stormwater, asset management and wastewater] grant.”

“Generally speaking, the storm system is in pretty good shape,” Vilmont said. “We’re going to start narrowing down what pipes need to be worked on and the order they need to be worked on. [...] What we’re doing is continually refining what that condition rating is and what the action is that’s needed, to economize as best we can what those repairs need to be. [...] The whole idea is to make the most efficient use of taxpayer dollars that we can. [...] This capital plan isn’t us coming up with projects for you. We’ll, of course, do that as a first set of recommendations, but you guys are in full control over what you decide needs to be part of that.”

The council also approved the sale of city-owned property at 2560 Bowes Rd. to Lowell Charter Township for \$20,550. The township will lease a portion of the property to Vergennes Broadband and use the rest for a park.

Lowell city council’s next regular meeting will be at city hall at 7 pm on Monday, Jan. 7.



Prein and Newhof engineer Brian Vilmont presented the council with the results from a recent assessment of city water pipes.

between \$25,000 to \$40,000, where 70 percent of that is going to be covered under the general fund. [...] Really, it’s going to be very difficult to address these issues without new revenue, from where we sit, unless you want to start diminishing services, which you could do. The first one would have to be your largest. You would have to look at what your largest expense is. Your largest expense in the budget is the police. [...] The other thing is, okay, you could go for a bond millage for this. You could go seek a bond just for the streets. For a \$10 million bond, in front of the people, if you were to float that bond on a 15 year millage, it’s 8.5 mils. That’s just for 15 years. If you reduce that to a 10 year millage, it’s a 12 mil. So it’s 12 mils, an additional 12 mils. That’ll get you \$10 million. That’ll get your streets,

“I think the income tax is going to be a tough sell,” said councilor Greg Canfield. “If we can show that it shifts some of the cost to non-residents that are using the roads and will benefit from the improved roads, that’s [still] going to be a tough thing.”

“Property owners only pay property taxes, and a good portion of those property owners are retirees, so they don’t have income,” said city attorney Dick Wendt. “Income tax does not apply to Social Security, so there is that segment that might be in favor of an income tax.”

“Those voting in favor wouldn’t feel the pinch,” said councilor Cliff Yankovich.

Lowell’s millage rate is the second highest in Kent County.

Prein and Newhof engineer Brian Vilmont presented the council with



Local resident Christine Beard offered to assist the council with any decisions related to marijuana businesses.

when passing police or emergency vehicles on the side of the road,” Beachum said. “The bill also includes roadside tow trucks, garbage

at getting a measure on the ballot in either the 2019 or 2020 election. Any income tax would have to be approved by voters.

reducing the revenue by \$400,000 out of the general fund, those expenditures don’t go away. For all the things that come out of the general fund - police, fire, [the department of public works], parks, cemeteries,



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# Chamber of Commerce award scam hits Lowell

by Tim McAllister  
lead reporter

Last week, some local businesses were targeted by a suspicious company trying to run what's called a "vanity award" scam.

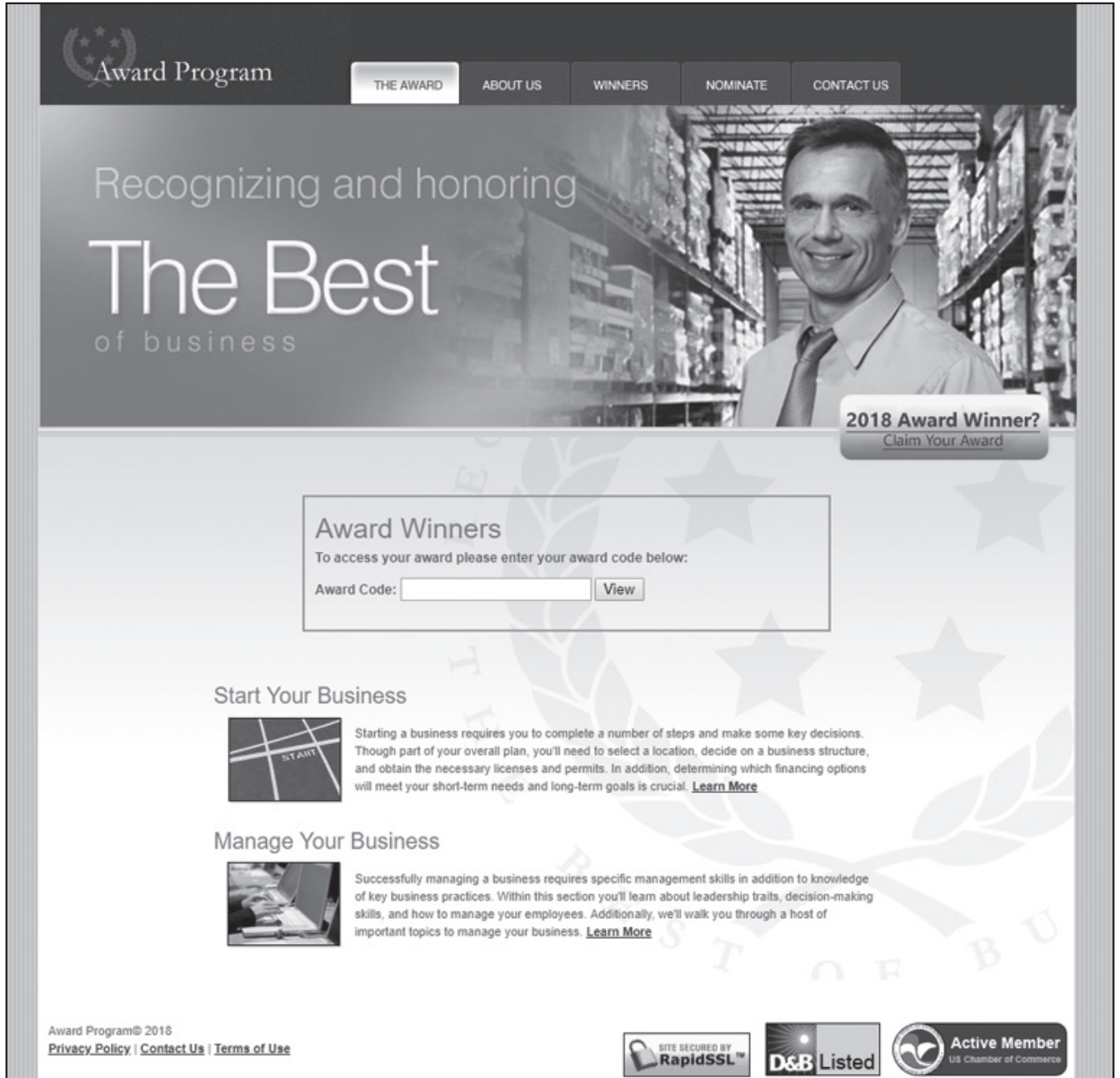
"A chamber member stopped by this afternoon with an email they received," Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce executive director Liz Baker said on Thursday, Dec. 13. "It was from an organization named 'City Recognition.' The email stated that they were happy to inform the business that they were chosen for the '2018 Best of Lowell Awards.' For additional information they should visit [the company's] website and enter the code provided in the email. I contacted the Better Business Bureau, and they immediately answered with, 'The BBB has identified this as a scam.'"

There are news articles about this scam from around the country dating back at least four years. How it works is, a local business gets an email informing them they've won an award. The details about why they won the award are vague, but in order to actually obtain the award, they must pay money, usually an amount between \$100 and \$250.

According to a statement about this scam by the Better Business Bureau, "Ask questions. Learn everything you can about who is giving the award. If it is coming from a mystery company, chances are they simply want your money. Businesses

and organizations that offer legitimate awards will usually be willing to provide detailed information on why a specific company received the award. Know the nomination process. Find out who nominated your business for the award. If you didn't apply for it or the group cannot tell you how you were nominated, chances are the award is not legitimate. Don't pay. Most legitimate awards do not come with costs to the recipient. If there is a cost, scrutinize it closely. If there is a fee for winning or for receiving a certificate or plaque it could be a scam. Do your research. Check the company's BBB Business Review at bbb.org to ensure the offer is legit. Many of the business owners who reported the scam to BBB did their own investigating and found we've reported on this scam in the past. Companies that have fallen victim to these or other scams are encouraged to report their experience to Better Business Bureau at 206-431-2222 or at bbb.org."

Lowell's Chamber of Commerce already gives out its own annual awards. Last year's award winners were Greenridge Realty for the Business Appreciation Award, GlessBoards and Painted Turtle Hard Cider for Best Business to Watch, Mi Hometown Furnishings for Most Promising New Business and LowellArts for



Their use of a stock photo with movie actor Christoph Waltz is one obvious clue that this is a phony website.

Non-Profit Spotlight. Brick Awards went to Arrowhead Golf Course, Big Boiler Brewing, Curtis Laundry and Dry Cleaners, Poultry Management Systems and

Ronda Auto Centers. Finally, Addorio Technologies co-owner Betsy Davidson was named Person of the Year. "The Chamber does do annual awards," Baker said.

"[This year's] award winners will be released in January and awards will be given at the Annual Gathering of the Membership on Feb. 21, 2019 at Deer Run."



Lowell city council discussing a potential city income tax at their regular meeting on Monday, Dec. 17. [Story on previous page]

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## 2018 Pink Arrow Pride funds distributed at Gilda's Club holiday party



Pink Arrow Pride volunteers Teresa Beachum and Rev. Ethel Stears presenting a check to Gilda's Club of Grand Rapids president Wendy Wigger and Gilda's Club of Lowell program director Lindsay Jousma.

by Tim McAllister  
 lead reporter

The annual distribution of funds raised during 2018's Pink Arrow Pride events and t-shirt sales took place during the Gilda's Club of Lowell Holiday Social at the Franciscan Life Process Center on Tuesday, Dec. 11. This year they raised a total of \$127,500.

Pink Arrow Pride volunteers Teresa Beachum and Rev. Ethel Stears presented Gilda's Club of Lowell with a check for \$72,000. The money from Pink Arrow Pride is the club's main source of funds every year.

"That [money] is from the greater Lowell community on behalf of Pink Arrow Pride," Beachum said. "That is [from] t-shirts that were purchased and the t-shirt sponsors that appeared

on the t-shirts this year. [It was] our 11th year and we are very, very thrilled to share this gift."

"We are so grateful to all of you in the Lowell community for coming together and supporting one another in the journey you're on, either cancer or grief," said Gilda's Club of Grand Rapids president Wendy Wigger. "This program would not be possible if wasn't for the support of this incredible community."

