

Lowell history



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Keeping kids busy



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Glendon Swarthout



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Lowell sportswear manufacturer Addix shifts production to face masks

by Justin Scott
contributing reporter

The coronavirus pandemic has caused a dramatic shift in the way many companies run throughout the country. One such company that has been forced to reconfigure their entire operations and product lines over the past few weeks can be found right here in Lowell.

Typically known for their custom designed sports uniforms and team apparel, Sports Addix has switched their production almost entirely to face masks to meet the surge in demand.

With the cancellation of sports leagues around the country, demand for uniforms and sports apparel plummeted, forcing Addix to retool their operations to manufacture masks which provide a first layer of defense against airborne particles. It was in an early March discussion with a customer who advised that Addix should get into protective face gear that the idea was born.

Addix CEO Steve Dean states, "It was pretty clear to me and the Addix team that we had to adapt or face the risk of potentially shuttering the factory given the precipitous drop-off in sports apparel orders. I



St. Louis, MI police officers wearing their Addix "thin blue line" face masks.

couldn't have anticipated the overnight demand for masks to the extent that it did. The introduction of our face mask was coincidentally timed with the CDC relaxation of guidelines as they began to

advocate for bandanas and scarves given the shortage in N-95 respirators."

The masks, made of micro-polyester are designed, printed, cut, and sewn in the Addix production facility

located on Grand River Drive south of town. The Center for Disease Control announced this weekend that cloth masks, such as ones Addix produces, are now being recommended

for public settings where social distancing measures are difficult to maintain, such as grocery stores and other essential gathering

Addix, continued, page 3

Whites Bridge construction almost finished

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

Despite the coronavirus lockdown, construction of the new Whites Bridge replica is nearing completion. Work is allowed to continue because the bridge has been deemed critical infrastructure by MDOT.

"We're getting close. They are finishing up. It's close to being done," said Tom Byle, Kent County Road Commission assistant director of engineering and Whites Bridge Historical Society president. "They're pretty much wrapped up and they're cleaning up their mess. I was there last Thursday, and they were putting the shingles on the roof. There were some leftover siding boards and some leftover cedar shingles, they're going to load those up and take them

to the Ionia County Road Commission for their use in the future. They also have to put the guardrails back up. My guess is it will be completed within days, but I don't know exactly how long it will take."

Fire retardant has been applied to the bridge so that it cannot be burned down again. They had to wait to apply the chemicals until the weather got a little warmer.

"The fire retardant is temperature-dependent, it has to be 45 degrees or above outside," Byle said. "It's not just air temperature dependent. They've got an infrared thermometer, and if the timbers on the inside or in the shade are still at 38 degrees, they can't apply it. They're going to start putting the fire retardant on Friday, but I don't know

how long it will take them. They've got to do the roof, the undersides, all the exposed areas."

The bridge was scheduled to open in July with a special ceremony, but public gatherings are suspended for the immediate future.

"I'm very disappointed that we can't have a ribbon cutting," Byle said. "We might have one someday. Now we're just going to pick up the machinery and clear the site, and the bridge will be open."

Whites Bridge was built across the Flat River in 1869. It stood for 144 years until an arsonist burned it down on July 7, 2013. The perpetrator of this crime has never been caught. If you have any information about the fire, call the Lowell Police Department.



50¢



Graduation, prom, summer school, etc. still up in the air

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

The schools may be closed, but with figuring out how to handle the end of this school year and somehow prepare for the next, Lowell Area Schools staff members have plenty to keep them busy and plenty to worry about.

“We’re doing social distancing, so most of our staff are working from home” said Lowell Area Schools superintendent Greg Pratt. “I’m the only one in the building today. I don’t know how you feel, but I miss everybody! It’s not easy. I think a big stress on society right now is the idea that we’re unable to get out and meet people and talk to people, whether they are old friends or new personalities. It is a scary time, and I’m trying to follow all the rules. We’re doing our best, that’s all we can do.”

One theory in the media recently was that students might be able to finish the school year during the

summer when the virus is dormant. Summertime is also when popular elementary reading and math programs take place, plus remedial summer school classes. All of this is up in the air right now.

“We haven’t really made it far enough to think about what we’re going to do this summer,” Pratt said. “We typically run elementary reading and math programs in the summer. I think if we’re given the green light by the governor to do that, we probably would continue those programs. But as of right now I’m not certain that we’ll be allowed to open our buildings to do that.”

Staff are also working to find ways to hold the traditional coming-of-age events like graduation and prom.

“Graduation is a big question that people have, and we have made no determination on that,” Pratt said. “We would definitely

like to do something when we’re able to. The seniors have worked really hard, so we want to honor them, but it’s just too early to tell if that’s something we’ll have to delay, or what might happen.”

Another concern for districts across the state is funding. Most of the budget comes from sales tax, and if drastically fewer people are out buying stuff, there will be a drastic reduction in sales tax revenue.

“I would say that somewhere around the neighborhood of 75 percent

of our revenue comes from sales tax, so we’re very concerned about the budget for next year,” Pratt said. “My expectation would be that there would be no increase at minimum and more than likely a pro-ration, which would be very difficult for the schools. We were actually planning to be in the red this year. Part of that is due to the construction with a preschool. We have to, obviously, go back and amend our budget, take a look at it. We’ll know more, probably in a month or two,

on where the budget lands for this year and next.”

Their most pressing concern at this time is complying with the governor’s mandate that they come up with a plan to finish out this school year.

“What we’re looking at right now is putting together the continuing education plan that Gov. Whitmer has asked school districts to do,” Pratt said. “That would get us through the regular [2019-2020] school year.”

Lowell author’s 102nd birthday

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

Lowell author Glendon Swarthout was born 102 years ago today, on April 8, 1918.

Swarthout graduated with the LHS class of 1935 and was the Lowell Ledger’s foreign correspondent during World War II. He published 16 novels and one short story collection during his 40 year career as an author. Among his many awards were the O. Henry Prize in 1960, a gold medal from the National Society of Arts and Letters in 1972, the Owen Wister Lifetime Achievement Award from the Western Writers of America in 1991 and was inducted into the Western Writers Hall of Fame in 2008. Seven of Swarthout’s novels were turned into films with plenty of big name actors such as Gary Cooper, Rita Hayworth, John Wayne, Lauren Bacall, Ron Howard, James Stewart, Tommy Lee Jones, Hilary Swank and Meryl Streep. Swarthout passed away from emphysema at his home in Arizona on Sept. 23, 1992, age 74.

