



Pages 11-24

2020 LowellArts house concerts

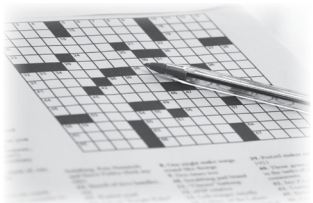


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LHS sports page 7

Fun page



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50¢



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## New year messages from area newsmakers

We asked a few of the folks who have been in the news this year what their 2019 highlights were and what they're looking forward to in the new year.



Steve Donkersloot and family.

### LIZ BAKER Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce

The chamber's largest highlight would have to have been Christmas Through Lowell. We had 66 locations on the tour and thousands of people were in attendance. They came from all over, not just local. Christmas Through Lowell has become a tradition for many of our returning shoppers. It seems to be a fun place where ladies meet, shop, eat and sleep! What started out as a deer widows escape has now turned into an event that many men shop as well. This is Lowell's largest shopping event of the year and once again we proved that statement to be true. Riverwalk Festival was a smashing success this summer as well. We had a lot of firsts: highest number of runners, the Thursday night summer concert broke all the attendance records and the classic cars came rolling in. Lastly, let me mention Santa visits. We are fortunate to have the "real deal" here in Lowell. You certainly can tell by the amount of kids and parents that come back year after year to visit with our Santa. This is long lasting tradition that we are very proud of. All in all 2019 was an outstanding year for the chamber.

For 2020, we will continue

to offer the many events that our community and visitors have become accustomed to: Expo, Riverwalk, summer concerts, Harvest Celebration, Girls Night Out, Christmas Through Lowell, Christmas festivities, the Santa visits, as well as the networking events for the chamber members. We are working on a new event for spring, called "Spring Fling and the Cookie Adventure." This event will take the place of the spring Girls Night Out. We are always tweaking our current events, making them better than ever. We are looking forward, with great anticipation the arrival of the Lowell Showboat. If we keep on schedule, we

are likely to see the hull to arrive in late May. After that, we will have many months of finishing construction on the inside, Riverwalk plaza and the bathrooms that will be located in the building across from the Showboat. If all goes well... it is very likely Santa will return to the Lowell Showboat December 2020!

### RYNE CLARKE The Ryne Experience

Our biggest highlight as a band this year was just getting out there, playing almost 50 shows this year. We recorded two albums, covered all of "Tommy" by the Who, and formed a full five piece jam band.

Our plans and hopes for 2020 are to get our "Funky Town" album/movie out, play even more shows, go out of state and start the next record.

We have a LowellArts show on January 10th (not a album release, just a acoustic set followed by an electric set with a seven piece band), and our Tip Top residency in Grand Rapids every Monday in February at 9 pm.

We had a vinyl Kickstarter for the new "Funky Town" album fully funded, so now it will be coming out on all platforms from Under the Counter Tapes in Texas.

### STEVE DONKERSLOOT Lowell Light & Power

Traveling with our one-



Bridge photo by Jerry Hale.

year-old daughter was our #1 highlight. We spent time in Florida this past January with some of our best friends, took a family trip with my side of the family to South Carolina in April, and enjoyed a PURE Michigan trip to the U.P. and Northern Michigan this summer! A close runner-up was the completion of our barn that we had been planning/saving for since we were married!

We are expecting a second daughter in April 2020 - and we couldn't be more excited! We anticipate and plan on Baby Donk #2 taking up most of our time and energy in 2020. We hope and pray that all goes safely and smoothly!

### ASHLEY DUNN Creative Party Bug

My biggest highlight for 2019 was the grand opening of Creative Party Bug. Girls Night Out was my best night at the shop. Hundreds of women attended the event and found out about my services. Almost half of my parties scheduled after were from the customers who came into my store. Since my opening I have had 60 parties! A great start in only a few months. I feel I'm really bringing the community together with all my events.

Goals for 2020, hoping to find a creative person to help me with delivery of decor and furniture, someone to help me expand my company, so you will soon see Party Bug trucks roaming around. Also to get involved with the showboat events, I feel I'm a great asset to help with decor and certain events held. Another goal is to open a second location, Creative Party Bug 2, catering to the boats in Holland, Grand Haven and Saugatuck. People are always looking for a new theme or to have someone decorate for a romantic dinner or a large dinner party, so I'm confident my tablescapes services are a great way to express that.



Museum Immersion Program photo by Lisa Plank.

New year, continued, page 2

# New year, continued



**"The museum has a great speaker series planned for 2020, as well as new exhibits."**  
**Lisa Plank**  
**Lowell Area Historical Museum**

**JERRY HALE**  
**Lowell Township supervisor**  
The highlight was the completion of the bridge connecting the North and

South Riverfront parks. In 2020 we hope to complete the trail in North Park and build the disc golf course.

**LISA PLANK**  
**Lowell Area Historical Museum**  
The Lowell Area Historical Museum had an exciting year in 2019. Working with Lowell Township we installed interpretive boards in the new Lowell Township Park North exploring the history of the fur trade in Lowell. The boards accompany interpretation at the new cabin in the park which will feature events

classes. The program joins a wide range of education programming the museum provides in our building, in the schools, at the Wittenbach-Wege Center and Heidi's Farmstand each year. The museum's oral history project gained momentum this year as board members Ardis Barber, Tina Cadwallader and Dale Kropf actively gathered interviews. They formed a

museum website. The museum has a great speaker series planned for 2020, as well as new exhibits. We are partnering with Calvin College and the Fallasburg Historical Society on an internship program. We are also partnering with a public history class from Grand Valley State University to conduct research for signage of the downtown historic district.

Second, the district passed a bond election in May. The bonds have been sold and the first bid packages are in. The construction will begin in early 2020.

As I look into 2020, I look forward to the continual work towards improving our district facilities. It will be great to see construction starting.

**GREG PRATT**  
**Lowell Area Schools superintendent**

I have had several highlights throughout the year, but I will focus on one personal highlight and one for the district. First, Grant, my eighteen-year-old son, completed his last round of chemotherapy in late March. After three and a half years of treatment, I can say he is healthy and feeling great.

**RICK SEESE**  
**Greenridge Realty**  
My biggest highlight was watching my granddaughters grow another year older. My plans and hopes for 2020 are planning 2020 focus on market changes and client needs. Hoping 2020 brings good health and happiness for all of my family, friends and clients.



Rick Seese

**"It is very likely Santa will return to the Lowell Showboat December 2020!"**  
**Liz Baker**  
**Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce**

exploring the fur trade and other historical topics. The park is a wonderful addition to Lowell and we are happy to be able to provide history to the park. The Museum Immersion Program expanded in 2019 to accommodate all Lowell Area Schools third grade

partnership with Lowell's radio 92.3FM to air the interviews on LOWELLife on Sunday evenings at 8 pm. The project has expanded the history we have on file and our ability to share it with the public. Starting in 2020 the interviews will be available online on the



Cabin photo by Lisa Plank.



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# New year, continued

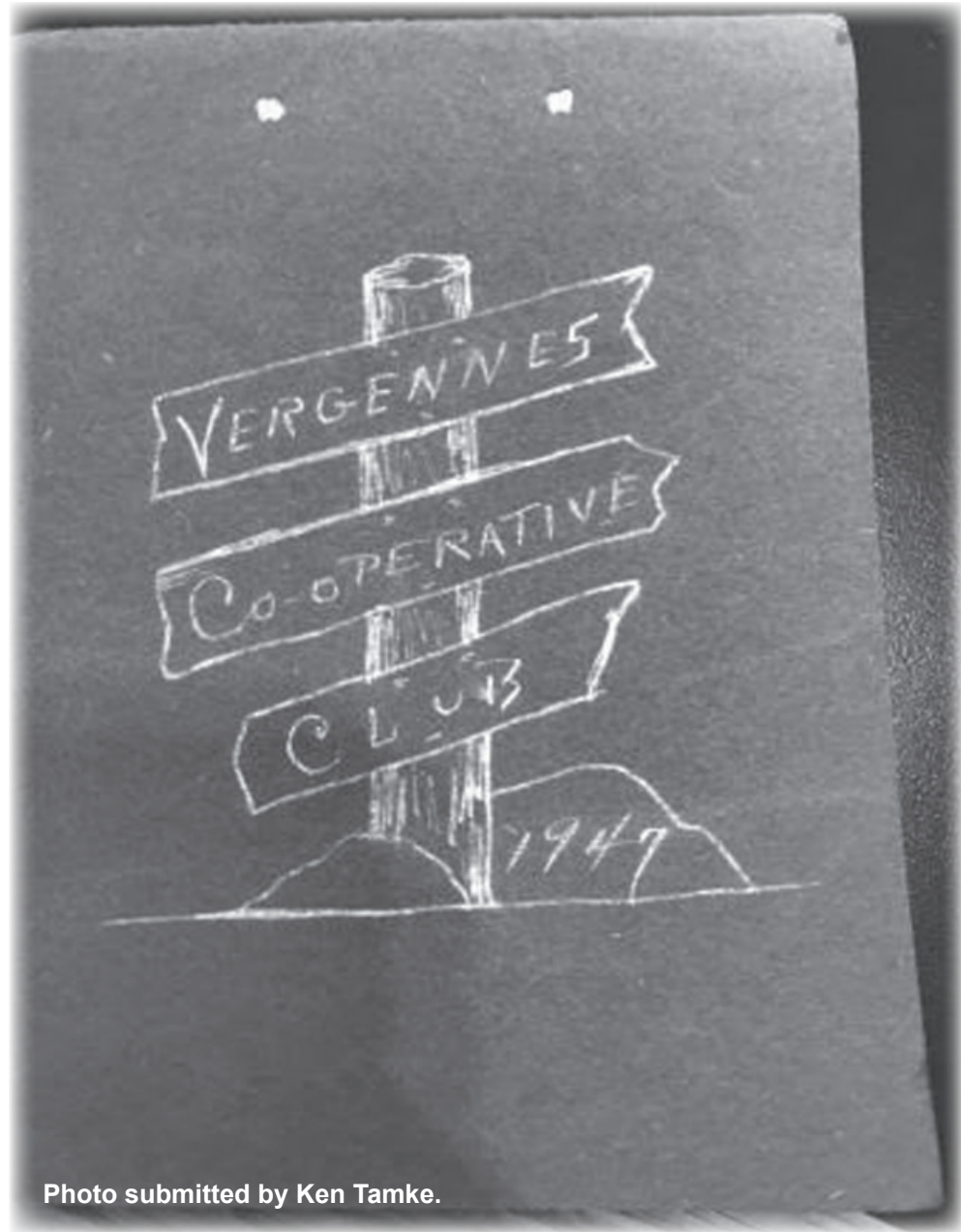


Photo submitted by Ken Tamke.

## KEN TAMKE Fallasburg Historical Society

The Fallasburg Historical Society excitedly launched a collection website of archived material including pictures, documents, and artifacts in 2019. Our website, <https://collection.fallasburg.org>, went live on the Internet in March. The digitizing process of our collection has been, and will continue to be, a work in progress. Calvin College's history department student interns, under the guidance of Lowell Area Historical Museum executive director Lisa Plank and in collaboration with the society, have undertaken this project and the result

is stunning. Many local nuggets of area history, heretofore unavailable to the public, have been rediscovered. Most notable are the National Women's Council of Defense registration cards from 1918 and meeting programs with assorted memorabilia from

the Vergennes Cooperative Club from 1914 to 2004. The VCC was largely responsible for creating awareness and initiating preservation efforts in Fallasburg dating back over 100 years.

The historic Fallasburg schoolhouse's concrete



Alpha Family Center in Lake Odessa. [photo by Christa Wetzel]

## "Our hope for 2020 [is] more volunteers!"

Ken Tamke  
Fallasburg Historical Society

patio, like many things do when they get old, began to sag and settle. Water was collecting and draining towards the building instead of away from it, threatening foundation timbers and support infrastructure. The old concrete patio was removed and the stone wall reconfigured and reset. A beautiful, new, pressure-treated wooden deck and entry stairs were added. The existing iron railing was retro-fitted and re-welded. We were able to keep our concrete, ADA-compliant wheelchair ramp undisturbed, and integrate the former central concrete entry steps at the end of the patio.

For 2020, the Fallasburg Schoolhouse facelift will continue. She needs some siding repair, and a paint job from top to bottom. All things considered, she's in remarkable shape and we're here to keep her that way. The original parsonage in Fallasburg Village, now the Misner House Museum and Fallasburg Historical Society office/archival storage, is ready for a new roof. A particularly wet and challenging year in our climate have underscored the importance of keeping the weather out and what's in protected.

Our hope for 2020... more volunteers!

A wonderful synergy exists within the Lowell area community, amongst non-profit organizations, families, individuals, businesses and our various municipalities. May it continue to flourish in the coming year and beyond. Happy New Year from FHS!

was appointed to fill Jeff Phillips' seat in late 2018, but being appointed to a position most people are elected to, I felt a little like a guy who crashed a party he was not really invited to. I was very pleased to learn of the results of the election.

The funny part of this story is that TV8 reported me as getting ZERO votes. None. It was as if I was not interested enough in the position to even vote for myself, never mind not being able to persuade my wife to cast a vote for me.

## CHRISTA WETZEL Alpha Family Center of Lowell

We were able to start the new year off by opening the doors in Lake Odessa. We are excited to be able



to help families in our communities, we had an exciting year and we would not be able to do it without the generous support of the Lowell community! Thank you!!!

A summary of our year: pregnancy tests = 17, ultrasounds = 16, "life decisions" = 14, EWYL appointments = 598, GED students = 9, ESL students = 6, GED graduates = 6, diploma graduates = 1. Supplies given out: diapers = 10,135, car seats = 20.

## CLIFF YANKOVICH Lowell city council

My biggest highlight for this year concerning my favorite city in Michigan would have to be my election to the city council. It was really great that I

TV8 even put up a little graphic with 100 percent of the votes being counted and Cliff down at the bottom with nary a one.

Here is the real result - kind of funny that the candidate TV8 claimed was a total blank turned out to be the top vote getter by 15 percent. [see "most votes received" image above]

Thanks very much to the voters of Lowell for voting me as a councilman for four years.

