

## City & condo developers reach agreement



Lowell city council discussing the Riverview Flats condo development at their Monday, Jan. 6 regular meeting.

release. “The city’s purchase of 238 High St. will improve access to the boat launch and greatly increase parking for important events like the concert series and the Lowell Riverwalk. We will also be installing, at no cost to the city, public kayak holders at the ramp.”

“Since there will be a transfer of property between the city and Unity, a resolution pertaining to the transfer of property must sit at council and be available for public review for 20 days after it has been presented,” said Lowell city manager Michael Burns.

Burns also updated the council about the situation with the Lowell Showboat. It was revealed at the last city council meeting that the plans for eight foot ceilings did not account for any “mechanicals” such as heating and cooling that would allow for year-round use of the structure. It will cost about \$10,000 to fix

Meeting, continued, page 3

by Tim McAllister  
lead reporter

Lowell city council had their first regular meeting of 2020 at city hall on Monday, Jan. 6. The council finally put the Unity School/Riverview Flats condo development issue to rest and discussed the ceilings on the new

Showboat, selling the “line shack,” a new city attorney and more. The meeting lasted a little under an hour and was attended by 13 local residents.

The council passed a

resolution “approving and authorizing execution of [a] settlement agreement with Unity School Investors, LLC related to property located at 238 and 219 High St.” Refer to the image on page three

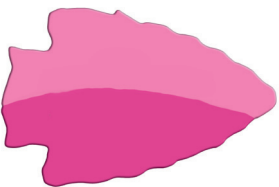
for the specific terms of the deal.

“This agreement is the result of months of working through multiple issues,” Riverview Flats co-owner Todd Schaal said in a press



LHS sports  
pages 10-11

Top 10 Lowell  
stories of the  
2010s



page 8

Lowell novelist  
Katrina  
Alexander



page 2

LowellArts  
house concert



page 4

## Lowell marijuana store to open in February

by Tim McAllister  
lead reporter

A recreational marijuana store called “Meds Café” is currently under construction in the old Family Video store at 1965 W. Main. It will be the first recreational marijuana store in Kent County.

Michael Atkins, Ada resident and co-owner of the company, said they plan to open their doors in early February, perhaps with a little bit of hoopla if they’re allowed to.

“We are aiming for the beginning of February for our opening,” Atkins said. “Weather and local approval permitting, we hope to have some vendors and tents displayed on the premises.”

Meds Café will stock just about every type of marijuana-derived product that exists on the market today.

“We plan to stock our shelves with high quality, lab-tested cannabis flower, edibles and extracts, including various forms of

oils, waxes, live resins and vape products,” Atkins said.

Toward the end of its existence, the Family Video store sold many different types of CBD products, which are made from a non-intoxicating type of marijuana and used to treat physical pain, migraines, epilepsy, anxiety and insomnia. The most common use for CBD is to treat seizures, particularly in children.

“We will offer a variety of CBD products including bath bombs, gel capsules and drops, disposable pens, anti-aging creams, body butter, oil sprays and even pet treats,” Atkins said.

According to their website, Med Café’s prices for regular, old-fashioned marijuana, what today’s aficionados call “flower,” range from \$14 a gram for a type named “Goo Berry” to \$50 a gram for the “Sherbet” strain. One gram is equivalent to 0.0357 of an ounce. Those prices

are for their Rogers City location, the prices at the Lowell store may differ.

During the debate about recreational marijuana, one of the most frequent concerns from local residents was security. Atkins said the new state laws require stringent security measures.

“The State of Michigan’s marijuana business laws do require extensive camera security throughout the interior and exterior of the facility,” Atkins said. “The windows will be heavily reinforced. We will have bank level security [with] 24 hour surveillance and security staff on site.”

Although Atkins and his family originally hail from Rogers City, a small town about 40 miles northwest of Alpena, they moved to Ada in order to properly run the store, and they plan to hire local workers.

“My wife and I started a family recently in the neighboring town of Ada



The defunct Family Video store is being remodeled into a recreational marijuana store.

and plan on sending our kids to Lowell schools,” Atkins said. “We would like to support the local area that we live in. Our hometown of Rogers City is where we opened our first provisioning center and [we] have been fortunate enough to do great things for that community such as charity events, providing school supplies and playground equipment. We look forward to doing similar things in this community, and creating

local jobs. Our general managers, Kyle Miller and Casey Cole, are both from neighboring Ionia. Many of our applicants have come from the Lowell area and various areas throughout Kent County. We chose the former Family Video store because of its prime location on M-21.”

For more information about the company, visit [medscape.com](http://medscape.com), send a message to [info@medscape.com](mailto:info@medscape.com) or call 989-734-3114.

50¢



# Lowell Middle School teacher publishes first novel

by Tim McAllister  
lead reporter

Lowell Middle School teacher Katrina Alexander is writing a series of romance novels, and the first installment has just been published.

Alexander projected there will eventually be six books in her “Jacobs Landing” series. The first book in the series is called “A Perfect Miracle.” It is now available for purchase on Amazon.com in hardcover, paperback or as an e-book.

The book is set in Jacobs Landing, a seaside town in Maine. Gabrielle Levesque, recently widowed, finds a stray dog on her front porch and becomes reacquainted with her high school crush, Dr. Andrew Leland, the local veterinarian.

Alexander said her initial inspiration was simply the name of the potential character who ended up becoming the main protagonist of the novel.

“The idea for my book started off with nothing more than Gabrielle Levesque’s name, the close knit feeling of a small town inspired by my own experiences living in Lowell and the idea that every couple has a love story worth sharing,” Alexander said. “Since I teach French, I wanted to use this language in my novel, even if it was only as a cultural influencer. Maine is one of the lesser-known areas with a Franco-American population, but [it] has always captured my imagination.”

Although the novel is set



**Lowell Middle School teacher Katrina Alexander recently published her first novel.**  
[photo by Heather Eveland]

in a fictional town in Maine, it’s based on locations around West Michigan, including Lowell.

“Jacobs Landing was actually inspired by our historic area in Lowell, as well as our local dog park,” Alexander said. “The rest of the settings were loosely based on any lake town you might encounter, because I grew up in the Muskegon and Grand Haven areas. The Hackley and Hume homes in Muskegon inspired Gabrielle’s Victorian home and some of my friends’ homes on Muskegon Lake and Lake Michigan inspired the waterfront homes in the novel.”

Future books in the “Jacobs Landing” series will focus on other fictional residents of the fictional town, but that doesn’t mean there won’t be updates on the subsequent fictional exploits of favorite characters.

“Future books will include appearances of [the] main characters, but other Jacobs Landing residents will become main characters,” Alexander said. “New supporting characters will also be introduced. Jacobs Landing is a small town and, as the reader progresses through the series, the idea is for the reader to get to know more people and places in this town, to feel like this town and these characters could be real people and places one might encounter.”

Her writing influences include many very successful romance authors.

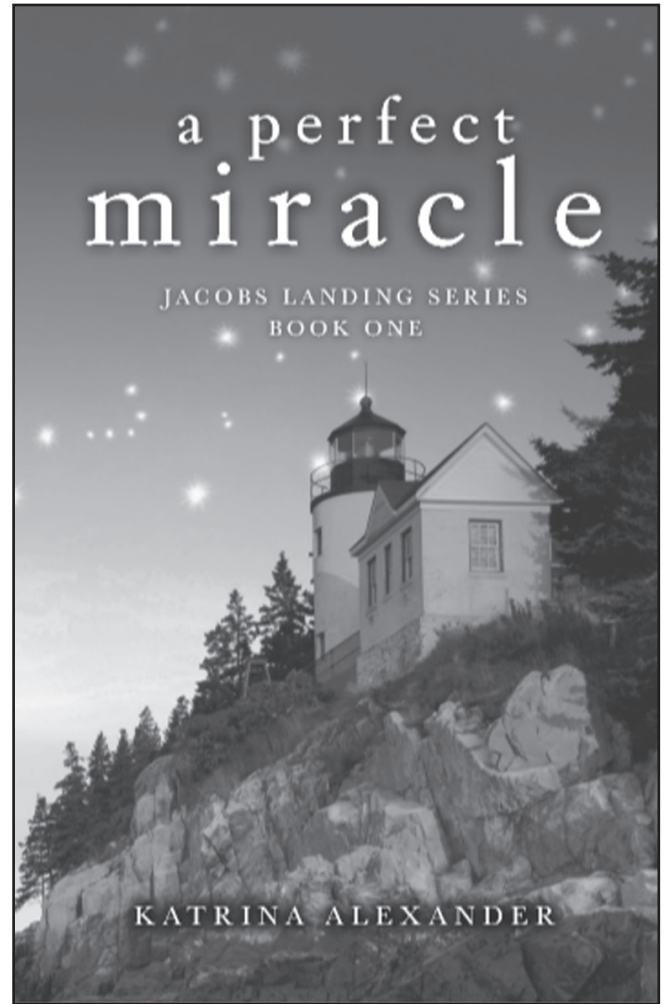
“Janet Evanovich is a fun read, especially her ‘Wicked’ series,” Alexander said. “I love the irreverent humor in her stories and tried to capture some of that in my book. My earliest influences were Gothic romance writers

Phyllis A. Whitney, Victoria Holt, and Madeleine Brent. Those were ladies (even though Madeleine Brent was actually a man) who knew how to develop characters and plot.”

Alexander started writing stories in childhood. She says she used to trade stories with her brother and would often pester other relatives to read her stories. She’s had a few things published here and there, but “A Perfect Miracle” is her first work of fiction in print.

“I had a poem published in my school high school yearbook and a couple letters to the editor, but this my first published novel,” Alexander said. “I still find it surreal to open my book and realize that I wrote it. To see my words in print, to have people enjoy what I wrote, it’s a dream come true.”

For more information about Alexander and to keep track of the “Jacobs Landing” series, visit [katrinaalexanderauthor.com](http://katrinaalexanderauthor.com).



**“A Perfect Miracle” by Katrina Alexander is book one of, potentially, a series of six novels set in Maine.**

## Pub Poker Run event on Jan. 14

The Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce’s annual “Pub Poker Run,” a traveling poker game event, will take place on Tuesday, Jan. 14. Participants will race between six local restaurants to collect playing cards at each stop in order to assemble the best poker hand.

It’s \$10 per hand to participate. Simply head to the Chamber office on the Riverwalk at some point between 5 and 6 pm on Jan. 14 to register, and off you go. This year, the stops are Larkin’s Restaurant, Big Boiler Brewing, Sneaker’s, New Union Brewery, Main



Street BBQ and Flat River Grill.

Participants are welcome to make the rounds at their own pace, but you must present your final cards at Larkin’s by 8 pm.

There will be cash prizes for the top three winning hands. In past years, prizes have been over \$200.

The event was created several years ago by local residents Cutter Phillips and Betsy Davidson.

“Tuesday nights are

typically slower for restaurant traffic,” Phillips said. “We’re doing this to bring people out, let them have some fun and have a good time.”

“The event is focused on eating, enjoying a beverage and socializing,” said Chamber director Liz Baker.

