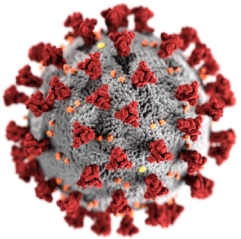


City of Lowell/
Light & Power



page 2

Update from Italy



page 4

Column by
local therapist



page 7

ABC's of
Lowell history



page 6

“Lowell Strong” social distancing scavenger hunt unites community during COVID-19 crisis

by Alantha Owen
contributing reporter

In light of the recent executive orders, “Social Distancing Scavenger Hunts” have begun to show up in neighborhoods and on social media. Residents are decorating their sidewalks with chalk art and placing pictures in their street-facing windows. Communities the world over are sharing pictures of shamrocks, rainbows, Easter eggs, bears, and most frequently, hearts. This is due in large part to a Facebook group called “Heart Hunters.”

Heart Hunters began as a place for people to share pictures of their own scavenger hunts, but has evolved into a stream of uplifting stories that are

working to unite people in these uncertain times.

It seems that Lowell has its own version of the Heart Hunters scavenger hunt taking place downtown. You may have noticed signs featuring hearts and the hashtag #lowellstrong appearing in the windows of merchants on Main Street.

The driving force behind these signs is owner of North Star Antiques, Tonia North. She says it is the result of a community effort. “When Greg Canfield put the large sign on Main Street I wanted to see that grow and make more signs. So, technically, that was the first light bulb.”

North connected with

other members of the Lowell Chamber of Commerce through a Facebook group and suggested that more merchants show their support with heart cutouts in the windows of their businesses.

“After I suggested we get on board, thinking we fill our windows with signs – maybe Burma Shave style or our own – Martha Davis at Taphouse Bo suggested “Lowell Strong” with a heart.”

Things moved quickly from there. North got rolls of paper from the Ledger office and paint from Springrove Variety and began making signs for her store windows by

Lowell Strong, continued, page 3

White’s Bridge Tooling helping manufacture coronavirus test kits

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

White’s Bridge Tooling, 1395 Bowes Rd., has been able to contribute to the containment of the coronavirus outbreak by creating an “automation” required to manufacture COVID-19 test kits.

The company signed a non-disclosure agreement, so they are prohibited from revealing certain details of the project, but company president Pete Odland shared what he was legally able to.

“I can’t say who it’s for or what they’re doing with the 40,000 a week that they produce, but they’re a reputable company so I’m confident they’re going where they need to go,” Odland said.

The company is not producing the test kits, their contribution was to modify an existing robotic automation from its original purpose to the new desperately-needed purpose.

“We built a piece of equipment that was making kind of a similar package, but for an entirely different thing,” Odland said. “It was a pretty high tech system that we designed with a FANUC robot, laser welding equipment and palletizing equipment. They saw the

opportunity for us to help, and they converted the automation that we built over to make test kits for COVID-19. They said they have to run it 24/seven, which is a good thing because that’s producing a lot of test kits, which they badly need out there right now. All we’re really doing, other than originally building the whole thing, is giving them support to make sure that if there are any issues at all, or if the machine goes down, we are there to support them.”

Their shop, like most businesses, was shut down by order, but they had to bring a few people back after some of their customers were deemed “essential.”

“We’ve got a few people back on, because three of our customers have been designated as essential, and they have designated us as essential to them,” Odland said. “It’s kind of cool that we’re considered essential, so we’re doing what we can to help those companies.”

White’s Bridge Tooling has been one of Lowell’s leading high tech companies for over 25 years. They’ve done work with very large companies like Ford and General Motors, and they have machines in operation all over the world, including China, France, Korea and Mexico.

“We design and build high tech automation, like robotics and robotic equipment,” Odland said. “We palletize parts for customers, thousands of parts

a day onto pallets. Whatever the challenge is, we will use robots and technology to design and build automation that achieves whatever their goal is.”

For more information about White’s Bridge Tooling, visit wbtooling.com, call 616-897-4151 or send a message to pete@wbtooling.com.

“Right now people like to hear some positive stuff. They’re tired of negative things,” Odland said.



50¢



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City, LL&P working through coronavirus crisis

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

City offices and Lowell Light & Power have reduced staff and cut office hours, but they are still accessible to the public during the coronavirus pandemic.

“Our whole staff, except for public safety, police and public works, are all working from home,” said Lowell city manager Michael Burns. “We’re all remoting in. I usually go to the office once a day just to check on the police and all that. All of our calls are forwarded to the police, and they funnel them out from there, so we are still answering calls from the public. We have information on the city’s website explaining what’s going on for us right now. If people need help, they can get to us. It might not be as quick as when city offices are open, but we’ll get to them pretty quickly.”

“We were deemed critical infrastructure, so I am still in the office,” said Lowell Light & Power general manager Steve Donkersloot. “Obviously, you can’t not be providing energy! We are committed to providing the same safe, reliable, affordable power for the local community. We have a smaller staff than normal, and we’re still making sure the day-to-day operations and services continue like normal. We’ve made internal staffing changes in response to the virus to make sure we can, to the very best of our ability, continue to do that. The office staff has the ability to use a secure VPN connection to be able to work from home, so we’re rotating when office staff are in. Our office is still open for calls between 8 am and 5 pm, Monday through Friday,



Toilet paper is still a scarce commodity, there was only one package of it left in the Lowell Meijer at 9 am on Tuesday, March 31.

“We don’t want people putting flushable wipes down the toilet, paper towels, Kleenex, all that stuff.”

“The only thing that should be going down the toilet is toilet paper. Our sewer system isn’t equipped to handle excessive amounts of those other things going through the system, and it could cause damage.”

- Lowell city manager Michael Burns

like it normally is. We’ve also staggered our line crews so that certain people aren’t interacting with certain other people. The last thing we would want is for someone to get infected. We recognize that we’re a very important service with so many people at home, and we’re committed to keeping the power on for the residents and businesses.”

Both organizations are still taking payments for water and power services, however they recommend electronic transactions instead of showing up with a check looking for a receipt.

“We are still taking water and utility bill payments, but you don’t necessarily have to come in to city hall,” Burns said. “You can drop it through the dropbox, mail it, or if you want to use the third party credit card service, you can. What I do is just have it come right out of my bank account every month.”

Many people are laid off or out of work, and they

are justifiably concerned about their ability to make upcoming payments. The city said they would work with residents to explore payment options. Light & Power plans to discuss the issue at their next board meeting, currently scheduled for Thursday, April 9. Of course this is subject to change, just like everything else right now.

“Basically, what I’m asking people to do is to contact us and we can set up arrangements for that,” Burns said. “We will work with people if they’re in a bind. The staff hasn’t told me that we’ve gotten any yet, but I’m sure we will pretty soon.”

“I don’t have the authority just to change policy, but the board wants to discuss all things COVID-19 at our April board meeting,” Donkersloot said. “Our board wants to talk about what are we going to do in terms of potential payment plans, disconnects or late

fees. I don’t believe anything was done during the Great Recession. We already offer the ability for someone to pay online via bank account, debit card or credit card, all with zero fees. I never would encourage credit card debt, but in tough times like these, sometimes a zero percent APR card or carrying a small balance is just necessary.”

Both organizations say that there currently are no foreseeable problems with the water and power infrastructure, just as long as nobody flushes any weird stuff down their toilet.