Swarthout’s novel ‘Welcome to Thebes’ caused quite a stir locally when it was first published in the early 1960s. The novel was the story of an alcoholic author who loses his publishing deal. Broke, desperate and angry, he returns to his childhood hometown in Michigan

and begins dredging up skeletons about the local gentry. The novel is a work of fiction, but Swarthout used Lowell as a template for the setting and parts of the book were clearly based on real incidents, businesses and people. Swarthout heavily fictionalized all of it, but not enough for local residents, who were insulted by the town’s portrayal and offended by the prolific use of profanity. There were letters to the editor about it in the Ledger for years after the novel’s publication.

The home Swarthout grew up in at 403 N. Washington still stands and was restored by Lowell businessman and city councilor Greg Canfield in the 1980s.

“I did live in his old house for 28 years,” Canfield said in an email to the Ledger. “I read ‘Welcome to Thebes’ 25 years ago and found details in the book that matched details in the home. [...] In the book it talked about the lady of the house out singing on the balcony, which was there, and it talked about the yellow forsythia bush on the corner, which was there. That’s about it, as I remember.”

They are out of print so copies may be hard to find, but Swarthout’s novels “Loveland” and “The Melodeon” were also set in Lowell.

26th Annual Lowell Area Crop Walk



This year marks the 26th Lowell Area Crop Walk and it will be a walk like none before. This year because of health concerns, the 2020 Lowell Area Crop Walk will be a virtual Crop Walk and will take place on May 3, 2020. This means that we will not have an organized group walk but encourage everyone to walk on their own on May 3.

The walk raises money for Church World Services to help fight hunger worldwide. Typically, the walk is 5 kilometer (3.1 miles) which represents the approximated average distance walked for water in underdeveloped countries. But of course, you can walk whatever distance you want.

Many area churches have been involved in the Crop Walk in last few years including: Bowne Center United Methodist Church; Calvary Christian Reformed; First Congregational Church; Good Shepherd Lutheran Church; Lowell United Methodist Church and Vergennes United Methodist Church.

The total amount raised over the previous 25 years of the Lowell Area Crop Walk is more than \$400,000. Of the money raised, 25% of it stays in the Lowell Area and helps both the Flat River Outreach Ministries and the Lowell Senior Neighbors program.

If you would like to join us for our virtual walk and/or donate, we encourage you to go to crophungerwalk.org/lowellmi for more information or to make a donation. If you have questions you can contact Paul Benjamin at 616-481-2906 or you can email him at paulbenjamin@gmail.com.

CITY OF LOWELL REQUEST FOR BIDS

The City of Lowell is accepting sealed bid proposals from individual General Contractors to provide management of construction of the interior of the Lowell Showboat.

Sealed bid proposals should be sent to:
City of Lowell
Attn: City Clerk
301 E. Main St.
Lowell, MI 49331

All bid proposals must be received by **Monday June 1, 2020 at 11:00 AM**, after which time no further bids will be accepted, and at which time the bids received will be publicly opened and read. All bids must be in a sealed envelope identifying the item being bid as **“Lowell Showboat General Contractor”**.

To receive bid specifications, please contact our Project Manager, Jim Van Overloop at 616-299-2905 and/or jimvo1950@yahoo.com.

The City reserves the right to reject any and/or all proposals received, waive informalities, or accept any proposal it deems to be in the City’s best interests. The City is not obligated to accept the lowest bid or bids.

The City is not obligated to reimburse responding Vendors for any expenses incurred in preparing or submitting proposals in response to this request, nor is the City responsible for such expenses. All such expenses are solely the responsibility of the Vendor.



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Addix, continued



Addix graphic designer Dan Curtis helping to sew face mask binding at the Addix production facility on Friday, April 3.

points. The company states the face masks they produce are not to be confused with the N-95 respirator mask which are in extremely high demand in hospitals around the country. N-95 respirator masks are currently being advised not to be worn by the public. “The cloth face coverings recommended are not surgical masks or N-95 respirators. N-95’s are critical supplies that must continue to be reserved for healthcare workers and other medical first responders.” according to the CDC’s website.

Several organizations and groups have been in talks with Addix about masks, one of which is the St. Louis Police Department in Michigan.

“With the nationwide shortage of N95 masks, many medical professionals and first responders do not have face masks to help prevent or slow the spread of the COVID-19 virus. The St. Louis Police Department is no different. We have a very small supply of masks and when they are gone, we do not know when we will be able to get any more. Addix sports apparel has stepped up and shifted their production from making

sports apparel for our local high school teams to making face masks to help slow the spread of the COVID-19 virus. With so many unknowns on the availability of equipment in the days to come, I ordered a mask for each of our officers. Something is better than nothing,” St. Louis Police Department Chief Richard Ramereiz stated on Facebook.

Brian Hackney, a former police officer and current Addix Account Manager who worked with the St. Louis Police Department is proud his company is able to help first responders.

“I’ve been lucky enough to have two careers that I love. I was a police officer for 7 years and now am working with Addix in a business development role. Being able to provide a service to lifelong friends within the law enforcement community so that they can protect themselves in a time of need is a privilege,” Hackney shared.

With the company making personal protective equipment, they are considered an essential business in the state of Michigan. This allows Addix to continue to

produce masks under Michigan executive order Paragraphs 8(a) and 8(j) Number 2020-21, which went into effect on March 24.

The Addix team stepped up to implement appropriate safety measures to ensure the safety of their workers. This includes thorough Concrobium disinfection of the facility on a weekly basis, movement to online orders only, and non-production employees working remotely from home. Each work cell is equipped with a bleach solution and each associate is responsible for wiping down their station at the start and at the finish of their shift. Addix has provided their employees with bottles of bleach to take home and to bring back for refills to support their family members while at home. And of course, each member of the Addix team is wearing the Addix mask in the factory at all times.

“We are doing everything that we can to create a clean and safe workplace. Frequently cleaning common areas and workstations as well as weekly Concrobium treatments for the whole facility. We are also

purchasing hand sanitizer from a local distillery by the gallon,” Justin Craig, Addix’ Vice President of Supply Chain Operations mentions.

The business has focused on keeping mask cost as low as possible, while keeping their production team working during these challenging times. The company is also focused on giving back as the need for masks in the area grows. So far they have donated to The Laurels of Kent nursing and rehabilitation center in Lowell, Green Acres of Lowell, and are donating 10% of mask sales to United Way’s COVID-19 Community Response and Recovery Fund. Beyond the radius of Lowell, Addix has donated 1000’s of masks to people and organizations in need.

“Addix is happy to have the ability to donate masks to those in need. We are working hard as a company to bring stability to our employees’ lives as well as those in our community during these uncertain times,” Addix Vice President of Sales and Marketing Kyle Bergman told us.

Local residents may recognize Addix gear, who has made uniforms for several Lowell sports teams over the past few years. Their unique sublimation process that makes their sports uniforms stand out also has been applied to their mask selection. The company is offering masks with fun designs such as emojis, forest animals, USA flag themed masks, as well as simple black or white masks as well. The company

employs 40+ workers, many from the greater Lowell area, and they look forward to returning to the sports apparel business sooner than later.