My hope and plans for Lowell in 2020 center around making the communication better between city council and the residents and voters in Lowell. The comments on social media regarding the proposed income tax drove home the fact that many people are truly not aware of what is going on in Lowell.

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## Ryne Exp. kicks off 2020 LowellArts concert series

by Tim McAllister  
lead reporter

On Friday, Jan. 10, the Ryne Experience will play the inaugural event in the latest LowellArts Gallery Concert series.

From January through April there will be 12 shows in the series, genres will include rock, folk, bluegrass, rockabilly, jazz, pop and more. All of the concerts will take place in the LowellArts gallery at 223 W. Main. The series is sponsored by Chimera Design, Local Spins and New Union Brewery.

“January through March is a good time to do things indoors,” said Ryne Experience frontman Ryne Clarke. “Patrick [Kargl] should be back on drums for that, so the show should be awesome.”

Their new acoustic album “Shopworn” will be for sale at the show, along with their previous albums and other merchandise. The band is also playing a residency at the Tip Top Deluxe Bar and Grill in Grand Rapids every Monday night in February.



Ryne Clarke

To buy tickets or get more information visit [lowellartsmi.org/gallery-concerts](http://lowellartsmi.org/gallery-concerts) or call 616-897-8545.

### 2020 LowellArts House Concerts

- Jan. 10: The Ryne Experience
- Jan. 19: Edey Evans Hyde and Mike Hyde
- Jan. 24-25: Lowell High School Fusion Rock Orchestra
- Feb. 9: Roger MacNaughton and Friends
- Feb. 15: Josh Rose and the Founding Fathers
- Feb. 29: Chain of Lakes
- March 7: Blue Water Ramblers
- March 14: Delilah DeWylde
- March 21: Hayes Griffin and Nate Roberts
- March 28: Political Lizard
- April 4: The Willeys

## New deputy joins the force

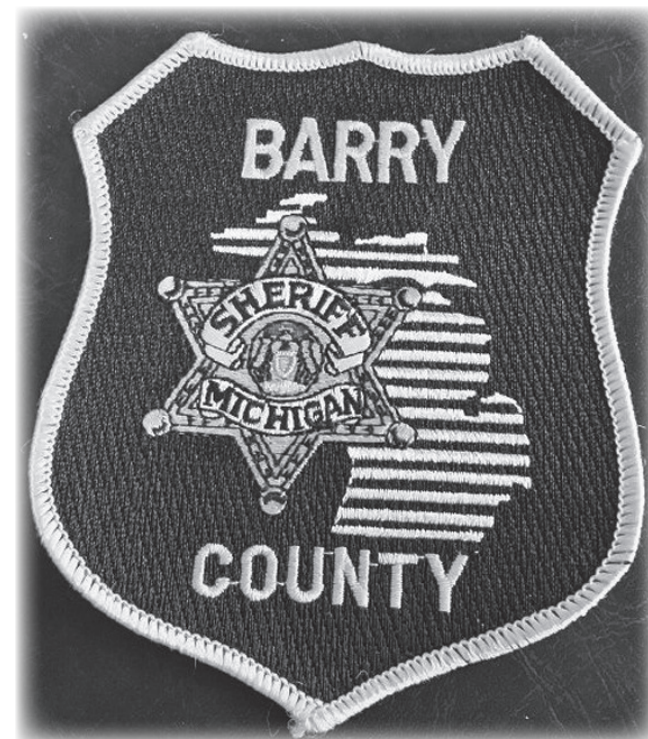
Barry County Sheriff's Deputy Jared Williams, who was sworn in at the Barry County Board of Commissioners meeting Dec. 17, has been a police officer for two years.

The county's newest deputy grew up in Lowell and wanted to move back closer to his family, according to undersheriff Matt Houchlei.

Williams started his law enforcement career at the Benton Charter Township police department in Berrien County before accepting a post at the city of St. Joseph public safety department.

He is a certified police officer as well as a certified firefighter.

His father, Brian Williams, recently retired as a captain with the East Grand Rapids police department.



Jared Williams, the new Barry County sheriff deputy, grew up in Lowell.

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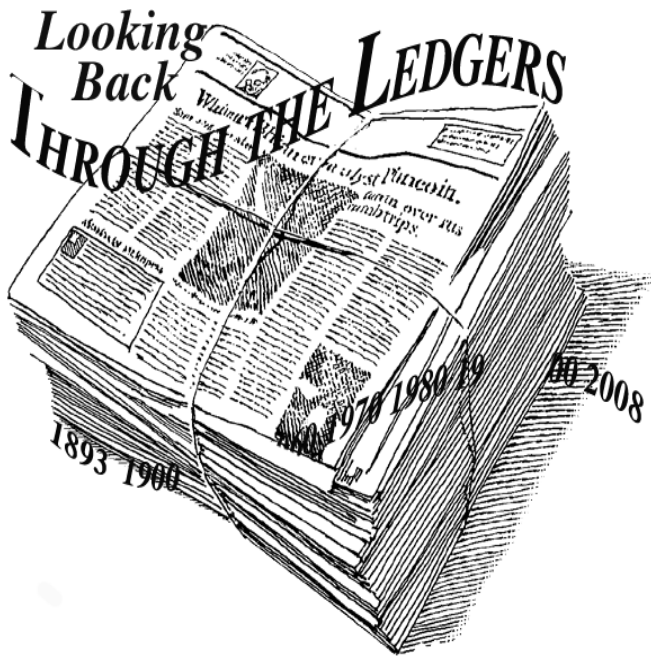
79% of newspaper readers took action as a result of reading a newspaper ad in the past 30 days<sup>2</sup>

17.2% of adults made a purchase in the past 90 days as the result of a direct mail flyer<sup>2</sup>

Direct mail lacks the effective reach of newspaper advertising.



# viewpoint



## 125 years ago Lowell Ledger January 2, 1895

E. E. Young, agent of the Chicago & Grand Trunk railway at Potterville, was accidentally shot. While cleaning a revolver the weapon was discharged and the ball pierced his heart. Young was a middle-aged man and leaves a widow and several children.

The eighth death from suicide within one month occurred Wednesday, the victim being Albert W. Markham, a well-known citizen, aged 38. Like all the others he took opium. It is believed all the victims have been members of a suicide club.

James A Bailey, Nate Salisbury and W. F. Cody have formed a partnership to consolidate the Wild West and Forepaugh shows next season, with a capital of \$1,000,000. The new partners will have no interest in the Barnum & Bailey show.

## 100 years ago The Lowell Ledger January 1, 1920

Joseph Virgo, man of six wives, accused of the murder of Maude Tabor Virgo, his fifth wife, whose body was found in a trunk in the Tabor home here three weeks ago, wants to be tried by a jury of women. After many years spent in wedlock with half a dozen mates, he declared that he would trust himself to the judgment of twice that number of women if he were brought to trial for the killing of Maude Tabor.

Frank N. White has been appointed census enumerator for Lowell village and Christopher Bergin for the township; and the work begins Friday of this week. This is the fourteenth decennial census in Grand Rapids, Kent and Ottawa counties and the enumerators have to ask some very leading and

personal questions. They have to do it, so you might as well come across pleasantly with your answers first as last.

Lowell lost a good citizen and a faithful and ever-ready friend, when Sylvester P. Hicks passed away at his home in this village Monday at 11 pm, aged nearly 76 years. For nearly half a century he had been a prominent and active citizen of this community, affecting its life and interests at more points, perhaps, than did any other citizen during all that long period.

## 75 years The Lowell Ledger January 4, 1945

Albert J. Hermans of Ionia, who recently purchased the 3-story Hosley block at 220 W. Main, is busy redecorating the interior, preparatory to opening a Gamble store about February 1. Van's Super Market which has occupied the Hosley block for some time past, has moved into the Frank block, next to White's jewelry store.

Friends of Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Clark of Ada, R. 1 will be happy to learn that their son, Pfc. Ralph S. Clark, who was listed as missing in action in France on October 10, is now reported to be alive, although a prisoner of the Germans. The information reached the Clarks Wednesday morning in a telegram from the war department.

The New Year 1945 entered this waiting world promptly on schedule but bringing with it the worst storm of the winter. Snow falls accompanied by biting winds have made many roads well-nigh impassable, resulting in numerous homes being snow bound. Rural mail carriers have had their share of difficulties in negotiating their trips, in fact part of the routes could not be covered because of the drifting roads, although the county road commission used all available trucks in their attempts to make the roads passable.

## 50 years The Lowell Ledger January 1, 1970

This issue is missing.

## 25 years The Lowell Ledger January 4, 1995

It's startling for Duane Lambert to reflect back on the 43 years he has spent in the wholesale and retail business. "I've enjoyed it, but when I think about the number of years, it's staggering," Lambert says.

The building boom continues in Vergennes Township and its latest construction will be a six-unit apartment building. Last month Court Nederveld, owner of Nederveld Construction and Finance Co., was granted a special use permit from Vergennes

Township for the construction of an apartment building. It is to be located on a 6.25-acre site on Flat River Court, just off Flat River Drive.

Just as sure as winter brings snow, debate as to whether or not a school's MEAP scores should be compared to other school districts occurs every year. The temptation is great and is given in to by many newspapers, parents and even some school officials. This is done despite the recommendation of the MEAP handbook.

## to the editor

Dear editor; (Re "President makes..." Dec. 25, 2019)

A puff piece on a Trump rally in Battle Creek is not necessarily newsworthy for those of us who subscribe to the Ledger for local coverage of events that matter to us. The whole story the Ledger, and I suspect all the other J-Ad papers, ran, was, I am sure pure manna for supporters of the recently impeached president.

For the rest of us, and

in particular, for me, please keep it local and relevant to those of us who have made Lowell our home at some point in our lives.

Thank you for the opportunity to voice my concern and to be a part of the discourse taking place in the town I will forever call home.

Tim VanderVeen  
Gwinn



## 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.

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# happy birthday



### JANUARY 1

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

### JANUARY 5

Ryan Sauber, Craig Carpenter, Genie Southwick, Jody Ann Young.

### JANUARY 2

Rose Nead, Helen Kuiper, Angie Sloan.

### JANUARY 6

Don Green, Bob Kinsley, Bobbi Jo Young, Terri Stuckey, Norann DeLoof.

### JANUARY 3

Jon Vezino, Audrie Olszewski, Lloyd Callihan, Jane Lally, Rick Fyan.

### JANUARY 7

Lois Seese, Bob Leyman, Karen Cummings, Troy Dilly.

### JANUARY 4

Nicholas Knonenwetter, Ruth Wood, Clayton Brown.

# LHS December Students of the Month

Lowell High School has announced that Sydney Munson, 11th grade; Joshua Meier, 11th grade; and Sophie Hruska, 11th grade, are the Lowell High School December Students of the Month. In order to be eligible for this honor a student must be nominated by a department. All the nomination forms for the month are then reviewed and voted on at the monthly department chair meeting. Students are selected based on academic

facilitate and create a positive learning environment for his peers on a daily basis. Josh is a member of our wrestling team and volunteers many hours helping the youth at their practices and summer camps. He leads by example



**Joshua Meier**

through his kind mannerisms, respectful attitude and strong work ethic. Joshua is an outstanding young man.”

Hruska was nominated by Mike Michaud and he writes, “Sophie is only one of five students in my AP Calculus BC class that came directly from our Precalculus class. The majority of my BC students have already taken the first half of calculus last year, our AP Calculus AB class, with Dani Ayala. Those students that have taken the AB class are significantly advantaged because of their exposure and potential mastery of the topics that Sophie is learning for the



**Sophie Hruska**

first time. It would be a safe assumption to say that Sophie should be understanding less and scoring lower than those “AB” students. That, however, is a false assumption. What Sophie lacked in experience she made up for in talent and pure desire to understand. Sophie outperformed every student in the class and received the highest grade for the first trimester. We are now currently in the new material, the Calc II portion of our class, and once again, Sophie is at the top of the class. Sophie, as a junior, and without the experience of the majority of her peers, is simply outshining them in a wonderfully exuberant yet restrained and modest fashion.”

## - toilet training

Most children are ready for toilet training by 18-30 months. Typical signs that children are ready include being able to walk without help, being able to take off their clothes, being able to communicate that they need to use the toilet, being able to follow simple commands, and showing an interest in toilet training (such as asking to wear “big kid” underwear).

child’s pace, and structured behavioral training, which uses treats and praise when the child successfully uses the potty chair. There are also some smartphone apps to help parents and children with toilet training.

There is no “best” training method, so use the approach that works best for your child and your family. Think about how your child learns best. There are two main approaches: child-oriented training, which allows training to go at the

Setbacks are normal during toilet training. Try to take a patient, encouraging approach. Toilet training typically takes longer for boys. Don’t try to train your child before he or she is ready. Starting too soon can end up taking longer. Try not to start training when there are other stressors in your child’s life (such as a recent or upcoming move or the arrival of a new sibling.)

## college news

In recognition of outstanding academic achievement, Zoe D. Smith, of Lowell, was placed on the Dean’s List for the fall 2019 semester at the University of Southern Indiana. Dr. Mohammed Khayum, provost, reported that 2,304 undergraduates were named to the Dean’s List.

must achieve a 3.5 or better grade point average (on a 4.0 system) to be named to the Dean’s List. Students earning no IN (incomplete) or Z (missing) grades for the term, and earning letter grades of computable point value (Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory and Pass/No Pass graded courses do not apply) in 12 or more semester hours, with a semester grade point average between 3.5 and 4.0 are named to the list.

Semester honors are not awarded to master’s degree students or doctoral students.

Undergraduate students



## At Your Local Library

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

### Bookworms Book Club

Join us for a lively book discussion. Please note, if Lowell Area Schools is cancelled for the day, Bookworms will not meet. Tues., Jan. 14 at 10 am, *Evicted* by Matthew Desmond.

### Sci-Fi Book Club

Join us for an informal book discussion where we will talk about science fiction titles, as well as speculative fiction, fantasy, and dystopian selections. Mon., Jan. 13 at 6:30 pm, *Ready Player One* by Ernest Cline.