Pink Arrow Pride also donated \$46,000 to Lowell Community Wellness to support families during the grief and terror of a cancer diagnosis, plus \$9,500 split between three scholarships, the Dr. Donald Gerard Scholarship, the Kathy Talus Scholarship and the Lowell Community Wellness Education

Fund. The total amount raised and then donated by Pink Arrow this year was \$127,500.

Murray Lake Elementary School principal Molly Burnett also presented Gilda's Club of Lowell with a donation of \$674 generated by the students of four teachers at that school who participated in "No Shave November," an annual event where men grow their facial hair for a month to raise money and awareness for men's health issues.

"I was speechless by the amount we raised, that's like double what we raised last year," Burnett said.

The holiday party also included dinner, piano music and a special appearance by Santa Claus.

## NEWSPAPERS Outperform Magazines in Michigan

the lowell ledger

More adults in Michigan read a newspaper than local magazines.<sup>1</sup>



**79%** Eight in 10 newspaper readers took action as a result of reading a newspaper ad in the past 30 days<sup>2</sup>

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

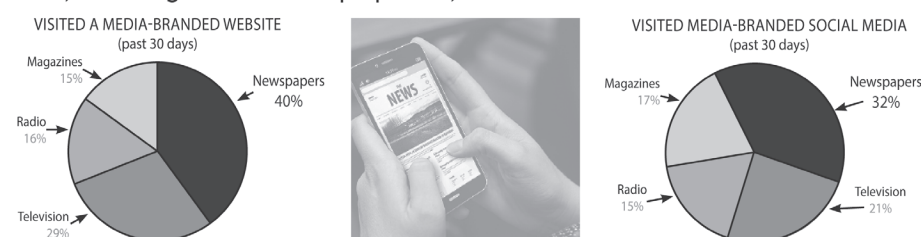
Adults, across all generations, identify newspapers as their most trusted source of news and information – ahead of magazines.

Newspaper ads result in more purchases than magazine ads.

**22%**

of adults often purchase products and services as the result of a magazine ad.<sup>4</sup>

Digital media users rely on newspaper-branded websites and social media, over magazine-branded properties, for local market news.<sup>4</sup>



Sources: (1) Release 2 Nielsen Scarborough Report. Copyright 2018 Scarborough Research. All rights reserved. (2) Triad/Coda Ventures - The Newspaper Generation Study; (3) NAA; (4) AMG/Parade Local Knowledge Survey



Photo on the left: A special appearance by Santa Claus.



Photo on the right: Gilda's Club of Grand Rapids president Wendy Wigger and Gilda's Club of Lowell program director Lindsay Jousma accepted a \$674 "No Shave November" donation from Murray Lake Elementary School principal Molly Burnett.

# viewpoint



## 125 years ago Lowell Ledger December 23, 1893

An extremely sad downfall of a young man of good name and good family, came to light in County Clerk Eddy's office last Saturday afternoon. Fred Crampton of Ada, married, went to the office with an order on county treasurer for \$48 for 1600 sparrows supposed to have been killed by him. The order was signed by Township Clerk A.S. Clark of Ada, and it was necessary for the county clerk to sign it before it could be cashed by the county treasurer. Mr. Eddy "smelled a mice" immediately, and asking Crampton to wait a few moments, he went into the treasurer's office and put the paper under a glass. It was evident at once that the paper had been tampered with. Then the files were searched and two other orders were found for unusual amounts, which had been paid to Crampton. A.S. Clark was called up 'phone and he said he had issued an order to Crampton for 48 cents for 16 sparrows.

The nice new barn of Richard Murphy of South Lowell, burned to the ground Thursday morning, Dec. 21, about daylight. Mr. Murphy lost his summer's crop of wool, hay and grain, but saved the most of his farm implements, wagons and sleighs. He saved his stock, but two horses were badly burned and it is questionable about their recovery. Cause of the fire is unknown. Mr. Murphy had been at the barn just before the fire, to feed his stock and was in to breakfast when the fire was discovered. Loss and insurance is unknown at the time of writing.

## 100 years The Lowell Ledger December 19, 1918

At the Kent county boys and girls roundup at Union High School Saturday, Frederick Luneke of Caledonia was awarded a silver cup for winning the livestock judging contest at the Detroit fair. The Ballards Corners Handicraft club won a box of tools for the best work done in Kent county.

We were ordered by the State Board of Health on December 14 to establish a rigid quarantine in all cases of influenza. There are under quarantine at present only five houses. A quarantine means that nothing can come out of the house. No mail, no money, no dish, no person. We have the disease nearly stopped in Lowell. If every person in Lowell will consider himself an assistant health officer we shall soon have no cases here. Help us make our quarantine rigid. If you learn of any cases that are not cared for phone the health officer. Keep four feet distance when talking to anyone. Don't get the other man's breath. Stay home. Don't shop in nearby towns for a couple of weeks.

Don't encourage outside visitors to come into Lowell. In other words be careful and in another week we shall be free from this thing.

Charles Althen was 77 years old and came to Lowell from New York state in 1808 to engage in business. About ten years ago he retired. A short time ago he came to Grand Rapids and took residence in order to be near his daughters here. Wednesday morning about 10 he was stricken with an attack of heart trouble and died about eight hours later.

## 75 years The Lowell Ledger December 23, 1943

Dr. George E. Carrothers of the University of Michigan has notified the local board of education that the high school has continued to be accredited on a three year basis, the longest period extended any school. The visitor's report to the board complimented the district on the esprit de corps, preparation and instructional ability of the staff.

Waste paper, until recent months a glut on the market, is in first place emergency demand for war production. This community will do its part in meeting the emergency. Albert Hall, head of the Ag. department of the Lowell High School, informs the Ledger that the FFA have patriotically volunteered to assist in the waste paper collection in Lowell and surrounding country, soon after the holiday vacation. In the meantime it is earnestly hoped that every home and every business place will begin saving every scrap of waste, and have same in readiness when collection days are announced. Watch this paper.

Mrs. Mabel Davenport, teacher of the Wilkinson School, on M-91, Keene township, helped to earn the reward of \$200 for her part in the recapture of two prisoners who had escaped from Michigan Reformatory at Ionia Friday.

## 50 years The Lowell Ledger December 19, 1968

John B. Ham is a man who feels that life really is for the birds. And he would very much like to find the "bird-napper" who removed an artificial cardinal from his mailbox at 1551 Laraway Drive SE. A licensed bander of migratory birds for the U.S. Department of Interior, Ham had placed the hand-painted cast iron bird atop his mailbox six weeks ago. Shortly thereafter, vandals ripped it from the perch and stole the valued item.

Plans to purchase a 39-acre tract of land outside the city limits for cemetery, recreation and airport expansion use today was snagged by legal technicalities. Members of the Lowell City Council, meeting on Monday night, heard a report from the city attorney that the property considered for purchase does not abut present city-owned airport property as originally believed.

Formulation of plans for future management of Root-Lowell Manufacturing Company were under study today following the resignation of Richard F. Brush as president of the Lowell-based concern. Brush is leaving Root-Lowell, effective January 31, to become president of the rapidly-expanding Rospath Corporation in Grand Rapids.

## 25 years The Lowell Ledger December 22, 1993

"Good afternoon, City Hall." Those words were still being heard Monday. However, the voice that many had come to rely on was missing. Wendy DeNolf served 14 years as the city of Lowell's receptionist/clerk before deciding it was time to move on to new challenges.

In response to the Kent County Aeronautics Board's need for land in the relocation of wetlands, Mike Anderson hired Resource Management Group Inc. to answer questions about the wetland mitigation situation.

Lowell's Marsha LaHaye was selected by the Michigan Life Management Educators membership to serve as president for the 1993-94 school year. Michigan Life Management Educators (MLME) is an all life management teacher education group which promotes its subject area.



## Schuette flagged for giving campaign too much money

The Secretary of State's office is flagging former Republican gubernatorial candidate Bill Schuette for giving \$325,000 to his cash-strapped campaign two weeks before Election Day while taking \$404,479 in public financing.

The Dec. 7 Bureau of Election letter to Schuette Treasurer Dennis Starner reads that Schuette and his immediate family are limited to giving no more than \$50,000 to his campaign once he agrees to take public financing for the election cycle.

Troy Cumings, an attorney for Schuette's campaign, told the Michigan Campaign Finance Network (MCFN) in their report Wednesday that the campaign's understanding of the law is the public funding requirements are separated into the primary election period and the general election period.

"Schuette's campaign took public funding in the primary but didn't in the general. Schuette made the contribution to his own campaign in the general election period."

The Secretary of State's office is awaiting a formal response from Schuette by Dec. 20. In the meantime, the Bureau of Elections is denying Schuette's fourth application for public funds.

Schuette is also facing \$3,725 in fines for reporting two late contributions more than 20 days late.

Capital Press Report, continued, page 6

## 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



## Capital Press Report, continued

### House agrees to cap citizens petition signatures by congressional districts

Signatures for ballot proposals would be capped for each congressional district at 15 percent of the total number of signatures submitted -- and anything beyond that would be thrown out -- under legislation that leapt from committee and was approved by the House, 60-49, Wednesday.

Rep. Martin Howrylak (R-Troy), Rep. Steven Johnson (R-Wayland) and Rep. Jeff Yaroch (R-Richmond) were the only Republicans to join Democrats in voting no.

HB 6595, introduced by Rep. James Lower (R-Cedar Lake) six days ago, makes a number of changes to the petition-gathering process, changes that many in committee Wednesday said would make the process more difficult for grassroots volunteers to place initiatives on the ballot.

The West Michigan Policy Forum, represented by former state Solicitor General John Bursch Wednesday, backs the proposal, along with many business groups, including the Michigan Chamber of Commerce, the Small Business Association of Michigan, and more. Lower said his bill would provide more accountability and more transparency to the ballot proposal process.

But Right to Life (RTL) of Michigan -- which has relied on the petition drives and volunteer collectors on numerous occasions -- opposed the bill in its current form, and other organizations like AFSCME, ACLU and the AFL-CIO also opposed the bill.

The geographical threshold in the bill calls for limiting the percentage of signatures collected from a congressional district to 15 percent of the total number of signatures -- any collected in excess of that percentage would be thrown out.

Rep. Yousef Rabhi (D-Ann Arbor) said voters who sign a petition over this threshold wouldn't "matter."

"That person's voice is silenced. Silenced, Mr. Speaker. We are telling them that their voice does not matter," he said.

While Lower likes the idea of making sure signatures come from all corners of the state, Mike Batterbee, director of government affairs for the Secretary of State (SOS) said verifying the percent threshold would be difficult, considering the SOS doesn't go line-by-line in ballot proposal petitions, but rather pulls a sample to assess the validity of the signatures.

Lower addressed this in a substitute by saying it is up to the petitions gatherers to sort the signatures by congressional districts.