“I share in everyone’s hopes and sentiments that this insidious virus is behind us sooner than later” says Dean. “For now, we are working hard to meet the ever increasing need for masks for our customers. We’re also launching a Polycarbonate face shield later this week as we only see the need for protective face equipment to be on the rise. The Addix team is pleased that we can do our part to help during the COVID-19 crisis.”

Masks can be found at addixgear.com and take 1-3 business days from the time of ordering to be shipped out.



Addix account manager Matt Dood helping work the company’s laser cutter as it cuts out micro polyester masks.

Yep we cover Business



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Sealed with an Italian kiss

by Tenley Ysseldyke
foreign correspondent

The last time I measured, one meter was about three feet. Although the metric system never caught on in the States, that's one that stuck with me in third grade. I memorized that three feet was a yard, and I could visualize a yardstick. Now that I live in Italy I just visualize yardsticks when someone talks about meters and I'm all set. And if I run out of yardsticks I switch to football fields.

Learning the temperature in Celsius was also on my third grade teacher's list of things to teach, but all I remember is that 32 in one system equals zero in the other. That's a hard one to compute because when the temp hits 0 degrees Celsius, Italians complain about the cold, and for this Chicagoan it's a balmy 32.

Most Italians talk more about their body temperature than the air temperature, so I've found a new helpful conversion. A healthy American is 98.6 degrees Fahrenheit and a healthy Italian is 37 degrees Celsius. The only difference is that when a temperature in Fahrenheit goes up a little, Americans continue their day and still feel healthy. But as the Celsius numbers climb, Italians stop everything because they're sick. Of course all of this was before the coronavirus. It doesn't care if you're imperial or metric. Rising mercury means panic in both languages.

My Italian vocabulary increased with Covid 19 (pronounced co-veed diciannove) but fortunately some words are similar or adopted from English. Italians have been using English words for a long time. Some of my favorites are weekend (weekend), shopping (shopping) (secondhand, of course) and picnic (picnic)... all words that we haven't used in Italy for a month. Now the English word that's making



Italian headlines is lockdown (lockdown). (Note to self... use this on the next "which word is different?" test. Weekend, shopping, picnic, lockdown.)

For several weeks using 'lockdown' to describe the situation in Italy to my American friends was met with no objection. But when the coronavirus caught a flight to the US and I welcomed friends into the lockdown I was corrected and told their current status was 'safer-at-home.' The next day with a different friend I politely used the new term, but was corrected once again. His state was 'stay-at-home.' There seemed to be a friendly competition in titles and I understood that no one wanted to be 'sheltering-in-place.'

Emails from two friends in Michigan in quarantine were a bit alarming until I continued reading about their neighborhood walks and trips to the grocery store. In Italian being in quarantena means that you are sick or you've been exposed to someone sick and grocery shopping and walks are forbidden. I think it means the same in English, but I teach my Italian students, not my American friends.

I'm doing my best to avoid quarantena, but I'm embracing the lockdown

(seeing that I can't embrace anything else) and don't need a kinder, gentler term like 'stay-at-home.' What would you rather say 10 years from now, "Remember the 2020 Lockdown?" or "Remember the 2020 Safer-At-Home?" And I'm already practicing, "I made this giant rug out of old sweaters when I was on lockdown," and "I learned this Bach piece on lockdown." I think it has a nice ring to it.

We found out yesterday that Italians will be safer-at-home until April 13, which gives me enough time to double check the metric system. The math doesn't add up on social distancing. Italian laws say one meter while in America it's six feet. What happened to one meter equals a yardstick equals three feet? Have I been miscalculating since third grade or does the coronavirus respect cultural differences? Two yardsticks would be nearly impossible in a country where "It's nice to meet you" is sealed with a kiss.

Tenley Ysseldyke graduated from Lowell High School in 1983. Until Italy was shut down for the coronavirus pandemic, she was working as an English teacher there. Read more at <http://10leaves.blogspot.com/>

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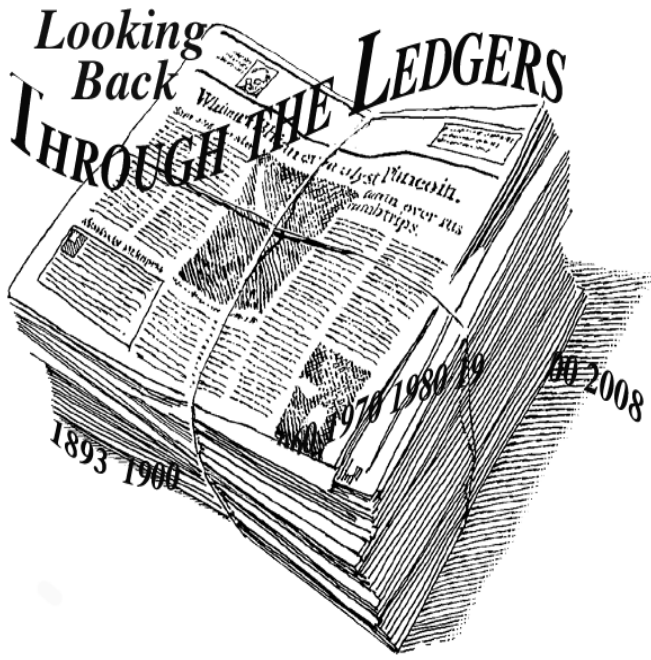
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viewpoint



125 years ago Lowell Ledger April 12, 1895

Frank Kimball, who was arrested charged with breaking into Mrs. Young's house in Potterville and assaulting her and demanding money, has been identified as Rodney Frisby, who escaped from the asylum for insane criminals at Ionia last November.

The practical defeat of the income tax law is unfortunate. To our mind, it is one of the most just laws imaginable. Great wealth demands a proportionate amount of governmental protection. Without such protection, property would be valueless. When riot and rebellion threaten wealth, the strong arm of the law is stretched out to protect and save. Why should not wealthy men pay for the support of the government in proportion to the protection they receive?

Miss Lucy Whitney, aged 19, Metamora, O., but attending school at Blissfield, left to attend teachers' examination at Adrian. Instead, she purchased a ticket for Detroit. Her father received a letter saying farewell forever, as she would never return home.

100 years ago The Lowell Ledger April 8, 1920

Silk valued at \$20,000 being shipped from the Belding silk mills to eastern cities was stolen from a freight car on the Elmdale siding early Friday morning, according to a report received at the offices of the Pere Marquette railroad police here. The silk was in eight large cases, the robbers carting the loot away in a motortruck. Other merchandise in the car was not taken. Members of the railroad detective force in Detroit are working with the Grand Rapids detectives in an effort to locate the goods and capture the thieves.