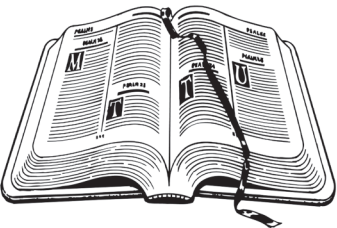
**Sydney Munson**

achievement, character, and work ethic. There are 1,200 students eligible for nomination, so this is quite an accomplishment for Munson, Meier and Hruska. The students receive a \$20 movie gift card and a certificate.

Munson was nominated by Heidi Kolp and she writes, “Sydney is an absolute super star in class and after school for the theater department. She served as my stage manager for the fall play this year. She was more prepared and organized than I was. In addition to her skills, she is just the happiest, most sunny person I have met in a long time. I have never seen her overwhelmed or angry. She takes challenges in stride and finds genuine joy in all that she does. Sydney gets things done efficiently and with a positive attitude. She brightens my day and makes my workload easier on a regular basis. She is a joy to work with.”

Jim Fleet nominated Meier and he writes, “Joshua is an amazing individual with outstanding character traits. Since the start of the school year he has exhibited top work ethic and outstanding grades in our Algebra II course. He is always willing to help others. Josh participates in class discussions and helps create a positive environment in our classroom and around our building. He has done a great job in my class asking questions, participating in discussions and offering a kind smile to others. He helps

# area churches



### FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

865 Lincoln Lake SE • [lowellucc.org](http://lowellucc.org)  
Pastor Alyssa Anten  
Christmas Eve Service 8 PM  
Worship Service - Sundays 10 AM  
Open Table (No-cost meal) - Thursdays 5 - 7 PM  
**Open & Affirming • LGBTQ+ Inclusive**  
616-897-5906

### GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

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

Joseph Fremer, Pastor 897-8307  
All facilities are wheelchair accessible

### CALVARY CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH OF LOWELL

897-7060  
Pastor Ryan Landt  
1151 West Main Street, Lowell, MI  
Morning Worship..... 10:00 AM  
Sunday School..... 11:20 AM  
Evening Worship..... 6:00 PM  
Nursery available at both services  
Barrier-Free

### St. Mary Catholic Church

402 Amity Street • 616-897-9820  
Website: [www.stmarylowell.com](http://www.stmarylowell.com)  
Weekend Masses: Sat 5 pm; Sun 10:30 am  
Confession: Saturdays 3-4:30 pm  
Prayer & Adoration: Wednesdays 8 am to 7 pm  
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN TO ADULTS

### FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF LOWELL

CHRIST-CENTERED, KINGDOM-FOCUSED HOMES

2275 West Main Street - (Barrier Free)  
897-7168 • [www.fbclowell.org](http://www.fbclowell.org)  
Pastor Jon Pickens • Lead Pastor  
Pastor Andrew Bolkcom • Pastor of Discipleship  
Christi Swain • Director of Children's Ministries

SUNDAY WORSHIP..... 9:30 AM (Nursery provided)  
LIFE GROUPS..... 11:00 AM (Nursery-Adult)  
Awana (K-5 during school year) Wednesday, 6:15 PM

### LOWELL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

discover. grow. share  
621 E. Main Street  
897-5938  
[www.lowellumc.com](http://www.lowellumc.com) • Barrier Free Entrance

WORSHIP  
9 AM - Traditional • 11 AM - Contemporary  
Kid's Crew 11:15 AM  
Sr. Pastor - Brad Brillhart

Red Arrow

BASKETBALL

# SPORTS

## Boys basketball falls to EGR and Byron Center

by Justin Scott  
contributing reporter

A good start wasn't enough for the Red Arrow varsity boys basketball team who fell to EGR on December 17. Brett Spanbauer had a quick eight points for the Red Arrows in the first quarter. The Arrows trailed only 12-10 after the end of the first, but EGR would extend their lead from two to 15 by halftime and finish off with a 67-34 win.

Reid Reynolds,

Landon Grant, CJ Steinbach, Logan DeKok, Nate Clark, Braiden Hamilton, Spanbauer, Troy Taylor, Dawson Douma, and Brock Gemmell all scored for the Arrows.

The Arrows fell to Byron Center 48-37 in their last game before winter break. The team travels to Grand Ledge on January 7 for their next game. The girls team was off last week.

**Pictured: Junior Brad VandenHout dribbles the ball against EGR.**



## Arrows win Kent County Tournament, Belding Tournament on same day

by Justin Scott  
contributing reporter

The Lowell wrestling team sent two teams out last Saturday, one heading to Forest Hills Central for the always exciting Kent County Tournament and the other heading to Belding for the Belding Invitational.

Lowell wrestling A took first place at the Kent County Tournament outpacing second-place

Rockford by over 50 points. Placing for the Red Arrows were: Landon Miller, 103, (5th); Ramsy Mutschler, 112, (2nd); Nick Korhorn, 119, (2nd); James Link, 125, (2nd); Zeth Strejc, 130, (1st); Cole Huisman, 135, (6th); Dawson Jankowski, 140, (2nd); Austin Boone, 145, (1st); Will Link, 152, (3rd) and James Fotis (1st);

Doak Dean, 160, (1st); Jacob Lee, 171 (1st); Jacob Hough, 189, (3rd), Grant Pratt, 215, (3rd), Tyler Delooff, 285, (1st). WRWW broadcast the Kent County Wrestling Championship finals live. The tournament comprised of all Kent County schools on the boys side, as well as hosted girls wrestling matches for teams

around the area, not just in Kent County.

Not to be outdone, Lowell wrestling B took first place at Belding. The Lowell Wrestling A team traveled to Brecksville last weekend for a winter break tournament and will head to Detroit Catholic Central for their individual tournament on January 4.



Lowell wrestling team A after winning the Kent County Tournament.

## Bowling season under way

by Justin Scott  
contributing reporter

The Lowell boys and girls bowling teams kicked off their season at the Wyoming Invitational a few weeks ago with the boys finishing 10th in the 16-team tournament and the girls finishing seventh, respectively.

Collin Clark finished second for the boys individually on the all-tournament team while Emma Blakie earned all-tournament honors in fourth place.

The Lady Arrows showed their potential by placing second in tournament qualifying, but were upset in the quarterfinal by just seven total pins.

Both teams are undergoing a coaching transition this season as long-time coaches Chris Clark and Jennifer Clark move to assistant coach roles prior to their planned retirement from coaching. Raymond Phillips (boys) and Heather Phillips (girls) will be moving into the

head coaching positions.

From the coaching summary, competing for the boys in the tournament were returning seniors Clark and Aaron Fritsma; returning junior Jakob Reynolds; returning sophomore Nathaniel DeWitt; and new team members sophomore Mitchell Anderson, and freshman Keith Macdermaid, Gunnar Nelson, and Dustin Richardson.

Competing for the girls were returning seniors Olivia Dennie, Jessica Hull and Blakie; returning sophomore Savannah Escobedo; and new team members, freshman Haylie Beers and Courtney Witten.

Both teams would fall to a strong OK Red school, Hudsonville, later on in the week in non-conference matchups. Haylie Beers led the Lady Arrows rolling a 197 in the team's 23.5-6.5 loss, while the boys fell by a score of 30-0.

**Go Red Arrows!** Catch Up On Lowell High School Sports

the lowell ledger

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# obituaries

## GENTRY

Ethel Sophia Gentry, passed away at the age of 92 on December 25th, 2019 in her home, surrounded by close family members. She is survived by her daughter Debby Gentry, son Douglas (Waverly) Gentry, and son David Gentry, as well as seven grandchildren, Madeline Gentry, Forrest Gentry, Austin (Kristi) Gentry, Chelsea (Max) Garter, Jamin Gentry, Jeshua Gentry, and Josiah (Hannah) Gentry and four great-grandchildren, as well as many nieces and nephews and their children. She was preceded in death by her dear husband Lyle Gentry in March 2018, and both her brothers Lloyd and Floyd Grimm, sister Delores Buller. We are very grateful to the ongoing care-giving by our good friend Margaret VanDuinen for almost a full year, and Kristin Whitaker, both of whom provided her with much tender loving care. She enjoyed their company so much. We also want to give thanks to all the Faith Hospice nurses and caregivers, who came on board and helped us through this process in so many ways. Her hobbies included quilting hand made quilts with her husband, sewing clothing and doll clothes, crochet and knitting, and she loved card games. Funeral Services will be held at Friedrichs Funeral Home located at 320 Central Rd., Mt. Prospect, IL. 60056 on January 3. Visitation at 10:00-11:00 a.m., with the funeral immediately following. Ethel will be buried next to her husband of 68 years. In lieu of flowers, donations may be given to the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation. Ethel had one son and two grandsons with diabetes and would have been glad to see them receive funds to help further the research for this disease.



## MASON

Thomas Owen Mason, our perfect third son that never got to take his first breath, passed away Saturday, December 14, 2019. He is survived by his parents, Aaron and Ashleigh; brothers, Wesley and Isaac; grandparents, Bill and Lisa Nelson, Denise (Paul) Kleff, Frank (Jackie) Mason; great-grandparents, MaryKay Wright, Mike (MaryAnn) Chryson; aunts and uncles, Lauren Nelson, Kacy Nelson, Hannah Nelson, Brandon (Sue) Mason, Reese Mason and Sam Mason. Services will be Monday, January 6, 2020 at 11:00 AM with visitation one hour prior at Ada Bible Church, 3869 Knapp St NE, Grand Rapids Charter Township, MI 49525.



# Three reasons why Social Security is important for women

In the 21st century, more women work, pay Social Security taxes, and earn credit toward monthly retirement income than at any other time in our nation's history. Yet, on average, women face greater economic challenges than men in retirement.

pensions and other assets compared to men. These are three key reasons why Social Security is vitally important to women. If you've worked and paid taxes into the Social Security system for at least 10 years and have earned a minimum of 40 work



...  
**Nobody has ever measured, not even poets, how much the heart can hold.**  
*- Zelda Fitzgerald*

Nearly 55 percent of the people receiving Social Security benefits are women. Women generally live longer than men while often having lower lifetime earnings. And women usually reach retirement with smaller

credits, you may be eligible for your own benefits. Once you reach age 62, you may be eligible for your own Social Security benefit whether you're married or not and whether your spouse collects Social Security or not. If you're eligible and apply for benefits on more than one work record, you generally receive the higher benefit amount.

The sooner you start planning for retirement, the better off you'll be. We have specific information for women at [www.socialsecurity.gov/people/women](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/people/women). Email or post this link to friends and family you love.

*Vonda Van Til 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 [vondavantil@ssa.gov](mailto:vondavantil@ssa.gov).*





## Oak Meadow

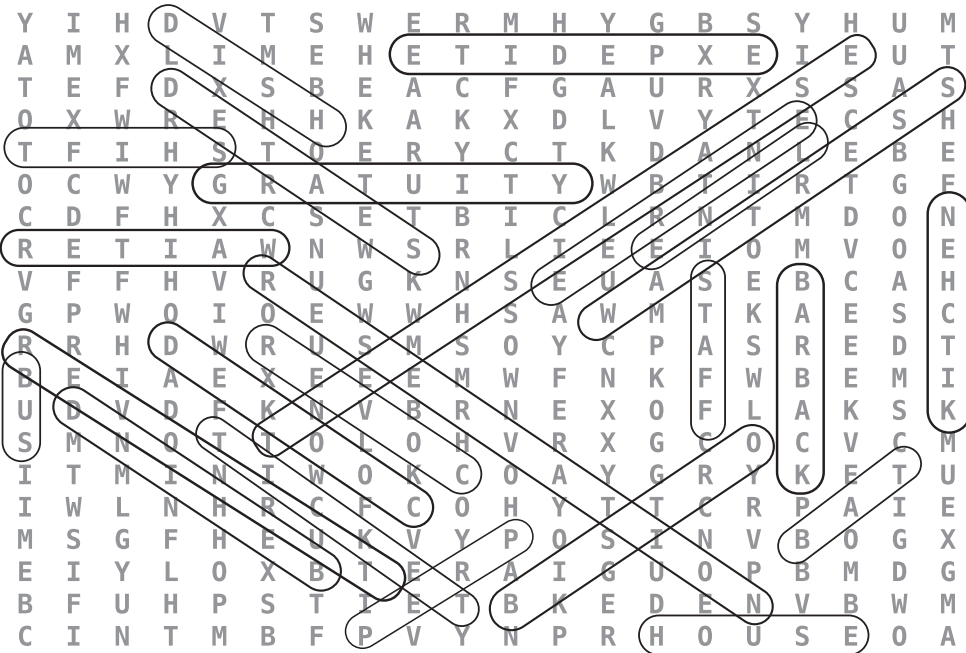
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## PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

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

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

# classifieds

## for sale

15% OF HAMMOND WHOLESALE PROFITS - are donated to non-profit charities. New appliances, furniture and mattresses. Hammond Wholesale, 320 W. Main St., Carson City, 989-584-1600. See us on Facebook.<sup>TFN</sup>

2003 HONDA PILOT - leather, good condition inside, needs motor. Asking \$1,500 obo. Call 269-838-6590.

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!<sup>TFN</sup>

USE SEAL N HEAL® - to seal wounds on dogs & cats with a bitter taste to prevent gnawing, allow healing. At Tractor Supply. (www.happyjackinc.com)

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. Perfect place to advertise a vehicle or camper for sale! The ad runs in the Lowell Buyer's Guide & News, Hastings Reminder, Marshall Advisor/Chronicle & Battle Creek Shopper News. Call 897-9555, email: classifieds@lowellbuyersguide.com or stop by 105 N. Broadway for more info.

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

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 & must be paid for when ad is placed. Call 897-9555.

NEW DEADLINE FOR ADVERTISEMENTS IN THE BUYER'S GUIDE & NEWS - Ads must now be in by noon on Thursday.

## 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.**<sup>TFN</sup>

HALL FOR RENT - Lowell Veteran's Center, 3116 Alden Nash. Newly remodeled, smoke-free, private, great location & great rate! www.VFW8303.org. All Vets Coffee Hour the 3rd Thursday of each month at Keiser's. Bring a friend. Call John at 299-0486 or 897-8303.<sup>TFN EOW</sup>

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.