“Our biggest concern is the sewer,” Burns said. “We don’t want people putting flushable wipes down the toilet, paper towels, Kleenex, all that stuff. About two weeks ago, on a Friday night, I was at Walgreens. This was when the toilet paper hoarding started surfacing. The clerk at the Walgreens said to a lady, ‘We don’t have toilet paper, but we’ve got flushable wipes and paper towels and Kleenex,

that’s just as good.’ I was just standing there thinking, ‘No, that is not good! That is very bad!’ The only thing that should be going down the toilet is toilet paper. Our sewer system isn’t equipped to handle excessive amounts of those other things going through the system, and it could cause damage.”

“Over the last 12 months, residential energy consumption for Lowell Light & Power has been approximately 24 percent of our total load,” Donkersloot said. “Now, because of the recent shelter-in-place order, the residential load is up, but at the same time we’re seeing a decrease in the commercial and industrial load. So, yes, you have more residents home using power, but when you offset that with commercial and industrial using the most, it’s actually a net decrease. Residents should feel comforted that we will not have a strain on Lowell Light & Power’s distribution network or system.”

VERGENNES TOWNSHIP PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a public hearing before the Vergennes Township Board will be held at a regular scheduled meeting on Monday, April 20 at 7:00 PM, at the Vergennes Township Hall, located at 10381 Bailey Drive, Lowell, MI to consider a special exception use permit amendment as follows:

David Steinbrecher of the Murray Lake Marina located at 3475 Alden Nash Ave NE has applied for an amendment to the current special exception use permit to construct a 40’ by 60’ addition onto the west back side of the north building #1 for boat maintenance and storage.

The complete application can be reviewed at the Vergennes Township Hall, 10381 Bailey Drive, PO Box 208, Lowell, MI 49331 - Phone: (616) 897-5671 or on the Township Website at www.vergennestwp.org. Written and oral comments will be received from any interested party until the conclusion of the public hearing. Written comments may be addressed to the Township Clerk at the Township Offices. Comments may be emailed to: clerk@vergennestwp.org

Heather Hoffman
Vergennes Township Clerk



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Lowell Strong, continued

hand. Davis reached out to another local business owner, Debbie Seese with Kaleidoscope Laser and had a sign made. Seese was able to produce the signs and offer them to local merchants for \$5 each. The Chamber purchased several signs from Seese, and gifted them to area businesses.

But North doesn't want this to be something

exclusively for businesses, she envisions a movement throughout the community. "While all this was going on I had connected with the Heart Hunter Facebook page and shared the idea that we expand this to individuals, all of Lowell – not just businesses."

Lowell is a community that has a history of coming together in times of adversity. The current

COVID-19 pandemic and executive order to stay at home are no exception. People are reaching out to their neighbors with offers to shop and drop off groceries for vulnerable individuals, offering supplies to those who are no longer able to work, providing meals for students and childcare for essential workers.

A social distancing scavenger hunt is just one way to show our solidarity while we are forced to be apart from those we love. It encourages residents to get outside and reminds us that even though we may be currently isolated, we are far from alone.

North wants to see more homes and businesses locally participating in

the scavenger hunt, "It's important to the spirit and mindset of our community. Folks NEED it! Something positive to do and see!"

Spread some love, Lowell! The Lowell has teamed up with the Englehardt Library to bring you a community-wide scavenger hunt and coloring contest. Simply color the page found in

this edition of the Lowell Ledger and display it in your window. Post a picture of your heart on Facebook and tag both the Englehardt Library and The Lowell Ledger and you will be entered into a drawing to win one of six \$5 gift certificates to Ball's Softee Cream, provided by the Friends of the Englehardt Library.

Lowell Twp Planning Comm. meeting canceled to keep community safe

by Cindy M. Cranmer
contributing reporter

Lowell Township Charter officials canceled a special Planning Commission meeting in an effort to protect community members and keep them safe following announcement of an executive order ordering people to stay home and stay safe.

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer issued an executive order on Monday, March 23 that those in the state should stay home and stay safe unless travel was essential. The order detailed who was an essential employee, where travel was allowed, and other guidelines to try and flatline the ever-increasing number of cases of Coronavirus in Michigan.

While the order was not going into place until early Tuesday, township officials canceled the meeting to

keep the community safe on Monday night.

"Stay home. Stay safe," advised Lowell Township Clerk Monica Burt.

Lowell Charter Township continues to move forward in doing township business amid the coronavirus concerns impacting local communities, Michigan, the United States, and the world. There have been some revisions in how business needs to be done as the township works to keep its employees and township residents safe.

The Lowell Township Planning Commission meeting scheduled for Monday, March 23 will need to be rescheduled. The meeting was to discuss fair details such as regulations and lighting. A public hearing needs to take place after that.

"We have to have a

public hearing reviewing items," Burt has said. No dates have been set for canceled meeting or the public hearing.

"The Planning Commission for March 23, 2020 was canceled and no other meeting is scheduled as of now," Burt said. "Our next regular Board meeting is scheduled for April 20, 2020. If that meeting is held, we will be doing the public hearing for the Highlands at Cumberland Ridge."

"The reason the meetings are cancelled as of now is because of the Governor's order to stay home and stay safe," Burt said. "If we need to have meetings in the near future, we may use teleconferencing options."

The coronavirus pandemic has caused cancelations amid safety concerns. Michigan now

has 3,647 confirmed cases of coronavirus, which is officially known as COVID-19, as of Friday afternoon, March 27. This is a number that is continually rising lately and causes things to change from day-to-day. There is evidence the highly contagious virus is spreading rapidly among people in the state.

Burt said staff is still working, but the office is closed to walk-in transactions. Some staff are working remotely to help with safety and to protect those who are immunocompromised. Attempts are being made to resolve issues through phone or email. There also is a dropbox available to the public.

"We are trying to accommodate requests," Burt said.

Burt said they have looked into options and legalities of meetings utilizing technology. However, while the township did not have the capability to hold the March 16 Lowell Charter

Township Board meeting online, it is looking into options for the future if needed. Teleconference meetings and other options are acceptable through the Open Meetings Act during this time.

The Lowell Charter Township Board meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m. April 20.

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

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Seize the day before the coronavirus goes away

by Tenley Ysseldyke
foreign correspondent

I live in a little borgo (borghetto) in the Italian countryside. It's a clump of houses set in the middle of cornfields, olive groves, vineyards and woods. Across the road from my tiny house there's what I jokingly call a housing complex. It's a big piece of land with a fence around it, and inside are four single-family homes. The grandpa and grandma live alone in one and their three kids live with their families in the others.

My favorite neighbors are Emma (age 9) and Bianca (age 6). Yesterday they were running around the complex in their red rubber boots searching for tiny wildflowers to make a tiny bouquet for their mom. It would have been fun to help them pick, but it's off-limits due to the coronavirus lockdown. They know they have to keep their distance from other people, but wanted to talk anyway. They stayed on their side of the fence and I, certain there'd be no traffic, sat down in the middle of the road on my side.

Emma and Bianca's only comments about the pandemic were that they couldn't wait for the coronavirus (pronounced corona vee-roose) to go away so they could pass that silly gate at the end of their driveway. That's all. There was no need to plug my ears or interrupt the gory details because the coronavirus conversation stopped there.

They told me they had homemade pizza the night before because their mom said that right now they couldn't get carry out. I had frozen pizza (I have no



Tenley Ysseldyke

yeast) for the same reason. They said they couldn't get to sleep because they had watched a scary cartoon (not the scary news) but in the morning their fear had passed (instead of grown). I watched an old DVD of "Dead Poet's Society" (aka "L'attimo Fuggente," which is the Italian translation of the Latin term 'carpe diem,' which in English means 'seize the day').