James R. Buchanan, a former old resident of Lowell, died of pneumonia, Thursday, April 1, at 1009 Lake Drive, Grand Rapids, aged 85 years, 6 months, and 19 days. Private funeral services were held at Metcalf's chapel, Friday; burial at Oakwood cemetery, Lowell.

A light vote was cast at the Lowell township election, owing to heavy fall of snow in Sunday's storm. A goodly proportion of the 520 ballots were cast by women; and the only woman candidate; Mrs. Maude McNaughton, for treasurer on the Republican ticket, was chivalrously given the largest vote, 424; and Frank N. White was next with 408 for the clerk.

75 years The Lowell Ledger April 12, 1945

About 300 men from Kent county draft boards went to Detroit last Saturday by special train where they underwent their physical examination for induction in military service. Among those from Lowell, who passed the exam were the following: Carrol Potter, Richard Rutherford, J. B. Hawk, Darrel Swanson and Harold F. Jefferies. There were doubtless others from this vicinity but we have been unable to get their names.

The explosion of a 3-burner oil stove in the kitchen of the living apartment in the rear of the Smith store, 212 E Main-st., last Friday morning about 9:30 o'clock, might have resulted in disastrous consequences had it not been for the prompt and timely action of the Lowell fire department.

All eating or drinking establishments that serve beer and other malt beverages and alcoholic beverages for consumption on the premises are required to make new filing of prices with their local War Price and Rationing Boards, on or before April 16, 1945. Dealers are required to make four copies of the new filing. Three copies are turned in to the Rationing Board and one copy remains with the dealer.

50 years The Lowell Ledger April 9, 1970

Housewives in Lowell have bombarded city hall with demands that something be done to eliminate iron from the city's water supply. Shown above are hunks of solidified iron bacteria that have accumulated in the water system over many years. In the background is a jar of water turned in by one irate housewife...and it contained a generous supply of iron bacteria, which is not harmful to users, but does cause stains in laundry.

Proponents of charter revision for the City of Lowell favor a move to eliminate the primary election...and the results of Monday's general city election help to bear out proposed change. The outcome of the six-man race for council seats was almost identical to the February primary, which eliminated one of seven candidates then seeking nomination for the council race.

Mayor Arnold Wittenbach, in one of his final actions prior to retirement from city politics, has proclaimed April 22 as "Earth Day" in Lowell. Throughout the United States, a movement is underway to hold a national teach-in to discuss the ecological problems of our society.

25 years The Lowell Ledger April 12, 1995

The water that runs off the fields and empties into a drainage ditch behind a row of trailers in Valley Vista Village had a few clouds in it following a 40-gallon overflow of diesel fuel. The fuel poured into three storm drains at Admiral Petroleum Co. at 2005 West Main.

Lowell Charter Township has taken the first steps, although they are baby steps, to having a light industrial facility built off I-96 and Alden Nash. Pressed for the time, Tom DeBoer, a representative of the Signet Group, asked the township's planning commission to schedule a public hearing in regards to constructing a Sequential Batch Reactor on 104 acres of land owned by Signet.

Evelyn B. Wittenbach, a life-long resident of Lowell and a friend to the community, died April 5. Wittenbach, 79, spent a majority of her years giving back to the community through her love for music.

Social Security number for children

Getting your newborn a Social Security Number is important. If your child is born in a hospital, the easiest way to secure a Social Security Number is when you give information for your child's birth certificate. If you wait to apply for a number at a Social Security office, you may encounter delays while we verify your child's birth certificate.

When you give information for your child's birth certificate at the hospital, you'll be asked whether you want to apply for a Social Security Number for your child. If you say "yes," you need to provide both parents' Social Security Numbers, if you can. Even if you don't know both parents' Social Security Numbers, you can still apply for a number for your child.

There are many reasons why your child should have a Social Security Number. You need a Social Security Number to claim your child as a dependent on

your income tax return. Your child may also need a number if you plan to:

- Open a bank account for your child.
- Buy savings bonds for your child.
- Get medical coverage for your child.
- Apply for government services for your child.

You can read more about Social Security Numbers for children at www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10023.pdf.

Share this information with people who are expecting a child. Applying for a Social Security card at the hospital will save them time and let focus on the new member of their family.

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.

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.

Keeping kids busy during the coronavirus lockdown



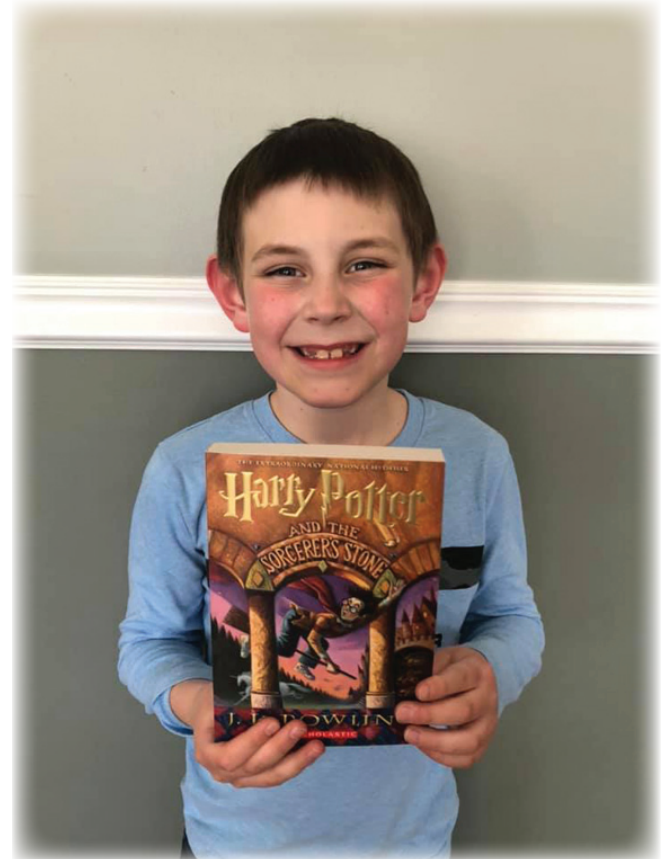
Andia Crim

“Lots of hands on sensory play for these two. Both boys have autism and are greatly missing their normal routines.”



Kerri Brocker

“We’ve been enjoying the slower pace of life these days. We have more time to focus on family and things like baking together.”



Kerri Brocker

“Our second grader started reading Harry Potter.”



Cindy Johnston

“Wilson keeping in shape playing outside and running his tumbling drills.”



Phyllis Plumley

“Still doing online school work, however also adding to the mix by cooking and baking. Doing community service projects (Girl Scouts) picking up trash in neighborhood along roadside.”

LOWELL AREA COMMUNITY FUND ACCEPTS GRANT PROPOSALS

To be considered, all proposals must be submitted online by April 17, 2020.