## help wanted

NEED EXTRACASH? - We are taking applications for a driving route carrier to deliver the Buyers Guide on Saturdays. We have an immediate opening in the Alto area. Must be dependable! Work less than 1 day a week! Get paid weekly, pickup papers at Buyers Guide office. Apply in person, 105 N. Broadway, Lowell. No phone calls accepted regarding this position.

HAIR DRESSER - At Sunrise of Cascade. Mon. & Wed., part-time. Call Deb Rost at 616-942-7200 for an appointment.

## wanted

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

## 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.

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. Ph. 897-9555 with any questions.

## services

WORK WANTED - Double D's Tree & Handyman Service. 40' & 70' bucket truck, tree trimming & removal, gutter cleaning, window washing, power washing, buildings, barns, homes, decks, etc. Insured. Call Dave Delinsky, 616-212-3008. Free estimates.

HANDYMAN SERVICE - Projects/repairs, 40 years experience, reasonable rates. 616-987-9272, leave a message, will reply ASAP

FAYETTE'S ASSISTED LIVING - in Lowell, MI has an opening for a male or female. We help with all day to day care. Medication setup, showers, meals, toilet assistance. Our home is quiet, clean and respectful of others. Where you're treated like family. Call for more info, 616-897-5526, ask for Sandra.

## services

UPS SHIPPING COPY SERVICE, (black & white & color!) FAX SERVICE, LAMINATING PRINTING BANNERS POSTERS & MUCH MORE AVAILABLE AT THE LOWELL LEDGER 105 N. Broadway HOURS M-Th. 8-5 p.m. Fri. 8-noon Ph. 897-9261 Fax 897-4809 email: ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com

## misc.

IF YOUR PHONE NUMBER WAS WRONG IN THE LOWELL CITY DIRECTORY LAST YEAR - Call us or drop us an email with the correct information and we will get it in the 2020 Lowell City Directory. Phone 897-9561 or email to: lowellcitydirectory@gmail.com

WE DO OUR BEST - to get the Buyers Guide delivered, but if you are having problems, please contact our office at 897-9555 or email your address, phone # & cross streets to classifieds@lowellbuyersguide.com.

BUSINESS CARDS - Before you order your cards from somewhere else - check our rates! Call Lowell Litho, 897-9261.

## Community Calendar

# January

## 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.

TEEN ZONE - Mondays from 3:30 pm - 4:30 pm. Teen-only fun for you & your friends at the library. Stop by for activities that may include board games, food & more. Englehardt Branch Library, 200 N. Monroe St., Lowell, 784-2007, www.kdl.org

SATURDAY CRAFTERNOON - Saturdays, 1 pm, now thru February 29. Come enjoy open crafting at the library! Bring your current project and see what others are working on. Hot beverages provided. Englehardt Branch Library, 200 N. Monroe St., Lowell, 784-2007, www.kdl.org

FAMILY YOGA - Saturdays at 11 am. Family yoga is an all-ages activity with a focus on the benefits of mindfulness. Together we will engage in fun poses, learn how to breathe, be creative with yoga activities/games & relax. Space is limited; first come, first served. Doors open 30 minutes before the program begins. Englehardt Branch Library, 200 N. Monroe St., Lowell, 784-2007, www.kdl.org

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

MUSIC & MOVEMENT - Wednesdays, 11 a.m. Kids age 5 & under are invited to sing & dance to favorite storytime songs. Alvah N. Belding Library, 302 E. Main St., Belding. 616-794-1450.

CELEBRATE RECOVERY - a Christ-centered, Biblically-based 12 step program for people with hurts, hang-ups and habits. Meets every Thursday from 6:30 - 8:30 pm at Impact, 11840 Fulton St., Lowell. Open to all who are 18 years or older. Fourth Thursday of each month is Chip Night when we celebrate a meal together starting at 6 pm.

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

ART LAB - Third Tuesday of the month from 4-6 pm. A monthly art exploration with a different theme each month for ages 5 and up. Clarksville Area Library, 165 N. Main, Clarksville, 616-693-1001.

NEEDLERS - Meet the second & fourth Tuesday of the month from, 5 to 8 pm at Franciscan Life Processing Center, 11650 Downes St. NE, Lowell.

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

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

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

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.

AMERICAN LEGION #152 MEETING - fourth Monday of the month, 7 pm. Lowell Veteran's Center, 3116 Alden Nash SE, Lowell.

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

SENSORY TODDLER TIMES - Tuesdays, 6:30 - 7:30. Dec. 3 - Feb. 18. (except Dec. 24). Englehardt Branch Library, 200 N. Monroe St., Lowell, 784-2007, www.kdl.org

FAMILY STORYTIME - Thursdays at 10 am, Dec. 5 - Feb. 20 (except Dec. 26 & Jan. 2). Englehardt Branch Library, 200 N. Monroe St., Lowell, 784-2007, www.kdl.org

WITTENBACH WEGE CENTER - 11715 Vergennes, Lowell. Trails are open dusk to dawn, 365 days a year.

STRUGGLING WITH ADDICTION? - Lowell Serenity Club is available for all in need of relief and hope. LSC offers 12 step meetings, 365 days a year. Meetings daily 8-9 pm, Mon. - Fri. 12-1 pm, Tues. & Fri. 4:30-5:30 pm and Sat. & Sun. 10-11 am. 101 E. Main St., Lowell, 616-550-6688.

BREAST CANCER SUPPORT GROUP - A monthly support group for those diagnosed with breast cancer to learn and share together. We will meet the first Tuesday of every month from 6-7:30 pm. Gilda's Club, Lowell Clubhouse, 314 S. Hudson, Lowell, 897-8600.

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

FREE MOVIE NIGHT - Second Monday of each month, 5:30 p.m. Free movie & popcorn at Alvah N. Belding Library, 302 E. Main St., Belding. 616-794-1450.

FRIENDS OF THE FRED MEIJER RIVER VALLEY RAIL-TRAIL - Meets second Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm. Pere Marquette depot, 100 Depot St., Belding. Meetings are broadcast on Google hangouts. FMRVRT.org/Facebook: FMRVRT

TECH SESSIONS - 2 - 4 pm by appointment on Thursdays. One-on-one assistance with basic computer, tablets, smart phones, downloadable library material, etc. Please call to schedule an appointment, Saranac Public Library, 61 Bridge St., Saranac. 616-642-9146.

LEGO CLUB - First Tuesday of the month from 4-6 pm. A monthly club for kids to build theme lego creations. For ages 5 & up. Clarksville Area Library, 165 N. Main, Clarksville, 616-693-1001.

FROM'S MEDICAL EQUIPMENT LOAN CLOSET - is open Monday through Thursday from 10 am to 4 pm; donate gently used medical equipment or borrow equipment including wheelchairs, walkers, crutches and more.

QUA-KE-ZIK SPORTSMANS CLUB - meets second and third Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. at 8731 West Riverside Dr. Go to www.qua-ke-zik.org for information. New members welcome.

MINECRAFT - 1st Monday of the month at 4:30 pm. Get your Minecraft fix & show off your world-building skills. The library has a limited number of computers & licenses for Minecraft. First come, first served. No registration required. Englehardt Branch Library, 200 N. Monroe St., Lowell, 784-2007, www.kdl.org

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.

CANCER - NEW MEMBER MEETING - Every Tuesday, 5-5:30 p.m. Introductory meeting for those who wish to join the cancer support program. Please register in advance. Gilda's Club, Lowell Clubhouse, 314 S. Hudson, Lowell, 897-8600.

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.



# FUN PAGE

## SUDOKO

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

Level: Intermediate

**Here's How It Works:**

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

# FOOD SERVICE WORD SEARCH

Y I H D V T S W E R M H Y G B S Y H U M  
 A M X L I M E H E T I D E P X E I E U T  
 T E F D X S B E A C F G A U R X S S A S  
 O X W R E H H K A K X D L V Y T E C S H  
 T F I H S T O E R Y C T K D A N L E B E  
 O C W Y G R A T U I T Y W B T I R T G F  
 C D F H X C S E T B I C L R N T M D O N  
 R E T I A W N W S R L I E E I O M V O E  
 V F F H V R U G K N S E U A S E B C A H  
 G P W O I O E W W H S A W M T K A E S C  
 R R H D W R U S M S O Y C P A S R E D T  
 B E I A E X E E E M W F N K F W B E M I  
 U D V D F K N V B R N E X O F L A K S K  
 S M N O T T O L O H V R X G C O C V C M  
 I T M I N I W O K C O A Y G R Y K E T U  
 I W L N H R C F C O H Y T T C R P A I E  
 M S G F H E U K V Y P O S I N V B O G X  
 E I Y L O X B T E R A I G U O P B M D G  
 B F U H P S T I E T B K E D E N V B W M  
 C I N T M B F P V Y N P R H O U S E O A

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

Puzzle solutions on page 8

**FOOD SERVICE WORD SEARCH**

BAR-BACK  
 BEHIND  
 BISTRO  
 BUS  
 COOKED

COVER DISH  
 ENTREE  
 ESTABLISHMENT  
 EXPEDITE  
 GRATUITY  
 HOUSE  
 KITCHEN

LINE PREP  
 RESERVATION  
 SEATED  
 SHIFT  
 STAFF  
 TAB  
 TICKET

TURNOVER  
 WAITER  
 WAITRESS

## Guess Who?

I am an actor from stage and screen born on January 2, 1971, in New Jersey. I made my television debut in an episode of "New York Undercover." But I'm perhaps better known for a role in a popular Broadway show about eclectic NY apartment dwellers.

Answer: *Taye Diggs*

## WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to cold weather.

F T R D I

□	□	□	□	□
---	---	---	---	---

Answer: *Drift*

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9	10				
11					12						13	14	15	
16					17				18					
19				20	21			22	23				24	
25							26						27	
28					29							30		
				31	32						33			
34	35	36	37						38					
39						40	41	42						
43					44						45	46	47	48
49					50						51	52		
53					54						55			
56					57						58			59
60						61	62							63
														64
														65

**CLUES ACROSS**

- Database management system
- Soft blue-gray mineral
- Algerian coastal city
- A healthy redness
- El \_\_, border town
- Part of the mind
- Female body part
- Atrocities
- You can call Paul Simon this
- Copyread
- Large integers
- Large, flightless bird
- Bread and whiskey are two
- Indicate pain or discomfort
- Worry
- Wild goats
- Belittle
- More supernatural
- Wakes up
- Intestinal pouches
- Popular dance
- American state
- CSI actor
- Having a keen enthusiasm for
- Swiss river
- Restaurant item
- Intense unhappiness
- Unit of loudness

**CLUES DOWN**

- More silly
- Adult beverage
- Iron used for lofting
- Noses
- Smile
- One who examines closely
- Lethal dose
- Denotes past
- "This Is Us" actor Fitch
- Dabbling ducks
- Polish beer
- A type of cat
- Shows respect for
- Of I
- Commercial
- Chai and chamomile are two
- Lodging option
- Geological times
- Unit of electrical inductance (abbr.)

- Where G-men work
- Hot beverage
- One of the six noble gases
- Southern constellation
- South American nation
- Suitable for use as food
- The back
- I (German)
- Blood group
- Fit to stand trial
- Praise excessively
- Female's title
- EU predecessor
- Acutely insightful and wise
- Disguised
- Improved the appearance of
- Generator
- The real \_\_, the genuine article
- Male's title
- Home of the Hawkeyes
- About aviation
- At all times
- Military peace officer
- College degree
- Indicates position



Lowell Middle School was evacuated on Friday, Jan. 11 after the Lowell Police Department responded to an anonymous threat of violence against the school.

The scene at the school on Friday was incredibly hectic as a stream of parents arrived to pick up

their children, who, for safety's sake, could not be released to anybody except a parent or guardian. Three law enforcement agencies searched the school, but nothing out of the ordinary was found.

"In collaboration with the Kent County Sheriff's Department and

## Lowell Middle School evacuated after bomb threat

the Michigan State Police, we brought in a dog to make sure the building was cleared," said Lowell Area Schools superintendent Gregory Pratt. "Once it was decided that the building was safe, the Michigan State Police gave us the 'all clear' to resume school as scheduled."

Classes at the middle school resumed on Friday after it was determined that there was no actual bomb on the site.

"This is really just about making sure our students and staff are as safe as possible," Pratt said. "We're just glad that we're back and running as scheduled."



## Lowell Area Schools Board of Education



Lowell Area Schools Board of Education on Monday, Jan. 14: Kelly Kroll, Gary Blough, Pat Nugent, Jim Turner, Laurie Kuna, Dan Stephens and Brian Krajewski.

## LPD, condos discussed at city council meeting



Lowell police officer Dustin Brown (left) with chief Steve Bukala. Brown's first day on the Grandville police force will be Monday, Feb. 11.

Lowell city council had their latest regular meeting at city hall on Monday, Feb. 4. The meeting lasted one hour and three minutes and was attended by 12 citizens.

Before the meeting began, Lowell police chief Steve Bukala announced that full time officer Dustin Brown and part time officer Ian Shears were resigning to take positions with the Grandville police department. Officer Brown was on hand and delivered an emotional speech about his Lowell beat the past seven years.

"I've done my best to serve this department and city with honor and integrity," Brown said. "I owe much more than I can offer to chief Bukala and to this department. [...] The city of Lowell is a wonderful place to work. The citizens are greatly supportive of this department and it shows."

The council discussed a land swap with the group behind the Unity School development. The owners of that property want to trade a 3,216 square foot piece of land adjacent to

## Lowell DPW keeps town operational during Polar Vortex



Ralph Brecken

The polar vortex last week dumped over a foot of snow on West Michigan, leaving the Lowell public works department with over 20 miles of local and major streets to clear.

"Up until a week ago we were having a pretty mild winter, but this was a doozy of a storm," said assistant city manager Rich LaBombard. "It was unique with the cold and the amount of lake effect snow."

Even though most of the Midwest was shut down last week, the employees of Lowell's department of

public works were working 12 hour days just to keep the city functioning.