For more information, visit the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce website, [lowellchamber.org](http://lowellchamber.org), or call 616-897-9161.

### BOWNE TOWNSHIP Schedule of Regular Board Meetings for 2020

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PHONE: 616 868 6846  
[www.bownetwp.org](http://www.bownetwp.org)

January 20	July 20
February 17	August 17
March 16	September 21
April 20	October 19
May 18	November 16
June 15	December 21

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Sandra L. Kowalczyk  
Bowne Township Clerk

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\*Rantar Millward Brown, Feb. 2018

# Meeting, continued

the issue. Funds gathered for the Showboat project by the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce and the Lowell Rotary will be used to pay for half, the other half will come from Chris Chamberlain, who will not charge the city for \$5,000 worth of his consulting work on the project. Chamberlain was hired to be the city's Showboat consultant in December 2017.

"I spent about 50 hours during the first part of December trying to figure out what happened regarding the second and third floor height," Burns said. "After reviewing a number of documents, I was able to basically conclude that there was some communication that didn't happen between the [Rebuild the Showboat] committee and the engineering firm. Really, I couldn't pinpoint anything on the engineering firm, that they made an error. [...] We wanted an eight foot clearance of ceiling. However, when C-Fly builds their boats, they build deck to deck. They don't take into account finished ceilings and

that nature. In the nautical world, that's how they build boats."

At the very beginning of the meeting, since it was the first one of the year, the council appointed the city's mayor and mayor pro-tem. Michael DeVore will continue as mayor, but Greg Canfield declined the position of mayor pro-tem so councilor Jim Salzwedel was nominated instead. Canfield has been Lowell's mayor pro-tem since September 2017 but said he no longer has the amount of extra time required to completely fulfill the duties of the position.

The council decided to sell the "line shack" building at 115 Riverside for an amount no less than \$100,000. Burns said the building should hit the market "in a few weeks."

City attorney Dick Wendt is going part time at his law firm Dickinson Wright and will no longer be available to be Lowell's city attorney. He will be replaced by Jessica Wood from the same firm.

Burns said that MDOT recently informed him there will be repairs that will close the Jackson St. bridge for

some amount of time, but they provided no information about what is being done, when it will happen or how long it will take.

Councilor Marty Chambers suggested that anybody interested in the recreational marijuana store that is going into the old Family Video location should attend the planning commission meeting at city hall at 7 pm on Monday, Jan. 13.

Councilor Salzwedel pointed out that the deadline for LCTV grant applications is Friday, Feb. 7.

Lowell city council's next regular meeting will be at 7 pm on Tuesday, Jan. 21. The council will also meet with the public during a "Coffee with the Council" at the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce building from 8 am until 10 am on Saturday, Feb. 1.


To watch city council, board and commission meetings from the past few years, look for the "City of Lowell" or "Lowell Light and Power" channels on YouTube or visit archive.org.

To summarize the settlement agreement, the terms are the following:


- The City will purchase 238 High Street for \$225,000 within 30 days of the purchase. (The Downtown Development Authority and Lowell Light and Power have resolutions to approve allowing the DDA to purchase the property on behalf of the City and for Lowell Light and Power to lend the DDA \$165,000 over a five year period with an interest of 1.75%)
- The City will support the partial vacation of the north 15 feet of High Street from Monroe Street to the west edge of the existing Unity School building on the 219 High Street Parcel with ownership of said vacated property to be transferred to Unity. The City and Unity will share all costs equally for the partial vacation and re platting of High Street adjacent to 219 High Street.
- Unity at its cost will construct curbs, gutters and sidewalks in accordance of City standards, along and within the vacated parcel. Unity will also not be limited on curb cuts for the south side of its property accessing 219 High Street.
- Subject to approval by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR), the City will transfer a 7 foot by 263.2 foot strip of Riverside Park to Unity Schools in exchange for a 10' north and 50' east portion of the southwest corner of 219 High Street. The City will retain easements for locations on the currently owned city property for underground utilities and communication lines.
- If required by the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy, the City will allow a compensation cut to a portion of the banks of Stoney Lakeside Park to address any floodplain mitigation concerns at 219 High Street. Unity at its costs, will be responsible to provide the required testing of the soils to be removed and for the proper disposal of the soils.
- Since the boundary lines of High Street will change on the south and west of the Planned Unit Development relating to the property, these will be deemed as minor amendments to the PUD. The amendments shall be reviewed and approved administratively by the City's zoning enforcement officer.
- Upon execution of the settlement agreement, legal counsel for both parties shall prepare and file a Stipulated Order to Dismiss All Claims With Prejudice and Without Costs for entry by the Court in the Lawsuit.
- Unity further waives and releases any claims for the City's, City's Department of Lowell Light and Power, the Lowell Area Public Schools, or Comcast/Xfinity's past, current, and future use of the 219 and 238 High Street parcels through existing known easements of record and/or existing above ground or underground lines, including any related facilities for utility and communication services that are currently subject to written easement agreements or are contemplated to be given by Unity pursuant to this Settlement Agreement.

**Taken from a city memorandum, these are the terms of the property transfer agreement between the city of Lowell and Unity School Investors, LLC.**

# How to manage your persistent fears and anxieties



## Managing Fear



by Stan Popovich

Looking for all of the answers in how to manage your persistent fears and anxieties? Fear and anxiety can ruin your life if you do not know how to manage it. Its important to know what to do when fear is a factor in your life.

Here is a brief list of

techniques that a person can use to help manage their every day anxieties, stresses, and fears.

1. Take your fears apart. When facing a current or upcoming task that overwhelms you with a lot of anxiety, divide the task into a series of smaller steps

and then complete each of the smaller tasks one at a time.

Completing these smaller tasks will make the stress more manageable and increases your chances of success.

2. Learn to relax. Sometimes we get stressed out when everything happens all at once. When this happens, take a deep breath and try to find something to do for a few minutes to get your mind off of the problem. A person can get some fresh air, listen to some music, or do an activity that will give them a fresh perspective on things.

3. Always remember to get all of the facts of the

given situation.

Gathering the facts can prevent us from relying on exaggerated and fearful assumptions. By focusing on the facts, a person can rely on what is reality and what is not.

4. In dealing with your anxieties, learn to take it one day at a time.

While the consequences of a particular fear may seem real, there are usually other factors that can not be anticipated and can affect the results of any situation. We may be ninety-nine percent correct in predicting the future, but all it takes is for that one percent to make a world of difference.

5. Think of a red stop sign. At times, a person

might encounter a fearful thought that may be difficult to manage. When this happens, visualize a red stop sign, which can serve as a reminder to stop thinking about that thought. Regardless of how scary the thought may be, do not dwell on it. This technique is great in dealing with obsessive and scary thoughts.

6. Get some help. Sometimes, it helps to be able to talk to someone about

our stressful situations. Talking to a trusted friend, counselor, or clergyman can not only make us feel better, but they can give you additional advice and insights on how to deal with your current problem.


Overcoming fear and anxieties takes practice. In time, you will become better able to deal with your stressful problems.

...

**Writing about music is like dancing about architecture.**

~ Thelonious Monk (1917-1982)

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## Husband and wife duo returns to perform



Edye Evans Hyde and Mike Hyde in an undated performance photo (picture taken from Facebook).

by Brendan A Sanders  
contributing reporter

The return of LowellArts House Concerts is looking to once again entertain the community with a strong lineup.

Returning is the 2011 West Michigan Jazz Society Musician of the Year recipient Edye Evans Hyde. She will be performing with her husband Mike Hyde on Sunday, January 19 at 4 pm. This will be their second appearance at LowellArts, after performing in February of 2018.

The duo has been married over 40 years, they've toured internationally as well as performed extensively on both coasts and of course, in West Michigan.

Having performed in Los Angeles, Asia and Europe, Edye Evans Hyde has shared the stage with world-renowned blues singer Linda Hopkins, pop vocalist Michael Bolton, folk singer Maria Muldaur, actress Connie Stevens, the legendary Ray Charles, and Cuban trumpet player Arturo Sandoval.

Edye's theatrical performances include principal roles in Dream Girls, Ain't Misbehavin', Smokey Joe's Café, Little Shop of Horrors, Blues for an Alabama Sky, Intimate Apparel, Lady Day at Emerson's Bar and Grill, Ragtime, and Having Our Say.

Edye also has appeared with The Grand Rapids Symphony as a narrator for the Symphony Lollipops and sang with The West Shore Symphony performing songs from her acclaimed albums Girl Talk and Lady with A Song. She recently released her newest album, Magic In His Eyes.

In addition to her singing, Edye is the founder of Ebony Road Players, a West Michigan based non-profit theater group whose goal is to provide a platform for underrepresented voices in the community.

A 1975 graduate of Creston High School in Grand Rapids, she holds a bachelor's degree in music education from Aquinas College, has taught K-12 vocal music. In 2017, she was an instructor at Hope College and won the Ethel Coe Humanities Award, which is presented to an individual who exemplifies a passion and talent in visual and performing arts.

Mike Hyde has performed right alongside his wife as her guitarist for much of

their respective careers. He performs regularly with other local artists and runs his own teaching studio, Alger Heights Guitar Lessons. Alger Heights Guitar Lessons can be found on Facebook.

There have been trials for Edye over the past decade. In March of 2013, Edye had brain surgery on a benign tumor. After a successful surgery, she was back performing in May of that year.

Bringing jazz and light pop to Lowell is bound to entertain everyone who will come out to the LowellArts center. This duo, who have accomplished so much in their lives and have helped the community of West Michigan grow will certainly be entertainment that many will be happy to come out and enjoy.

The Hydys will be performing at the LowellArts House Concert on Sunday, January 19 at 4 pm. Ticket prices are \$10 if you order tickets in advance, \$12 at the door.

**Live each day like it's your last, 'cause one day you're gonna be right.**

~ Ray Charles (1930-2004)

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# viewpoint

## to the editor

Dear Editor,

Thank you for including coverage of our President Trump and Vice President Pence in their historic visit to our neighboring city of Battle Creek. There are many of us who were happy to see this non-partisan coverage of a local event.

While many are not fans of this Administration, this Administration is working towards meeting campaign promises, including trying to Drain the Swamp that has been enriching themselves off the people's money for too long.

Thank you Ledger for also covering the Pink Pig, raising awareness of the lawsuit to overturn term limits in Michigan.

These are relevant issues to many of us that also call Lowell home.

Showing respect for the different views/beliefs of those we share this country with is key to making the world a better place with an unbiased freedom of the press.

*With respect,  
Veronica Blough  
Lowell*

To Ledger:

I have been bad again, poor breeding likely. Do we worry about breeding any more? Not to inhibit the natural tendencies of our nearly perfect young-uns.

The intelligence arm of "Voters Not Politicians" saw my recent Ledger letter. As said in the law, they sent me a practice pointer: Do not be negative! Do not insult political organisations, even the good old-fashioned crooks. (Citations omitted).