Emma told me about last night's cartoon and Bianca included the important details like when the giraffe farts (my mom wouldn't let me say that word). When the story was over, I asked Bianca about the hole in her pants. She said it happened climbing a tree, but Emma insisted it was when she fell off her bike trying to ride no-handed. They asked me how to say bici (bike), mazzolino (bouquet) and albero (tree) in English and just to confuse them I asked how to say pizza (pizza) and spaghetti (spaghetti) in Italian.

Important conversations

like these have been lacking in Italy for more than a month. Everyone wants to keep themselves free from the coronavirus, but I'm one of the few trying to keep myself free from the coronavirus news. Friends update me on the important stuff, but if there is news I can live without, I prefer to live without it. It's the only way to keep living.

When the girls were called in for lunch I sat in the road for a few more minutes thinking that we are the only three kids in the borghetto doing our best to live without the virus. Just like Emma and Bianca, I'm waiting for the day that they can pass that silly gate. I'm waiting for the the day it will be unsafe to sit in the middle of the road and the day we can all get back to dangerous stuff like riding no-handed and climbing trees. But until the coronavirus goes away, our only option is to seize the day. And hopefully we've all learned that's what we should have been doing all along.

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viewpoint



125 years ago Lowell Ledger April 5, 1895

The cattlemen are right—the United States should compel Germany and France to inspect all the wines and edibles exported from those countries into this. About two-thirds of the wines would be found defective.

Mary, the 18-year-old daughter of Farmer Dado, near Battle Creek took a dose of paris green, and died in great agony. She wanted to go to a dance and her parents refused the request, and she took the poison just to frighten her people, not expecting that it would prove fatal.

The surgeons, after showing that kidneys and lungs and sections of the alimentary canal can be removed without fatal results, have now demonstrated that a man with a broken neck can be fixed as good as new. The grip, however, is still greater than the entire profession.

100 years ago The Lowell Ledger April 1, 1920

Mrs. J. E. Tower, our faithful Fallasburg correspondent, was called to Grand Rapids by the death of her brother-in-law, Albert G. Stekete, who passed away Monday at his home, 959 Front Street, aged 62. Funeral services were held Wednesday at 10 a.m. Mr. Stekete was a frequent visitor at the Tower home, and had many friends hereabouts.

Lest we forget that on July 22nd, 1918 there were forty-two children in our Juvenile Home; then, we had a fire and the next day, we only had thirty-six children, but there were six little charred bodies, each wrapped in a bed sheet in the back room of a west-side undertaking establishment. All that remained of those six children did not fill a bushel basket.

Earl Smith has moved here from Flint to work in a local factory. Says he can save more here than there. Here's where we laugh at Flint. Come on back home boys, while the coming is good.

75 years The Lowell Ledger April 5, 1945

The first Rotary-sponsored collection of scrap tin was made on Monday and Tuesday of this week. The tin from the east side of the village was collected by a truck donated by the Superior Furniture Co., William

Lee, manager. Their score was 300 pounds. The collection made on the West side was made by a truck donated by C. H. Runciman, and their score was 340 pounds. It would appear from this that the people on the West side are doing better than the people on the East side of town. However, it is believed the Eastsiders will give the Westsiders a good run on the next collection.

Plans are pretty well set for another Prisoner of War Camp in the Sparta area this year. Of course an early termination of the European war might change the whole picture but it isn't going to change the pressing need of farm labor. About 80 growers met at the Klenk Warehouse on Wednesday evening, March 21, and organized the Tri-county Farm Labor Association. President is John Fialeigh, of Casnovia; vice president, Paul Steinhardt of Kent City. The directors are Kenneth Bull, of Bailey, Roy Lowing, of Jenison, Gregor Heitz, of Conklin and Ed Robinette, of Grand Rapids. This group of men will be the acting managers of this association.

The work of installing new, modern machinery in the new 5-story King mill is nearing completion and will soon be in operation. The Ledger is planning to provide its readers with pictures and story of the new sky scraper in the near future.

50 years The Lowell Ledger April 2, 1970

Scuba divers from the Kent County Sheriff's Department recovered two rifles and a pistol from the Thornapple River late Tuesday and were scheduled to return in search of additional stolen weapons Wednesday. Detective Richard Williams said the guns reportedly were taken from the Chas. Kay residence on Thornapple River Drive late last fall and dumped into the river at 48th Street near Whitneyville Road. Deputies John Goodspeed and John Verike retrieved the guns.

Next Monday's general city election is not expected to produce any unusual developments...but the annual organizational meeting that follows could bring about some fireworks. This was the consensus of most veteran political observers who anticipate that newcomer Dr. Herbert R. Mueller will join incumbents Carlen Anderson and Mrs. Virginia Myers in filling three available seats on the city council.

25 years The Lowell Ledger April 5, 1995

In just her fifth day as Kent county District Library director, Claudya Muller expressed her excitement for the project. "It is an impressive project and will be a fantastic addition to the city," she said. "Building a new library shows a commitment to the future and a recognition by its residents that a community is ongoing."

Defense attorney James Dimitriou was disappointed and surprised following the jury's verdict in the case of the State vs. Terry Kinsley. Kinsley, the former business manager for 13 years, was found guilty in six of the 27 charges of attaining money under false pretenses.

Lowell's Todd Molag was the winner of Blimpie's Dr. Pepper Mountain Bike. Blimpie customers were able to register for the bike with each visit to the sub and salad shop. The contest was over a two-month period.

outdoors

wild turkeys

Dave Stegehuis

Fall is considered the time of harvest when the majority of hunting seasons occur. It's not over yet. Thousands of Michigan residents and out of state visitors will hunt the eastern wild turkey this spring.

By the beginning of last century wild turkeys disappeared from the state landscape. In 1950 turkeys were reintroduced in a few suitable habitat locations. In 1965 a limited turkey hunting season introduced a whole new hunting experience. Today more than 200,000 birds are found in most regions across the state. The reintroduction of the wild turkey is a great example of successful wildlife conservation.

Turkeys are very tough and resourceful creatures. The wild turkey was a candidate for our national symbol. Of course, the bald eagle eventually won the honor of representing our country. Michigan turkeys face long winters with below freezing temperatures and deep snow. Food becomes scarce, but the turkeys have found ways to locate a variety of food sources which include nuts, berries, insects, and leftover agriculture crops. All the while the birds must stay alert for predators such as hawks and coyotes. The birds can fly up and roost in trees to limit risk.

Spring turkey hunting occurs at a time when comfortable weather conditions invites us to enjoy time in the woods and fields. It is a great way to introduce new hunters to the hunting lifestyle. Because of the availability of birds and the challenges presented, hunting turkeys is second only to deer in popularity with Michigan hunters.

Turkeys don't care who you are. The birds are alert, cautious, and have excellent eyesight. They can easily detect movement or something out of place. If a turkey could scent like a deer, they would be extremely difficult to hunt. The advantage for those who hunt turkeys is that during the spring breeding season the large colorful birds become aggressive, bold and loud and can sometimes be drawn into range using the call of a gobbling tom or hen yelp in conjunction with turkey decoys. Hunting turkeys provides the challenge and excitement of a big game hunt.

Turkey seasons are managed by designated areas and specific dates and locations. Application is required for most seasons. Over the counter licenses are available for some portions of the state. Observing and hunting wild turkeys is another reason to get outdoors in Michigan.