Also, the initial bill said every petition circulator would have to file with the state an affidavit to show whether they're a paid signature gatherer or a volunteer signature gatherer. Any signatures collected by a circulator who hadn't filed would be considered invalid.

Right to Life's Genevieve Marnon called that an "administrative nightmare" waiting to happen.

"Can you appreciate 10,000 individual volunteers registering with the Secretary of State?" she asked the committee.

Lower later addressed this in his substitute by only requiring paid circulators to register with the state.

Lower's bill also would move the date by which the Board of State Canvassers (BSC) must certify a petition to no later than the July 1 before the election. The BSC has typically finalized that type of work by early September before the election.

And, any legal challenges to the Canvassers' findings would need to be filed within three days, directly to the Michigan Supreme Court.

To that, Sharon Dolente of the ACLU -- who said she has many issues with the bill -- said she's never heard of a legal challenge period that short, and said it may be unconstitutional.

Other provisions in HB 6595 include the invalidation of any signatures that were not signed in the circulator's presence. Also, a "factual" 100-word summary that the state elections director usually comes up with for certified proposals would need to be included with the petition on the front end.

The Lower bill was reported out of the House Elections and Ethics Committee, chaired by Rep. Aaron Miller (R-Sturgis), Wednesday morning on a 6-3 party-line vote, with Democrats dissenting.

Rep. Jeremy Moss (D-Southfield) attempted to amend the bill to switch the 10 percent congressional district cap on signatures to a three percent floor, gaining the support of the SOS, RTL and AFSCME, but that amendment failed on a three to five vote.

### - respiratory syncytial virus infection

Respiratory syncytial virus, or RSV, causes fever, stuffy or runny nose, sore throat, and cough. Your child is more likely to get RSV between November and April. Most children have at least one RSV infection by two years of age. Most of these infections are mild. Younger children are more likely to get a lung infection and have breathing problems and wheezing. Their skin may turn a bluish color because they don't get enough oxygen. Babies who are younger than three months, who are born prematurely, or who have certain medical conditions are more likely to have problems from RSV. RSV can be diagnosed but swabbing the inside of the nose and sending it to the lab.

him or her eat and drink better. RSV is caused by a virus, so antibiotics don't help. Steroids and cool mist typically aren't helpful either. If your child isn't able to drink, IV fluids may be needed. Babies with a more serious infection may need to be hospitalized.

RSV can be spread by contact with bodily fluids like saliva and mucus from a sick child's nose or mouth, or by objects that the child has touched. Having your child wash their hands or use hand sanitizers may lower the risk of spreading the infection. Children may return to daycare when they have no fever and can eat and drink without problems.

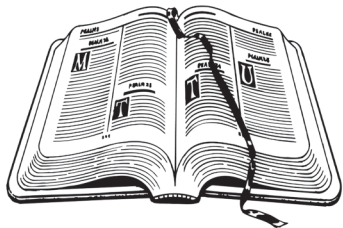
To prevent RSV, avoid contact with children and adults with cold symptoms or fevers. Avoid large crowds during cold and flu season, especially if your infant is younger than three months. Wash hands frequently. Keep your child away from secondhand smoke. It can increase the risk and severity of an RSV infection.

Treatment of RSV is mainly aimed at helping symptoms. Be sure your child drinks plenty of fluids. The hospital or doctor's office may give your child oxygen to help them breathe better. Gently suctioning your baby's nose may help

# Eat. Shop. Explore.

## LOCAL

# area churches



**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

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

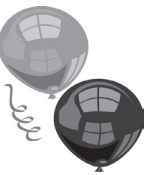
**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF LOWELL**  
CHRIST-CENTERED, KINGDOM-FOCUSED HOMES  
2275 West Main Street - (Barrier Free)  
897-7168 • www.fbc Lowell.org  
Pastor Jon Pickens • Lead Pastor  
Pastor Andrew Bolcom • Pastor of Discipleship  
Christi Swain • Director of Children's Ministries  
SUNDAY WORSHIP....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

**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  
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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WORSHIP  
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Kid's Crew 11:15 AM  
Sr. Pastor - Brad Brillhart

# happy birthday



- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>DECEMBER 19</b><br>Lori Moore, Carol Chamberlain.  | <b>DECEMBER 22</b><br>Jason Seeley, Cody Soyka.  |
| <b>DECEMBER 20</b><br>Ed Mohr, William Henry Burt, Jackie Spencer, Rob Lombardo, Morgan Taylor. | <b>DECEMBER 24</b><br>Jeffrey Pfaller.   |
| <b>DECEMBER 21</b><br>Brooke Page, Zachary Tykocki, Debbie Walendzik, Eric Koepfel.             | <b>DECEMBER 25</b><br>Scott Shindorf, Chris Woolfenden, Chris Treglia, Jeni Clouser, Peggy Hayes, Star Daverman. |

# REASON #7\*

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# Controversial lame duck legislative session

by Tim McAllister  
lead reporter

A “lame duck” session is when a legislative body meets after their successors are elected but before their terms begin. Republicans in the Michigan legislature are using the current lame duck session, which ends on Thursday, Dec. 20, to get a series of bills in front of Gov. Rick Snyder before Gov.-elect Gretchen Whitmer is sworn in on Jan. 1. Critics say these efforts undermine the will of the voters and are a desperate, last-ditch power grab by “sore loser” Republicans before they leave Lansing.

“People should not expect that I’m just going to sign things or I’m just going to veto things,” Snyder said last week at a press conference. “If I believe it’s in the best public-policy interest of the state, I’ll sign it, and if it’s not, I won’t.”

“Forty-eight governors have had a set of powers that the people expect them to be able to have and use,” Whitmer said in a Dec. 17 interview with Crain’s Detroit Business. “It would be a shame, and I think [Snyder] sees it, that perhaps it would be a shame that the 49th, 50th and 51st [governors] and on and on would not have that same powers that the people of the state expect and envision when they choose their officials. [...] It’s so destructive and we can’t afford to watch this divisiveness continue into the next term, and this makes it a lot harder to get to a place where we’re solving problems together.”

“It is shameful that this governor, who is just

counting down the days to the end of his tenure, would use this opportunity to hurt the people of Michigan one last time,” Rep. Christine Greig of Farmington Hills said in a statement.

On Friday, Dec. 14, Snyder signed laws that will significantly scale back citizen-initiated measures to raise Michigan’s minimum wage and require paid sick leave for workers. One of the laws will slow a boost in Michigan’s minimum



wage. It will now rise to \$12.05 by 2030 instead of to \$12 by 2022. It also repeals a provision that ties future minimum wage increases to inflation and reverses a provision that would have increased wages for tipped employees. The other new law exempts employers with fewer than 50 employees from having to provide paid sick days and limits the amount of annual mandatory leave from larger employers to 40 hours, instead of 72.

“They address a number of difficulties for job providers while still ensuring paid medical leave benefits and increased minimum-wage incomes for many Michiganders,” Snyder said in a press release after signing the bills privately.

“With a flick of his lame duck pen, Gov. Snyder chose to rob the people

of Michigan of the strong paycheck and good benefits they deserve,” Greig said.

Another bill Snyder is considering would make it a lot more difficult for state agencies to issue regulations stricter than federal ones. Opponents say that, because of the PFAS crisis and the Flint water crisis, it might be a good idea for Michigan to have stricter environmental laws than other areas of the country.

“This is putting obstacles and hurdles again and again in the way of providing clean and safe drinking water,” said Rep. Donna Lasinski of Ann Arbor. “It’s not good enough for a state with the nation’s largest supply of fresh water.”

According to the Monday, Dec. 17 New York Times, the bills Snyder is still considering would “strip campaign-finance regulation authority from the new Democratic secretary of state, give the legislature an unchallenged voice in lawsuits overseen by the new Democratic attorney general, and prevent Democratic officials from forcing nonprofit political advocacy groups to disclose who bankrolls their campaigns.”

# Bill changing proposal rules passes MI house

by Tim McAllister  
lead reporter

A Republican-sponsored bill that would make it more difficult for citizens to put proposals on the ballot has passed in the state house and is currently awaiting a vote in the state senate.

Republican lawmakers want to make it more difficult for citizens to put issues on the ballot after this last election when Michigan voters legalized recreational marijuana, overhauled the Republican-dominated districting process and expanded voting access.

The bill, introduced by Rep. James Lower of Cedar Lake, would invalidate signatures gathered by a petition circulator who was found to have misled people about a ballot proposal, mandate that no more than 10 percent of the signatures gathered could come from any single congressional district and would require circulators to disclose if they are paid or volunteering to collect signatures.

“We will strengthen the grassroots lawmaking power of our citizens by preventing deception and improving transparency,” Lower said in a press release. “We can’t let out-of-state special interests parachute in and unfairly influence our petition process.”

“It’s unworkable, it’s burdensome on the Secretary of State’s office without putting any additional resources for them to manage those issues, and it’s going to prevent a lot of people from enacting their right to petition their government and initiate law here in Michigan,” said state Rep. Jeremy Moss of Southfield in an interview with Detroit radio station WDET.

“The newest bill is a way to circumvent the state’s constitution by making the ballot proposal laws too burdensome,” said Mark Brewer, former chairman of the Michigan Democratic Party, in an interview with the Detroit Free Press. “They’re essentially trying to take away the right of the initiative. [...] You’re going to disqualify signatures because of something that the petition circulator did or didn’t do. It just puts more obstacles into place. [...] The latest ballot proposals have mostly come from our side because we haven’t been in control of the legislature. [...] On balance, it will affect Democrats and progressives far more.”

## IT'S PENGUIN WEATHER!



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the **ledger**

## VERGENNES TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION

### PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE SPECIAL MEETING

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a public hearing before the Vergennes Township Planning Commission will be held on **Monday, January 7, 2019 at 7:00 pm at the Vergennes Township Hall, located at 10381 Bailey Drive, Lowell, MI** to consider a special exception use permit as summarized below:

One Ethanol LLC has applied for a special exception use permit to construct a new building and business at 1111 O E Bieri Industrial Dr. SE, Lot 13, Lowell, MI. The business will consist of blending components into an alcohol product to formulate fuel for high performance automobiles. The Planning Commission will accept public comment and review the site plan and the application.

The Planning Commission will also review various zoning ordinance amendments that they are working on and any other business that may come before them.