I attended a meeting of "V.N.P." at the big Grand Rapids library. The convenor was a handsome women in

black, whom I first mistook for a Bedouin, but was merely fashionable. (Contemporary females often resemble an S.S. brigade). The attendees were the nicest, most intelligent citizens one could meet, reminiscent of the "good government" movement born of the Progressive Era. I will start to be proud of Americans.

That Michigan could generate such vigorous reform speaks to the "moralistic" political culture going back to New England. This idea was born in a famous 1966 study of the three political cultures of the eastern U.S. "Voters" attacked our gerrymandering degeneracy with Prop. 2 in '18, with determined opposition from lesser beings, and now turn their sights on political corruption. Check them out.

*G. M. Ross  
Lowell*

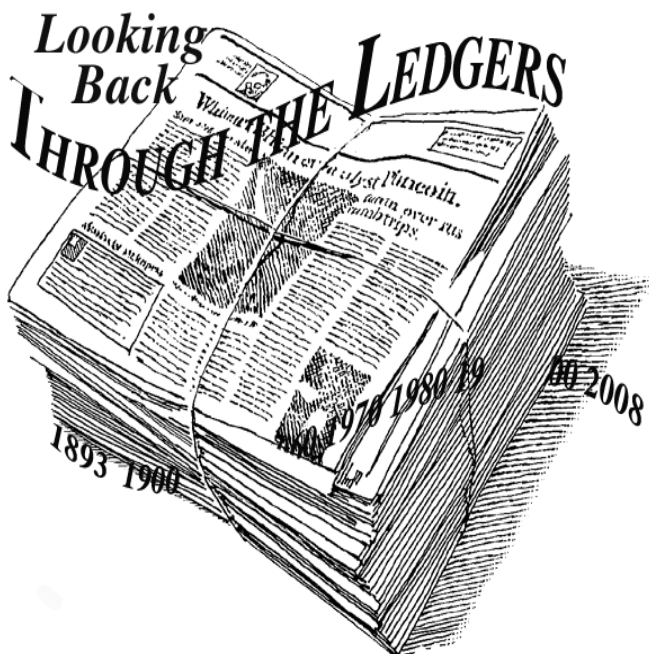
Dear Editor,

I had to chuckle at Tim VanderVeen's Letter to the Editor (January 1st edition) complaining all the way from Gwinn, MI. He was upset that the Ledger wrote a "puff" piece when President Trump held a rally in Battle Creek. Apparently, Battle Creek is the other side of the world and not "local" news according to Mr. VanderVeen.

I'll go out on a limb and dare say that most folks in Lowell would consider Battle Creek as being "local" when considering a Presidential visit, be it Trump, Obama or Bush.

Your hatred of our President is obvious. To disguise it, you whine that the Ledger should keep their news strictly to Lowell, Saranac, Clarksville and Ionia (if Ionia isn't too far...) With that line of thinking, perhaps they shouldn't entertain letters from people outside of the locale either.

*Sincerely,  
Nancy Stroosnyder  
Lowell Township*



### 125 years ago Lowell Ledger January 11, 1895

George Cook, a resident of Lowell, was before Commissioner McQuewan Jan. 4, charged with having sold liquor at Ada last August without having settled with the government for the privilege of selling red liquor to the farmers. He was held to the grand jury in the sum of \$200. William Barber, who was implicated with Cook, was released.

Martin, Frank and John Woessanaki, three brothers, were carried away by the ice at Menominee while fishing, and were last seen drifting in an open boat toward Death's Door. They will probably not be rescued alive, as the weather has continued very cold ever since. No attempts were made to rescue them, as the tugs are all frozen in and machinery taken apart for the winter.

### 100 years ago The Lowell Ledger January 8, 1920

When John Kellogg sold a 50-gallon barrel of cider to Walter Pergiel, of Grand Rapids, John got himself in a barrel of trouble. Yesterday Byron Patterson, agent of the Michigan food and drug department swore out a warrant for Kellogg's arrest and Sheriff Vieregger served the papers on the Lowell man. Kellogg will fight the charge it is understood. The complaint says the cider was "hard."

The fire alarm was sounded Thursday afternoon, New Year's day, on account of a blaze in the furnace

room of C. H. Runciman's house. Being a holiday and but few about town, but few responded to the call. With the aid of willing volunteers, however, the fire was extinguished with but little damage.

"Some of the popular songs ought to be prohibited by law," Branch county teachers, attending an institute here, were told by Song Director Beatty, Grand Rapids, who read the words of a "Jazz" song to prove his point.

### 75 years The Lowell Ledger January 11, 1945

"When we have completed our job in winning this war, we want to know that we are coming back to a home town that is planning for the future in order that it may be an even better home town than ever before, just as we hope and pray that the peace to follow the war will mean a better world." These words were spoken by Ensign King Doyle at last Wednesday's Rotary club. We owe it to our boys, to see to it that they are not to be disappointed.

Cpl. Claude M. Ridgway and Sgt. Lawrence Ridgway, brothers, had the pleasure of meeting on the 18th of December somewhere in Belgium, and spent two hours together. Lawrence was an attendant in a U. S. army general hospital that was struck by a German buzz bomb, which killed 12 persons and injured 50. A newspaper clipping sent home by Lawrence said that the weakened condition of the walls caused the evacuation of 1,150 patients. Fifteen nurses were sent to a rest area suffering from shock.

### 50 years The Lowell Ledger January 8, 1970

The next few months could produce far-reaching effects as far as the Lowell Police Department is concerned, according to reliable sources. Mounting criticism of police administration by residents and merchants; a forthcoming demand by police for pay increases ranging between 15 and 20 percent; and recent organization of the Lowell Police Officers Association all are seen as contributing to the potentially explosive situation.

Happy New Year was anything but "happy" for Bobby Stanard, seven-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Gordon D. Stanard of 225 Valley Vista Drive, Lowell. At about 4:45 pm on the first day of the new year, Bobby was bitten by a muskrat near his home. Neighbors tracked the animal to a nearby field and called Lowell police.



.....and have it home with you today!

## We love to hear from you!

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

The requirements are:

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

# HEALTH

With Drs.  
Wayne A. Christenson III,  
Tracy Lixie & John G. Meier



## - treating the common cold in adults

The common cold, or upper respiratory infection, is caused by several different viruses. They occur more commonly during winter months. Most colds don't cause serious illness and will get better over time. Adults can treat cold symptoms with over-the-counter cold medicine.

There are several different treatment options for cold symptoms. Choosing an OTC medicine that contains an antihistamine and a decongestant may help with coughing less and breathing better through your nose. Ibuprofen or acetaminophen can help with headache or body aches. Nasal decongestant sprays (one brand: Afrin) may help you breathe better through your nose. Pay careful attention to the dosing instructions on the package. This shouldn't be used for more than three days or your stuffy nose could get worse. Zinc

lozenges might help your cold go away faster, and you may develop fewer symptoms. However, this works best if you start taking them within 24 hours after symptoms start. Zinc nose sprays should not be used. Taking vitamin C every day doesn't keep you from getting sick, but it might help your cold go away faster.

There are several treatments that are not helpful for adults. Antibiotics are not helpful because they don't kill viruses. Cold symptoms are almost always caused by viruses. Antihistamines without decongestants don't help a lot. Cough medications generally do not help symptoms very much, including preparations that have codeine in them. Echinacea also is not effective against cold viruses.

# happy birthday



- JANUARY 8**  
Ron Stanford, Cheryl Emmette. Ian Blodger, Marian Guastavino.
- JANUARY 9**  
Jordan Potter, Helena Guastavino, Zvonko Andelkovic. Judy Ellison, Stuart Sauber, Mike Vezino.
- JANUARY 10**  
Mary Jo Vezino, Jared Felling, Mike Barnes, Logan M. Eidenier, Chase Anderson, Gage Soyka. Jake Sterzick, Stephen Rutherford.
- JANUARY 11**  
Katie Plutschouw.
- JANUARY 12**
- JANUARY 13**
- JANUARY 14**  
Angie Nowak, Ryan Burns, Tim Yonker.

# Looking Back, continued

Less than two weeks remain for candidates to file petitions if they intend to seek seats on the Lowell city council...and the annual January "No Bowl" again has come up with a scarcity of contestants. Three seats are to be filled in the April election and six candidates are scheduled to emerge from the February 16 primary...providing seven or more candidates file petitions by the January 19 deadline

## 25 years The Lowell Ledger January 11, 1995

Declining profit margins and the customer's inability to purchase gasoline were key factors in Garb-Ko's (licensee of the Southland Corporation) decision to close the 7-Eleven Store at 800 W. Main.

Jim Blodgett, a second-grade teacher at Cherry Creek Elementary, could not fathom the news. Zack Firovich, a student in his second-grade classroom, had lost his mother in a brutal murder Thanksgiving Day morning. His father admitted to the investigating detective that he had committed the crime. However, while attending Nancy Firovich's funeral, Blodgett was struck by the fact that the children were now all alone (minus their mother and father). "Adults have a difficult enough time dealing with the loss of their parents," Blodgett said. Later Blodgett would hear that a trust fund had been set up in the children's names at a bank in Shelby. That moved him to ask Cherry Creek Elementary students and staff to donate money to be deposited into the trust fund.

# college news

Albion College recognizes the following local students who have been accepted to programs of distinction during the fall 2019 semester. These programs offer enhanced instruction and experiences in business, public policy, environmental and pre-medical studies, professional education, and the liberal arts.

Saranac student Chase Potter joined the Lisa and James Wilson Institute for Medicine. Potter is a resident of Saranac and is a graduate of Saranac High School.

Lowell student Victor Santillan joined the Carl A. Gerstacker Institute for Business and Management. Since 1973, the Gerstacker Institute has combined the

traditional strengths of a liberal arts education with the business knowledge, skills and experience necessary for leadership positions in today's business environment. Members complete a curriculum including an internship and engage in professional and leadership development to graduate with a Gerstacker concentration. Santillan is a resident of Lowell and is a graduate of Forest Hills Northern High School.

Brennan Battle, of Lowell, qualified for the President's List at Trine University, an honor reserved for students who attempt 15 or more credit hours and who earn a grade point average between 3.750 and 4.000.

# outdoors

## healthy New Year

Dave Stegehuis

Celebrating the New Year has traditionally been a time to pause and reflect on the past and look forward to the future. Resolutions are often made to take steps to improve our lives. Quitting a bad habit or getting more exercise are classic resolutions. Now might be a good time to work on good habits and check out exercise options available in Michigan's outdoors.

Taking a walk is probably one of the best investments of time one can make. Do some research and you will find evidence that there are significant physical and mental benefits of even the shortest walk. Walking does not require expensive equipment, fees, training, or special facilities. Walkers can walk anytime or anyplace, weather permitting, for as long as they want. With a little extra effort one can find paths and trails in natural surroundings to enjoy open space and nature.

There must be a lot of people in the area who could consider adding walking to their lifestyle. Gwen and I walk daily around here and also in other states and countries. Pathways in California are usually crowded, and urban trails in the U.P. always have someone on them. We have

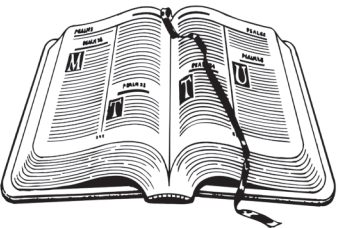
noticed that although our local area has extensive and accessible well-maintained trail systems, we encounter comparatively fewer people using them for biking, jogging, or walking considering population density.