Visit www.grfoundation.org/lowell to submit your application.

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



Crystal Rittersdorf

“Helping daddy work on a friend’s car.”

Keeping kids busy during the coronavirus lockdown



Jen Magee

“Lilly and Xander enjoying a car ride while we are on vacation. Back to the frontlines for us on Tues...”



Brandi Melkild

“My son Martin in his science lab!”



Shannon Groeneweg

“My senior having fun despite the circumstances surrounding everybody.”



Taylor Thomson

“Cosmetologist mom = fun quarantine hair!”



Samantha VanderBand

“Color sorting.”

Jo



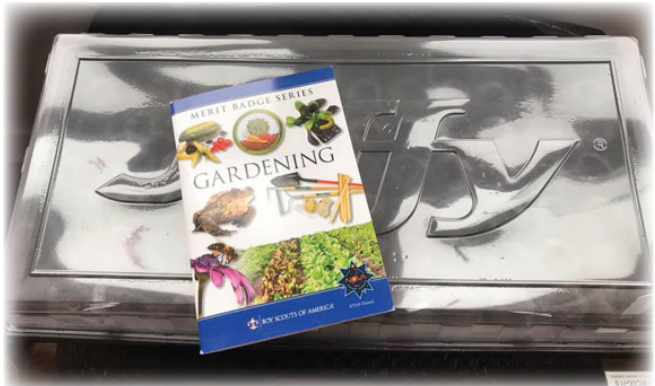
Willow Cramer

“Lots of walks and some pickle ball.”



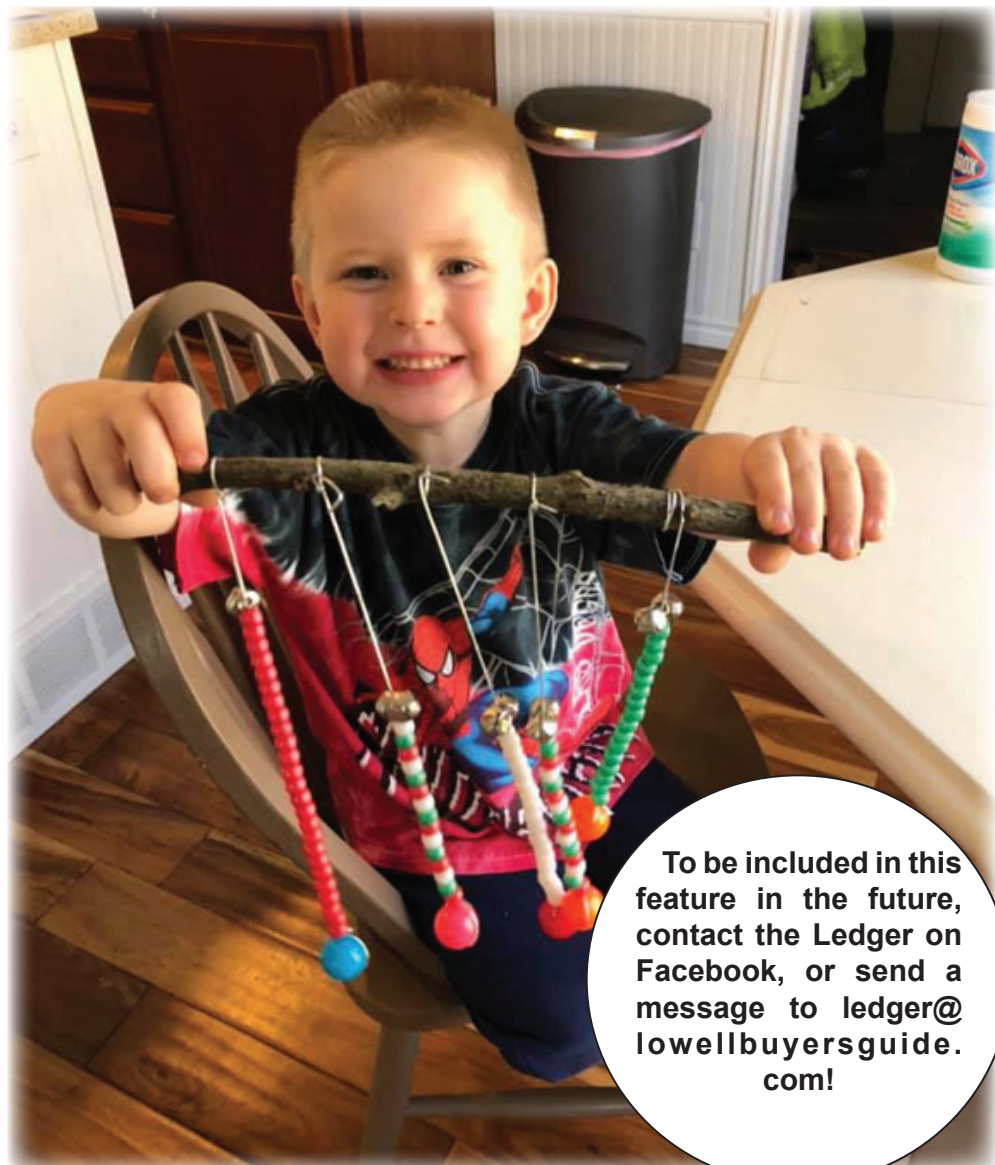
Angel Seddon

“My son Nicholas busy learning woodshop.”



Jim Viewig

“Working on Boy Scout Merit Badges!”



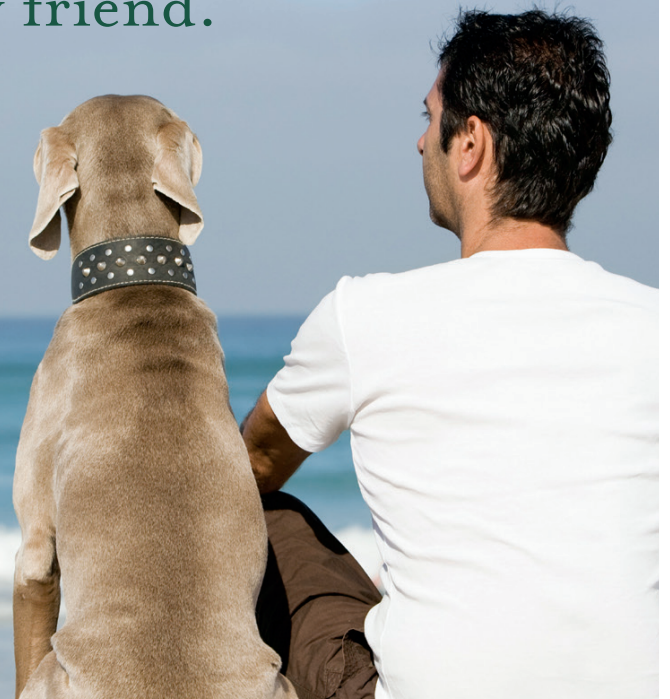
To be included in this feature in the future, contact the Ledger on Facebook, or send a message to ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com!