"Our guys have been doing about 12 hour days every day, and they've been coming in sometimes before three in the morning," LaBombard said. "They have been working like that all week. We have added a little bit of temporary staff, but not a significant amount. When people were home because of school closings, office closings or whatever, our guys were still coming in and working, and they were working 12 hour days."

Ralph Brecken, one of the DPW crew members tasked with clearing Lowell of snow, was kind enough to allow the Lowell Ledger to ride along with him as he plowed the city streets last Friday afternoon. Driving a snow plow is difficult, dangerous work and a lot harder than one might imagine.

"We go out in the worst weather," Brecken said. "Anybody else driving a truck, you'd say 'No, don't drive, it's too dangerous!' That's when we have to go out. When the weather's nice, that's when we're all done."

When there is a major disaster like a polar vortex, every DPW employee pitches in.

"For our streets, our parks and our trash pickup around town, we only have two guys," Brecken said. "When something like this happens, everybody, all the rest of the departments, even from the drinking water plant, we all come in and we plow and salt. It's not only plowing

the roads, it's all the parking lots, all the facilities and all the public sidewalks, and then we also have to haul all of that snow away. We try to do it during the hours when nobody's out. It's very hard to maneuver large equipment around cars and people. Everything else goes on the back burner when we have a snow event such as this. A lot of our normal day-to-day paperwork and all of that stuff is piling up."

LaBombard said there are several things local residents can do to help make it easier for snow removal crews.

"One thing that we're concerned with now is the thaw that's coming," LaBombard said. "Our guys are making sure that they're plowing far enough back that the catch basins are opened up. When we get a big thaw, we're going to have to have a place for that water to go. Another thing homeowners can do is help clean around the fire hydrants. That is very important. So is keeping the sidewalks cleared and open within 24 hours of a storm event."

Riverside Park that they own to the city in exchange for a 1,842 portion of land that is currently part of Riverside Park. There are a host of issues surrounding the transfer that could delay or even squash the condominium project.

"Our city charter requires a vote of the people to sell, transfer or dispose of any property in a master plan of the city," Burns said. "Currently, Riverside Park is in the parks and recreation master plan. The requested portion of the property is technically in the plan. However, this is undeveloped property. If a sale were to occur, this portion must be removed, or a transfer of property ownership, this portion must be removed from the parks and recreation

master plan. [...] In 2012 the city of Lowell received a Michigan Department of Natural Resources trust fund grant to redevelop the path and the boat launch at Riverside Park. A condition of receiving this grant requires the park remain in perpetuity or the grant money received must be returned. [...] This request on removing the parcel and accepting the new parcel as park property into the parks and recreation master plan was not recommended by the parks and recreation commission at their Jan. 15, 2019 meeting. While the consensus of the parks and rec commission was supportive of the development, they would like to see all of the ancillary issues resolved prior to the transfer. The

developer recognizes the ancillary issues pertaining to the development and is supportive of working through the city's concerns. However, they would like the seven feet of property to begin their development. They would like to

begin construction of 14 condominiums facing the Flat River immediately. Their concern is addressing these issues at one time will stall them in moving forward. If they have to wait, there is strong indication this project will not occur."



Lowell police officer Mike Stephens was promoted from part time to full time officer.

the lowell ledger

# YEAR IN REVIEW 2019

## SHOWBOAT DEMOLITION

FEB. 28




After months of discussion and preparation, Lowell's iconic Showboat was finally torn down on Thursday, Feb. 28.

The demolition, completed by a crew of workers from Earthworm Dozing and Excavating, a Lowell-based company, began just after 9 am and left only what is frozen to the Flat River until spring.

"We got the scary part, the top level, done already," said Earthworm Dozing and Excavating owner

Dave Gonyon during a break halfway through the destruction. "We didn't want to damage the paddle wheel or the fence. We're trying to keep the fence intact! We're just taking the boat down to the deck today. Once the river and everything melts, we'll pump the water out, float it over to the boat launch, drag it on shore, cut it up and haul it away."

The demolition was attended by a small crowd of Lowellians and city leaders, plus camera crews

from several local television stations.

"It's a bittersweet day, for sure," said Lowell city manager Michael Burns.

"While it's so sad to see this boat go, we have a new boat coming," said Liz Baker, executive director of the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce. "We're rebirthing. We're repurposing. In the long run, while it's sad to watch this happen today, we know there's another one coming to replace it."

"It's sad in a way, it's an era gone by, but I'm happy because we're going to have something new in its place for the community," said Carolyn Jane Blough, widow of the showboat's 1979 builder, Ivan Blough. "The showboat is one of the things that brought our community together, and I think it helps keep us together."

Many of the nicer-looking chunks of the showboat were salvaged and will be sold or auctioned at a later date to raise funds.



# A New Year Is Here!



We hope 2020 is your best year yet. We're so grateful for friends and customers like you.  
*Happy New Year!*

## BOWNE TOWNSHIP

8240 Alden Nash SE • Alto • 868-6846

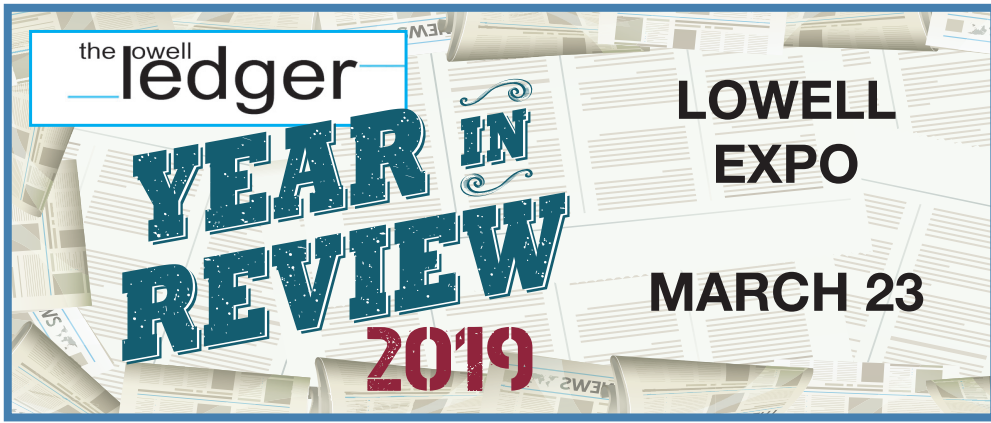
[www.bownetwp.org](http://www.bownetwp.org)

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

Supervisor - Christian Wenger; Clerk - Sandra Kowalczyk  
Treasurer - Tammi Wingeier;  
Trustees - David Fuss & Robert Flynn



Carolyn Jane Blough and her daughter Melinda D'Agostino attended the demolition. Ivan Blough, Carolyn's late husband and Melinda's late father, was the original builder of the Showboat in 1979.



Saturday, March 23 was the 23rd annual Lowell Community Expo at Lowell High School. Thousands wandered around entering drawings, chatting, sampling products and collecting coupons, toys and other promotional handouts at over 160 booths from local businesses, churches, schools and other organizations.

"This is the busiest morning I've ever seen, and Greenridge has been at every Expo since the beginning," said Rick Seese from Greenridge Realty, who provided a soft couch for people to rest on after a few hours wandering around the high school. "We're giving out little trinkets, but we're more about just

saying hi, greeting people and building relationships rather than doing gimmicky things."

Music was the theme of a few booths at the Expo. President John Lakatos and vice president Ed Vronson of the West Michigan Bluegrass Music Association were a part of a group playing traditional folk and bluegrass songs during the event. They discussed some of the activities the association hosts, which include the JuneGrass festival at the end of June and the Fall Camp and Jam.

"I invite everyone to come to the JuneGrass festival," Lakatos commented. "It's always a great time and I am looking forward to it again

this year."

"It is very family-oriented," Vronson added.

Dr. Jim Chichester from Lowell Family Chiropractic was at the event for the 11th straight year. Chichester commented on some of the ways the Expo has changed and some of the ways the Expo has remained the same since he started participating.

"I feel like [the Expo] is bigger," Chichester said. "I feel like there [are] a lot of the same people, but there [are] different people every year as well, new businesses, up-and-coming businesses. I think there are some that are not here this year [because] they are so busy



that they don't necessarily need more business, so that is an interesting problem to have. Because of the way the economy is, it is really good, people have a lot of work."

Ken Tamke, the President of the Fallasburg Historical Society, was also at the Expo promoting the events they sponsor throughout the year. Tamke was excited about a website the group is creating that will have information about Fallasburg Village, along with a digital archive



collects pollen through static electricity, so we also have balloons for a static electricity experiment," said Dale Thompson from the Kent County 4-H.

"The Expo is going very well, there are lots of people," said Leslie Heffron from the Lowell Police Department. "We've been giving out sticker badges, gun locks, information about Drug Take-Back Day, child car seats, activities, recycling programs and so forth. Drug Take-Back Day is on Saturday, April 27 from 10 am until 2 pm at the police department. We encourage people who have guns but don't have a way to secure them to use gun locks so that their children don't grab ahold of them. We've probably given out about 150 of them so far."

of the material they have collected related to the area through the years.

In the booth right next to Tamke's, Sharon Vosovic and Ardis Barber were representing the Lowell Area Historical Museum, which was debuting its own new online digital archives that day.

"We digitized our artifacts, and if people want to search for maybe a location on Main St., something about the Showboat, or Robert Graham, you can go to the website and just get information that way and see what else we have," Vosovic explained. "That was just launched today."

A delegation from the Lowell 4-H club had interesting displays and activities related to bees, including a simulation of how the world looks through the eyes of a bee.

"We're from the 4-H council and we're showing how bees pollinate, how they collect pollen and how they see in ultraviolet light," said Tammy Peteresen from the Lowell 4-H. "Their vision

makes it possible for them to see pollen on the flowers that we can't see. They see that ultraviolet light, they don't see red or the other colors on the spectrum."

"When a bee travels from flower to flower, it



## Lowell Farm & Wildlife Center taking strays

Sjana Gordon is the founder of the Lowell Farm and Wildlife Center, located near the intersection of Vergennes and Lincoln Lake.

People call her from all around the state asking for help finding places for rehabilitation and homes for hurt or unwanted animals.

Winter is typically her down time of the year.

"This time of year, it's usually on a car hit [that people call]," Gordon explained. "In the spring, when babies start, [we get] anywhere from 100 to 150 calls a day. It gets a little crazy at first."

Though she can assist many animals at the Wildlife

Center, her knowledge of what is best for specific animals and the different resources available are where she can provide the most support. More formally, she gets calls from different professionals such as the Department of Natural Resources and other organizations that rely on her services.



Paddy's Cure at Larkin's on March 15.

# Lowell Township pedestrian river bridge and new park nearing completion

The pedestrian bridge across the Grand River, part of the new Grand River Riverfront Park North at 11998 Fulton St. in Lowell Township, is scheduled to be accessible to the public by the end of June. When completed, the park will

feature walking trails, a bathroom/concession building, a playground area, a ga-ga pit, a picnic shelter, an 18-hole disc golf course, a replica of a historical fur trader's cabin and other amenities.

"There are two bridges,

really, and they meet on the island," said Lowell Township supervisor Jerry Hale. "Each section is 320 feet long. This trail will connect the new Grand River Riverfront Park North to Grand River Riverfront Park. It's going to bring a lot of people to this area, a lot of people are excited about getting across that bridge. I think there will be people coming to take wedding pictures, graduation pictures and stuff like that there."

The project was originally scheduled to finish last fall and is a bit over budget. Hale said the major delays were caused by an endangered species and the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality.

"It's about \$200,000 over budget, really, because hurricanes caused the cost of lumber to go up, then the price of steel went up," Hale said. "The cost of the bridge itself was \$2.8 million."

The project was paid for



by grants and donations.

"This whole community has been really supportive," Hale said. "This community gets behind stuff if it's something they believe in."

There is nothing like this in Kent County, or maybe even in West Michigan, 110 acres of park land connected by a bridge over the Grand River, it's just very unique."

## LHS student works to name barn for uncle

Sam Dougherty, a 16-year-old Lowell High School sophomore, has raised \$44,000 of the \$50,000 required to name a swine barn at the new Kent County Youth Fair site in memory of an uncle who passed away. So far, Sam organized a spaghetti dinner and a silent auction but still needs about \$6,000 to complete the project.

"[Construction of] the new swine barn will cost much more than \$50,000, [but] raising the \$50,000 will allow naming

rights for the building," said Jennifer Dougherty, Sam's mother. "On Saturday, March 23, a spaghetti dinner and auction were held in Alto to begin the fundraising. Approximately 350 people attended and \$44,000 was raised. If Sam and his team are successful in reaching \$50,000, the new swine barn will be named in memory of his uncle, Tim Dougherty. Tim Dougherty worked for the Kent County Road Commission and was killed in a workplace accident in September of 2014 at the age of 42."



## Be the Life of the Party.

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



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

Thank you for all your support and generosity throughout 2019. Here's to good health and lasting friendships in the New Year!

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



## Our Best Wishes

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

## VERGENNES TOWNSHIP

10381 Bailey Drive • Lowell • 897-5671

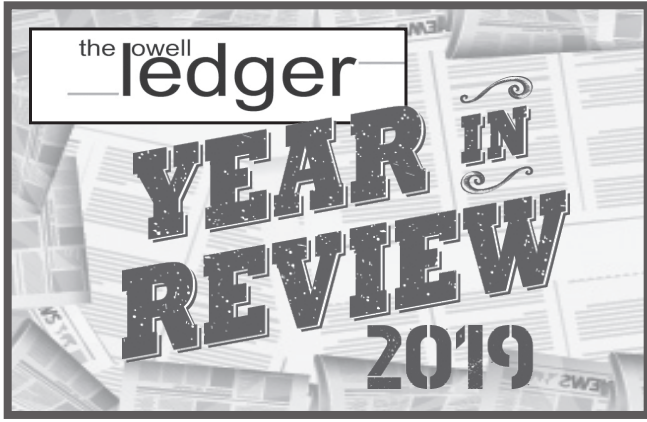
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Supervisor - Tim Wittenbach; Clerk - Heather Hoffman

Treasurer - Janine Mork

Trustees - Rick Gillett and Duane Rasch



## Lowell Showboat construction moving forward

A steel fabricator for the new Lowell Showboat has been chosen and will be officially revealed at this week's city council meeting on Tuesday, April 16. The city also plans to hire a construction expert to manage the project.