Lack of time is probably the main legitimate reason for people not regularly using the trails. Lack of commitment or determination can be overcome. After a commitment to walk is made, it becomes a matter of ordering priorities and balancing time with responsibilities. The lack of time is a real problem especially for young families. We recently encountered a young family of five jogging on the trail. The youngest was able to keep up by riding a bike. An elderly lady who is a regular walker uses a cane and enjoys a stop at a trail shelter in a natural area half way around her loop. Where there is a will there is a way.

New Year resolutions tend to be made for personal improvement. We should also make a resolution to help make the lives of others better. It may be as simple as a smile and saying hello to a passing stranger on a trail. Have a Happy New Year.



# area churches



**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
865 Lincoln Lake SE • 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  
  
Worship Service ..... Sunday - 10:30 AM  
Sunday School..... 9:15 AM  
  
Joseph Fremer, Pastor **897-8307**  
All facilities are wheelchair accessible

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

**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  
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

**LOWELL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
discover. grow. share  
621 E. Main Street  
897-5938  
www.lowellumc.com • Barrier Free Entrance  
**WORSHIP**  
9 AM - Traditional • 11 AM - Contemporary  
Kid's Crew 11:15 AM  
Sr. Pastor - Brad Brillhart

# World War II P.O.W. diary of Sgt. Kenneth L. Ayres

## Prisoner of War: Sept. 13, 1944 - May 2, 1945



Sgt. Ken Ayres

about 1:00 this afternoon. They gave us a little soup bout 6:00 last night. The first we have had to eat in 3 days (except for the piece of bread we got when we got on the train). We actually went 60 klm. on the train. But was on it 48 hrs. and 53 days on the road.

**March 31, 1945:**

Today we got deloused, and some soup to eat. We are 300 of us sleeping on the floor of a building that was a theater at one time. There are all life races and nationalities here in this camp. But Frenchmen have the upper hand. They are in charge of Red Cross and everything and the Americans get...here. But on the other hand, no one is getting much. I'm still sick. Had cramps tonight and shit my pants. Boy, what a life. We are suppost to get some Red Cross (1/4th pkg. per) and our ration of bread (1/7th of a loaf per) tomorrow sometime. Tomorrow is Easter. They say RUMOR that the war is really going great for us! Everybody looks for the end

**March 20, 1945:**  
Left to march again yesterday morn. Marched all day yesterday and today. We are suppost to go 30-35 klm. tomorrow. Got 1/5th of a Red Cross pkg. the night before we left. There wasn't enough to look at. Ed & I knocked ours right out. Today is the last day of winter. Boy, am I ever hungary! And not a thing to eat.

bread today. They say we are suppost to get some more Red Cross. They've been saying that for the last few days though, but now they say they are waiting until we get on the train before they give it to us...time will tell if we board a train or not. There are roomers that it will take us to a P.O.W. camp. The weather is pettry nice, has been for the past three days.

**CANDY & THINGS TO MAKE AT HOME AT NIGHT (when I get home):**

Peanut butter fudge with & without nuts, raisins, coconut; Cho. fudge with nuts; Popcorn & apples.  
...When I arrive home, stop in and get Mother a couple dozen roses and a bag of candy and Dad a carton of cigs and then take Alger downtown and buy him something he wants!  
...Stay home some night and have hamburgers, cho. milk, salad cake & whip cream for supper. After supper, pop popcorn & eat apples, make peanut butter fudge. Have lots of reading material handy and make a family night of it!

**March 28, 1945:**

I'm sitting in a box car writing this. (There's 60 men to a car and not enough room for everybody to sit down hardly.) They ay we are suppost to get to a Loger in the morn. I hope so. Was sick all last night and today. Feel a little better now. We 1/3 loaf bread per man and 1/10th lb. of marg. to last us three days. It's bout all gone. Ed & I sold a thick slice for 3 cigs. We haven't had anything to smoke since that last 1/5th Red Cross pkg. which we got March 18th. The weather is pettry nice.

**March 29, 1945:**

We are still on the train. Haven't moved an inch! Last night was one in hell. Couldn't lay down and sleep. Had hardly room to sit. On top of that, I was sick as heck. Had the G.I.'s also. It is raining today. Lager A is across the track. They got 1/2 Red Cross pkg. a few days ago and have cigs. We're trading off everything in our Red Cross for cigs. Ed & I sold some onions for 4 cigs. Also sold what bread I had left for 7 butts...was sick and couldn't eat it.

**March 31, 1945:**

Today we got deloused and some soup to eat. We are 300 of us sleeping we got at this camp (Stalag X11B)



Nazi pennant Ayres brought back from WWII.



Some of the decorations Ayres earned during WWII: the Air Medal, the Purple Heart and the Good Conduct Medal.

in the next week or 3 weeks... but, of course, I've go that wrote down in her quite a few places. But, of course, I'm still hoping. That's all we can do.

Mar. 28 - 1/3 bread, 1/10 3/4 lb. + 3/4 lb.; and Red lb. marg. Cross, 2-3/15th Pkg. Arrived in camp March (We also got a little soup or 30th, 1945 boiled spuds. Not everyday... Total of all for 53 days = whenever they had time to Bread, 3-3/20th loaf; Marg. get them out and such.)

**Bread, Mar., Red Cross, received on so-called Black March, per man:**

- Feb. 6 - 1/3 loaf bread (1 Red Cross Pkg.)
- ? - 1/4 bread, 1/4 lb. marg.
- ? - 1/10 bread, dab of lard, 1/10 can combeef
- ? - 2/5 bread, 1/5 lb. marg.
- ? - 1/3 bread
- ? - 2/3 bread, 2 lb. marg. per 9 men
- Feb. 22 - 1/3 Red Cross Pkg.
- Mar. 1 - 1 Red Cross Pkg.
- Mar. 18 - 1/5 Red Cross Pkg.
- Mar. 23 - 1/5 bread
- Mar. 24 - 3/5 bread, 1/5 lb. marg.

**This special feature will be continued in upcoming editions of the Lowell Ledger**

## NOTICE VERGENNES TOWNSHIP

### 2020 MEETING SCHEDULE

All meetings are held at the Vergennes Township Hall Board Room, located at 10381 Bailey Dr., Lowell, Michigan at 7 pm. For further information, phone 616-897-5671 or visit the township website at [www.vergennestwp.org](http://www.vergennestwp.org).

**The Vergennes Township Regular Board Meetings for 2020 are scheduled as follows:** January 20, February 17, March 16, April 20, May 18, June 15, July 20, August 17, September 21, October 19, November 16, December 21

**The Planning Commission Meetings for 2020 are scheduled as follows:** January 6, February 3, May 4, August 10, December 7

**The Annual Meeting of the Electors** will be held at 6:30 pm on March 16, prior to the Regular Board Meeting.

**The Zoning Board of Appeals** meets as required or requested.

Heather Hoffman  
Vergennes Township Clerk

## LEGAL NOTICE

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

In the matter of  
**ROSETTA ANDERSON**  
Guardianship File No. 16-199,991-GA  
Conservatorship File No. 16-199,990-CA

**TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS** including children of **ROSETTA ANDERSON**, whose address(es) is/are unknown and whose interest in the matter may be barred or affected by the following:

**TAKE NOTICE:** A hearing will be held on **January 22, 2020, at 10:30 a.m. at Kent**

**Co. Probate Court, 180 Ottawa NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503** before Judge **David M. Murkowski (P35026)** for the following purpose: **Appointment of a Guardian and Conservator.**

**Dated: January 5, 2020**

**Adult Protective Services, DHHS, Petitioner**  
121 Franklin St. NE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49507  
(616) 391-1675

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

# Top 10 Lowell stories of the 2010s

*The Lowell area and its residents have endured many changes, challenges and triumphs over the last decade. These were the most-discussed stories from the past ten years.*

**Jan. 13, 2010**

**Army Sgt. Lucas Beachnaw, age 23, killed in action in Afghanistan**

Lucas Beachnaw, a 2004 Lowell High School graduate, was killed Wednesday, Jan. 13, 2010 by small arms fire in Afghanistan just a few months before he was scheduled to return home in August.

His mother, Jeanne Beachnaw, said he entered the army because it was the right thing to do for his country and the money would help with his future.

"He wanted to go to school," she said. "He went on to the army to serve his country."

He will be remembered for his great sense of humor.

"He was being a happy kid, loving every moment of life," said Jeanne Beachnaw.

Lucas was the baby of the family and he was loved by his two older sisters, Jamie Beachnaw and Terra DeLong.

"He liked being active and having fun," said DeLong. "He loved us, he loved to snowboard, fishing and hunting and motorcycles."

Sister Jamie Beachnaw agreed that Lucas definitely knew how to have a good time.

"He made everybody laugh," Jamie Beachnaw said.

Lucas liked to play with Jamie's daughter Emma. He also liked sushi and Mojitos.

"I will miss everything about him," said Jeanne Beachnaw.

In his memory, Beachnaw's family set up a snowboarding scholarship for students in the Lowell School District. The scholarship is income-based and provides a snowboarding pass, lessons and equipment rental, if needed.

**Sept. 7, 2011**

**Pink Arrow Pride story on NBC's "Today Show"**

The NBC crew will arrive early Friday morning and stay through the football game. While they're here, they will interview players, coaches and community members, including two players who have parents fighting cancer or who died in the fight, as well as a retired football coach who is a cancer survivor and a faithful attendant of the Pink Arrow Pride games.

"We are incredibly thrilled to have received word from the producer of the NBC Today Show that they plan to cover Pink Arrow IV, bringing national attention to this powerful student-led service learning project," said Lowell Area Schools superintendent Greg Pratt.

**Dec. 16, 2011**

**City of Lowell and Lowell Light & Power employees vote to join IBEW union**

This was not the most fun chapter in Lowell's history, but it eventually worked out.

It all started in December 2011 when 13 Lowell public works and LL&P employees voted to join the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers labor union. Negotiations between the city and the union began in February 2012 and broke down immediately.

Yellow signs in support of the workers began appearing in local front yards in July 2012. Negotiations stalled, and the union sued the city for unfair labor practices in April 2013.

The October 2013 decision from the Michigan Employment Relations Commission came in against the city, but the city appealed that decision. Meanwhile,

the workers rejected another contract proposal from the city in April 2014, and negotiations stalled yet again.

They resumed in July 2014. The city eventually lost their appeal of the unfair labor practice charge, and city manager Mark Howe apologized to city residents and the workers in January 2015.

The contract was finally ratified in February 2015. After some upheaval on the city council, that body voted to publicly fire city manager Howe at a city council meeting on Jan. 19, 2016.



**Former Lowell city manager Mark Howe sits in the audience immediately after being publicly fired by the city council on Jan. 19, 2016.**

**July 7, 2013**

**Whites Bridge burned by arsonist**

Whites Bridge, built in 1869, was the oldest covered bridge in the state. It was burned down intentionally on Sunday, July 7, 2013.