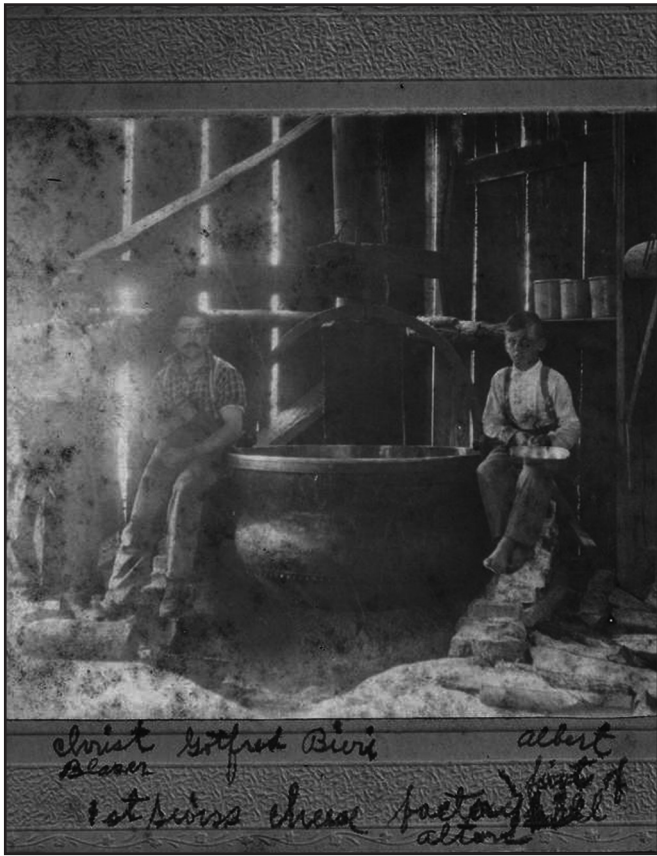
We love to hear from you!

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.

The ABC's of Lowell History *Courtesy of The Lowell Area Historical Museum*



Alton Cheese Factory. Photo provided by Lowell Area Historical Museum.

The Lowell Area Historical Museum is introducing a new weekly feature to explore local history. During this time of closed museums, LAHM wants to still be able to share the area's history with you. The ABC's of Lowell's history begins with Alton, located just north of Lowell in Vergennes Township.

and a picket mill (1890). There were various other blacksmiths over the years, and at one time there were 3 operating blacksmiths.

During the late 1880s and early 90s, a large population of Swiss immigrants with family names such as Blaser, Wittenbach, Wingeier, Farhni, Bieri, Reusser, and Kropf settled near Alton greatly influencing the culture, language, and lifestyle of the village. Some Swiss contributions included a Swiss band and several cheese making operations.

The demise of Alton as a commercial center began in 1900 when the railroad from Lowell to Belding was built, and the depot was located one mile from Alton on the John O. Wingeier farm instead of half mile north of Alton. Most businesses closed and moved to Moseley, the exceptions being the church, cemetery, and the mill. The post office closed in 1909.

church building was erected in 1868, when the Alton Community Church was built and used by Vergennes Christian Church and Wesleyan Methodists on alternate Sundays. Later, the Swiss settlers also used the church during the week for Revivals and meetings.

In 1865, a grist mill, with dam and millpond, was built by Chester Church and Harry Porter which although it changed hands many times was operated until 1932. A general store was built and operated by Solomon Unger at the same time. In 1870, Edmund Ring began his "Ringville" businesses with a sawmill, a carriage shop (1878), a blacksmith shop (1884), a rake factory (1889),

A is for Alton

Alton was settled in 1839 when the Keeney and Godfrey families moved in. Other Godfrey relatives soon followed so that the first known name was "The Godfrey Settlement."

A small log school was built that same year and Elder Newcomb Godfrey preached Sunday sermons beginning in a barn. The



Alton Grist Mill. Photo provided by Lowell Area Historical Museum.

Discovering that land was more fertile south of the Grand River, farmers such as the Wingeiers moved to Bowne Township in 1905. They held cattle drives driving their cattle 14 miles through Lowell every spring and fall because they used their Vergennes Township farm for pasture for their young stock. In those days there were fences along the roads so cattle could be easily controlled.

To see future selections connect with the Lowell Area Historical Museum on Facebook, Instagram or Twitter.



Alton General Store. Photo provided by Lowell Area Historical Museum.

IT improvements to meet unprecedented demand for government services

The Michigan Department of Technology, Management & Budget continues to make improvements to the secure login application that provides access to many state online services, MILogin, to adjust for the rapid increase in demand for online services. Adding capacity to the system, managing the number of concurrent sessions, and continuous improvements to the infrastructure will improve the ability for residents to complete transactions during this time of unprecedented need.

"The state has never experienced an emergency

of this magnitude that simultaneously increases the need for services while lessening the ability for personal connections," said State Chief Information Officer and Acting DTMB Director Brom Stibitz. "We are asking for patience in the face of this unprecedented crisis while we are working around the clock to make it easier to complete online transactions."

MILogin is the single-sign-on portal to access critical state services that have seen a sharp increase in transactions during the COVID-19 pandemic. Keeping social distance and complying with Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's executive order to stay home and stay safe, Michigan residents have turned to online options to renew driver's licenses, apply for unemployment benefits, receive food assistance, and much more at a higher volume than ever before.

Before March, the average number of hourly transactions maintained around 5,000. Yesterday, MILogin processed approximately 25,000 transactions per hour, but more capacity is still needed to meet the current demand. MILogin is the state of Michigan Identity Management solution that allows users the ability to access many state services and systems online, across multiple departments, using a single user ID and password. For more information, visit Michigan.gov/MILogin.

HIGHLANDS AT CUMBERLAND RIDGE CONDOMINIUMS

Lowell Township, MI

COMING SOON



Live the Life You Want: Mood Management

by Melissa Spino
Life Transitions Therapy, LLC

Previously, I shared information on stress, anxiety, and anxiety disorders. Now I want to focus on mood management, which can include stress, anxiety, sadness, feelings of isolation, helplessness, and depression. During this time of COVID-19 social distancing mandates, it may be more difficult to manage these types of feelings, especially without access to our usual coping tools. So, I want to share some information that will hopefully help you manage your mood and feelings of distress.

While social distancing is required to help halt the spread of this virus, it is in opposition to our basic need for connection with other people. This connection to others not only soothes our nervous system, but also strengthens our body's defenses to stress. The forced separation due to COVID-19 may increase distress, anxiety, and other mood issues as each of us become more focused on ourselves and the "perceived threats" around us.

What Can You Do?

There are number of things you can do to cope with distress and manage your mood in healthy ways, while still observing social

distancing. Below are some suggestions you can try.

- Reach Out - connect with friends and family by phone or email. Share your concerns and feelings with people you trust.
- Video Chat - there are many no-cost to low-cost apps such as FaceTime, Skype, WhatsApp, Duo, and Facebook Messenger that you can use to video chat with a group of friends or family.
- Play boardgames with those living in your household or online games with others.
- Play with your pet(s).
- Participate in Physical Activity - many gyms are offering free virtual fitness coaching and exercise videos, including Gold's Gym and Planet Fitness. Work out in your home using existing equipment. Stream a fitness or dance video on YouTube. Please be sure you are healthy enough for the type of activity you choose.
- Go for a walk, bike ride, hike, or jog. Again, be sure you are healthy enough for the type of activity you choose. Nature is a great way to decrease stress, anxiety, and improve your mood.
- Do some gardening - this is my personal "go to" for mood management.
- Practice deep breathing, using an app or

online video. There are lots of free options available.