"We put out a bid, probably back in October, requesting quotes from fabricators," said Lowell assistant city manager Rich LaBombard. "We got one response, from Moran Iron Works in Onaway."

Moran's bid \$1,497,920, which includes material, labor, modularization, painting, transportation to Lowell, installation and bonding.

"It's going to be built off-site up in Onaway, it'll be trucked down here to Lowell at some point and, on-site, it'll be assembled and launched into the river," LaBombard said. "It's a

big boat and they've got to modularize the whole thing into smaller pieces to fit on trucks. Each deck will probably be broken up into four pieces, and then the very top of the deck will probably be in two pieces, so we're thinking about 10 pieces. They'll come down there to Lowell once all the pieces arrive and they'll start to assemble it. When they submitted their bid, they thought that whole fabrication process would take anywhere between 28 and 33 weeks. But again, once we do the kickoff meeting and we go talk to them, we'll get the schedule firmed up, and we'll know a little bit more about how long it will really take. At this point, I would say we won't see anything probably until next spring, maybe even this coming winter. Late this year or early spring next year."



The first Lowell Showboat (pictured) was built in 1932.

## Traffic accident closes Lowell Dog Park

The Lowell Dog Park is closed after an unusual incident that happened just after 8

am on Thursday, April 4.

A driver who was experiencing an undisclosed medical issue

went through the stop sign at the intersection of Valley Vista and Bowes Rd., smashed through

the dog park fences, down a hill and into ten feet of water. Some workers at nearby White's Bridge Tooling, 1395 Bowes Rd., witnessed the accident and rushed over to help.

According to a Lowell Area Fire Department social media post, the driver is okay now and her car was removed from the water on Friday by "your LAFD, along with Bud's recovery truck, Kent County dive team, Lowell PD and J & K Roadside Service."

The dog park is closed until further notice.



## Public input taken at Rec Park Design Day



Lowellians Stephen Grody and Kim Southwick piecing together their perfect park.

The city of Lowell had two "Recreation Park Design Day" sessions at city hall Wednesday, April 17. The purpose of these sessions was to get public input about what features and amenities the community would like to see at the park after the Kent County Youth Fair moves out in a few years.

Attendees could pick from 34 different attractions, including a splash pad, a

fishing area, a playground and various surfaces and fields for sports, which they placed onto a blank map of the park. These were archived by engineering firm Williams & Works, who are working with the city to plan the park.

"We have done these for a number of communities that are looking to redesign a park or a public space,"

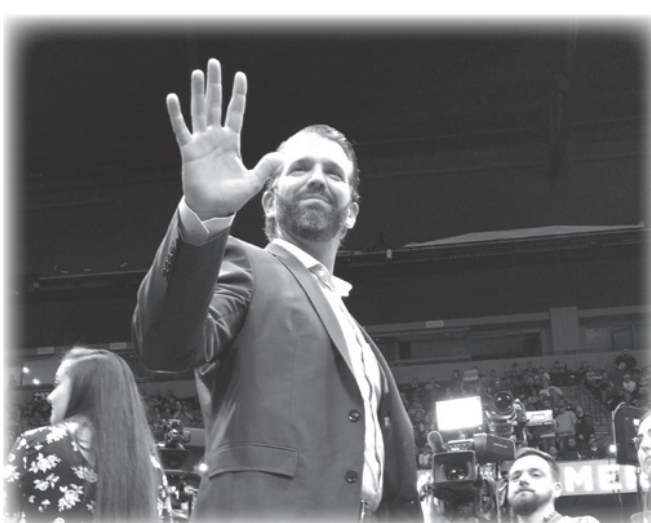
said project manager Andy Moore of Williams & Works. "The only limiting factor here is what you can and cannot put on the flood plain because of the likelihood of flooding, which happens three or four times a year."

After members of the public filled their potential park posters with the perfect blend of amenities and green spaces, the posters were

photographed and will be compared to determine the most popular combination of features.

"We'll take all the designs from all the people today and then turn those into a few different design alternatives," Moore said. "Eventually we'll move toward one preferred design that hopefully encapsulates everything that people suggested."

## March 28: President Trump's rally in Grand Rapids



## Spring 'Girls Night Out' event

In the steady drizzle on Thursday evening, girls and women braved the weather, hurrying inside the quaint boutiques and shops in downtown Lowell during the spring Girls Night Out.

"It's fun seeing people all dressed up," said owner Martha Davis of TapHouseBo. Davis,

owner of the boutique, dressed up for the occasion sporting fatigues, boots and a hat.

This year's theme, "It's a jungle out there" was conducive to dressing up, according to many GNO participants. The theme was the brainchild of the Station Salon team.

"We have some creative

people here," said owner Nancy DeBoer, who built a photo booth with a blue jeep inside the salon.

LowellArts hosted a Pop-Up artisan market with 18 women artists like Cindy Allen who made button rings on location at the gallery and Betsy Ratzsch with her spring art.

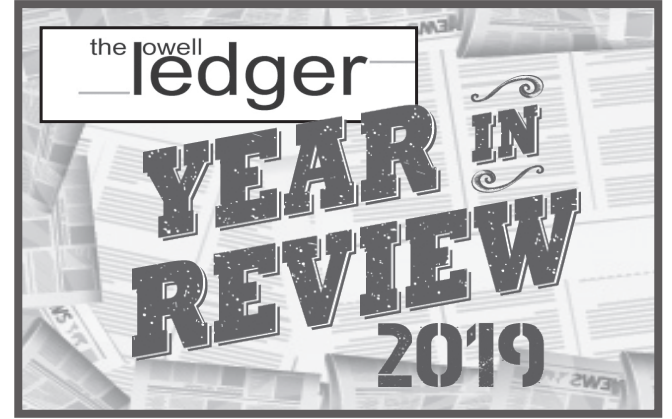
It was busy at the Ability Weavers shop, where owner Beryl Bartkus demonstrated rug and towel making

on the looms in the open weaving floor studio. Bartkus employs 11.

"It has been great," she said.

Her experimental project of employing people of all abilities, including those with autism has been steadily growing. Ability Weavers also offers "Weave Your Own Rug or Table Runner" classes.

Volunteers Bev Anderson, Marcia Borg and Linda Barnes greeted



visitors at the Lowell Area Historical Museum.

"I wish I had worn my helmet," Barnes said, referring to the Safari theme.

The local restaurants

had specials ranging from "Jungle Juice" at the Big Boiler Brewery to a half order of chips and cheese at Larkin's for \$2.50 and \$1 off pints at the New Union Brewery.

## Lowell musician Roger MacNaughton named Mackinac Island 'artist in residence'

Lowell music legend Roger MacNaughton has been chosen by Mackinac State Historic Parks to participate in their "Artist in Residence" program this summer. MacNaughton will spend two weeks over July and August on Mackinac Island creating new music and performing two concerts of his original compositions.

MacNaughton was chosen from a pool of 200 artists by a jury made up of representatives from the Mackinac State Historic Parks, the Mackinac Island Arts Council and the Mackinac Island Community Foundation.

"I have visited the island five or six times and loved it," MacNaughton said. "It's like a time capsule into a much more laid-back era."

MacNaughton was the only musician chosen to

cello.

The two live concerts on the island are what MacNaughton said he is the most excited about.

"It's always gratifying to get a positive response to my own compositions," MacNaughton said. "I'll also include a few favorite pieces from the Great American Songbook."

Those two concerts are also what MacNaughton said he is the most nervous about.

"As much enjoyment I get out of planning and playing them, I can get apprehensive about them as well," MacNaughton said.

Roger MacNaughton has worked in the Lowell area as a musician, teacher, composer and producer his entire life. He began his professional career in the 60s as a member of the Headhunters garage rock



take part in this experience.

The artists are asked to provide two public presentations during the residency and to contribute one piece of their work to the Mackinac State Historic Parks. In addition to whatever he composes and the two concerts, after the residency MacNaughton will release a new full-length CD called "Memories of Mackinac Island" with pieces scored for solo piano and for piano, violin and

band while still a Lowell High School student, has performed all over the Midwest with groups like Stillwater and Alive & Well and worked as a studio musician and producer for decades. His original compositions have won awards at ArtPrize four times and he has earned first place in both the International Music Aid Awards and the Song of the Year contests.

# It's Time

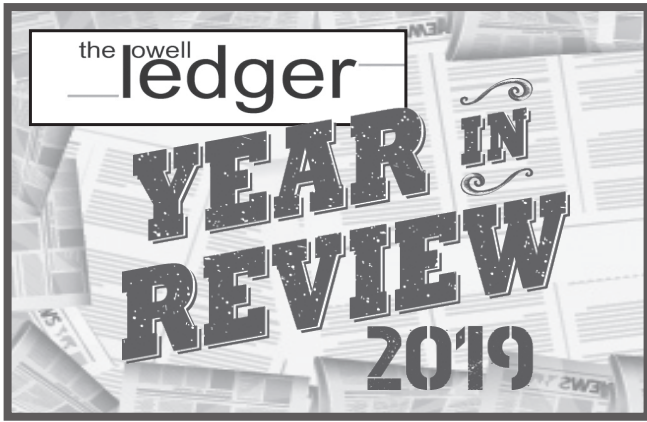
The New Year is drawing near, so we're sending best wishes to our good friends here! Thanks for your support in 2019. We look forward to serving you again soon.

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# Canfield Plumbing & Heating having 25th anniversary open house

Canfield Plumbing & Heating, 411 E. Main, will celebrate their 25th anniversary with a Customer Appreciation Day on Friday, May 17 from 11 am until 2 pm.

Canfield said that, back in the 90s, he saved up his money and started a business after the company he was working for began

to treat their employees poorly.

“I had been working for a small, family-owned plumbing business for a few years,” Canfield said. “They stopped paying us profit sharing or quarterly bonuses because they had hired a family friend who needed a job but didn’t

contribute revenue due to a lack of experience. At the time, I had six months of wages, \$10,000, in the bank and decided to give it a try running my own business. I started Canfield Plumbing & Heating on Jan. 1, 1993. I figured I could always go beg for my job back if I failed. Fortunately, the

economy was booming at the time and things went well. A year later, I hired my first coworker and began growing the business past what I could do on my own.” Canfield Plumbing & Heating started out in new construction, but over the years the business has expanded into repairs and even electrical work.

# LHS scores big on US News’ “Best High Schools” list

Lowell High School was named the 1,360th best high school in the nation and the 47th best in Michigan by the national magazine US News & World Report in their annual “Best High Schools” feature. This places LHS in the top eight percent of American high schools.

The magazine assessed and ranked 17,245 high schools across the country, 1,040 of them in Michigan,

in six categories: college readiness, college curriculum breadth, math and reading proficiency, math and reading performance, underserved student performance and graduation rate.

The highest ranked US public schools in US News & World Report’s 2019 Best High Schools rankings are those whose attendees demonstrated outstanding outcomes above expectations in

math and reading state assessments, passed a diverse array of college-level exams and graduated in high proportions.

In coordination with North Carolina-based RTI International, a global nonprofit social science research firm, US News ranked 17,245 public high schools out of more than 23,000 reviewed. This is the count of public high schools that had a 12th grade enrollment of 15

or greater, or otherwise had sufficient enrollment in other high school grades during the 2016-2017 school year to be analyzed. It is six to seven times larger than more than 2,700 ranked schools in the 2018 edition. They did this by summing the weighted scores across six indicators of school quality, then computed for each school a single zero to 100 overall score reflective of performance across these metrics. The overall scores depicted how well each school did on a national percentile basis. For example, a school with a score of 60 performed in the 60th percentile among all schools in the rankings. This was a big change from last year’s rankings, where schools were ineligible to be ranked if they came up short

on state assessments or graduation rates. Then, only schools performing well enough on those factors were included.

Other West Michigan schools also performed well in the magazine’s standings. City Middle/High School in Grand Rapids was ranked #2 in Michigan and #38 nationally, Northville

High School was #8 in Michigan and #385 nationally, East Grand Rapids High School was #12 in Michigan and #504 nationally, Forest Hills Northern was #16 in Michigan and #619 nationally and Forest Hills Central was #20 in Michigan and #678 nationally.

## \$52 million school bond proposal passes

The \$52,095,000 bond proposal for Lowell Area Schools passed by an overwhelming margin in the May 7 special election. The bond will pay for improvements and upgrades at schools throughout the district.

“The district is very fortunate to have community support

regarding the building and facility upgrades,” said superintendent Greg Pratt. “The project engineering and design will start immediately, with some projects starting late 2019 or early 2020. The vast majority of the projects will be completed in 3.5 years.”

**Wishing You a Spectacular New Year**

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*Happy New Year. See you next year!*



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# Four honored at Eagle Scout ceremony



Eagle Scouts Brecken Pawloski, Jared Williams, Peter Williams and Hayden Stickney.

Four young Lowellians, Brecken Pawloski, Jared Williams, Peter Williams and Hayden Stickney, became Eagle Scouts during a special ceremony at Lowell United Methodist Church, 621 E. Main on Saturday, May 18.

The ceremony was called the Eagle Scout Court of Honor, it included speeches from 1999 and

1971 Eagle Scouts, remarks from Saranac village president Sharon Darby, an award from the Sons of the American Revolution, special recognition for the parents of the new Eagle Scouts and a brief statement from state senator Winnie Brinks.

Darby awarded the Eagle Scouts with individual proclamations from

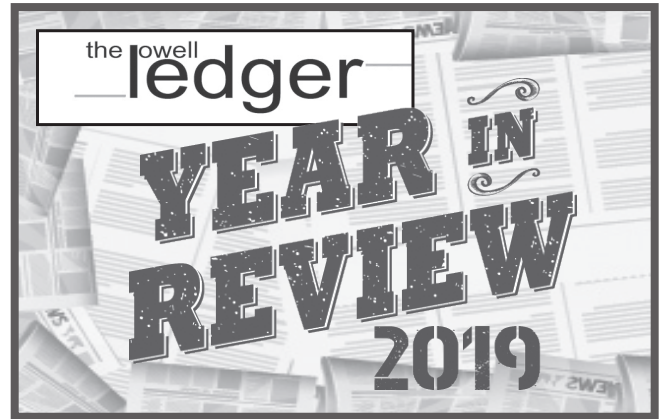
the village and Brinks presented the young men with signed proclamations from Governor Gretchen Whitmer.