Ionia Sheriff Dale Miller said early investigations indicated an accelerant was used to start the fire.

Ionia County Fire Chief Gregg Moore said the fire

was called in about a quarter after 5 am that Sunday. When firefighters arrived on the scene they found no one present and were unable to save the bridge.

Paul Spitzley, highway engineer of the Ionia County Road Commission, said the original bridge was a "complete loss." The wooden bridge, charred and still smoking in some locations days later, collapsed into the Flat River, blocking boat traffic.

The guard rails on land were also burned about five feet down, trees in the surrounding area were lightly singed and the steps down to the river's shore

were burned half a dozen steps up.

The perpetrator of this crime has never been caught. If you have any information about the fire, call the Lowell Police Department.

**Feb. 19, 2014**

**The saga of the Lowell Biodigester**

Promoted initially as "a new chapter in sustainability for the city of Lowell," the biodigester didn't exactly



**Ascene from one of the many, many contentious public meetings about the ill-fated biodigester.**

work out that way. A groundbreaking ceremony took place at the site, 625 Chatham, on Feb. 20 2014, starting of one of the stinkiest chapters in Lowell history.

The idea, hatched in 2011, was to build a waste-to-energy facility that would generate 800kW of renewable energy. It was immediately beset by complaints of foul odors.

"There is no odor outside, either from the burning or from any of the waste that comes in there," former Lowell Light & Power general manager Greg Pierce said in Feb. 2015. "It does smell inside the facility, but you don't smell anything outside."

Greg Northrup, principal of Spart, LLC, the company contracted to run the biodigester, said in September 2015 that "everything is clicking right along."

"During the course of dealing with that solids issue we had too many of those light solids getting into the water cleaning part and that caused a little bit of odor in the neighborhood," SPART's Pam Landes said in September 2015.

"We knew we might have some odors, but the extent of how bad they would be or how significant they might be nobody could predict," Northrup said in September 2015.

Almost a year later, there were still numerous complaints from neighbors about the constant rotten stench emanating from the facility. SPART, who changed their name to LEAD, took steps such as installing carbon filters and flying in special technicians, but to no avail.

Neighbors within sniffing distance of the biodigester included St. Mary Church, Bushnell Elementary School and dozens of homes and businesses, including the home of then-Lowell mayor Jeff Altoft, who lived directly across the street from the biodigester.

The issue came to a head at a two-hour long Lowell

Light & Power board meeting on Wednesday, Aug. 17. The board room at Light & Power headquarters was packed with local residents who said they were fed up with the excruciating stench they had to deal with every minute of every day. They wanted to know why it was taking so long to make the repairs, the technical details of the repairs and to air complaints and grievances.

Tempers flared as residents engaged and challenged Northrup and the Light & Power board.

"Why are we not shutting this down until we have a better idea how to run this facility," one resident asked.

"The neighbors and the community have been very patient about this," said Light & Power board chairman Greg Canfield at the Aug. 17, 2016 meeting.

"This week there's not a lot we can do."

"When this project started we were almost guaranteed that there would be no smell," Altoft said at the Aug. 17, 2016 meeting.

"This has smelled since the day it started. It doesn't matter what smell it is, we didn't sign up to have to live next to this. I voted to let this in, but with the Light & Power board's assurance that it would not smell."

On Monday, Aug. 22, 2016, Lowell police issued the biodigester a nuisance citation for violating section 12.3 of the city charter. To that point, the facility had received 14 of these citations, totaling \$3,900 in fines. The first citation was a \$100 fine, the second a \$200 fine and the rest a \$300 fine.

Many citizens showed up to complain about the biodigester at the city council meeting on Monday, Sept. 12, 2016. Citizens compared the biodigester's stench to a rotting corpse or burning feces and complained of ruined summers, sleepless nights and decreasing property values.

"[The biodigester] has not been functioning as it should and we have been committed to fix it and we remain



**Lowell's annual Pink Arrow Pride events bring the whole town together to support those with cancer and their families.**



# Top 10 Lowell stories of the 2010s

committed to fix it in the way that it should run,” Northrup said at the Sept. 12, 2016 meeting. “It’s just simply not operating properly. That’s obvious to all of us.”

After more public meetings and back and forth between LEAD/SPART, LL&P and the city and an untrue declaration from LEAD that “the smell is gone,” the city issued a seven day notice for the biodigester to cease operating in November 2016. There was a rupture and a leak that month, exacerbating the problems. LEAD continued working on the problems, but their activity at the site ceased by January 2017.

In late May 2018 an agreement between the city, LL&P and Litehouse was finalized that allows the salad dressing company to use the facility to pretreat their wastewater, easing the burden on the city’s water infrastructure.

## Nov. 26, 2014 Lowell Police Department’s “Secret Santa” video goes viral

Last week Rob Bliss was in Lowell playing an elaborate “Secret Santa” game for a television show. “[Bliss] approached me about doing a ‘Secret Santa’ type situation through Lowell,” said Lowell chief of police Steve Bukala. “He was working with ‘Up TV,’ a Christian-based TV station.”

How the game worked was, Bukala was the “spotter,” then one of two other Lowell police officers would make the stop. That’s when the fun started. “Officer Scott VanSolkema or detective Gordy Lauren would stop people for very minor traffic violations that we probably normally wouldn’t have time to do,” Bukala said. “We were stopping people for headlights being out, dangling objects from the mirror, vision obstructions, tinted windows. One lady was stopped for doing 29 in a 25, which is technically speeding but wouldn’t get a second look on a normal day. During the traffic stop officer VanSolkema or detective Lauren’s body camera would capture the interior view of the car. There were low-profile camera men stationed in the area filming it from the outside and as the officer was talking to that person at the traffic stop, they would ask questions like, ‘Well, did you get all your Christmas shopping done?’ or ‘Kids need anything for Christmas?’ We had people from Up TV stationed at Meijer. They would run through the store, grab the item, pay for it, wrap it while driving back from Meijer



In 2014, the Lowell police department teamed up with Rob Bliss to create a “Secret Santa” video.

or whatever store they were buying it from and stick it in the trunk of the officer’s car so that when he got out he could go to the back of the car and get it out and say, ‘Can I put these gifts in your car?’ and they would film peoples’ reactions.”

Bliss and his crew ended up giving thousands of dollars worth of merchandise to dozens of local people.

“We gave away about \$7,800 worth of gifts in two days,” Bukala said. “We figure we stopped between 30 and 40 cars.”

## June 22, 2016 Lowell Township Grand River Riverfront Park North gets \$2.5 million grant

The Grand River Riverfront Park North project in Lowell Township just received a \$2.5 million grant from the State of

Michigan in June 2016. The money was used to build a bridge across the river to Grand River Riverfront Park South.

“We’ve been working with [state senator] Dave Hildenbrand for the last year to get a grant to help us with the park and the bridge project and it worked,” said Lowell Township supervisor Jerry Hale. “We got a \$2.5 million grant from the State of Michigan to help with that project. The bridge alone is going to cost over \$2 million and the total project cost is about \$4 million. This is a big chunk and it really helps us a lot.”

Hale said the timing of the grant will make it possible to complete the park a year earlier than originally planned.

“We’ve had a lot of business people and private citizens who have donated anywhere from \$600 to

\$5,000,” Hale said. “One anonymous local person just donated \$100,000. They all add up. We have also applied to the [Michigan] Department of Natural Resources Trust Fund and the Lowell Community Fund for grants and we’re working with other sources of money too, to get us there. We’re getting a lot closer than we were before this came through.”

This huge project was eventually completed this summer.

## Jan. 4, 2017 Lowell Showboat closed to public

“Keeping the health, safety and welfare of citizens in mind at all times, we have determined that the current Lowell Showboat will be closed to the public starting Jan. 4, 2017,” city manager

Michael Burns and Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce executive director Liz Baker said in a joint press release. “It is our shared belief that the current structure built in 1979 has served us well. It has outlived its expected lifespan. As age takes its toll on the fifth version of the Lowell Showboat, we have to reflect on its ability to continue to serve.”

“It’s a sad day for the residents of Lowell,” Burns said in an interview with the Ledger. “However, the effort being made to restore the boat is positive and will have good impact for the community.”

“The closing of the fifth Lowell Showboat saddens me greatly,” Baker said in an interview with the Ledger. “After all, my career here at the chamber has been focused on this specific boat

for 20 plus years. I spent many hours with the late Ivan Blough working on or planning events around the boat. In 2004 the Lowell Leadership Class chose the Lowell Showboat as their project under the direction of Ivan Blough. At that time they restored the boat to its original grandeur in preparation for its 25th birthday celebration. Since that time we (volunteers) have scrapped, repaired and painted our beloved icon.”

There have actually been five Lowell Showboats over the years. The first boat was a sternwheeler called the “George Washington.” It was built in 1932 by Walter Kauffman and Dave Clark, Sr. It was 60 feet long and was capable of holding 75 people. Its very first passenger was the governor of Michigan at that time, Wilber M. Brucker. Boat number two was the first to use the name “Robert E. Lee” and it was also the first sidewheeler. It was built in 1938 and lasted ten years. It was 60 feet long, held 150 people and was built by C.J. Place. The third boat was built by Ed Laux. It was an 80 foot long sidewheeler. It cost \$8,000 and was kept afloat with 200 oil drums. It could handle 200 people and it was in use from 1948 until 1967. The fourth craft was in use from 1967 until 1978. It cost \$11,000, was kept afloat with 180 oil drums, was 89 feet long and it was built by Walter Graham. On August 19, 1978, a tornado blew through town and smashed it to pieces. A “Refloat the Lowell Showboat” campaign

Continued on page 16



Lowell’s famous Showboat was demolished in 2019. A new one is in the early phases of the construction process.

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Red Arrow

- TOP 10 EVENTS

## SPORTS

## Our favorite LHS sports moments of the decade

by Justin Scott  
contributing reporter

2010-2019 certainly gave us some incredible storylines, teams and student-athletes who walked the halls of Lowell High School. We've put together a list of LHS sports moments that stick out as we move into 2020. These are always fun to write, but no doubt some of the most challenging. Throughout the years, this sports reporter has seen many incredible games, performances, and team achievements. No doubt, there were many incredible moments that did not make the list. That does not mean they were not a great part of LHS sports history. To boil it down to 10 is tough, but here it goes!

### 2014 - Lowell wrestling's criteria State-Championship win

For those in Battle Creek that day, Lowell vs. St. Johns would probably run as one of the most intense sporting events they've been a part of. A match that had everything, Lowell would dethrone the Redwings and start a championship run that to this day still stands. The Redwings, vying for their fifth straight state championship, found themselves down 22-9 before rolling off a 23-6 run to take a 34-28 lead



heading into the final match. Garrett Stehley would dominate his match, forcing his opponent to stall out, tying the dual at 34-34. While the officials went to the books to find out who won the tie-breaker (Lowell would on most six-point wins), the crowd waited anxiously. All other duals were done in Divisions 1, 3, and 4, so all eyes were on Division 2. The referee went out to the center of the mat and pointed to the Lowell bench announcing the winner. Winners for Lowell that day were Lucas Hall, Zeth Dean, Derek Krajewski, Bailey Jack, Stehley, Jordan Hall, and Kanon Dean. It was Lowell's Danny Kruse who avoided a pin, saving a team point, who was another hero of that dual.