Jennifer Barnes

“Made a luminary and wind chime with things we had around the house.”

He was more than just a pet.
He was my friend.

We are here for your needs, please call ahead for curbside service.



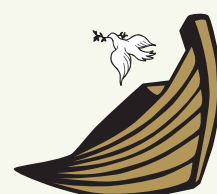
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The ABCs of Lowell history

The Lowell Area Historical Museum introduces a new weekly feature to explore local history. During this time of closed museums, we want to still be able to share our area's history with you.

B is for buttons

It may be hard to imagine, but at one time there was a thriving business in Lowell based on freshwater clams harvested from the Flat and Grand Rivers. The shells were highly sought after in the first half of the twentieth century. Why would anyone want the shells? To make buttons, of course!



The button factory can be seen in the far right in this photo. Photo courtesy of Lowell Area Historical Museum.

- multivitamins for children

Vitamin and mineral supplementation is not necessary for healthy toddlers and preschool-aged children who are growing normally, consume a varied diet, and have adequate exposure to sunlight. Foods are the best source of nutrients and vitamins for these young children. Regular meals and snacks can provide all the nutrients most toddlers and preschoolers need. And while many young children are "picky eaters", this does not necessarily mean they have nutritional deficiencies. Many of today's common foods are fortified with important vitamins and other nutrients, so often children are getting the needed nutrients.

There are some situations when vitamin and mineral supplements may be indicated for children who are at nutritional risk, including children:

- From neglected or deprived environments
- With anorexia or inadequate appetite
- With lead poisoning
- With poor weight gain or developmental delay
- Who do not get regular sun exposure
- Who drink only non-cow milk products that are not fortified with vitamin D
- With chronic disease affecting absorption (cystic fibrosis, chronic liver disease, etc.)

Following restrictive diets (for example, a toddler/preschooler following a strict vegan diet may need some specific supplementation)

With some food allergies that prevent eating certain categories of nutrient rich foods

In all of these situations, parents should work collaboratively with either the child's primary care provider or pediatrician, and sometimes a dietician/nutritionist, to determine the safest healthiest plan.

If parents wish to give a toddler or preschooler a vitamin supplement, the standard pediatric multivitamin generally poses no risk, however interaction with other medications may occur. Possible supplementation should be discussed with your child's primary care provider if your young child takes other medications. Parents and grandparents should be aware that mega doses of vitamins, or of any nutrient in excess of the recommended daily allowance, is discouraged because of the potentially toxic effects.

As always for safety, please remember vitamin and mineral supplements, particularly those designed to appeal to children (such as vitamin gummies) should be kept out of the reach of children.

happy birthday



APRIL 8
 Jay Vezino, Sandy Converse.

APRIL 9
 J.R. Guastavino.

APRIL 10
 Julie Webb, Nicholas Comdure, Chelsea Comdure, Betsey Walker, Sarah Rusch-Hildenbrand, Tristan Lane Ellsworth-Bristol, Barbara Bechtel, Lois Wittenbach.

APRIL 11
 Toni Blough, Adaline Thaler, Al Roe, David Johnson.

APRIL 12
 Sarah DeShane-Dalga, Jesse Lewis-Anes.

APRIL 13
 Addie Abel, Pete Baker, Marv DeVries, Carol Brzezniak, Melissa Quada.

APRIL 14
 Dennis Rasch, Joshua Anderson, Nichol Gurney, Bernie Boersma, Brenda Stuart, Cole Wade, Stephanie Ossewaarde.

In 1924, clam boats lined the south shore of the Grand River just west of the bridge. They were flat-bottomed boats with a bar mounted on the back. Wires with hooks were dragged along the river bottom and the clams would clamp onto the hooks. The bar was then raised out of the water and the clams were removed from the hooks. At the end of the day, the clams would be boiled until the shell opened. The shells were then piled and saved until the end of the season.

At first, the season ran from June through August. As more and more mussels were harvested, the season shrank to one month by the end of 1940s. In 1948, Michigan passed a law making it illegal.

Typically, four to five tons were accumulated during a month. The Grand River and its tributaries yielded about 50% of Michigan's clams. There were 600 to 700 licensed clambers working on the Grand River from Portland to Lake Michigan.

The button factory in Lowell was owned by the Gus Liebbe Family (1934-1946) and was located on S. Monroe, just south of Main Street. There, the buttons were drilled from the clam shells with a drill press and sold to clothiers and dressmakers.

To see future selections connect with us on Facebook, Instagram or Twitter.

...
Nobody can hurt me without my permission.
 - Mahatma Gandhi

area churches



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
 865 Lincoln Lake SE • lowellucc.org

Pastor Alyssa Anten
 Worship Service - Sundays 10 AM
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 616-897-5906

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH
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 Halfway between Lowell & Saranac on M-21

Access Services at
www.goodshepherdlowell.org
 Left hand side, click on Sermons, etc.

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

CALVARY CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH OF LOWELL
 897-7060
 Pastor Ryan Landt
 1151 West Main Street, Lowell, MI

Morning Worship..... 10:00 AM
 Sunday School..... 11:20 AM
 Evening Worship..... 6:00 PM
 Nursery available at both services
 Barrier-Free

St. Mary Catholic Church
 402 Amity Street • 616-897-9820
 Website: www.stmarylowell.com

Weekend Masses: Sat 5 pm; Sun 10:30 am
 Confession: Saturdays 3-4:30 pm

Prayer & Adoration: Wednesdays 8 am to 7 pm
 RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN TO ADULTS

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF LOWELL
 CHRIST-CENTERED, KINGDOM-FOCUSED HOMES

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 897-7168 • www.fbcloowell.org
 Pastor Jon Pickens • Lead Pastor
 Pastor Andrew Bolcom • Pastor of Discipleship
 Christi Swain • Director of Children's Ministries

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

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www.lowellumc.com • Barrier Free Entrance

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

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classifieds

for sale

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

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

ALTOAMERICAN LEGION - No dinners or breakfasts until reopen.

DIRECTV - Switch and Save! \$39.99/month. Select All-Included Package. 155 Channels. 1000s of Shows/Movies On Demand. FREE Genie HD DVR Upgrade. Premium movie channels, FREE for 3 mos! Call 1-855-293-4417

services

TWO BROTHERS AUTO SERVICE - 5400 Ivan Rd., Saranac, 616-642-9180. 30 years experience, state certified, licensed & insured. Hours Monday - Friday 8 am - 5 pm. Dave Traver head mechanic.