- View free classes on mindfulness and meditation through The Chopra Center, Kripalu, Shambhala Mountain Center, and other retreat centers' websites.
- Writing - journal, write lyrics or poetry.
- Read or listen to a book for enjoyment. If you have a library card you can use your phone, computer, tablet and even some smart televisions with Hoopla or the Cloud Library and check out books or audio books for free. Some free movies are even available.
- Listen to music.

Depending on your mood you can listen to something uplifting or calming.

- Try art or crafts - do one you enjoy or try something new.
- Cook a healthy meal or make a special treat. You can even experiment with something new.
- Take an online class or watch an instructional video through EdX, Coursera, or YouTube.
- Watch a Ted Talk (one you find interesting and uplifting, not stressful or sad).
- Watch fun videos - search for funny clips, comedy clips, cute or funny

animal videos. YouTube has thousands.

- Attend free online virtual museum tours, free live streams of concerts (including the Metropolitan Opera), and other entertainment.
- Start a project you have been putting off such as reorganizing a room in your home, paint a room, or complete a DIY project.
- Focus on Your Spirituality - attend services through streaming services and online videos.

There are many creative options for mood management you just need to find one or more that work

for you. If one doesn't work try another until you find one that helps. This article is not meant to diagnose or provide any type of treatment but hopefully will help you get through this difficult time.

If you are having difficulty regulating your mood and it interferes with your daily activities it may be time to contact a professional. Many therapists and doctors are offering video conferencing during this time of social distancing so you can still receive needed care. If you experience a mental health crisis be sure to call 911. I hope everyone stays safe and healthy during this trying time.

Today's historic birthdays

- | | | | |
|--|--|---|---|
| 1815: Otto Von Bismarck, chancellor of Germany | 1920: Toshiro Mifune, actor | 1948: Jimmy Cliff, reggae musician | 1973: Rachel Maddow, journalist, author |
| 1873: Sergei Rachmaninoff, pianist, composer | 1921: Arthur "Guitar Boogie" Smith, guitarist | 1949: Gil Scott-Heron, singer/songwriter | 1980: Randy Orton, WWE wrestler |
| 1883: Lon Chaney, actor | 1927: Amos Milburn, singer/songwriter, pianist | 1952: Annette O'Toole, actor | 1980: Bijou Phillips, actor, model |
| 1895: Alberta Hunter, singer/songwriter | 1932: Debbie Reynolds, actor, singer | 1955: Terry Nichols, criminal | 1982: Taran Killam, "Saturday Night Live" cast member |
| 1908: Abraham Maslow, psychologist | 1939: Ali MacGraw, actor | 1958: D. Boon, singer/songwriter, The Minutemen | 1995: Logan Paul, Youtuber |
| 1909: Eddy Duchin, pianist, bandleader | 1939: Phil Niekro, baseball player | 1961: Susan Boyle, singer | |

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Apply online at laurelsofkent.com or call 616-897-8473



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP BOARD

The Lowell Charter Township Board will hold a Public Hearing to consider a request from CRP-2 LLC for major amendments to the Cumberland Ridge Open Space Planned Unit Development (OS-PUD) Zoning District which was originally approved in 2005. The requested major amendments are:

- 1) To construct 54 condominium dwelling units on the remaining undeveloped portion of the OS-PUD instead of the 63 units allowed in the 2005 approval.
- 2) To construct these dwelling units on slabs instead of on full basements as required in the 2005 approval.

ADDRESS AND GENERAL LOCATION: 1416 Cumberland Avenue SE which is on the west side of Cumberland Avenue and north of Center Hill Street within the existing Cumberland Ridge Condominium development. PP #: 41-20-05-276-001.

The hearing will be held:

WHEN: MONDAY, APRIL 20, 2020

TIME: 7:00 P.M.

**WHERE: LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP HALL
2910 ALDEN NASH AVENUE SE
LOWELL, MI 49331**

Information on the proposed request is available for review at the Lowell Charter Township Offices, 2910 Alden Nash Avenue, SE, Lowell, MI 49331 during normal office hours on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday or by calling 897-7600.

Monica Burt, Clerk
Lowell Charter Township

HEALTH

M METRO HEALTH

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN HEALTH

Johnathan G. Meier, D.O. Laura E. Kass, PA-C
 Wayne A. Christenson, D.O. Kaili M. Walker, PA-C
 Tracy L. Lixie, D.O. Alexandria Clum, PA-C
 Catherine S. Smith, NP-C

happy birthday



- APRIL 1**
 Christopher Vollink, Doug Klahn, Alexandra Denny McClure, Kurt Moore, Wernet.
- APRIL 2**
 Kyle Geldersma, Ron Metternick, Alec Newhouse, Chris Rittersdorf, Blake Bergy, Nicole Wilcox, Alex Hazard.
- APRIL 3**
 Hayleigh Borton, Jamie Barnes, Darwin Lambert.
- APRIL 4**
 Troy Pethers, Nick Corbeil, Janet Kelley.
- APRIL 5**
 Doug Klahn, Alexandra Moore.
- APRIL 6**
 Brad Yonker, Connie Vaughn, Malley Cahoon, Carol Hovinga, Fran Clouser, Cheryl Foster, Taylor Milstead, Jonathon Hoag.
- APRIL 7**
 Corey Vollink, Rick Sauber, Lindsey Thaler, Mary Kimble, Kenneth Dalga, John Henderson, Brad Shoen.

Social Security and household workers

Do you plan to pay a cleaning person, cook, gardener, babysitter, or other household worker at least \$2,200 in 2020? This amount includes any cash you pay for your household employee's transportation, meals, and housing. If you will pay at least \$2,200 to one person, you have some additional financial responsibilities.

To learn more about credits, see "How your household worker earns credits for Social Security" below. Generally, people need 10 years of work to qualify for:

- Retirement benefits (as early as age 62).
- Disability benefits for the worker and the worker's dependents.
- Survivors benefits coverage.

- osteoporosis prevention

Women are more at risk for osteoporosis than men. This is in part due to already having a lower bone density than men and losing our estrogen, which is a protective factor on our bones, as we age. About half of women age 50 and older will break a bone due to osteoporosis. So what can we do to prevent it?

For females 50 and older, the daily recommendation for calcium intake is 1,200 mg total daily dose. This may be obtained through diet, or through supplements. Vitamin D is also an important supplement that helps to absorb calcium and support our bones. For those younger than age 70, 600 international units (IU's) of Vitamin D is recommended daily. If you are older than age 70, 800 IU's daily is recommended. This supplement can vary in Michigan with many of us being deficient or

already having osteopenia or osteoporosis. If you have been told you have one of these conditions, you will likely be told to take more vitamin D than these amounts.

Weight bearing exercise and resistance exercises are recommended three to four days a week to help build muscle mass, which also promotes bone health. It is also important to quit smoking if you are a smoker, limit alcohol intake, maintain a healthy body weight, and eat a well balanced diet.

Screening for osteoporosis is recommended at age 65. However, screening may be indicated sooner based on other risk factors such as regular steroid use, family history of osteoporosis, or low body weight. If you think that you should be screened for osteoporosis, be sure to bring this up with your healthcare provider.

college news

The Alma College Registrar's Office is pleased to announce that Katelyn Bush has completed the requirements for an academic degree(s) during 2019. Several students also earned graduation honors, awarded in three levels, recognizing outstanding academic achievement.