### 2017 - Lowell soccer upsets FHN

One of the great finishes the Lowell soccer program has seen, the Red Arrows upset number one ranked Forest Hills Northern on an October night at LHS. With the game tied at 1-1, Lowell cleared a defensive scramble near their own net getting it out to the speedster Ezra Stadt. With just 15 seconds to go, Ezra ran down the field and found his brother Jay who had caught the FHN keeper out of position, burying a long-range shot to sink the #1 ranked Huskies. Lowell's Jonny Draigh also broke the record for goals in a season that night in the first half.

### 2019 - Wrestling breaks record sixth straight State Championship

The Goodrich Martians' wrestling team brought it to the very end. The Arrows jumped out to a 17-0 lead, but the Martians would roar back to tie the dual heading into the final match. Lowell's Jeff Leach hung on for the decision which gave the Lowell wrestling team their sixth straight team state championship. It was the closest state championship match since the 2014 win over St. Johns, highlighted earlier in this list.

### 2017 - Lowell bowling claims first State Championship

The 2016-2017 Lowell boys bowling team was not ranked in the top ten entering the state tournament, but they paid no attention. They nearly didn't make it out of qualifying, however. "After our fourth baker game, our worst of the day, we were sitting in ninth. We were able to string up lots of spares and stuck together to make the cut," senior Landon Smith said after the win. Despite sitting in ninth at one point, Lowell turned it around in qualifying to not only make the cut for the quarterfinals but finished tied third in qualifying, picking up the three seed in the process.

The Red Arrows advanced to their first quarterfinal, semifinal, and state championship match before finishing off Eaton Rapids for their first-ever state championship. Back-to-back appearances the two years before had helped Lowell gain experience for their state championship run. "We had much more confidence going into the tournament this year," added then senior Ben Stewart.

### 2011 - Red Arrow football OT win against Walled Lake Western

The Lowell varsity football team traveled to Central Michigan University on a cold November day in 2011 to face the Walled Lake Western Warriors in the state semifinal. Trailing 32-28, with under a minute to play, then senior quarterback Gabe Dean rolled to his right and found Blake Lyman for a touchdown pass to give Lowell a 35-32 lead. Western would respond as future North Carolina State kicker Kyle Bambard hit a 47-yard field goal to bring the game to overtime. On the first possession of overtime, Lowell would score on a pass from Dean to Lyman again. Lowell's defense rose to the occasion forcing a four-and-out and securing their spot in the state championship game.

### 2019 - Volleyball makes historic run to State Championship game

The Lowell volleyball team captured the town's hearts as they made a march to Battle Creek looking for the program's first-ever state championship. The Lady Arrows survived a gauntlet which included the #5, #4, #3 teams in the state, then the defending state champs, before ultimately falling to the top-ranked team in the state in the state championship match. It was an intense final, that could have gone either way. Exciting several weeks for the town of Lowell!

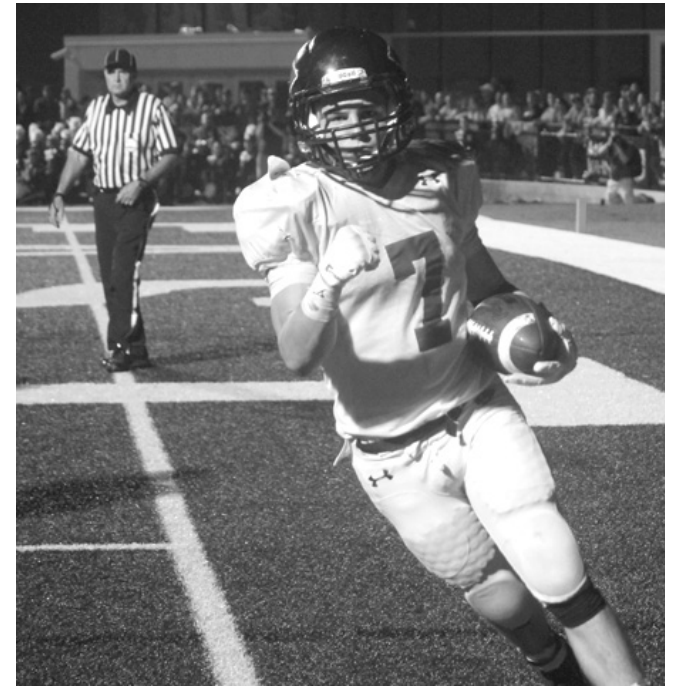


Lowell celebrates their first district title since 2006.

### 2013 - Arrows win four overtime thriller over EGR

There were plenty of football games that could've made this list; two thrilling wins over FHC in 2016, 2010's playoff win over Muskegon, but this one certainly sticks out. It took four overtime's to beat East Grand Rapids on an emotional night at Pioneer Stadium. Both team's fan bases wore pink to honor Katie McIntosh, then EGR head coach (now Hope College football head coach) Pete Stuursma's sister. The

Arrows entered halftime up 15-6. EGR regained the lead, scoring the next 13 points, when Lowell found what felt to be the winner on an 80 yard catch and run by Ben Bigham. With 57 seconds in regulation however, EGR would hit a 21-yard field goal to send the game to overtime. Both teams would



Kanon Dean rolls into the end zone for a touchdown.

miss field goals in the first overtime, then trade touchdowns in the second and third overtime. In the fourth overtime, the Red Arrow defense forced a field goal allowing senior quarterback Kyler Shurlow to hit Kyle Blough for the game-winning touchdown pass. The win also clinched Lowell's 18th straight playoff berth.

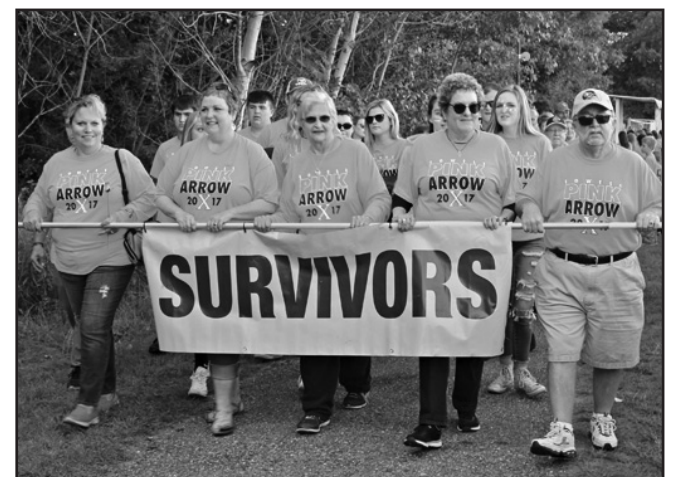
### ALL YEARS - Playing for a cause

Lowell has been competing in cause events for several sports throughout the last decade. These events generally include unique uniforms for the event, while raising money or awareness for a particular cause. The most prominent of which that comes to mind is Pink Arrow which has involved many of the school's fall sports teams over the years, as well as lacrosse in the spring. The basketball and gymnastics teams each hold a Military Tribute night and basketball recently hosted the Hoopin' With The Hollerns event. The hockey team has also hosted purple-out games throughout the decade. These events showcase what a great community Lowell is.

### ALL YEARS - New sports and new success, longtime sports continue longtime success

2010-2019 saw the growth of several new sports at LHS both on a club and varsity sport level, as well as several sports that have continued to take big steps throughout the decade.

- The Lowell Scholastic Shooting team found success which included a national championship.



Top 10, continued next page

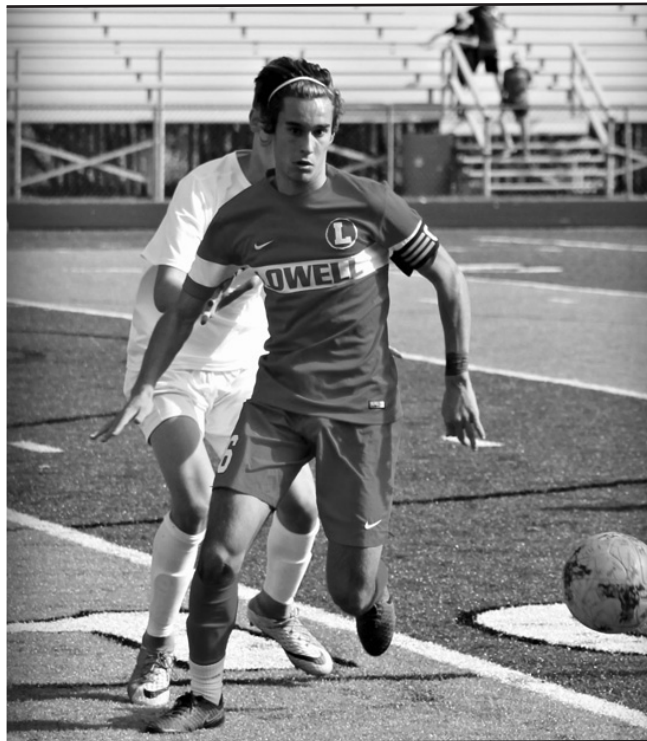
Red Arrow

TOP 10

# SPORTS

## Top 10, continued

- Lowell has co-oped with Caledonia and South Christian to form a boys & girls swim and dive team.
- Boys volleyball had their inaugural season last year under Coach Jordan Drake.
- Girls lacrosse won their first conference championship last year.
- The equestrian team just recently won a state title,



Senior Red Arrow Jay Stadt on the field during the district finals.



Equestrian team after winning the 2019 State title.

- continuing their dominance as one of the best programs in the state.
- Gymnastics as well, has made several team state appearances in recent years.
- The softball team made their first state quarterfinal last year, which also included their first regional championship in a 2-0 win.
- The girls track & field team recently captured back-to-back conference titles
- Baseball has won several conference and district titles over the past decade including an exciting 2-1 win over Rockford in the 2014 district finals behind a Jarrod Melle complete game.

### 2017 - Hockey wins first regional title

An absolute thriller in double overtime in 2017 saw the Lowell Caledonia Hockey team bring home their first-ever regional title in a 2-1 win over Grand Ledge Fowlerville.

LC took the lead in the first period before GLF responded in the second period to knot the game at 1-1. Nate Regan put away the game-winning goal in double overtime to send a packed crowd at Kentwood Ice Arena into a frenzy.



Members of the Lowell gymnastics team in Military leotards.

## Wrestlers take on DCC Invitational

by Justin Scott  
contributing reporter

One of the toughest individual tournaments in the state awaited Lowell wrestling's varsity A team this past Saturday in Novi. The Red Arrows placed fourth in the 22-team tournament with 155 points, behind only nationally-ranked Brighton, Davison and the hosts Detroit Catholic Central.