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

services

WHEN IN AN ACCIDENT - YOU CAN CHOOSE WHO TOWS YOUR VEHICLE

- Request J&K Roadwide Service, 616-690-0983. Towing, tire change, jump starts, fuel delivery.

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

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

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

TRACTOR MAN - aggregate driveway up-keep, lawn prep, buck/fork work, food plots, brush/field mowing. Serving the Lowell & surrounding areas. 616-272-8097, kaamcosps@gmail.com

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

SEAMLESS GUTTER - Bleam Eavestroughing. Free estimates, 50 colors, leaf guards. Since 1959. Choose the experience! (616) 765-3333 or 1-877-945-RAIN. www.bleameaves.com

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

FREE AD! - Place & pay for a classified ad in the Buyers Guide & Lowell Ledger for 3 weeks & receive the 4th week FREE! You must mention the special in order to receive this offer. Valid only with new classified ads, and must be paid for when ad is placed. Call 897-9555, fax 897-4809 or email to: classifieds@lowellbuyersguide.com

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

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

wanted

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

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

R	C	M	P					E	L	B	A			
B	O	O	B	O	O			O	N	I	O	N	S	
A	I	R	D	R	O	P		O	U	T	M	O	D	E
I	L	K		C	H	R	I	S	T	O	P	H	E	R
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8	3	4	5	7	9	6	2	1
2	9	7	6	1	3	4	5	8
1	5	6	2	8	4	3	9	7
9	4	3	7	5	6	1	8	2
5	6	8	1	3	2	9	7	4
7	1	2	9	4	8	5	6	3
6	8	9	3	2	1	7	4	5
3	2	5	4	6	7	8	1	9
4	7	1	8	9	5	2	3	6

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obituaries

HUNT



Clinton Edward Hunt, age 95 of Lowell, passed away on Wednesday, April 1, 2020. He was preceded in death by his wife of 64 years, Dorothy Hunt; his parents, Leo & Leona Hunt; in-laws, Albert & Mable Morris; sisters, Pearl Johnston, June Hooker, Jacqueline Churchill, Doris Osborne and Patricia Van Sickle; brother, John Hunt; and granddaughter, Jessie Hunt. He is survived by his sister, Ruth Troup (almost 102); his children, Leo Hunt, Lori (Dennis) Nowak, and Joey Hunt; extended family, Barry (Jeanette) Hunt, Carol (Larry) Wingeier, and John (Sharon) Hunt; grandchildren, Matthew (Natasha) Nowak, Chad (Lindsey) Nowak, Timothy (Christine) Nowak, Bryan Nowak, Joey (Kristyn) Hunt Jr. and Tiffany Hunt; great-grandchildren, Tyler Vroman, Garrett Nowak, Margaret and Annabelle Nowak, Natalie and Jocelyn Thompson, Penelope and Finnian Nowak, Quincee Meyer-Hunt and last but not least Keith Hunt; also many, many nieces and nephews. Clinton enlisted in the Navy February 3, 1942 during WWII, became a belly gunner on a Navy B24 in the South Pacific. He took a 20mm round from a Japanese Zero sustaining injuries and received the Purple Heart. He was honorably discharged on October 31, 1944 and took on odd jobs in California to earn money to come home to Michigan. He returned to Grand Rapids to Creston High School to finish his education. On March 30, 1951 he went to work for Lear Siegler, testing and calibrating aircraft indicators and later worked there as a maintenance welder. He retired on March 20, 1987. Clint's passion was rock hunting and he spent many vacations traveling the U.S. doing just that with family in tow. He enjoyed hunting and fishing and loved to build things. His most recent hobby was growing and turning gourds into works of art. He was a jack of all trades but mostly he loved his family, ALL his family, and we loved him. A memorial will be held at a later date when restrictions due to Covid-19 are relaxed. In lieu of flowers or contributions, we ask that you please take care of your own families or any family you know has a need at this time.



VIDEAN

Donald Russell Videan Sr. gently passed away on April 2, 2020 into the arms of his Savior. Donald was born on July 19, 1939 to Russell and Florence Videan. He was preceded in death by his daughter, Debra Lynne Austin. He is survived by his wife of 61 years, Margaret; their children, Valarie (Rick) Bruse, Judy (Roger) Ramirez, Donald Jr. (Christine) Videan, Jennifer (Joel) Manion; son in law Robert Austin; sixteen grandchildren; and thirty-two great-grandchildren. Don graduated from Lowell High School in 1957. He worked for forty-four and a half years at Holland American Wafer Company where he retired. Private service and burial were held Saturday, April 4, 2020. A memorial service will be held at a future date.



Census completion connected to combating COVID-19

The coronavirus pandemic hasn't stopped the 2020 Census count efforts. To the contrary, advocates are citing the fight against COVID-19 as another reason to fill out the form.

In a video Wednesday, before sanitizing her tablet to fill out an online Census form, Gov. Gretchen Whitmer said, "All the federal dollars we're hoping to get so that we can combat COVID-19 are determined based on our population."

Whitmer acknowledged the global pandemic is going to make the Census count "complicated." As for Michigan's response rate, at 44.6 percent it's beating the national response at 38.4 percent, according to figures from the U.S. Census Bureau.

While Michigan was sitting fifth in the country in terms of the state-by-state response rates, the state is still running about 10 percentage points behind where the campaign should be at this point, said Kerry Ebersole Singh, the state's Census campaign director.

Singh said the "very heavy issues that folks have on their mind" during the COVID-19 pandemic has caused many states to fall behind in their Census promotion efforts. And the U.S. Census Bureau is processing paper forms slower because they're at a "skeleton crew," Singh said.

At the same time, she said, "there is a direct connection between our public health and the

Census. [...] We want folks to understand that this is maybe 10 minutes of your time [...] and I think it's just heightened the priority to get these forms turned in."

Singh said the population count figures into programs like Medicaid, Medicare and other health grant programs from the federal government.

Also, the State Emergency Operations Center said this week the medical supplies Michigan had received from the federal Strategic National Stockpile were based on population.

Detroit Mayor Mike Duggan Wednesday issued a press release saying that, "Detroit's best chance to recover from COVID-19 is filling out your Census form." The city's overall response rate is 28.8 percent, which is on par with many large cities, but well behind the response at this time a decade ago.

Among the services funded by the city's share of federal funds include school lunches and other food assistance programs; police protection; public health programs; housing subsidies and more.

"How quickly and how completely our city recovers depends greatly on the federal resources we have coming to the city and that is all based on our Census count," said Duggan, whose city has the most COVID-19 cases in the state.

Wednesday was considered National Census

Day, so several state agencies were promoting the effort to get people to take the Census.