The highest honor, summa cum laude, is given to students who have achieved a 3.8 grade point average (GPA); magna cum laude honors are awarded to students who have achieved a 3.6 GPA, and cum laude honors require an achievement of 3.4 GPA. In addition to graduate honors.

Katelyn Bush, of Lowell, received a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree in nursing.



When you pay at least \$2,200 in wages to a household worker, you must do all of the following:

- Deduct Social Security and Medicare taxes from those wages.
- Pay these taxes to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS).
- Report the wages to Social Security.

For every \$2,200 in wages, most household employees earn credits toward Social Security benefits and Medicare

for the worker's family.

- Medicare benefits.

You can learn more about reporting household worker income at www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10021.pdf.

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

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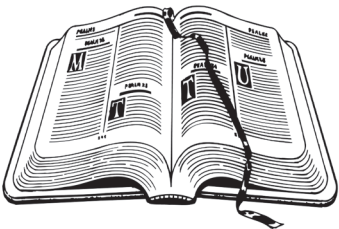
All offers require credit qualification, 24 month commitment with early termination fee and auto-pay. Prices include Hopper Duo for qualifying customers. Hopper, Hopper wi/Sling or Hopper 3 \$5/mo. more. Upfront fees may apply based on credit qualification.

Card of Thanks

The family of Irene Doane would like to say how much we appreciated all the cards and condolences for our mother, grandmother and great-grandmother.

Support the Local Businesses Who Help Support Our Community!

area churches



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 103 Bluewater Highway (Missouri Synod)
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www.goodshepherdlowell.org

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 Sunday School..... 9:15 AM

Joseph Fremer, Pastor **897-8307**
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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
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Pastor Alyssa Anten
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 Pastor Jon Pickens • Lead Pastor
 Pastor Andrew Bolkcom • Pastor of Discipleship
 Christi Swain • Director of Children's Ministries

SUNDAY WORSHIP.....9:30 AM (Nursery provided)
LIFE GROUPS11:00 AM (Nursery-Adult)
Awana (K-5 during school year) **Wednesday, 6:15 PM**

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

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

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

help wanted

TRAILER MECHANIC WANTED - Position available for a trailer mechanic. Job responsibilities include maintaining a fleet of flatbed and dump trailers by completing preventative maintenance requirements, aluminum & steel welding & fabricating, paint & electrical, and keeping records. Candidate should be capable of operating various types of heavy equipment. CDL not required. Some experience or education required. 40 hrs/week plus overtime and full benefits. Please apply in person at Timpson Transport; 3175 Segwun Ave. Lowell, MI 49331 Monday-Friday from 8 am - 5 pm. Or email resume to Info@TimpsonTransport.com or fax to 616-897-5905.

TRUCK DRIVERS WANTED - Multiple positions available for truck drivers. Must have Class A CDL and clear driving record. Hauling sand, topsoil and other similar products. Lowboy, dump, flatbed and heavy equipment experience preferred. Progressive pay scale, bonuses, and full benefits including health, 401k with match, and life insurance. Dental & vision also available. Apply in person at Timpson Transport; 3175 Segwun Ave. Lowell, MI 49331. Monday - Friday 8 am - 5 pm. Or email resume to Info@TimpsonTransport.com or fax to (616) 897-5905.

for rent

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

PRICELESS STORAGE - Indoor/outdoor. New Units on Alden Nash, 1 mile South of 196. Call for specials 558-2900. TFN

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

misc.

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

THE LOWELL LEDGER
 No longer accepts Federal Express packages at our office.

misc.

ALTOAMERICAN LEGION - No dinners or breakfasts until reopen.

ADOPTION: Couple seeking to adopt a baby to join our family. Expenses Paid. Call/text Morgan and Brian (929) 336-1555 or visit morganbrianadopting.com.

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services

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

services

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PROFESSIONAL TREE CLIMBER NEEDS WORK - Call Dan, 616-970-3832.

services

STUMP GRINDING - Call Dan for free estimate, 616-970-3832.

NEED A DUMPSTER? - Dumpster rental, 10-20 yards. Mention this ad for \$10 to \$20 off. Call or text Doug for estimates at 616-295-6640. TFN

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

services

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wanted

I WANT TO BUY - a refrigerator, stove, washer & dryer. Have cash. Call 517-204-0600. TFN

CITY OF LOWELL

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR THE PURCHASE AND DEVELOPMENT OF CITY OF LOWELL LIGHT & POWER-OWNED PROPERTY

The City of Lowell is seeking proposals for the purchase and development of a City-owned parcel of property consisting of approximately 0.10 acres with an approximately 1,800 square foot building (commonly called the Line Shack Building) located at 115 Riverside Drive in the City.


Any proposal for the purchase of the property must include a plan for development of the property. A restaurant or retail complex has been identified as the desired use of the property, however, the City is willing to consider other uses. Any use will likely require zoning approvals and rezoning.

A responsive proposal shall include the offered purchase price (the City is required to sell the property at its fair market value), identification of development partners and development team, identification of similar projects developer has developed, the proposed use or uses and related approximate square footages, a drawing or sketch of the proposed development, estimated total investment and job creation, any economic development incentives being requested and an estimated timeline for completion of the development.

If selected, prior to the purchase of the property, the developer, will be required to enter into a purchase and development agreement with the City to include but not be limited to, provisions related to submission of plans and specifications for review and acceptance by City, the details of any economic development incentives requested, development milestones, and performance requirements including financing.

It will be the responsibility of the proposer to become familiar with the property including zoning requirements and to review environmental studies related to the property which are available for review at City Hall. Sealed proposals marked "FORMER LINE SHACK REDEVELOPMENT RFP - CITY OF LOWELL" must be received by the Lowell City Clerk on or before 11:00 a.m., local time, on June 1, 2020, at the City Clerk's Office, 301 E Main St, Lowell, MI 49331 in the City.

The City reserves the right to accept or reject any proposal and may negotiate the terms of purchase with one or more proposers. The selected proposal must be approved by the City Council.



Any questions regarding this request should be addressed to Mike Burns, City Manager at 616-897-8457.

Mike Burns
City Manager



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77% of readers acted on a newspaper ad in the last month.

* Statistics published by the Newspaper Association of America from independent researchers.

obituaries

CLARK

Daniel Ray Clark, of Lowell, passed away on March 8, 2020 at his home. Danny was preceded in death by his mother, Doris Miller and father, Clifford Clark. He is survived by his daughter, Catina Clark of Hastings; his grandchildren, Kelsea (Donnie) Johnson of Hastings, Katie (Joey) Pawloski of Freeport, and Kortney (Brandon) McCulfor of Rochester Hills; also by his two great-grandchildren, Audri Johnson and Eloise Pawloski; his three brothers, Dale Clark of Revere, MO, David (Donna) Clark of Montrose, IA, and Michael (Barb) Clark of Kahoka, MO. Danny was born in Quincy, IL on August 31, 1949.



He graduated high school in 1967 and joined the army where he served in South Korea. Danny moved to Michigan in 1970 and settled in Lowell in 1975, he retired from Amway in 2014 where he worked for over 30 years. He enjoyed fishing, camping, snowmobiling, tinkering on cars, motorcycles and tractors, he also enjoyed airplanes and flying and spending time with his friends and family. In honor of Danny's memory, his friends and family will be having a "Celebration of Life" at a date to be determined. Feel free to reach out to Tina Smelker at tinasmelker@gmail.com for information.