The complete application can be reviewed at the **Vergennes Township Hall, 10381 Bailey Drive, PO Box 208, Lowell, MI 49331 - Phone: (616) 897-5671 or on the website: [www.vergennestwp.org](http://www.vergennestwp.org)**. Written and oral comments will be received from any interested party until the conclusion of the public hearing. Written comments may be addressed to the Planning Commission Chairman or the Planning Coordinator at the Township Offices. Comments may be emailed to the Planning Commission at: [zoning@vergennestwp.org](mailto:zoning@vergennestwp.org)

Vergennes Township Planning Commission

## Q&A with new Lowell city councilor Cliff Yankovich

### Why did you want to be on the Lowell city council?

Seemed like the next logical step for me. I love me some Lowell and I believe that giving back to the community that supports our store is the right thing to do. I have been involved with the Chamber of Commerce and the marketing committee, and have served on the Downtown Development Authority since 2014, but now that we live in Lowell I can be on the council.

### What are some of your favorite things about Lowell?

How long of an answer do you want! The foundation of most of the things I love about Lowell are summed up in the word compassion. Great community that supports each other, in spite of our differences: Pink Arrow, FROM, Rotary, Gilda's Club and a host of others. Our schools rock - we have great sports teams AND The Rock Fusion Orchestra. We have two rivers - TWO RIVERS! We embrace farmers and artists. LowellArts. Concerts. I love that at the same time \$250,000 condos will be built on the Flat River, FROM will be working on some affordable housing on Main St.

### How can Lowell be improved?

As the new guy, I am going to get the lay of the land a bit before I spout off. But I can say that many of our 'problems' boil down to communication. For some reason, I get to hear from a lot of people about

a lot of subjects in my store. (Guess everyone needs a watch battery now and then.) Some very well-meaning people have said things that are just not true or are distorted from an actual event I have firsthand knowledge about. City council meets twice monthly and they make themselves available one Saturday morning a month. I want to see a room full of people at all of those things. I can think of two recent meetings I attended where I was pretty sure of my position on something, but then when I heard other people speak, I altered my viewpoint. Communication is two-way. I love social media but nothing is better than face-to-face.

### Why should the Fairgrounds be converted to a campground? How could this be achieved?

Jim Hall lit this fire in me for the campground several years ago. I know there will be hurdles, but I am convinced that A) it can be done and B) it makes total sense for Lowell. We are the national headquarters for the North Country Trail. We will soon be the hub of the fifth largest biking and hiking trail in the nation. Most of the infrastructure for a campground is already in place. Please take a look at our 'Campground In The Fairgrounds' page on Facebook for the list of what we have in place. I believe we could start earning money from a campground and make it better as we go along. Because of the flooding,



Yankovich owns jewelry store Chimera Design, 208 E. Main.

nothing can be built there. A campground just makes sense.

### Should more types of empty bottles have a .10¢ deposit or should the .10¢ bottle deposit system be scrapped altogether?

Absolutely all containers should have a deposit. Visit a state with no deposit laws and you will see way more litter than you do in Michigan. It is sad that taking care of Michigan's natural bounty has turned into a political issue. My mom was a lifelong conservative Republican, but she taught me to recycle things 50 years ago. Good God - Nixon started the EPA, not some tree-hugging lefty! It is common sense. We have 2 grandkids and one coming soon. I want them to enjoy the Flat River, the Grand River and everything Michigan

has to offer. Stewardship of the environment takes laws, sorry if you don't agree, but we used to use the Grand River like a toxic toilet. It is in way better shape now than when I was a kid. That happened because laws were passed, not because factory owners woke up and turned off the spigot.

### How does corporate money influence public policy? What should be done about this?

Totally out of control. Best example is Nestle getting Michigan water for nothing. The public spoke to Lansing, the numbers opposed to continuing that deal were something like 87% against and still Snyder renewed and even let them take more. Conservatives and liberals are scared spitless about Pipeline 5 in the Straits, and still a Canadian Oil

## Otter Was a Beagle-ish Dog

And Other Mostly True Tales



Cliff Yankovich

Last year, Yankovich wrote and published a book of short stories detailing various "mostly true" adventures from his life, including a teenage motorcycle trip and his battle with throat cancer.

## PLACE YOUR GREETING IN OUR YEAR-IN-REVIEW SECTION

# YEAR IN REVIEW

*Wish the community a Prosperous New Year or Thank your Customers in an ad in the All New Year in Review Section running in the Jan. 2 edition of the Lowell Ledger.*

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Yankovich is well known for his antics in downtown parades.

Corporation was given priority over the clearly expressed wishes of voters FROM ALL PARTIES. This has to end. That is why I ran [in 2016 for a seat in the Michigan legislature] as a Green Party candidate. I used to be a Republican precinct delegate until I realized the scope of corporate money influence in Lansing. Greens take no corporate or PAC money. None. That should be the rule, not the exception.

Did the Lowell city council make the right decision

when they 'opted in' to recreational marijuana? What would you have done differently?

Yes they did and I would have done the same. Their decision was based on the will of the voters. Proposition 1 passed by a margin just short of 60/40 in Lowell. Had they done anything else, then they would have been no better than the folks in Lansing who are ignoring the wishes of their constituents.

Why is civility important in public discourse?

Another one of my Lowell favorite things. I have been to many public meetings with people who are diametrically opposed to one another and they speak openly without name calling or getting upset. Two examples: the trails and medical marijuana. People with totally opposite views came together and expressed themselves politely. That is how it is

supposed to work. Great things happen when we work together.

What sort of tax incentives should professional sports teams receive when building their stadiums? Why?

None. Do the research on the return on investment from this stuff. Look at Detroit. Promises made during the construction of the Red Wings' new arena are already falling by the way side. Sports teams make millions, even billions, they can pay for their own place to play. Our bridges are crumbling, the roads suck, yet we have millions to help build a sports arena to create a bunch of part time jobs so billionaires can make more profit? Nah. Little Caesar is laughing all the way to the bank. The same pizza you can buy in Lowell for seven bucks is twice or three times that at the Arena. You think any average people are realizing that profit? Not hardly.

Should individuals who buy electric cars get the same percentage of tax incentives as large oil companies?

I think it would be great if our state or federal government would help EVs and green energy as a whole, but guess what? People are doing it anyway. I was riding my electric motorcycle out in the Alto area this fall and saw lots of solar panels popping up on farms. I know a guy who makes solar golf carts and solar pontoon boats. The family that bought his first E-Pontoon boat had him



Yankovich ran for state representative on the Green Party ticket in 2016; he's pictured here with that year's Green Party vice presidential candidate Ajamu Baraka.

How many intersections in Lowell should be converted to traffic roundabouts?

Roundabouts are genius. Thank you so much for asking. As a council member, I am pledging to create one new roundabout per month. (Folks, this is a JOKE - I am merely trying to poke our current mayor with a sharp, pointy stick.)

...  
Time you enjoy wasting was not wasted.

~ John Lennon (1940-1980)



FLAT RIVER OUTREACH MINISTRIES

(11535 Fulton Street East, Lowell)

Families with children ages 3-18 living in the Lowell School District will be able to choose

5 FREE Healthy Lunches given for each child.

No registration required. Contact (616) 897-8260 with any questions.

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3:00pm 4:30pm 6:00pm  
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**MDOT looking for Road Watchers for west Michigan state highways**

MDOT is seeking "Road Watchers" to report on winter highway conditions in the west Michigan area.

Volunteers will be polled about highway conditions following winter storm events.

Comments gathered will be used to more efficiently deploy winter maintenance forces and identify best practices.

To volunteer, visit [www.michigan.gov/roadwatchers](http://www.michigan.gov/roadwatchers).

December 4, 2018 -- Once again the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) is seeking "Road Watchers" to report on highway conditions during winter events in Allegan, Ionia, Kent, Montcalm, Muskegon, and Ottawa counties. MDOT wants volunteers who travel on select US, M and I routes in these counties to help measure how well the roadways are maintained following winter storms. Comments gathered will be used to improve winter maintenance.

MDOT is looking for Road Watchers to monitor the following highways during commutes:

I-96 throughout Muskegon, Ottawa, Kent, and Ionia counties



US-131 throughout Montcalm, Kent, and Allegan counties

I-196 throughout Kent, Ottawa, and Allegan counties

US-31 throughout Muskegon, Ottawa, and Allegan counties

M-6 throughout Kent County

MDOT will gather the survey results to track winter highway conditions with the goal of improving winter

maintenance practices and response times. Surveys only take a few moments to complete.

Road Watchers are polled randomly for each storm event and asked to participate in an online survey about the road conditions they encountered. All results will be anonymous. To volunteer, visit [www.michigan.gov/roadwatchers](http://www.michigan.gov/roadwatchers).

**NOTICE  
VERGENNES TOWNSHIP  
ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE  
TO OPT-OUT, REGULATE AND PROHIBIT  
MARIHUANA ESTABLISHMENTS AND  
FACILITIES AND PRESCRIBE PENALTIES  
FOR ORDINANCE VIOLATION  
2018-07**

Notice is hereby given that Vergennes Township Ordinance 2018-07 to opt-out, regulate and prohibit Recreational Marihuana Establishments and Facilities in Vergennes Township and to Prescribe Penalties for Violation of the Ordinance was adopted at a special meeting of the Vergennes Township Board on December 3, 2018 and is summarized as follows:

**Section 1 - TITLE:** Known as: "Vergennes Township Marihuana Establishments and Facilities Ordinance."

**Section 2 – DEFINITIONS:** *IHRA* means the Industrial Hemp Research Act, 2014 PA 547, MCL 286.841 *et seq.* *Marihuana establishment* means that term as defined in the MRTMA. *Marihuana facility* means that term as defined in the MMFLA. *MMFLA* means the Medical Marihuana Facilities Licensing Act, 2016 PA 281, as amended. *MMMA* means the Michigan Medical Marihuana Act, 2008 IL 1, as amended. *MRTMA* means the Michigan Regulation and Taxation of Marihuana Act, 2018 IL 1, as amended.

**Section 3 - MARIHUANA ESTABLISHMENTS AND FACILITIES PROHIBITED:** Marihuana facilities are prohibited within the boundaries of the Township.

**Section 4 - RIGHTS UNAFFECTED BY THIS ORDINANCE-** This Ordinance shall not affect the rights of any person under Section 5 of the MRTMA, or the IHRA.

**Section 5 - SEVERABILITY** If any part of this Ordinance is determined to be unconstitutional or unenforceable by a court of competent jurisdiction, it shall be severed from the remainder of the Ordinance and such determination shall not affect the remainder of the Ordinance which shall remain valid and in effect.

**Section 6 – PENALTIES:** Violation of this Ordinance is a municipal civil infraction. This Ordinance will be enforced and administered by the Township Zoning Administrator, the Township Building Inspector, and such other Township official or agent as the Township Board or such other Township official as may be designated from time to time by resolution by the Township Board, or the Kent County Sheriff Department.

The complete text of the Ordinance 2018-07 is on file at the township office, located at 10381 Bailey Dr., Lowell, and is available on the township website at [www.vergennestwp.org](http://www.vergennestwp.org).