“This proclamation is in recognition of all of their hard effort in achieving this highest honor,” said assistant scoutmaster Riley Perrone.

“It is with great honor today that I am here on behalf of the State of Michigan to

present these four young men with a special tribute from the State of Michigan,” Brinks said.

In order to become an Eagle Scout, a young person must be between the ages of 16 and 18, have earned a minimum of 21 merit badges, must “demonstrate Scout spirit” and must lead their own service project.



# FaireVerse at the KC Fairgrounds

FaireVerse, a combined Renaissance faire and Comic-Con, had the first of two weekends at the Kent County Fairgrounds in downtown Lowell on Saturday, May 17 and Sunday, May 18.

There have been Renaissance faires and Comic-Cons for decades, but nobody has ever combined these two things into one event until now. FaireVerse, “where multiverses collide,” is a first-of-its-kind gathering that includes live acrobatic performers,

snake dancers, live music, a DJ, art, cosplayers, food trucks, drinks, personal gaming areas, contests, LARPing, tarot reading, vendors and more.

A highlight for many attendees was the live armored combat where contestants, dressed in real metal armor, bashed each other to the ground with real swords.

A combatant who went by the name Sir Orien, Duke of Friezland, said that, except for the helmet, his armor weighs about 100 pounds.

“It is full armor, full contact, with any arrangement of hand weapons,” said Sir Orien, Duke of Friezland. “Axes, maces, swords, shields. It’s full contact, so everything is an open target. We must be covered from the top of the head to the knee, but we’re fighting on foot so we also have to keep the armor’s weight down. All-in-all, armor does a great job keeping you safe. That’s why they wore it. And it’s fantastic physical exercise as well, and there’s nothing that beats

the roar of the crowd when you get a good hit, or the gasp of a crowd when you take a good hit.”

Cosplayers portraying the characters Mario and Luigi from the “Mario Bros.” series of Nintendo video games wandered the fairgrounds posing for photos and goofing around with attendees.



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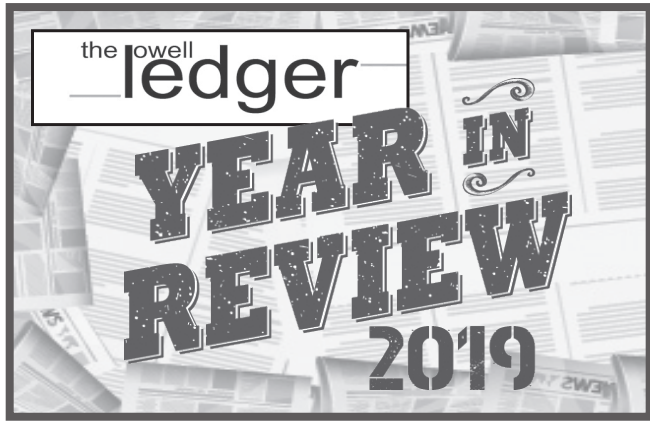
**auld lang syne**

At the close of another year, we’re singing the praises of our neighbors and friends who have helped to make this past year a noteworthy one for us. We’re hoping the New Year hits all the high notes for you and your kin ~ **thanks!**

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# 2019 LHS graduation ceremony

Blue skies, sunshine, and wind were on the menu as the class of 2019 took one last walk together down to Bob Perry Field. Lowell High School's 141st commencement lasted over an hour as many notable figures in the district and the class of 2019 offered their final remarks to the outgoing class of 260 students.

First-year principal Stephen Gough offered the opening statement after the national anthem. He touched upon the accomplishments achieved from the class, the load that the students had to work through, and the school's slogan: "Learners today, leaders tomorrow, Red Arrows for life."

"Life is about learning, never-ending learning, self-reflection and growth," Gough stated in his opening remarks. "Leadership takes courage. To be a Red Arrow, that means you have to commit to being both. I hope that we have served you well and I hope that as you go forward in life you will work as hard as you can, to do what you think is right, own your mistakes, and take care of others."

After a performance by the Lowell band, Gough relinquished the podium to four students: Danielle Barnes, Kohl Goldsmith, Lucas Sherman, and Zachary Post.

Danielle Barnes commented on the dynamics of learning from one another: "Each and every one of us has learned something from each other. Parents learned the importance of raising young adults. Kids learned that at times, parents can be superheroes. Faculty will learn to inspire seniors even on days that senioritis is trying to take hold. In turn, students absorb their knowledge and their stories. It is the strength of others that help us succeed."

Zachary Post brought a prop to the stage, a water bottle. He described the energy put into holding that water bottle for an extended period: "To be able to continue this act of holding the bottle, it takes a dose of persistence. Persistence is what helped me be successful in high school, and it is, what I believe, to be the key factor in being successful in life."



## Betten Baker GMC employee assaulted by racist

A Lowell used car salesman was assaulted by a customer who slapped him across the face and used the "n word" repeatedly when he didn't offer her what she thought was enough money for a trade-in vehicle.

The woman implicated in the assault, Shelly Lynn Hueckel, is 47-years-old and a resident of Nashville, MI.

After a story about the incident appeared in the Lowell Ledger, a felony charge of ethnic intimidation was added to Hueckel's case.

The incident occurred at about 12:30 pm on Wednesday, April 24 at Betten Baker GMC, 749 W. Main when a man and

woman in their 40s came into the dealership with a truck they were considering trading in toward another potential vehicle purchase.

"She backhanded me," said the victim, Terrance Smith. "She hit me so hard it knocked the glasses off my face. She was still swinging and hitting me, and then she

called me the 'n word' three or four times."

"This is a felony charge punishable by two years and/or \$5,000," said Kent County prosecutor Chris Becker. "In addition, there remains the original count of assault and battery which is a misdemeanor punishable by 93 days and/or \$500."

## Pollution discovered at defunct Ware Road Dump

The Ware Road Dump, located a few miles southeast of town, was in use by local businesses and individuals from the late 1950s until 1982. This spring, the old dump was identified by the State of Michigan as polluted by three highly toxic chemicals: tetrachloroethylene, dichloroethane and carbon tetrachloride. The land is owned by the city, so they will be financially responsible for clean-up.

City leaders in 1982 were either not able or not willing to pay the thousands of dollars it would have cost to do an environmental investigation and repairs at the Ware Road Dump.

In late 1986, at their own expense, the State of Michigan installed three monitoring wells in the northern part of the dump.

The following month, the state's new monitoring wells determined that tetrachloroethylene,

dichloroethane and carbon tetrachloride were present at 9.5 parts per billion, so the city left the Ware Road Dump closed permanently. The issue of the polluted dump was then put aside for 37 years until the Michigan Environment, Great Lakes and Energy department notified the city about the situation a few weeks ago.

"We were informed of the report from 1987 that indicated groundwater contamination existed at the property from land ll leachate," Lowell city manager Michael Burns said at the May 20, 2019 city council meeting.


"In the 1980s there was communication between the then Department of Natural Resources and the city to take steps to address this, but it appears there was no action taken by the city, nor prompting from the DNR to do so. In our [April 2019] letter, we were directed to communicate and begin

taking remediation actions."

The city is working with Grand Rapids firm BLDI Environmental Engineering to investigate the Ware Road Dump and come up with a plan to deal with the contaminated land.


At this point, the city plans to install five or six more monitoring wells at a potential cost of \$5,000 each. That action is just the beginning of what could become a very costly process depending on what is found by those monitoring wells and in what quantities.

Although they are highly toxic chemicals, tetrachloroethylene, dichloroethane and carbon tetrachloride are still widely used in various industrial processes. It will be difficult, maybe impossible, to determine precisely which businesses were responsible for polluting the site, because no records exist that document who dumped what.



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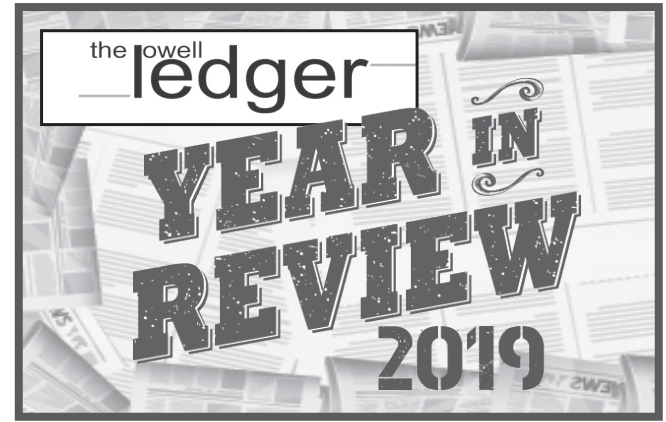


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# Lowell Riverwalk Festival, July 11-13



# Extreme winds topple trees in Oakwood Cemetery



Severe weather last weekend severely damaged one and uprooted another massive old tree in Oakwood Cemetery.

Lowell sexton Don DeJong said one of the trees, the one that snapped in half, was at least 75 years old, probably older. The other one, the one that fell down near the veterans memorial, DeJong estimated was between 40 and 60 years old.

Early in the morning of Saturday, July 20, a severe storm tore through lower Michigan. Winds blew up to 80 miles per hour and there was 10 inches of rain, so many roads were flooded. The worst damage was in Muskegon, Ottawa, Ionia and Kent Counties. By morning, 250,000 customers were without power, 50,000 of them in Kent County.

After more storms Saturday afternoon, DTE Energy reported that 375,000 of their customers were without power.

At Oakwood Cemetery, a couple grave markers and an ornamental wall near the veterans memorial were damaged or shoved around, but the Civil War cannon, statue and flagpole are intact. Other gravestones are covered by tree branches, but are unharmed.

Clean-up could take a few days. DeJong said that Lowell Light & Power might assist or lend equipment.

There are also limbs and branches from other trees, and a dead spruce tree in a different part of the cemetery was also damaged.

# Man drowns at Pebble Beach

A 41 year old Lowellian named Roberto Ridriquez-Castellon drowned at Pebble Beach in Stoney Lakeside Park on Thursday, July 11.

The man was swimming to an island, something he apparently did often. Lowell police chief Steve Bukala said the man had health issues that probably contributed to his drowning.

Bukala jumped into the lake, located Ridriquez-Castellon under the water and pulled his body to shore.

"I dove to the bottom and got him," Bukala said. "It was a free dive – no mask, no snorkel, no flippers, nothing. Visibility was probably about a foot, a foot and a half. The lady said she lined him up with the picnic table and a rock, then some kayakers came over started circling the area. I said, 'Look for something that's out of the ordinary.' They saw some black soot coming from the bottom, weeds, a disturbance. I went down feet-first. I felt him with my foot, came up and said, 'He's right below my feet.' Myself and another good Samaritan went down and we were able to grab ahold of him and pull him to the surface. He was blue and cold to the the touch, but we still worked on him as long as we could."

According to his obituary, Ridriquez-Castellon was married and had many children, grandchildren, brothers and sisters.



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## 2019 Kent County Youth Fair

The Kent County Youth Fair was held last week from Monday, Aug. 5 until Saturday, Aug. 10, with many amazing events taking place throughout the week of festivities.



From the crowning of the new Kent County Youth Fair Court on Monday until the end on Saturday evening, the fair brought many great activities for young and old. The weather was cooperative, with very little rain and pleasant temperatures.

“We had a couple of great days, we’ve had some fantastic weather,” said Jon Bieneman, president of the Kent County Youth Fair. “I am very happy that

of wonderful music. The tent also hosted a screening of “Country Music,” an upcoming movie by Ken Burns, along with a talent contest, and the fan-favorite karaoke night.



we’ve had a great number of visitors come out. We had a ton of families come out for our Reading for Rides Day. The fair kind of builds momentum-wise throughout the week so we’ve had great crowds at the end of the week.”

The most important part of the youth fair is the showing of livestock by youth. Kids from across the county show and sell their livestock. This

The Lowell High School radio station WRWW 92.3 FM broadcast much of the live entertainment over the airwaves.

“We do have students doing on-air shows when there is nothing going on onstage, but not a lot of that,” said WRWW station manager Al Eckman. “We have been broadcasting the entertainment live every night from 7 until 9 pm.”



year saw many different animals presented to the public, including cows, pigs, sheep, goats, alpacas, chickens, rabbits and horses.

Along with the rides, many events were held in the free entertainment tent. Concerts by Pickin’ Roots, Kevin Schafer, and Peacemaker gave fans a taste

Overall, the fair was once again a resounding success for everyone involved. The community was able to enjoy what may have been the last year at the Lowell Fairgrounds, with the fair expecting to move to what is now Deer Run Golf Course, south of town near I-96.

## Dan Czarnecki named new Lowell public works director

Dan Czarnecki, Lowell’s new director of public works, has over 34 years experience working in city government, nearly 30 of those in public works. Czarnecki’s work experience includes stints in Negaunee, Wyoming, Ionia and Grand Haven, Michigan, as well as Casper, Wyoming and the Muskegon County Road Commission. Since 2011 he has been the public works director of Fenton, Michigan, a town on the east side of the state about

three times the population of Lowell.

“My plan for Lowell is to work with the public works team to continue to provide the best service to the community and its citizens, while looking for ways to make community improvements in a fiscally sound manner,” Czarnecki said.