•••

It's not always necessary to be strong, but to feel strong.
- Jon Krakauer, *Into the Wild*

DECATOR

Eleanor J. DeCator, age 91, of Lowell, passed away peacefully on March 25th, 2020. Eleanor was born on January 4th, 1929 in Grand Rapids, Michigan. She was the devoted wife of World War II Veteran Darl L. DeCator for 63 years. Eleanor was a loving mother and grandmother, skilled homemaker and an avid crafter who enjoyed sewing and quilting. Eleanor was preceded in death by her husband, as well as her sons, Denny and Dean DeCator; siblings, Edith Hondorp, Don Hondorp, Robert Hondorp, Edward Hondorp, Anne Burger and Harriet Thompson. Her heritage lives on through her son, Drake (Lesley) DeCator of Florida, DeLyn (Billy) Goforth of Washington and Don DeCatur also of Washington state; grandchildren, Darl (Jill), Dina, Ellie, Reid, Connor, Kayla and Hailey; great-grandchildren, Devin (Kyle), Cassandra (Rocky), Maria, Olivia, Isaac and Alexis; and great-great grandchildren, Willet, Greta, Zaden, Taven, Savannah, Trae and Arianna. A memorial service will be held at the 1st Presbyterian Church of Gaylord, Michigan this summer when travel restrictions have been lifted. "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted." - Matthew 5:4



LOCKERY

Thomas Lockery, age 62 of Lowell, formally of Tucson, Arizona, was received into heaven Saturday, March 28, 2020. He was preceded in death by his parents, Chuck & Dorothy Lockery; sisters, Debbie Wence & Kathy Vickers. Thomas is survived by his wife, Kimberly of 41 years; children, Karen Herrera & Kristopher Lockery; grandchildren, Lester Jr., Kadeam, Xavion, DeMari & Julianna. Thomas was a wonderful family man who loved spoiling his wife and spending time with his family. He enjoyed collecting model cars and drinking RC Cola. His family and friends mourn his loss and celebrate his life. God bless you, Thomas Lockery. Memorial contributions may be made to American Cancer Society, PO Box 22478, Oklahoma City, OK 73123 or to his wife Kimberly for his expenses. Private services were held by the family.



Health Department issues additional public health recommendations

Strict compliance with this guidance is critical in preventing the spread of COVID-19 in places frequented by employees and residents

Kent County Health Department Director, Dr. Adam London, has issued recommendations for Kent County residents and businesses identified as critical service providers by the state of Michigan.

shall quarantine themselves at home for a period of 14 days since the date of last contact with the ill person.

- People should avoid public playground equipment and other physical features that promote common touch point experiences. We strongly recommend that owners and operators of public playground equipment place signs or



These recommendations are designed to ensure that critical infrastructure workers are able to carry out normal operations while keeping themselves and the community safe:

- People with fever of 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or greater and coughing unrelated to a chronic lung condition need to stay home until they are free of fever – without the aid of a fever-suppressant – for at least 72 hours and at least 7 days have passed since the symptoms began.

- Employers providing critical services exempt from the Governor's Executive Order should take reasonable measures to space patrons and employees at least 6 feet apart, disinfect common touch points, and require ill employees to stay home.

- Persons knowingly exposed with close contact to an individual positively diagnosed with COVID-19

other notices discouraging use of the equipment. If possible, we recommend closing public access to such equipment.

Nothing in these recommendations are meant to limit the operations of first responders and healthcare institutions, which may be mitigating risk in other ways while providing the most essential of services.

While this guidance does not fall under the umbrella of a public health order, the Kent County Health Department is asking all Kent County individuals and businesses identified as critical service providers to comply. It is imperative that individuals and critical service businesses understand that their compliance, or non-compliance, with the above recommendations will have a direct impact on the community spread of the COVID-19 virus.

HOW TO CONTACT YOUR STATE SENATORS & REPRESENTATIVES

US Sen. Debbie Stabenow
Senate Office Building
731 Hart
Washington, DC 20510
202-224-4822
stabenow.senate.gov

US Sen. Gary C. Peters
Senate Office Building
724 Hart
Washington, DC 20510
202-224-6221
peters.senate.gov

US Rep. Justin Amash
House Office Building
114 Cannon
Washington, DC 20515
202-225-3831
amash.house.gov

Mich. Sen. Winnie Brinks
PO Box 30036
Lansing, MI 48909
517-373-1801
senwbrinks@senate.michigan.gov
senatedems.com/brinks

Mich. Rep. Thomas A. Albert
N-1190 House Office Building
PO Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909
517-373-0846
thomas@votealbert.com
gophouse.org/representatives/westmi/albert



The Lowell Rotary Club

is accepting grant applications from local non-profit organizations seeking financial assistance with projects. Grant eligibility requirements and the grant application can be found at our website www.lowellrotary.org if you have any questions email us at info@lowellrotary.org. The deadline for applying is April 8th.

MEMORIAL ALTERNATIVES

Direct Cremation - \$1,195
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www.memorialalternatives.com

UIA offers update on unemployment system, provides tips to get help as soon as possible

On Thursday, March 26, the State of Michigan's Unemployment Insurance Agency provided updated information for workers affected by COVID-19. Workers are encouraged to apply online at Michigan.gov/UIA or over the phone at 866-500-0017, but due to the tremendous call volume, certain callers may receive a busy signal.

"The UIA is working hard and fast to handle the influx of applications for unemployment benefits

resulting in busy signals for some callers, so the UIA is urging patience and recommending that workers go first to the online system at Michigan.gov/UIA."

In addition, applying online in off-peak hours will expedite the process. The 24-hour website operates faster when there are fewer people on the site at any given time. The UIA also urges Michiganders using the website to expect longer load times. It may take several minutes for a page

and current challenges due to COVID-19. Checking the website for answers may help alleviate pressure on the phone line. A downloadable handout on the filing process can be found here.

"Though it is best to file your claim as efficiently as possible, and we understand residents are eager to receive their checks quickly, the UIA wants to remind Michiganders that the eligibility window to apply has been increased from 14 to 28 days from the date

Sick workers: Workers who are sick, quarantined, or immunocompromised and who do not have access to paid family and medical leave or are laid off.

Workers caring for loved ones: Workers who have an unanticipated family care responsibility, including those who have childcare responsibilities due to school closures, or those who are

forced to care for loved ones who become ill and who do not have access to paid family and medical leave or are laid off.

The governor's order also extends access to benefits for unemployed workers:

Increased Weeks: Benefits will be increased from 20 to up to 26 weeks.

Longer application

time: The application eligibility period will be increased from 14 to 28 days.

Fewer requirements: The in-person registration and work search requirements will be suspended.



Unemployment Insurance Agency

as we deal with the COVID-19 crisis. While an unprecedented number of calls and clicks has challenged the system, particularly during peak hours, we want to assure Michiganders that the system is providing emergency financial relief," said UIA Director Steve Gray. "Our website may be operating a little slower, and phone queues are full

to load at this time. Users are asked to be patient and not click more than once to reload a page. Filing online remains the fastest way for Michiganders to apply for unemployment benefits.

Off-peak hours are 8 pm until 8 am.

Applicants with questions can also access information on the website Michigan.gov/UIA, including frequently asked questions about the process

of their work stoppage," added Gray. "The UIA is shifting as many resources as possible to handle the increase in applications and is exploring further solutions to help Michiganders get the assistance they need as soon as possible. We appreciate your patience during this unprecedented time."