**This ordinance shall become effective thirty (30) days after publication.**

**Heather Hoffman  
Vergennes Township Clerk**

**MI Student Aid team reminds students and families about online scholarship search tool**

MI Scholarship Search connects students with thousands of scholarships from local organizations throughout the state to help identify opportunities offered within a specific county. Students are encouraged to use this tool throughout the school year because scholarship information is updated regularly.

"MI Student Aid's MI

Scholarship Search tool is an invaluable resource for Michigan students and their families," said acting Deputy State Treasurer Anne Wohlfert, who oversees Treasury's student finance programs. "This tool provides an efficient way to look-up and organize a wide variety of local scholarships."

MI Scholarship Search is a place-based tool, meaning that one of the scholarship components is linked to a Michigan school, county, city or region. The database does not contain Michigan scholarships without a place-based component.

While the MI Student Aid database provides a starting point for finding local scholarships, a successful scholarship application strategy should also include national, state, college or institutional scholarship applications.

To use MI Scholarship Search, go [www.michigan.gov/mistudentaid](http://www.michigan.gov/mistudentaid) and click on "Students and Families." Students with questions can contact MI Student Aid by email at [mistudentaid@michigan.gov](mailto:mistudentaid@michigan.gov), call 1-888-447-2687 or follow @mistudentaid on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and Snapchat.

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<b>US Sen. Gary C. Peters</b> 202-224-6221 <a href="http://peters.senate.gov">peters.senate.gov</a>	<b>Mich. Sen. Dave Hildenbrand</b> 517-373-1801 <a href="mailto:SenDHildenbrand@senate.michigan.gov">SenDHildenbrand@senate.michigan.gov</a> <a href="http://senatordavehildenbrand.com">senatordavehildenbrand.com</a>

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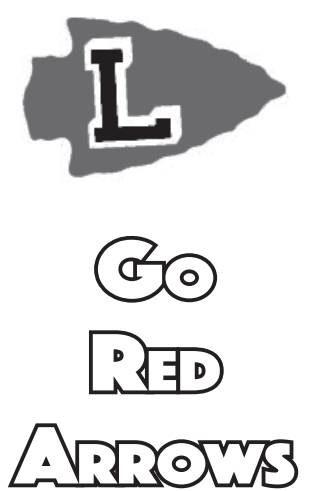
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# Boys end the week with a win and a loss

by Pete Osborne  
contributing reporter

The Lowell boys varsity basketball team was hosted Tuesday evening by the West Catholic Falcons, where they earned their second victory of the season. The first quarter of action saw both teams playing back and forth ball. The second quarter played out about the same with the score being tied at the half. Lowell, with some fine defense, outscored West by three points in the third quarter. Jordan Dent came out hot in the fourth quarter scoring 11 of his game-high 21 points. Dent did not play basketball his sophomore or junior season. Dent decided to come back and play basketball his senior year

and has started out with a fine season. Lowell defeated West Catholic 60 to 47. Braiden Hamilton had 14 points for the Red Arrows.

On Friday Lowell hosted East Grand Rapids. The Red Arrow's held East scoreless for more than half of the first quarter. East's Jalen Broussard hit for five points in the first quarter, while Lowell's Hamilton hit a three-pointer and a free throw for four points. The first quarter score was Lowell at nine and East seven. In the second, East netted 17 points, while the Arrows netted 14, for a halftime score of 24 for East and 23 for the Red Arrows. In the third quarter East put up 20 points to

Lowell's 17 for a 44 to 40 lead over the Arrows. In the fourth quarter, East put up 18 points to the Arrows' 17. East came away with a hard-fought victory over the Red Arrows 62 to 57. East was led in scoring by Broussard with 24 points. Max Tucker had 11 points for East. East was three for seven behind the three-point line for 42 percent and 21 for 31 from the free-throw line for 68 percent. Lowell was led in scoring by Gavin Coxon with 15, followed by Dent with 13 points. Lowell was four of 10 from behind the three-point line, 17 of 33 from the free-throw line for 51 percent shooting.



Lowell's Logan Dekok goes up for a shot against West Catholic. Photo by Adam Antor.

# Boys JV team suffers a pair of losses for the week

by Pete Osborne  
contributing reporter

The Lowell JV team traveled to play the West Catholic Falcons on Tuesday, Dec. 11. The Falcons were hot from behind the three point arc. West Catholic hit four three-pointers, compared to Lowell's one, to go up 24 to 12 at the end of the first quarter. West Catholic outscored Lowell in the fourth for a final score of West Catholic 83, Lowell 67. Lowell was led in scoring by Troy Taylor with 18 points,

followed by Reid Reynolds with 16.

On Friday, Dec. 14 against East Grand Rapids, the Pioneers started out on a fast pace. Luke Caswell and Ben Whiteside both put up eight points. Taylor put up four points for Lowell, making the score at the end of the first quarter 20 to four. Lowell got going in the second quarter and outscored East, nine to eight. The halftime score was East 28 and Lowell 13.

East outscored Lowell in the third quarter by 19 to seven taking the lead by 27 points. The Red Arrows only scored one basket and one free throw for three points in the fourth quarter while East hit 10 points, for a final score of East 57 and Lowell

23. East was led in scoring by Whiteside with 21 points. East's Caswell had 13 points. East was two for six from behind the three-point line for 33 percent.

They were seven for nine from the free-throw line for 77 percent. Lowell's scoring was led by both Taylor and Tyler Viroman with nine points each. Lowell hit

one for four from behind the three-point line for 25 percent shooting. Lowell hit six of 11 from the free-throw line for 54 percent shooting.

## Sports Summaries

### BOYS FRESHMAN BASKETBALL

The freshmen came out cold, against West Catholic on Tuesday, Dec. 11, scoring only one point out of four, shooting from the free-throw line. They were down, 15 to one at the end of the first quarter. The Arrows made a comeback and were down only seven points at the half, 22 to 15. The third quarter played even. Lowell was outscored by eight points in the fourth quarter for a final score of 28 for the Arrows 43 for the Falcons. Lowell was led in scoring by Jackson Fowler with 10 points.

Lowell hosted the East Grand Rapids Pioneers on Friday, Dec. 14. East came out hot, outscoring the Red Arrows by seven points at the end of the first quarter with a score of 13 to six. East landed a three-pointer and a couple more baskets, while Lowell managed two free throws, to make the score 20 to eight at half time. East began the second half firing on all cylinders putting up 16 points to Lowell's five. At the end of the third quarter the score was 36 to 13. The final score was East 51, Lowell 21. Lowell was led in scoring by Dominick Ronchetti with eight points. Lowell was three for 10 from behind the three-point line with 30 percent shooting. Lowell hit four of eight free throws for 50 percent shooting.

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- CATALOGS
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## Red Arrow Fall SPORTS SCHEDULES

**BOYS VARSITY WRESTLING**  
\* Denotes a home game  
12/28 & 12/29 time TBA Brecksville Invitational

**BOYS VARSITY SWIM & DIVE**  
12/27 at 11:30 am Curt Pals Invite at Jenison

**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  
1/4 at 7 pm at Wayland Union

**BOYS VARSITY BASKETBALL**  
\* Denotes a home game at LHS main gym  
1/5 at 3 pm Godwin Heights at DeltaPlex

**L** **GIRLS COMPETITIVE CHEER**  
1/5 at 11 am NPC Cheer Invitational

**L** **BOYS VARSITY HOCKEY**  
\* Denotes a home game at Kentwood Ice Arena  
12/22 at 4 pm DeWitt\*  
12/28 at 6 pm FHC at Patterson Ice Arena  
1/4 at 7 pm Loy Norrix\*

**L** **BOYS & GIRLS BOWLING**  
\* Denotes a meet at The Bowling Alley - Ionia  
1/5 at 9 am Jenison Invite at Hudsonville Lanes

# obituaries

## STARKWEATHER

Elaine Rose Starkweather, aged 70 of Ionia, formerly of Lowell, passed away December 15, 2018. She was born February 9, 1948 in Eagle Butte, South Dakota the daughter of Roy J. and Nellie E. (Fuller) Miller. Elaine moved to Lincoln, Nebraska with her family where she spent the remainder of her youth. She loved writing poetry and contributing her works to local veteran organizations. She played guitar, loved listening to music, watching Nebraska football and fishing. Elaine will be remembered as the greatest mother, grandmother and aunt in the world. Surviving are her sons, Byron Rhamy of Ionia, Leland Rhamy of Saranac and Denton (Holly) Starkweather of Lowell; grandchildren, Kevin Rhamy, Olivia Starkweather, Blaise Starkweather, Denton Starkweather II, Grant Rhamy, Ava Starkweather and Brooklyn Starkweather; great-granddaughter, Lucille Rhamy; sister, Sharon Bowden of Lowell; brother, Bob (Judy) Miller of Lincoln, Nebraska; many special nieces and nephews; and lifelong friends, Betty Thompson and Etta Meyers. Preceding her in death are her parents, brothers, Les Miller, Gene Miller, Joe Miller, Ted Miller; sisters, Wanda Fuller and Eleanor Clawson. Funeral services for Elaine will be Thursday, December 20, 2018 at 11 am at the Lake Funeral Home in Ionia with Pastor Bill Overton officiating. Interment Oakwood Cemetery in Lowell. Visitation will be on Wednesday 5-8 pm and Thursday 10-11 am at the funeral home. In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to her family to assist with final expenses. Online condolences may be made at <http://www.lakefuneralhomes.com>

# Seasonal work can empower you

Soon after school begins in the fall, many businesses begin advertising for seasonal workers. It's a good way for people to make some extra income during the busy holiday season or ease back into working.

The diversity of jobs appeals to many people. Each year, companies also hire for seasonal work-from-home positions. These jobs include: customer service, sales, tech support, call center representatives, healthcare support, order taking/review, and more. Seasonal positions may help bridge employment gaps on your resume. They show proven experience and that you are ready, willing, and able to succeed. They also can help you to develop new or strengthen existing skills through training.

If you receive Social Security disability benefits or Supplemental Security Income (SSI), special rules make it possible for people to work and still receive monthly payments. If you want to try working again, seasonal work may help you ease back into the work force. Read *Working While Disabled* at [www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/EN-05-10095.pdf](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/EN-05-10095.pdf) or visit our Ticket to Work website at <https://choosework.ssa.gov> for more information.

You can also get Social Security retirement or survivors benefits and work at the same time. But if you're younger than full retirement age and earn more than certain amounts, your benefits will be reduced, although



not dollar for dollar. Your benefits may increase when you reach full retirement age. You can read more about working while retired at [www.socialsecurity.gov/planners/retire/whileworking.html](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/planners/retire/whileworking.html).