Nick Korhorn (6th), Zeth Strejc (8th), Dawson Jankowski (8th), Will Link (6th), James Fotis (3rd), Doak Dean (5th), Jacob Lee (5th), Derek Mohr (8th), Jacob Hough (3rd) and Austin Boone (1st) all placed for the Red Arrows. Boone continued his unbeaten start to the season pinning his way through the tournament.

It was another difficult test for the Red Arrows who pride themselves on scheduling the toughest competition the state has to offer. Lowell, who will compete in Division 2 again for the state tournament, got to see how many opponents they could possibly contend with if they are able to make a run at a record

seventh straight team state title. Those teams included Whitehall (7th), DeWitt (8th), Warren Woods-Tower (11th), and St. Johns (13th).

The Lowell wrestling B team scored 268 points en route to winning the St. Louis Invitational. Leading the Red Arrows by taking first in their weight classes were Easton Lyons, Ramsy Mutschler, Dominik Peplinski, Cole Huisman, Carson Crace and Grant

Pratt. It was another impressive tournament win for Lowell B, especially considering they are generally competing against B teams from other schools. Lowell's 268 points bettered second-place Swartz Creek by 79 points.

Also placing for varsity B were: Gabe Hare with a second place; third place finishers were Landon Miller, Josh Meier, Jacob Cutler and

Bryson Vandermeulen; Terrick Stewart and Cole Vandervest finished fourth; AJ Hare and Will Neeley finished fifth in their weight classes and Brady Musser finished sixth.

You can catch Lowell Wrestling in action next Friday and Saturday at home for the Lowell conference quad and the Gary Rivers Memorial Tournament.



Lowell wrestling B after the St. Louis Invitational.

## RED ARROW WINTER SPORTS SCHEDULES

### BOYS VARSITY WRESTLING

\* Denotes a home game

- 1/11 TBA Work at Louisville KY trip
- 1/17 at 6 pm OK White Quad\*

### BOYS VARSITY SWIM & DIVE

- 1/9 at 6 pm at Grand Rapids Union
- 1/23 at 6 pm Mona Shores at Muskegon HS

### GIRLS GYMNASTICS

\* Denotes a home game at LHS

- 1/11 at 9 am Lowell Invitational\*

### GIRLS VARSITY BASKETBALL

\* Denotes a game at LHS main gym

- 1/14 at 7 pm at Forest Hills Northern
- 1/17 at 5:30 pm at Forest Hills Central

### BOYS VARSITY BASKETBALL

\* Denotes a home game at LHS main gym

- 1/14 at 7 pm Forest Hills Northern\*
- 1/17 at 7 pm at Forest Hills Central

### GIRLS COMPETITIVE CHEER

- 1/11 at 12 pm Wyoming Invitational

### BOYS VARSITY HOCKEY

\* Denotes a home game at Kentwood Ice Arena

- 1/11 at 6 pm Portage Northern\*
- 1/17 at 8 pm Kenowa Hills\*

### BOYS & GIRLS BOWLING

\* Denotes a meet at The Bowling Alley - Ionia

- 1/11 at 9 am Lowell Invitational\*
- 1/13 at 3:30 pm Ottawa Hills at Eastbrook Lanes

### BOYS & GIRLS SKIING

All held at Cannonsburg, unless noted

- 1/19 at 4:30 pm Race #1 - SL

# obituaries

## BOELEMA

Bernard P. Boelema age 62, of Alto, passed away unexpectedly at his home on Sunday, January 5, 2020. He is survived by his loving wife, Donna of 32 years; his children, Kelly Chaffee, Karin Chaffee; grandchildren, Jim Swingrum, Noah Lopez-Chaffee, Hailey Cone; sister, Helene (Gary) Kleymeer; and nieces, nephews, and cousins. Bernie was preceded in death by his mother, Jennie Boelema; father, Donald J. Boelema; and stepmother, Dena Boelema. In his spare time, Bernie enjoyed wood working and learning about WWII. He was a member of the 321-fire support group, enjoyed going to estate auctions, and was a true patriot of his country. Relatives and friends may greet the family on Thursday, January 9, from 5-8 PM at Zaagman Memorial Chapel (2800 Burton St. SE) and one-hour prior to the Friday, Jan. 10, 11 am funeral service, from 10-11 am at the chapel. Memorial contributions may be made to the National World War II Museum, 945 Magazine St., New Orleans, LA 70130 (nationalww2museum.org).



## GREINKE

Roseanne Elizabeth (Ritzema) Greinke (December 28, 1956 – January 4, 2020) age 63 of Rockford is survived by her husband of 36 years, Eric; daughter, Anna Wylie; son, Karl Greinke; and a large extended group of family and friends. Roseanne was a graduate of Michigan State University with a Master's Degree in Social Work. She was a therapist to emotionally impaired children and then provided child care from her home of thirty years, often for special needs children. She was also the editor of several literary anthologies and the Contemporary Poetry Series of Presa Press. She was an energetic, loving person whom others found very approachable. She struggled bravely with cancer in the final year of her life and will be deeply missed by those who knew her. Visitation will be 11-12 pm Friday, January 10 with a time of sharing at noon at Roth-Gerst Chapel, 305 N. Hudson, Lowell, MI 49331. Memorial Contributions may be made to American Cancer Society, 129 Jefferson SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49503 or Lacks Cancer Center, 250 Cherry St SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49503.



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## HOFFMAN

William (Bill) F. Hoffman, 81, of Lansdale, PA, went home to be with the Lord on Christmas day, Wednesday, December 25, 2019. He was the husband of the late Bernice (Alderfer) Hoffman for 56 years. Born at home in Alto to the late Freeman and Grace (Dawson) Hoffman and brother of Sue (Lloyd) Miller and the late Larry Hoffman. He was a member at Calvary Baptist Church in Lansdale, PA. Bill graduated from Lowell High School, class of 1956 as Salutatorian. Bill graduated from Kalamazoo College and Temple University. Bill retired from Mereksharp & Dohme in West Point, PA after 43 years as a senior research fellow with a Master's Degree in organic chemistry. During his time at 'Merek' Bill hit a "Scientific home run" by being the first to create the compound that today known as cholesterol-lowering drug Zocor. Bill enjoyed gardening, playing tennis, hunting and traveling to all his grandchildren's sporting events, both high school and college. He is survived by five children, LuAnne (Tom) DeVall, Loren (Trini) Hoffman), Michele (Jim) McCloud, William Hoffman Jr., and Shelia (Tom) Molyneaux; 15 grandchildren, five great-grandchildren; and one sibling, Sue (Lloyd) Miller of Alto.



Donald Vernon King age 88 of Lowell, passed away Monday, January 6, 2020. He was preceded in death by his brother, Lloyd King; sister, Delores Aspinall. Don is survived by his wife of 56 years, Kathy King; sons, Wallace (Sue) King, Joe King; brother, Robert (Gloria) King; grandchildren, Alyssa, Alyson, Arinn and Austin King; brothers and sisters-in-law; and many nieces and nephews. He was a United States Marine and served during the Korean War. Don then worked for General Motors for 37 years before retiring. He loved gardening, bowling of which he took very serious, but his greatest love was his grandchildren. Mass of Christian burial will be 11:00 am Friday, January 10, at St. Robert of Newminster Church, 6477 Ada Dr SE, Ada, MI 49301. Family will receive guests from 10:00-11:00 am for visitation. Rev. Leonard Sudlik presiding. Interment Resurrection Cemetery. In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to Faith Hospice, 2100 Raybrook SE Ste. 300, Grand Rapids, MI 49546.



## KERR

Gloria Mae (Jensen) Kerr, age 93 of Lowell, passed away into the loving arms of our Heavenly Father on January 5, 2020. Gloria was born on January 20, 1926 in McBride, Michigan to Eddie and Margie Jensen. After graduating from Edmore High School in 1944, Gloria took a job in Lansing working as a proof-reader. It was there that she met her best friend and husband of 41 years, Leonard R. Kerr Jr. Gloria and Leonard enjoyed many years of traveling and golfing together. It was ironic that although Leonard was the better golfer, it was Gloria who had 3 holes-in-one. Gloria was a loving, devoted mother and she will be deeply missed by her children, Steve (Terri) Kerr, Pat Kerr, Jeff (Joanie) Kerr; grandchildren, Lesley (Alin) Potroanchenu, Stephen (Kristine) Kerr, Troy (Keri) Kerr; great-grandson, Harrison Kerr; brothers-in-law, Sidney Kerr, Gordon (Char) Kerr; and many nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her loving husband, Leonard Jr.; parents, Eddie Jensen and Margie Cantine; father-in-law, Leonard Sr.; mother-in-law, Ruth Kerr; brother, Lawrence (Mary) Jensen; sister-in-law, Carole Kerr. A memorial service will be held Saturday, January 11, at 11:00 am at the Vergennes United Methodist Church, 10411 Bailey Dr. NE, Lowell, MI. The family will greet relatives and friends beginning at 10:00 am. In lieu of flowers, please either commit to pray for God's intervention for the cure of Dementia and/or send a contribution to Elara Caring of Grand Rapids (Hospice) in Gloria's memory.



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## KING

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## SPENDLOVE

Mary Ellen Spendlove was born September 1, 1948 in Benton Harbor, MI to John Carroll and Margaret Elizabeth (nee Robinson) Howard. She graduated from St. John's Catholic High School in Benton Harbor, Michigan in 1966 and also from Marygrove College in Detroit, Michigan in 1970. Mary Ellen married Timothy John Spendlove on May 23, 1970. She taught at Chesaning Schools for one year, raised a family for sixteen years and then worked for Kinder Kare for twenty years before retirement. During her adult life, she was a member of Sts. Peter & Paul Catholic Church in Saginaw where she volunteered for funeral lunches and taught CCD classes. Mary Ellen resided in Saginaw, MI from 1970 until 2016 when she moved to Lowell, MI. She enjoyed her Irish heritage, casinos, word puzzles, coffee, the Holland cottage, lighthouses, her many, many cousins, Leche League, Ladies golf league, puns and much more. Surviving Mary Ellen are her children, Thomas (Christine) Spendlove II of Frankenmuth, MI, Tracy (Christopher) Nelson of Lowell, MI and Theodore (Traci Clements) Spendlove of Homewood, IL; nine grandchildren, Cassidy, Abby and Zoey Spendlove, Erica, Matthew, Gunnar and Joset Nelson, and Marcus and Lily Trinidad; siblings, Susan (Sandy) Duckworth of Baldwin, MI, John (Karen) Howard of Wisconsin, James (Rose) Howard of Warren, MI; and many nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents, husband, brother Thomas Howard and brother-in-law Edward Duckworth. Visitation will be Thursday, January 9 from 2-4 pm and 6-8 pm at Roth-Gerst Chapel, 305 N. Hudson, Lowell, MI 49331 with a rosary at 7:30 pm. Funeral services will be Friday, January 10 at 11:00 am at St. Mary's Church, 402 Amity St SE, Lowell, MI 49331 with a luncheon to follow. Rev. Aaron Ferris presiding. Memorials may be made to MS foundation 29777 Telegraph Road Suite 1651 Southfield, MI 48034 or CFA foundation 25882 Orchard Lake Rd Suite 102 Farmington Hills, MI 48336.