Gov. Whitmer signed Executive Order 2020-10 on March 16, 2020 to expand unemployment benefits to eligible workers:



Dear Reader,

When Gov. Gretchen Whitmer issued an executive order last week to "Stay Home, Stay Safe" that ordered the temporary closure of non-critical businesses in Michigan, it sent a sick sensation throughout our local business community.

The mandated statewide shutdown of businesses, schools, churches, community organizations and government is a huge blow for all of us. It's especially difficult for small businesses that have been holding on to employees in an effort to make it through these difficult times.

It is estimated that these local businesses put back in our local economy nearly 70 percent of each dollar they take in. Plus, these retailers, restaurants and service businesses are essential to the "placemaking" in our downtowns. These are the businesses that also are called upon every day to support so many local projects and fundraisers that make our community special.

Like all our customers, we are taking the situation one day at a time; trying to adjust to changes that we have little or no control over.

Community journalism - with the emphasis on community - is what we do and we've been doing successfully for more than 80 years.

Our family of publications provides our readers with news and information about the communities we serve -- information you can't get anywhere else.

And, unlike the many other news outlets in the area, we've got feet on the street and we're paying attention to what's going on.

Our publications provide you with the local news, sports, local advertising, legal notices, obituaries and more in a consistent package 52 weeks a year. We're doing everything we can to hang on during these difficult times.

We hope our regular advertisers will continue to advertise and those who are closed for business will return as soon as possible. We invite people to celebrate the good things going on with support ads that highlight the positives here.

We salute those in our community such as police, fire, medical personnel and more who work on the front lines to keep our community safe.

We pray for those who may have contracted this illness or are hurting in some way. Remember, we're all in this together and, together, we will get through it.

From all of us at J-Ad Graphics



NEWSPAPERS the **ledger**

Outperform Direct Mail in Michigan

Newspapers are the preferred source of coupons over direct mail.

82% of consumers use coupons received through newspaper inserts¹

33% of Michigan adults prefer receiving coupons from direct mail.²

Michiganians depend on newspapers for advertising inserts²

Michigan consumers prefer to receive advertising inserts in printed newspapers – higher than those who prefer to receive them through direct mail²

Michigan adults make more purchases as the result of newspaper ads than direct mail.²

79% Eight in 10 newspaper readers took action as a result of reading a newspaper ad in the past 30 days⁴

17.2% of adults made a purchase in the past 90 days as the result of a direct mail flyer²

Direct mail lacks the **effective reach** of newspaper advertising.

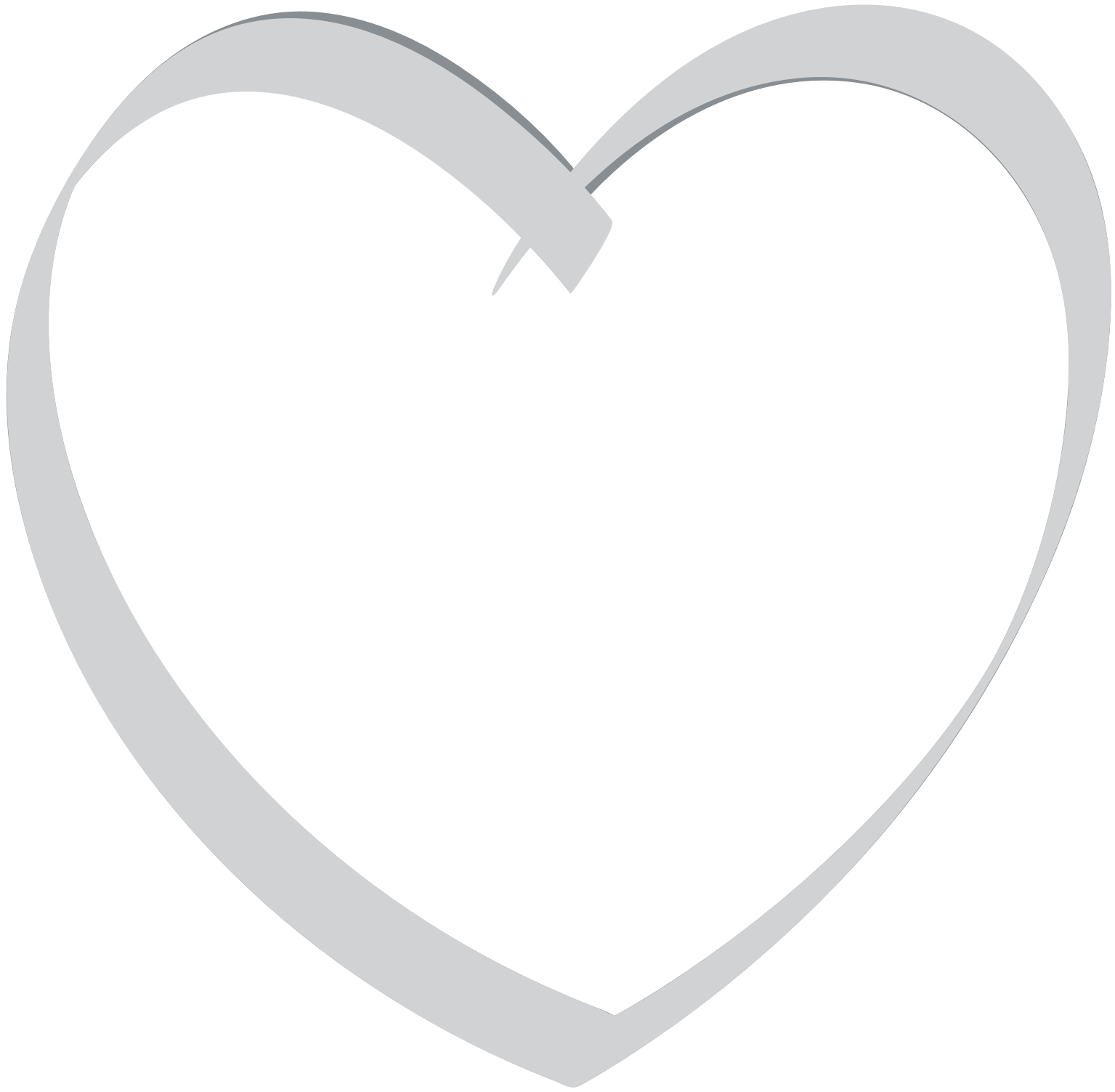
86% of adults look at newspaper inserts to get the best deals³

72% of Michigan adults never bought anything as the result of a direct mail piece²

50% of Michigan adults did not buy anything as the result of a direct mail piece in the past year²

Sources: ¹2K17 Valassis Coupon Intelligence Report; ²2017 Release 2 Nielsen Scarborough Report. Copyright 2018 Scarborough Research. All rights reserved; ³Triad/Coda Ventures Insert Study; ⁴NAA; ⁵Pulse of America 2018

LOWELL
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Shop Local

Support Your Community

Spread some love, Lowell! The Lowell Ledger has teamed up with the Englehardt Library to bring you a community-wide scavenger hunt and coloring contest. Simply color this page and display it in your window. Post a picture of your heart on Facebook and tag both the Englehardt Library and The Lowell Ledger and you will be entered into a drawing to win one of six \$5 gift certificates to Ball's Softee Cream, provided by the Friends of the Englehardt Library. Winners will be drawn April 13.