Getting back to work can empower you in a number of ways. Social Security is here for you throughout your life's journey — at each step

of your working life and beyond.

*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).*

# Consumers Energy offers important tips to stay safe and warm this winter

With heating equipment a leading cause of fires in December, January and February, Consumers Energy is sharing important safety tips to help Michigan residents stay safe and warm.

"It is our privilege to provide natural gas and electric service to our family, friends and neighbors around the state, but we are also committed to sharing information to help them stay safe during

the winter months," said LeeRoy Wells, Jr, vice president of operations support for Consumers Energy.

According to the National Fire Protection Association, heating equipment is a leading cause of home fire deaths. Half of home heating equipment fires are reported during the months of December, January and February. To help prevent a tragedy, follow these simple safety tips:

- Keep anything that can burn at least three feet away from heating equipment, like a furnace, fireplaces, wood stove or portable space heater.

- Never use your oven to heat your home.

- Have heating equipment and chimneys cleaned and inspected annually by a qualified professional.

- Turn off portable heaters when leaving the room or going to bed.

- Never operate portable generators inside a home, garage or near windows. They should be operated outside and at least 25 feet away from a home/building.

- Install an Underwriters Laboratory (UL) listed carbon monoxide alarm that will activate if this deadly, invisible gas is produced. Most carbon monoxide

problems occur in the winter when doors and windows are closed and furnaces are operating.

There are also simple outside tips to stay safe and warm. Keeping natural gas and electric meters and gas furnace intake pipes free of

ice and snow is important for safe operation. If snow builds up, it can become compacted and freeze around the meter, causing damage that can interfere with its proper operation and appliances served by that meter.

- Remove snow by hand, never with shovel, other tools or power snow equipment.

- Residents with high-efficiency furnaces should clear the intake pipes (typically two white plastic pipes coming out the side of the home) from piled or drifting snow to prevent possible obstructions that could interfere with safe operation.

- Those living in manufactured/mobile homes should safely clear away snow from rooftop chimneys, fresh air intakes and furnace exhaust pipes.

Consumers Energy, Michigan's largest energy provider, is the principal subsidiary of CMS Energy (NYSE: CMS), providing natural gas and/or electricity to 6.7 million of the state's 10 million residents in all 68 Lower Peninsula counties.

\*\*\*\*\*

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## PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

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## GRATTAN TOWNSHIP

Regular Meeting 9:00 a.m.  
Synopsis of Minutes  
December 10, 2018

### Motions Approved:

1. Cowan Lake Sewer Force main directly to WWTP- Route 2- with revised cost estimate.
2. Resolution 2018-028 To acquire and construct capital improvements, publish notice of intent to issue capital improvement bonds and matters related thereto.
3. The issuance of a Choice One Credit to selected officers of the Township.
4. 2019 Calendar.
5. The Township Board Meeting schedule for 2019.

Our next Township Meeting will be a **regular meeting January 14, 2019 at 7 p.m.**

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

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

# classifieds

**for sale**

**BOB'S 21ST ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BIRD HOUSE SALE** - Great gifts for families and friends. Blue bird, wren, bat houses, wood duck, screech owl boxes, bird feeders, squirrel feeders. All cedars will last many seasons. High quality, low prices. Bob's Bird House, 12279 60th St., Alto. 616-868-6633.

**EXCEPTIONAL PERFORMANCE AND VALUE** - Requires less wood & provides more heat. Central Boiler certified Classic Edge OUTDOOR WOOD FURNACE. Call today! 616-554-8669. SOS Property Maintenance LLC, 6950 Hammond Ave, Caledonia. We are your local sales, service & parts dealer! TFN

**QUEEN PILLOWTOP MATTRESS SET** - (new), \$248/set. Thick & plush. Hammond Wholesale, 320 W. Main St., Carson City, 989-584-1600. See us on Facebook. TFN

**FREE AD!** - Place & pay for a classified ad in the Buyers Guide & Lowell Ledger for 3 weeks & receive the 4th week FREE! You must mention the special in order to receive this offer. Valid only with new classified ads, and must be paid for when ad is placed. Call 897-9555.

**LUXURIOUS LINCOLN Premium Warranty** - Navigation, Sirius, Heated steering, Remote start, 12-way power & Lumbar heated/cooled seats, Gorgeous Ruby Red Metallic 2013 Sedan V6 very peppy, Camera, 103,692 mi \$10,483 Beautiful! Text/call 616-460-7893 Caledonia.

**USED TIRES** - Call with size, 616-292-7649/616-295-8820. Rob's Auto - thanks. TFN

**REACH OVER 100,000 AREA HOMES** - with our Marketplace! One call & one payment, only \$40! Includes 20 words & 1 black & white photo. Only items for sale please. The ad runs in the Lowell Buyer's Guide & News, Hastings Reminder, Marshall Advisor/Chronicle & Battle Creek Shopper News. Call 897-9555 or stop by 105 N. Broadway for more info.

**wanted**

**FREON R12 WANTED: CERTIFIED BUYER** will PAY CASH for R12 cylinders or cases of cans. (312) 291-9169; www.refrigerantfinders.com (MICH)

**GOT LAND?** Our Hunters will Pay Top \$\$\$ to hunt your land. Call for a FREE info packet & Quote. 1-866-309-1507 www.BaseCamp Leasing.com (MICH)

**I WANT TO BUY** - Refrigerator, stove, washer, dryer & furniture in good shape. Have cash. 989-584-6818. TFN

**help wanted**

**WE ARE TAKING APPLICATIONS FOR DRIVING ROUTE CARRIERS** - to deliver the Buyers Guide on Saturdays. Work less than 1 day a week! Get paid weekly, pickup papers at Buyers Guide office. Apply in person, 105 N. Broadway, Lowell.

**ADDIX IN LOWELL IS HIRING** - we are seeking team members for the following positions: all shifts sewing operator and all shifts seasonal cutting technician. Call Bart for an interview at 616-916-2418.

**DRIVERS CDL-A** - Looking for an incredible career? Don't wait! Earn top pay, sign-on bonus, quarterly safety bonus, excellent benefits: health, life, dental & vision insurance, 401K and More! Must have 1 yr CDL experience with X-end. Apply at www.gulfmarkenergy.com or call 866-448-4068 EOE.

**for rent**

**WE DO BUSINESS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE FEDERAL FAIR HOUSING LAW** - Equal Housing Opportunity. It is illegal to discriminate against any person because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin in the sale or rental of housing or residential lots; in the advertising the sale or rental of housing, in the financing of housing. Anyone who feels he or she has been discriminated against may file a complaint of housing discrimination: 1-800-669-9777 (toll free) 1-800-927-9275 (TTY).

**PRICELESS STORAGE - Indoor/outdoor. New Units on Alden Nash, 1 mile South of I96. Call for specials 558-2900.** TFN

**HALL FOR RENT** - Lowell Veteran's Center, 3100 Alden Nash. Newly remodeled, smoke-free, private, great location & great rate! www.VFW8303.org. FREE All Vets Coffee Hour at the center the 3rd Thursday of each month. Bring a friend. Call John at 299-0486 or 897-8303. TFN EOW

**WHISTLE STOP MINI STORAGE** - 12661 Vergennes, N. of Lowell. 5x10; 10x10; 10x20; 10x30; 12x40. Fenced lighted, key code entry. Call for more information, 897-8872.

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**services**

**HANDY REPAIR SERVICE** - All kinds of service work: locks rekeyed, deadbolts installed, screen & window repair. Call Bob Ford, 299-3198. TFN

**WORK WANTED** - Double D's Bucket Van & Handyman Service. 40' bucket, tree trimming & removal, gutters, window washing, power washing, buildings, barns, homes, decks, etc. Insured. Call Dave Delinsky, 616-212-3008. Free estimates.

**EVERYDAY MILITARY DISCOUNT** - 10% off any service when showing your military ID. 24-Hour towing, tire change, lock out, jump starts, fuel delivery. J&K Roadside Service, 616-690-0983.

**services**

**CARPENTER WANTS JOBS, JOBS, JOBS** - New homes, remodeling, additions, flooring, siding, decks, kitchens, baths, plans drawn. Licensed since 1967. References. Mel Cooke, 676-9239. No Sunday calls please.

**SCANNING SERVICE** - Do you need something scanned & emailed? The Buyers Guide/Lowell Ledger now offers this service! Mon. - Thurs., 8 - 5 p.m. & Fri., 8 - noon. Phone 897-9555 with any questions.

**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.

**services**

**NOREEN K. MYERS, ATTORNEY AT LAW** - Compassionate, experienced, effective legal representation. Specialties include: wills & trusts, work related injuries, employment discrimination. 307 E. Main, Lowell, 897-5460.

**NEED A DUMPSTER - Want great service?** 10 - 15- 20 & 30 yards. Same day delivery. Best prices. Mention this ad & save \$10. Call 616-915-0506.

**DRIVER'S LICENSE SUSPENDED OR REVOKED?** - Don't get sucked into \$100-\$300 evaluation fees... I NEVER charge for your record evaluation & consultation! Driver's license RESTORATION: \$3500 incl. all filing fees AND FREE consultation & evaluation of your case. Have a question? Call Attorney Martin Mead (616) 235-0330.

**card of thanks**

We would like to thank everyone for all of their acts of kindness. Your thoughtfulness will not be forgotten. A special thanks to Roth/Gerst Funeral Home, Dr. John Mogor, Rockford Ambulance, the Kent County Sheriff's Victim Advocates and Keiser's Kitchen for their wonderful luncheon.

Again, thank you.  
 Mary Kay Wright;  
 Chris & Laura Wright & family;  
 Lisa & Bill Nelson & family;  
 Debbie & Tom Tomasik & family

**Community Calendar**  
**December**  
**AND ONGOING EVENTS**

**PLEASE NOTE** - Coming Events are for non-profit organizations. If you are charging admission for an event - it is considered an advertisement. Coming events are on a space available basis & **ARE NOT GUARANTEED**. If you would like to make sure your event is placed in the paper, please call our office & place it as a classified ad. We will not accept ANY Garage or sales (including fundraisers) as a coming event. All Coming Events or changes to coming events should be submitted by fax: 897-4809, email: classifieds@lowellbuyersguide.com, by mail: PO Box 128, Lowell, MI 49331 or in person: 105 N. Broadway.

**LEGO DAY** - Dec. 27, 1-4 pm. Kids will be tasked in creating a Grinch Catcher! Stop in & join the fun. Saranac Public Library, 61 Bridge St., Saranac. 616-642-9146.