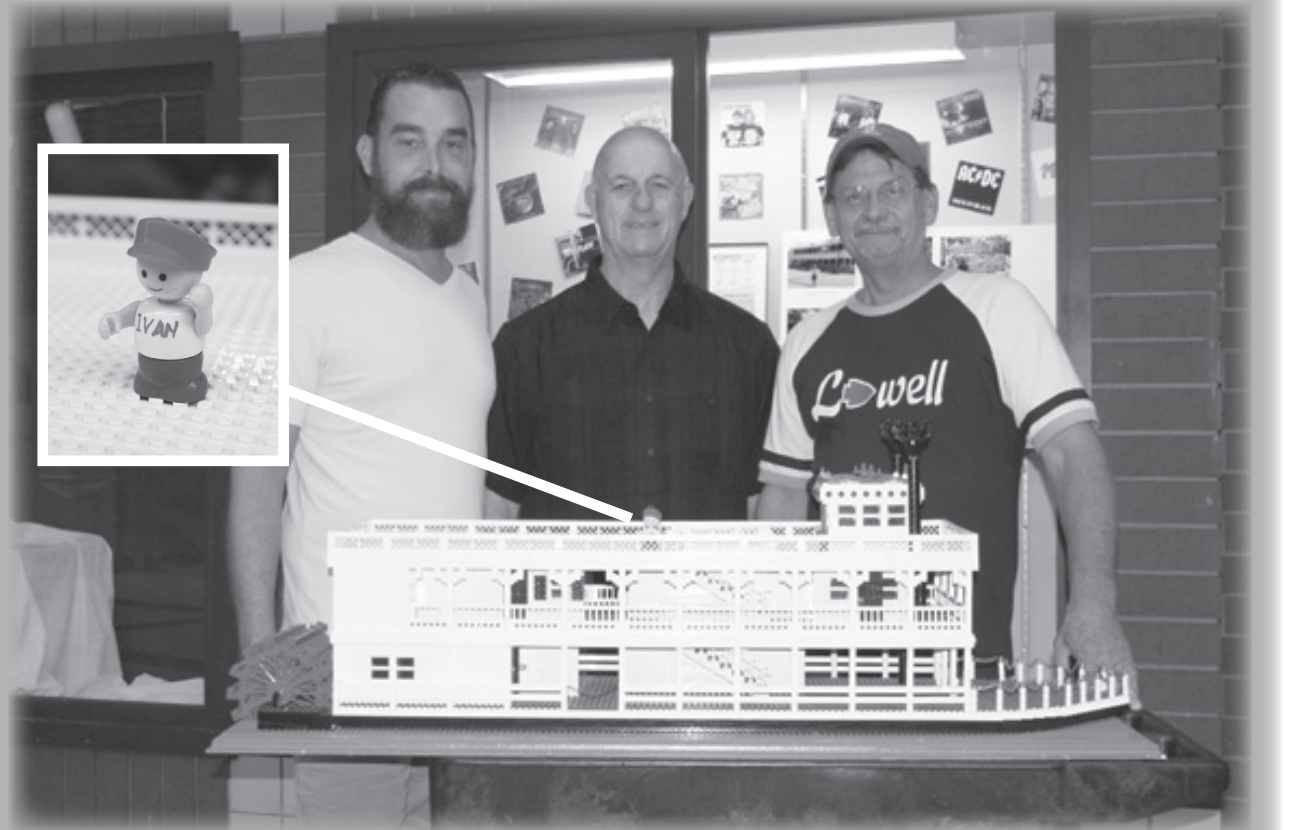
One of Czarnecki’s co-workers in Fenton was Michael Burns, Lowell’s current city manager, who used to be the assistant city manager there.



“He’s a busy guy, I think last week I saw him for maybe an hour,” Czarnecki said.

“I worked well together. I wouldn’t have come here if I didn’t like him!”

## Lego Showboat on display at LHS



In August, a Lowell Showboat constructed from Legos was put on display in the main hallway at Lowell High School across from the WRWW 92.3 FM studio.

Pictured: Lowell mayor Michael DeVore, WRWW station manager Al Eckman and Red Barn Consignments & Antiques owner Marty Chambers. Inset: the captain, “Lego Ivan.”

## Pink Arrow Community Day: West End Reveal, Aug. 23

The 2019 Pink Arrow Community Day: West End Reveal was held on Friday, August 23, at the newly-constructed Impact Church. In previous years, the community day has been held at Gilda’s Club of Lowell and later, at the Riverwalk. The event has been growing quickly, which led to a partnership with

Impact for this year’s event.

“The health and wellness fair that took place inside Impact was well attended and there were two dozen businesses and health related resources available in and outside,” said Pink Arrow Organizer, Teresa Beachum.

The day began with a ribbon-cutting ceremony at the newly-constructed

pedestrian footbridge at Grand River Riverside Park that will connect the north side of the park to the existing south side. Lengths of pink ribbon were given out for people to write the names of loved ones on a cancer journey and by the end of the day, several ribbons had been dedicated and tied to the bridge.

“The cabin will serve as an educational source, teaching the community about life along the river in this area and how our people and economy depended upon the river for survival and success,” said Beachum.

Some expressed concerns about everyone’s ability to see the bridge, due to it being located some distance off the road by foot. In yet another display of community,

volunteers shuttled people from the parking lot over the bridge in golf carts throughout the day.

The park’s brand new pickleball courts were open, and pickleball demonstrations went on throughout the day. The octagonal gaga ball pits were available for younger attendees who wanted to participate in outdoor games at the park.

A new addition to the Community Day was the Pink Arrow Hair Drive. This project was inspired by a Murray Lake Elementary student, Easton Dressander. Stylists were onsite from 10 am to 2 pm to give free haircuts to anyone wishing to participate. People were also encouraged to bring donations of hair to the drive.

Allen McAllister

July 22, 1994 - August 21, 2019



# Pink Arrow Pride Arrow Force XII: Friday, Sept. 13

There was some early morning rain, but the weather was gorgeous by the start of the “Pink Arrow Pride: Arrow Force XII” event at Bob Perry Field on Friday, Sept. 13. Admission to the stadium was free for anyone wearing this year’s t-shirt.

“I am just rejoicing tonight,” said event organizer Teresa Beachum. “The weather has been a roller coaster, but look at it! And look at all those pink shirts, how this community continues to support this program. It is amazing to me. We are thankful for every

t-shirt that’s out there and the supporters in this community touch our hearts.”

“This is one of my favorite events of the year,” said Lowell mayor Michael DeVore. “I like to watch the way our community comes together and how people come in and see all the cool stuff we can accomplish when we work together.”

All proceeds from the event will support Pink Arrow Pride, an organization that directly helps Lowellians who find themselves on a cancer journey, and also supports

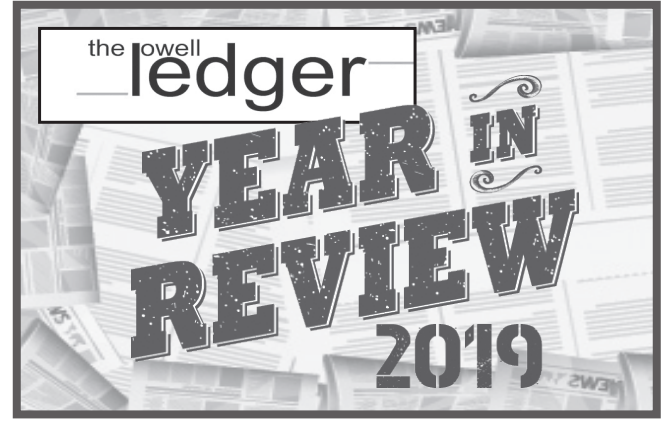
Gilda’s Club, Lowell Community Wellness, the Kathy Talus scholarship and the Dr. Donald Gerard scholarship.

“I think it’s awesome that we have the community behind us,” said Gerard scholarship recipient Jeremy Wodarek. Wodarek said he is attending the CMU College of Medicine to study orthopedic surgery. “If you go to medical school, you have to take out a lot of loans, so it’s good to have this kind of support.”

The survivor walk was at 6 pm, followed by

honoree introductions at 6:35 pm. LHS student McKenna Grody, the Lowell High School choir and LHS teacher Nathan Masterson performed songs at the event.

“This is a significant event to support the community and everyone that has fought cancer, won cancer or passed from cancer,” said attendee Kathy Swanson. “My mom is a survivor, so it’s very emotional. It’s just amazing that all of these people come together for this game, specifically to represent cancer. It’s an honor and a privilege to support it.”



“This event means everything to our company and its owner,” said volunteer Juli Bernock from All Weather Seal. “This is a big event and it’s really close to our hearts. We are pleased to be here having a great time every year.”

“This is a way a lot of people represent the people they have lost or have supported through

cancer or a loss,” said volunteer Janel Badder from Meijer. “It’s wonderful to see how many people turn out to support it. It’s more of an emotional game.”

The main event, a football game against the Greenville Yellow Jackets, began at 7:10 pm. The Lowell High School football team beat Greenville’s team 40-0.



# Whites Bridge replica under construction

Whites Bridge, the local landmark that was burned by an arsonist six years ago, is finally under reconstruction.

According to a Sept. 11 post on the “Rebuild Whites Bridge” Facebook page, “The [two] trusses 118 feet long will be constructed laying on their side on the road. The road commission has a statutory 66-foot wide right-of-way about the center of the road and the building of the trusses will take up all of it. There is about 15 feet from the right-of-way line to the railing for the access ramp. The roadway is closed before the turnaround but the access will be along the west edge of the road. It will be a bit congested during the workday but there will be sufficient parking along the road nights and weekends.”

Whites Bridge was built across the Flat River in 1869. It stood for 144



years until an arsonist burned it down on July 7, 2013. The perpetrator of this crime has never

been caught. If you have any information about the fire, call the Lowell Police Department.

# Lowell’s water best in state



Lowell’s municipal water plant won the “best tasting water in Michigan” award from the American Water Works Association on Thursday, Sept. 12.

Aaron Davenport, a representative from the AWWA, was on hand to present the award to utility supervisor Ralph Brecken, water plant operator Todd Phillips and water plant superintendent Brian VanVeelen (above) at a city council meeting on Monday, Sept. 16

“If you think bottled water is better, just remember this is the best in the state,” Davenport said. “A 20 ounce bottle of Dasani, you can get 320 of them for the same cost of the city water. It’s safe and tested every day, certified and verified the best in the state.”

The next step is a trip to Orlando, FL where Lowell’s water will compete for the international award.





# A few more memories of 2019...





## City income tax voted down



The one percent city income tax failed at the polls on Tuesday, Nov. 5 and all three incumbent candidates were re-elected to the Lowell city council. The city of Lowell had 27.09 percent voter turnout. A public safety millage in Lowell Charter Township was voted down 400 to 393, a margin of only seven votes. Turnout among township voters was 16.72 percent.

In the Lowell city council election, incumbent Cliff Yankovich got 465 votes, mayor Michael DeVore got 403 votes and incumbent Martin Chambers got 373 votes, so they all won their seats. Of the two new candidates, Danielle Ettinger got 334 votes and Jacob Davenport had 332 votes.

This was city councilor Cliff Yankovich's first election. He ended up with the most votes out of all five candidates. He said that it was a good idea to keep the current council intact because the city is in the middle of many complicated issues with long backstories.

"Being appointed was great, but now I really feel like the voters in Lowell want me to serve on the council and it has given me a real confidence boost," Yankovich said. "Since we are facing some sticky issues it came as a relief that the council will remain intact. Frankly, I would have had a good

deal of compassion for a new person trying to get up to speed on the roads, the Ware Road dump and the Unity School development."

The proposal to levy a city income tax was voted down, 495 "no" to 315 "yes."

"I wasn't shocked," city manager Michael Burns said. "38 percent of the people who voted was more than I expected. That being said, it still didn't pass and roads aren't going to get fixed any faster. Basically, we're going to just have to go back to the drawing board and figure out how we're going to address this."

"I was disappointed that the income tax failed," Yankovich said. "We diligently explored other options and it was that effort that caused me to vote yes on the tax and urge others to do so."

"We'll have roughly \$330,000 a year to work with in our [local streets] budget now," Burns said. "\$330,000 isn't going to get you very far, maybe two or three blocks. The question is, is the council satisfied with that plan? I can present them with a bunch of different [budget] cuts, all of them will have impacts on the quality of life in the community. If that's what the council wants to do, that's their option. We can discuss doing this [income tax] again. It's really up to the council, it's what they want to do."

## Sgt. Hurst honored for 25 years with LPD



At the city council meeting on Monday, Oct. 7, Lowell police sergeant Christopher Hurst was honored for a quarter century of service with the department. He was originally hired on Oct. 10, 1994.

"We would like to thank you for 25 years of outstanding service to the city of Lowell and the Lowell police department," said Lowell police chief Steve Bukala.

"This has been a great place to work," Hurst said. "I want to put at least in 30 years here, so I've got five more to go."

## Ryne Experience releases acoustic album



"Shopworn" is available on streaming services such as Spotify, Tidal and Bandcamp. For more information, follow the Ryne Experience on social media or visit [ryneshyne.club](http://ryneshyne.club).

Lowell rock band the Ryne Experience released a new acoustic album called "Shopworn." The album was recorded over 20 days this autumn at Ryne Clarke's "Upstairs, Man Studios" in the bedroom of his home in downtown Lowell.

"It was pretty much live takes with vocal and guitar," Clarke said. "I would lay that down, then throw maybe a keyboard or banjo here or there. Kyle [Kuhn] did all the percussion in one day."

On "Shopworn," Clarke is credited with vocals, acoustic and electric guitars, banjo, organ, keyboard, piano, chord organ,

accordion, electric kazoo and harmonica. Kuhn's percussion included shaker, tambourine, bongos, water bottle, guiro and woodblock. Additionally, Mitchell Evink played cello on one song and Jerry Wenger played lead guitar on another.

Clarke said that "Shopworn" is supposed to function as a palate cleanser for the Ryne Experience's next full length band record, "Funky Town," due out in January. He is working with a local filmmaker on a "music video movie" to go along with the new album, these two projects should premiere around the same time next year.

## House explosion in Vergennes Township



Two people in a neighboring home (above) were injured when the uninhabited house at 2936 Fallsburg Park Dr. NE in Vergennes Township exploded at around 3 am on Monday, Dec. 16.

The explosion could be heard several miles away. The home was in the process of being remodeled, but it is now completely destroyed.

The people living next door were treated for smoke inhalation by Rockford Ambulance paramedics. That residence also suffered damage from the blast.

The incident is under investigation by the Michigan State Police, but it was most likely caused by a gas leak.