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misc.

PORK STEAK DINNER - Fri., Jan. 10, 5-7:30 pm. Alto American Legion Post 528. Sunday breakfast, Jan. 12, 8-10:30 am. 6056 Linfield, Alto. Public welcome.

ADOPTION: California couple promises warm, loving home for newborn baby. Secure future, best education. Your living expenses paid. Call Kaye/Ramsey (209) 651-0035 or attorney (310) 663-3467.

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IMMEDIATE OPENING - for a driving route carrier to deliver the Buyers Guide on Saturdays 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.

card of thanks

A note of thanks to the kind stranger who blew out our driveway on New Years Eve just because. Your kindness did not go unnoticed.

## 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 ia an all-ages activity with a focus on the benefits of mindfulness. Together we will engage in the 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 SPORTSMAN'S 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.

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HOCKEY

## SPORTS

## Lowell Caledonia hockey skates to overtime

by Justin Scott  
contributing reporter

Overtime hockey has been called one of the most exciting events in sports. The crowd at Kentwood Ice Arena got to see it, at least for a little while on Friday night. The Lowell Caledonia hockey team fell to the Forest Hills Northern-Forest Hills Eastern (FHNE) co-op team on Friday in the first of their weekend games 3-2 in overtime. The Bird-dogs (FHNE's nickname) were coming off a win over Forest Hills Central, and following the weekend, sat atop the Baum Division standings. They took the

1-0 lead before Lowell Caledonia would equalize off a Drew Klomprens goal assisted by Austin Douma and Zach Schneider. FHNE scored again just two minutes later, heading into the third period up 2-1.

In the third it was Lowell Caledonia who would score on an Owen Carpenter power play goal assisted by Christian Smith and hold off FHNE to force overtime. FHNE gained possession quickly in the extra time period and won the game on a goal 27 seconds into the 8:00 sudden death overtime.

Lowell Caledonia was outshot 33-16 over three periods and overtime. In Saturday's game, Lowell Caledonia fell 4-1 to Hudsonville. Scoring the goal for Lowell was Dylan Olsen with assists from Nick Lockhart and Dominic Huver. The team is next in action on Saturday against Portage Northern.



Defenseman Bruce Langenburg in possession against FHNE.

## High School Journal Club

An important aspect of the day-to-day work of scientists at Van Andel Research Institute (VARI) is to critically evaluate the validity of cutting-edge research. They must be able to work collaboratively to analyze, develop, and communicate creative solutions to

complex problems while maintaining a "healthy skepticism" that keeps them from falling prey to accepting their work, or the work of others, without question. The VARI Journal Club is a process for scientific discourse that provides participants with opportunities to

hone these skills while reviewing current research. In an effort to promote these same skills in youth, Van Andel Education Institute (VAEI) offers a High School Journal Club (HSJC) to students and teachers from multiple Grand Rapids area schools each school year.



MaKenzie Givens, Riley Fuller, Jenner Willard, Sophie Hruska, and Van Andel Institute Scientist Ali Chomiak.

HSJC brings students, their teachers, and scientists together in a forum for scientific discourse. Emulating the practice of VARI scientists, participants learn to collaborate and read, analyze, present, and discuss scientific journal articles in a format that is easily applied in the classroom.

High School Journal Club will:

- Foster interaction between high school students and VARI scientists.
- Connect and build

relationships between like-minded peers.

- Build student capacity to think and act like scientists through scientific discourse.

- Increase student interest in taking higher-level science courses.

- Increase student awareness of careers in science.

There are currently seven schools participating and Lowell High School has the following students in the program: Jenner Willard, Riley Fuller, MaKenzie Givens and Sophie Hruska.

Van Andel Research Institute scientist Ali Chomiak was their mentor and Heather DeJonge is their teacher.

Lowell High School students were the first group to present a current research article on Electronic-cigarette smoke induced lung adenocarcinoma and bladder urothelial hyperplasia in mice.

This is a very relevant topic for students to investigate and communicate to adolescents as the incidence of e-cig use in teens skyrockets.

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or leave a message if you have any questions.

# FUN PAGE

## SUDOKO

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

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!

# CREATIVITY WORD SEARCH

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

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

Puzzle solutions on page 12

- |  |  |  |                                  |
|--|--|--|----------------------------------|
| CREATIVITY<br>WORD SEARCH                                    | CHALLENGING<br>COLLABORATE<br>DESIGN<br>EMERGING<br>EXPERIMENT<br>FRAMEWORK<br>IDEAS<br>INDUSTRY | INFLUENTIAL<br>INNOVATION<br>INVENTION<br>MARKET<br>MODEL<br>PORTFOLIO<br>PROTOTYPES<br>SOFTWARE | SUPPLIES<br>TECHNOLOGY<br>THEORY |
| ARTISTIC<br>BRAINSTORM<br>BREAKTHROUGH<br>BUSINESS<br>CANVAS |  |  |                                  |

## Guess Who?

I am an actor born in Florida on January 6, 1969. I worked as a painter, photographer and video artist before making my film debut in 1997. These days you'll find me battling the undead on a cult TV show.

Answer: Norman Reedus

## WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to organization.

O C E T L S

--	--	--	--	--	--

Answer: Closet

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	

- CLUES ACROSS**
- Beer ingredient
  - Popular FOX TV show
  - Recurring from time to time
  - Criticized severely
  - Musician
  - German urban center
  - Quenched
  - Human gene
  - Indian music
  - Accumulate
  - One who graduated
  - Atomic #109
  - Semitic fertility god
  - Sportscaster Patrick
  - Child's dining accessory
  - Payment (abbr.)
  - Guitarist's tool
  - Dabbling ducks
  - Commercial
  - Style someone's hair
  - Biu-Mandara language
  - Actress Spelling
  - Large hole in the ground
  - One-masted sailboats
  - Tropical Asian plant
  - Concurs
  - Latin term for charity
  - The number below the line in a fraction
  - Reddish browns
  - This (Spanish)
  - Advanced degree
  - Business designation
  - Chinese-American actress Ling
  - Performs on stage
  - Slang for money
  - Large Russian pie
  - The Mount Rushmore State
  - Narrow inlet
  - News organization (abbr.)
  - Scarlett's home
  - Micturates
  - Monetary unit
  - Any customary observance or practice
  - Sons of Poseidon
  - Facilitates grocery shopping
  - Standard operating procedure
  - Former OSS
  - Midway between south and southeast
  - The Wolverine State
- CLUES DOWN**
- Belong to he
  - One time only
  - Parent-teacher groups
  - Puts in place
  - Editing
  - In the course of
  - Helps injured people (abbr.)
  - OJ trial judge
  - Resist authority (slang)
  - Formerly alkenols
  - "Cheers" actress Perlman
  - Jewelled headdress
  - Viking Age poet
  - Vanuatu island
  - Wish harm upon
  - Unit of length
  - Blood type
  - Drain
  - Do-gooders

# Top 10 Lowell stories of the 2010s

raised enough money to build a new boat in 1979. This was, by far, the vessel that was in use the longest. It was a sternwheeler like the original 1932 boat. Based on a showboat at Disneyland, it was designed by Jim Hall and built by Ivan Blough. It was 89 feet long and kept afloat by six barges supplied by the Army Corps of Engineers. It cost \$66,000 to build.

For its first three decades, Showboat performances included a "minstrel show" consisting of a chorus, an interlocutor and endmen. Until 1967, when Louis Armstrong performed, these shows included white people wearing blackface. Those facts along with the boat's name "Robert E. Lee" have resulted in accusations of institutional racism over the years. The "Lee" name was removed in 2017.

There was also a talent contest every year and many amateur entertainers from the Lowell area had the privilege of performing on the Showboat. Of course the Lowell Showboat has also showcased top names in entertainment throughout its existence. Big stars



**The Kent County Youth Fair is moving out of town to the former Deer Run Golf Course.**

who have performed on the Showboat include Armstrong, Bob Newhart, Dinah Shore, Milton Berle, Steve Allen, Jayne Meadows, Ray Stevens, the Everly Brothers, Jerry Reed, Pearl Bailey, the Fifth Dimension, Tammy Wynette, Lawrence Welk, Emmylou Harris, B.J. Thomas, the Smothers Brothers, Ricky Skaggs, Utopia, REO

Speedwagon, Blue Öyster Cult, the Oak Ridge Boys, Marillion, Stevie Ray Vaughan and Loretta Lynn. The Showboat was also a favorite of President Gerald R. Ford, who attended every Showboat performance from 1948 until 1973, one year before he became president.

The first public rebuilding committee meeting was held in January 2017. In June

2017 it was announced that the Showboat received a \$1 million grant from the State of Michigan. A second \$1.3 million grant came through in December 2018. The Showboat was demolished in February 2019, and a new Showboat should take its place this summer.

**June 14, 2017  
KCYF announces move from downtown to former Deer Run Golf Course outside of town**

Starting in 2020 the fairgrounds will move to the former Deer Run Golf Course, 13955 Cascade Rd. SE. The golf course closed its doors in early 2019.

The KCYF's sponsoring organization, the Kent County Youth Agricultural Association, signed a purchase agreement to buy the 140-acre property and convert it into fairgrounds, a meeting center and a campground. The purchase was funded by a \$2.5 million grant from the Michigan Economic Development Corp., contributions from area foundations like the Wege Foundation and the

Chemical Bank Foundation, and donations from private individuals.

"Our announcement today is the culmination of years of work done by volunteers, philanthropists, sponsors and government representatives who all believe in the mission of the fair," said Jon Bieneman, president of the KCYAA. "The fair gives youth a much needed exposure to agriculture and animals that they may never get otherwise. In addition to hosting the youth fair, the fairgrounds also serve as the gathering place for the Lowell community and surrounding area for music festivals, horse shows, autumn market and Christmas marketplace."

The facilities are getting cramped and the fairgrounds keep flooding. These and other concerns caused the fair to look for alternate accommodations.

Deer Run Golf Club was built in 1969 and opened for play in 1973. The KCYF has been held at the 225 S. Hudson fairgrounds since 1934. In 2016, the fairgrounds and the dozens of events held there brought 50,000 visitors to Lowell. KCYF organizers considered leaving the area, but in the end they decided the fair had to stay in Lowell.

**Nov. 28, 2018  
Lowell city council votes to allow recreational marijuana businesses**

Lowell city council took no action at their special meeting on Wednesday, Nov. 28, 2018, thus allowing recreational marijuana businesses to set up shop

within city limits. The council had a Dec. 6 deadline to opt out by passing one of two ordinances that would specifically disallow such businesses.

In the Nov. 6, 2018 election, the majority of Lowell residents voted in favor of Proposal 1, 984 to 689. Public opinion at the meeting was similarly split; out of the 11 people who spoke, seven were in favor of it and one just had a question.

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

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

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

There is currently a recreational marijuana store under construction in the old Family Video store at 1965 W. Main.

See story on page one of this edition of the Lowell Ledger for the most up-to-date details about this.

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