**WOMEN FOR SOBRIETY** - meets every Monday, 7-8 p.m. at Bowne Center United Methodist Church, fellowship hall, 12051 84th St., corner of Alden Nash. Call Sue at 868-6219 or www.womenforsobriety.org

**BOWNETOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY** - meets the second Monday of the month at 10 a.m. in the Historical Museum at 84th/Alden Nash.

**WOMEN OF THE MOOSE** - third Monday at 7:30 p.m. for business meeting.

**ALTO AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY** - meets the second Monday of the month at 7 p.m. at the Alto American Legion Post.

**V.F.W. POST #8303** - meets the first Monday at 7 p.m. at 3116 Alden Nash S.E.

**BOY SCOUT TROOP 102** - every Monday, 7-8:30 p.m. during school year in Scout Cabin at the end of N. Washington St. Ages 11 and up or completing 5th grade. Call Scoutmaster Clay VanderWarf, 616-485-3429 or Del Rockwell at 897-6814.

**VERGENNES CLUB MEETS** - at 1 p.m. on the first Thursday of the month March thru Nov. Meeting at Schneider Manor Community Room. Program & refreshments. Guests welcome.

**TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY TOPS MI #372** - every Tuesday, weigh-ins at 5:45 p.m. in the activity room at Schneider Manor, Lowell.

**CUB SCOUT PACK 3188** - meets every Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. at First United Methodist Church, 621 E. Main.

**QUA-KE-ZIK SPORTSMANS CLUB** - meets second and third Tuesdays at 8 p.m. at 8731 West Riverside Dr. Go to www.qua-ke-zik.org for information. New members welcome.

**LOWELL LIONS CLUB** - meets third Tuesday at noon at Lowell City Hall.

**LOWELL AMATEUR RADIO CLUB** - Open Radio Room Thursdays, 7 pm at Flat River Outreach Ministries, 11535 Fulton St. E. General meeting 3rd Thursday. www.w8lrc.org 145.27 MHz.

**FLAT RIVER OUTREACH MINISTRIES TREASURE'S THRIFT SHOP HOURS** - Tues - Fri. 10 - 6 p.m.; Sat. 10 - 2 p.m. at 11535 Fulton St. E. Thrift Shop, 897-8260; Resource Center, 897-8260.

**ALPHA FAMILY CENTER OF LOWELL** - 517 E. Main. Hours: Mon. & Wed. 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Tues. & Thurs. 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. Diapers, formula, clothing & free ultrasounds & pregnancy testing available. www.afclowell.org

**ALTOLIBRARY HOURS:** Mon. & Sat. 9:30-1:30 p.m.; Tues. & Wed., 12 - 8 p.m.; Thurs., 1-6 p.m.; Fri. 9:30-6 p.m. Info., call 784-2007.

**ENGLEHARDT LIBRARY HOURS** - Mon.-Wed., noon - 8 p.m.; Thurs., Fri. & Sat., 9:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. 784-2007.

**LOWELLARTS GALLERY HOURS** - Tues. - Fri., 10 - 6 p.m.; Sat., 10-5 p.m. 225 W. Main St., Lowell. Visit www.lowellartsmi.org

or call 897-8545.  
**LOWELL AREA HISTORICAL MUSEUM** - open Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday & Sunday: 1-4 p.m. Families: \$10; individual \$3; ages 5-17 \$1.50; members free. 897-7688.

**THE LOWELL BOARD OF EDUCATION** - second Monday of the month at 7 p.m. in the Administration Building, 300 High St., Lowell.

**FLAT RIVER WATERSHED COUNCIL** - Meets 3rd Monday of each month at the Main Street Inn in Lowell at 6:30 p.m. For more information, visit our web page at flatriverwatershed.org

**BABY PANTRY OF LOWELL** - (formerly St. Mary's Pregnancy Center) is now located inside Flat River Outreach Ministries (FROM) at 11535 Fulton St. E. We are open Monday 5:30-7:30 p.m. & Thursday 2-4:30 p.m. to serve pregnant woman & families of small children in need of diapers, wipes & other baby supplies. We are non-denominational & serve families in the Lowell area. For more information, call Michele at 616-322-5957.

**NEW CLASSES FOR EVERYONE** - children - adults at Christian Life Center, 3050 Alden Nash SE, Lowell. Every Wednesday 7-8 p.m. Bible-centered classes for children through 5th grade, youth group for 6th grade thru high school & adult prayer & Bible study. Everyone is invited to attend.

**FREE ALL VETS COFFEE HOUR** - Third Thurs. of each month. Bring a friend. Lowell Veteran's Center, 3100 Alden Nash, Lowell. Call 868-7426 or 897-8303 for more information.

**LOWELL AREA PRAYER & HEALING ROOMS** - located in the FROM building, 11535 Fulton Street, most Monday evenings, 6-8 p.m. Christian Scripture based. No cost or fees, no appointment necessary, confidentiality respected.

**VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION FOR FROM** - 1st. Wednesday of the month, 6 p.m. and 3rd Thursday of the month at 1 p.m.

FROM, 11535 Fulton St. E. Call for more information 897-8260.

**LOWELL WOMEN'S CLUB** - Meets the second Wed. of each month, Sept. - May, 11:45 a.m., First Congregational Church. For more information call Jan at 897-2533.

**CELEBRATE RECOVERY** - Thursdays, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. A Christ centered program to help overcome life's hurts, habits, hangups. Impact Church, 1069 Lincoln Lake, www.impactchurch.org or www.celebrater-recovery.com

**FIRST & THIRD WEDNESDAYS** - Fun at Calvary for boys & girls preschool - 8th grade. Cadets for boys 1st-8th; GEMS for girls 3rd - 8th; Kingdom Kids for boys & girls preschool - 2nd grade. 1125 W. Main, Lowell. Ph. 897-7060.

**WRWW BROADCASTS** - Lowell High School sports, concerts, community events, student 'on air' shows and your favorite music can be heard on the WRWW FM radio station (92.3) and Internet radio station located at www.lowellradio.org

**LOWELL ROTARY CLUB** - meets each Wednesday at noon at Lowell City Hall. New members welcome.

**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES** - at Wittenbach Wege Center, 11715 Vergennes, Lowell. Stewardship projects, trail maintenance - adopt a trail! and community events (night hikes, luminary hikes, Winter Fest, Maple Syrup days & more!) Anyone interested in these opportunities please email Courtney Cheers: ccheers@lowellschools.com

**WHITES BRIDGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY** - Meets 2nd Tuesday of each month at the Lowell Chamber of Commerce office at, 6:30 p.m. Public is invited to join our group as we plan to raise funds to restore Whites Covered Bridge. For additional information www.WhitesBridge-Historical Society@gmail.com or 616-437-1927.

## FREE WILL

# astrology

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**Aries****(March 21-April 19)**

Consumer Reports says that between 1975 and 2008, the average number of products for sale in a supermarket rose from about 9,000 to nearly 47,000. The glut is holding steady. Years ago you selected from among three or four brands of soup and shampoo. Nowadays you may be faced with twenty varieties of each. I suspect that 2019 will bring a comparable expansion in some of your life choices, Aries—especially when you're deciding what to do with your future and who your allies should be. This could be both a problem and a blessing. For best results, opt for choices that have all three of these qualities: fun, usefulness, and meaningfulness.

**Taurus****(April 20-May 20)**

People have been trying to convert ordinary metals into gold since at least 300 AD. At that time, an Egyptian alchemist named Zosimos of Panopolis unsuccessfully mixed sulfur and mercury in the hope of performing such magic. Fourteen centuries later, seminal scientist Isaac Newton also failed in his efforts to produce gold from cheap metal. But now let's fast forward to twentieth-century chemist Glenn T.

Seaborg, a distinguished researcher who won a share of the Nobel Prize for Chemistry in 1951. He and his team did an experiment with bismuth, an element that's immediately adjacent to lead on the periodical table. By using a particle accelerator, they literally transmuted a small quantity of bismuth into gold. I propose that we make this your teaching story for 2019. May it inspire you to seek transformations that have never before been possible.

**Gemini****(May 21-June 20)**

United States President Donald Trump wants to build a concrete and fenced wall between Mexico and America, hoping to slow down the flow of immigrants across the border. Meanwhile, twelve Northern African countries are collaborating to build a 4,750-mile-long wall of drought-resistant trees at the border of the Sahara, hoping to stop the desert from swallowing up farmland. During the coming year, I'll be rooting for you to draw inspiration from the latter, not the former. Erecting new boundaries will be healthy for you—if it's done out of love and for the sake of your health, not out of fear and divisiveness.

**Cancer****(June 21-July 22)**

Cancerian poet and



filmmaker Jean Cocteau advised artists to notice the aspects of their work that critics didn't like—and then cultivate those precise aspects. He regarded the disparaged or misconstrued elements as being key to an artist's uniqueness and originality, even if they were, as yet, immature. I'm expanding his suggestion and applying it to all of you Crabs during the next ten months, even if you're not strictly an artist. Watch carefully what your community seems to misunderstand about the new trends you're pursuing, and work hard to ripen them.

**Leo****(July 23-August 22)**

In 1891, a 29-year-old British mother named Constance Garnett decided she would study the Russian language and become a translator. She learned fast. During the next forty years, she produced English translations of 71 Russian literary books, including works by Tolstoy, Dostoyevsky, Turgenev, and Chekhov. Many had never before been rendered in English. I see 2019 as a Constance Garnett-type year for you, Leo. Any late-blooming potential you might possess could enter a period of rapid maturation. Awash in enthusiasm and

ambition, you'll have the power to launch a new phase of development that could animate and motivate you for a long time.

**Virgo****(August 23-September 22)**

I'll be bold and predict that 2019 will be a nurturing chapter in your story; a time when you will feel loved and supported to a greater degree than usual; a phase when you will be more at home in your body and more at peace with your fate than you have in a long time. I have chosen an appropriate blessing to bestow upon you, written by the poet Claire Wahmanholm. Speak her words as if they were your own. "On Earth I am held, honeysuckled not just by honeysuckle but by everything—marigolds, bog after bog of small sundews, the cold smell of spruce."

**Libra****(September 23-October 22)**

"Be very, very careful what you put into that head, because you will never, ever get it out." This advice is sometimes attributed to sixteenth-century politician and cardinal Thomas Wolsey. Now I'm offering it to you as one of your important themes in 2019. Here's how you can best take it to heart. First, be extremely discerning about what ideas, theories, and opinions you allow to flow into your imagination. Make sure they're based on objective facts and make sure they're good for you. Second, be aggressive about purging old ideas, theories, and opinions from your head, especially if they're outmoded, unfounded, or toxic.

**Scorpio****(October 23-November 21)**

Memorize this quote by author Peter Newton and keep it close to your awareness during the coming months: "No remorse. No if-lys. Just the alertness of being." Here's another useful maxim, this one from author Mignon McLaughlin: "Every day of our lives we are on the verge of making those slight changes that would make all the difference." Shall we make it a lucky three mottoes to live by in 2019? This one's by author A. A. Milne: "You're braver than you believe, and stronger than you seem, and smarter than you think."

**Sagittarius****(November 22-December 21)**

Until 1920, most American women didn't have the right to vote. For that matter, few had ever been candidates for public office. There were exceptions. In 1866, Elizabeth Cady Stanton was the first to seek a seat in Congress. In 1875, Victoria Woodhull ran for president. Susanna Salter became the first woman mayor in 1887. According to my analysis of the astrological omens, Sagittarius, 2019 will be a Stanton-Woodhull-Salter type of year for you. You're likely to be ahead of your time and primed to innovate. You'll have the courage and resourcefulness necessary to try seemingly unlikely and unprecedented feats, and you'll have a knack for ushering the future into the present.

**Capricorn****(December 22-January 19)**

Studies show that the best possible solution to the problem of homelessness is to provide cheap or free living spaces for the homeless.

Not only is it the most effective way of helping the people involved; in the long run, it's also the least expensive. Is there a comparable problem in your personal life? A chronic difficulty that you keep putting band-aids on but that never gets much better? I'm happy to inform you that 2019 will be a favorable time to dig down to find deeper, more fundamental solutions; to finally fix a troublesome issue rather than just addressing its symptoms.

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

Many people in Iceland write poems, but only a few publish them. There's even a term for those who put their creations away in a drawer rather than seeking an audience: skúffuskáld, literally translated as "drawer-poet." Is there a comparable phenomenon in your life, Aquarius? Do you produce some good thing but never share it? Is there a part of you that you're proud of but keep secret? Is there an aspect of your ongoing adventures that's meaningful but mostly private? If so, 2019 will be the year you might want to change your mind about it.

**Pisces****(February 19-March 20)**

Scientists at Goldsmiths University in London did a study to determine the catchiest pop song ever recorded. After extensive research in which they evaluated an array of factors, they decided that Queen's "We Are the Champions" is the song that more people love to sing than any other. This triumphant tune happens to be your theme song in 2019. I suggest you learn the lyrics and melody, and sing it once every day. It should help you build on the natural confidence-building influences that will be streaming into your life.

## NEWS OF THE

# wæird

**Scrooge Visited by Ghost of Lunches Past**

The Cranston (Rhode Island) School District is taking its response to delinquent school lunch accounts up a notch, reported WJAR TV on Dec. 6. District COO Raymond Votto Jr. sent a letter to parents notifying them that a collection agency will be contacting those with lunch overdrafts starting on Jan. 2 and noted that the current deficit is almost \$46,000. "The district lunch program cannot continue to lose revenue," Votto wrote. The letter specified that students will continue to receive food regardless of whether their account is in arrears. Families with unpaid charges of more than \$20 will be notified by mail, which the district called a softer approach.

**The Litigious Society**

When Stephen Keys boarded a SkyWest flight in Reno, Nevada, on Sept. 9, he settled into his first-class seat and reached to buckle his seat belt. But when he raised the right armrest for better access, his right pinky finger became lodged in a small hole under the armrest,

according to the lawsuit he filed against American Airlines and SkyWest on Dec. 5. Keys tried repeatedly to remove his finger but could not, and it remained stuck for nearly an hour until the flight landed and airline mechanics disassembled the armrest, reported City News Service. "The spring mechanism ... applied intense pressure to the plaintiff's finger, immediately inflicting injury, swelling and pain," the lawsuit read. "Dozens of passengers became aware of Mr. Keys' perilous condition, causing his dire situation to become a humiliating public spectacle." What's more, the injury left Mr. Keys unable to drive and play with his children, causing severe emotional distress, according to the lawsuit. SkyWest, citing ongoing litigation, would not comment on the suit.

**Weird Science**

Scientists are likening the strange occurrence of eels getting stuck in monk seals' nostrils to "one of those teenage trends," according to The Washington Post.

Charles Littnan, lead scientist of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Hawaiian Monk Seal Research Program, posited, "One juvenile seal did this very stupid thing, and now the others are trying to mimic it," but he and other scientists are stumped about the phenomenon. Hypotheses suggest that the eels jet up the nostrils as seals poke their faces into eels' hiding spots, or seals regurgitate the eels and they exit through the nose. Over the last two years, three or four incidences have been reported, all with good outcomes for the seals. No eels have survived.

**STATEPOINT CROSSWORD**

**THEME: HAPPY HOLIDAYS**

**ACROSS**

- 1. Snap up
- 5. Ship pronoun
- 8. Table scrap
- 11. Not happening
- 12. Call to matey
- 13. Boredom
- 15. Decant
- 16. Pilaf grain
- 17. Charcuterie stores
- 18. "A \_\_\_\_ for the rest of us!" - from "Seinfeld"
- 20. Gwyneth, to friends
- 21. Thing to bear?
- 22. Comedian Tina
- 23. \*Warmest or holiday follower
- 26. Feeling of disinterest
- 30. Sculptor Hans/Jean

- 31. Chief
- 34. Assistant
- 35. Used in cricket or 301
- 37. \*Feast of the Seven Fishes seafood
- 38. Tanks and such
- 39. Purse for a formal affair
- 40. All together
- 42. Make a mistake
- 43. Green bean or peanut
- 45. Infamous \_\_\_\_ Knoll
- 47. Charge carrier
- 48. \* \_\_\_\_ Navidad!
- 50. Hindu princess
- 52. \*This theme wouldn't exist without them
- 55. Swines, in Old English
- 56. Dashing style
- 57. Between a trot and a gallop
- 59. Corpulent
- 60. Ding-a-\_\_\_\_
- 61. Knight's breastplate
- 62. "I Thee \_\_\_\_"
- 63. Pea container
- 64. Not a word?

**CROSSWORD**

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	
11					12				13	14		
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**DOWN**

- 1. Econ. measure
- 2. \*Where Santa's sleigh lands
- 3. Malaria symptom
- 4. Russian soup
- 5. Prison weapon, pl.
- 6. Bette Midler's " \_\_\_\_ Pocus"
- 7. "Tiny tots with their

- \_\_\_\_ all aglow"
- 8. Billy Joel's " \_\_\_\_ the Good Die Young"
- 9. The Colosseum, e.g.
- 10. \* \_\_\_\_ the season!
- 12. Not aria nor recitative
- 13. Landscaper's tool
- 14. \*Welcomed with a count down
- 19. Weight of refuse and chaff, pl.
- 22. Driving hazard
- 23. Does like a crane
- 24. About to explode
- 25. Celiac disease, colloquially
- 26. \_\_\_\_ weevil
- 27. March of \_\_\_\_
- 28. Emanations from incense and frankincense
- 29. \*Christmas

- predecessor
- 32. Be undecided
- 33. Cotillion ball's main attraction
- 36. \*Good follower
- 38. Like smell of burning rubber, e.g.
- 40. Long time
- 41. Staring amorously
- 44. Coolness and composure
- 46. Popular flowering shrub
- 48. Shakespeare's "First \_\_\_\_"
- 49. African antelope
- 50. RBG's garb
- 51. Matured like cheese
- 52. SOS
- 53. Quotable Berra
- 54. What DJs do
- 55. Reporter's question
- 58. Is in Paris

Puzzle solutions on page 12



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			9	2		8		

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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.

# Online POLL QUESTION

*With the advancement of cell phones. do you remember people's phone numbers*

- Yes, I memorize as many as I can
- No, it's in my contact list

**TO VOTE, GO TO .**  
**WWW.**  
**thelowellledger.com**

**Then watch for the results in**

*Lowell's Only Hometown Newspaper!*

## LAST WEEK'S ONLINE POLL RESULTS

*Our poll asked ...*  
*During the Holiday season, do you go on social media more or less?*

More, see what people are doing ..43%  
Less, I only focus on my family .... 14%  
Social media/news are not my friend .....43%

**WWW.**  
**thelowellledger.com**



This is another installment in the Lowell Ledger's 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)

## Cindy's Suds

### The Practicality of Cindy's Suds

by Gerald Browning  
contributing reporter

What started out as a way to help treat her middle child's eczema well over 11 years ago, has turned into a profitable business for Cindy Hanson, owner of Cindy's Suds.

As Hanson stated on her website, "I never set

bug bites, sunburns, other types of burns, and many more skin-related injuries. After the salve, Hanson began making soaps.

"His skin was getting so much better just by using the natural products," Hanson said.

As she would make the soaps, she would

through garage sales, and church fairs. Then, they expanded into stores such as Hopscotch and Harvest Health. These two stores were the first two accounts that Cindy's Suds had.

"We are moving more towards a wholesale business model," Hanson said.



out to start a company, just to help my son."

As a physician's assistant, she knew that the typical treatment for that was steroids. Hanson wanted an alternative, more natural methods of helping her son with his condition

"I started researching different natural methods and started playing around with different formulas and tweaking it so that it was something that would work for him," Hanson said. "We started making it in the kitchen."

From those experiments came the Healing Salve.

"The Healing Salve is our best product because it is so multipurpose," Hanson said.

The Healing Salve that Hanson made for her son can be used on

give extras as gifts to friends and family. She would also sell them at garage sales.

It has been over 11 years since she started the business and created the name. The business has moved from the kitchen and expanded into the basement. Initially, the business was selling

As such, the business does not do many craft shows.

"We have our online store...and we started an Etsy store," Hanson said.

"We have about twenty accounts in West Michigan and Mackinac Island," Hanson said.

With her background in medicine, Hanson



describes a hard shift from the more conventional medicines to soaps and body butters, but the passion for this grew from the necessity of helping her son. Hanson's knowledge of medicines also help her to understand what products help and hurt the consumer.

"Even in the natural realm you have to know what you are doing," Hanson said.

Some oils can hurt the consumer if certain oils or salves are ingested or placed on the skin. Her scientific background has helped with this business in

knowing what types of products to use and what products to stay away from.

Hanson said she sees what she does as creating something that is "an everyday way of life."

"We use [the soap] as a consumable," Hanson said.

The product is less about the "artistry" of the soap and more about the practicality of the soap. The products should be used to promote a healthy lifestyle. Each product has been crafted with the intention of its use, not to sit on a shelf

and just smell or look appealing.

"We make very healthy, very natural products to be used on a daily basis," Hanson said.

After many years of service, Cindy's Suds has focused on the same all-natural ethic and mission. With ingredients that are minimal and with names that are easily pronounceable, this business puts out a quality product that is safe and practical for all.

For more information, please check out the webpage: [www.cindysuds.com](http://www.cindysuds.com).