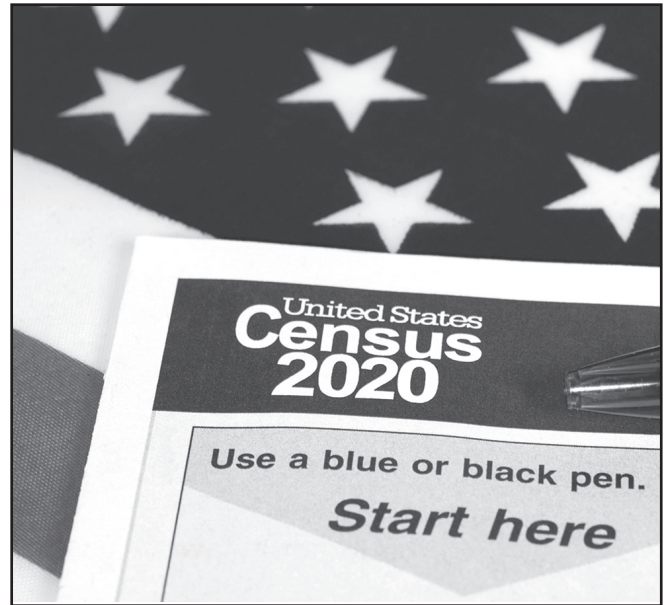
The state's Census campaign Wednesday hosted an online Facebook Live town hall that featured Lt. Gov. Garlin Gilchrist II, Attorney General Dana Nessel and Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson participating.

The Michigan Department of Agriculture

affects things like grants and loans for community facilities, rental assistance, and cooperative services like MSU Extension."

Singh said the US Census Bureau has suspended field operations until April 13, with plans to begin door-to-door canvassing May 13.

But her goal is to persuade Michiganders to self-respond by April 30, before federal workers



and Rural Development (MDARD) told the public that the Census is "especially important to our rural communities," because, MDARD Director Gary McDowell said, "It helps determine how much money Michigan receives for essential services like food assistance, health programs, and education."

McDowell continued, "For farming and rural communities, the Census

come knocking. To persuade people to do so, Singh used to tell people, "You don't want the dog to bark or your dinner to be interrupted."

"Now, as we're practicing social distancing [...] we want to get those forms turned [...] in before the door-to-door operations," she said.

LEGAL NOTICE

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

In the matter of Danh Le Guardianship File No. 20-207,215-GA

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS including her daughter, Hoang Dinh and any other unknown children and heirs, 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 June 17, 2020, at 1:30 P.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.

Dated: March 31, 2020

Adult Protective Services, DHHS, Petitioner 121 Franklin St. NE Grand Rapids, MI 49507 (616) 690-7176

VAN ESSEN AND ASSOCIATES PLLC Attys. for Petitioner by Amanda Van Essen Wirth (P75001) 109 E. Main St. Ste. 11 Zeeland, MI 49464 (616) 633-0196

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FUN PAGE

SUDOKO

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

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!

Puzzle solutions on page 9

CAR CARE WORD SEARCH

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

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

CAR CARE WORD SEARCH

- ALTERNATOR
- ANTIFREEZE
- BRAKING
- CLUTCH
- DIESEL

DRIVETRAIN EMISSIONS

- ENGINE
- EXHAUST
- FAN
- FILTER
- FUEL
- GASKET

GAUGE HOSES

- IGNITION
- INTAKE
- MAINTENANCE
- RADIATOR
- STEERING SYSTEM

THERMOSTAT TIRES

- TRANSMISSION

Guess Who?

I am an actor born in New York on April 10, 1974. I graduated from Dartmouth College and began my career on the Broadway stage. I have been nominated for a Tony Award. But fans know me best as a small town cop from a popular Netflix series.

Answer: David Harbour

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to cars.

T M O O R

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Answer: Motor

	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		

CLUES ACROSS

- Canadian law enforcers
- Actor Idris
- Cut or bruise
- Vegetables
- Aircraft delivery
- To make obsolete
- Things similar to those already noted
- Columbus is a famous one
- Age group
- Denotes nature of sound
- Klutz
- Uninteresting
- Computer manufacturer
- 2,000 lbs.
- Genus of seabirds
- Emerges
- Baseball stat
- Witnesses
- Observed
- Satisfy
- Former OSS
- Small Eurasian deer
- Wife of Sparta's king
- Ballplayer accessory
- Temporary cessation of breathing

- Where construction workers ply their trade
- Arguments that justify a religious doctrine
- Thick cloud of tiny water droplets
- Widens
- Detection
- Period of inactivity
- Tomato and vodka are two
- Greek war god
- Urinates

CLUES DOWN

- Churned
- Seal bottles
- Million barrels per day (abbr.)
- Meat from a pig (French)
- Within
- Walk in a slow pace
- Cries
- About Andes
- Fishermen use it
- Expresses delight
- Shouts
- Feudal agricultural laborer

- Sailboat
- Small Eurasian willows
- S. American native people
- Extreme disgust
- Nonsense (slang)
- Produce male reproductive cells
- Computes
- Pop singer
- Weds secretly
- Having two poles
- Yankee hero Bucky
- Building
- Per __, each
- Six (Spanish)
- Makes amends
- Scoundrels
- Baseball's best pitchers
- Some are scrambled
- Emit coherent radiation
- Singer Redding
- Break
- Institute legal proceedings against

Americans are optimistic despite uncertainty

Forty percent believe the world will be better than before the coronavirus

While Americans have a high level of anxiety during the coronavirus pandemic, most are willing to make significant sacrifices and many are optimistic about the future. They also believe that government leaders are taking the appropriate actions, according to a new national Research America, Inc. public opinion poll.

Sixty-one percent of Americans say they are “extremely or very concerned” about the coronavirus outbreak, though 13 percent are “not very or not at all concerned.” Nearly half, 47 percent, say the pandemic has had a significant negative impact on their personal life due to closures, cancellations, restrictions and food shortages, said Rex Repass, President of Research America Inc.

“We are at a critical time when many Americans are personally impacted

in multiple ways by COVID-19. During the next several weeks many may have a family member or close friend with a positive coronavirus test,” Repass said. “However, most Americans are willing to adhere to their state’s stay-at-home order if it’s for the greater good, with 69 percent saying they can accept extreme limitations for more than a month if it helps to suppress the infection rate. Two-thirds go so far as to say they don’t care how long restrictions are in place if it prevents widespread illness and death.”

On the other hand, about one quarter of respondents, 27 percent, feel the social distancing and other limitations go too far, and only 11 percent said they worry about transmitting the virus to others.

The poll of 600 U.S. adults also found that 75 percent agree with the extreme measures put in place to protect people from

the coronavirus. A high number strongly support such measures as mass cancellations and closings (87 percent), travel bans (86 percent), restricted visitation at hospitals, nursing homes, etc. (86 percent) and the closing of borders (82 percent).

“The poll results also show that altruism is alive and well throughout the U.S. with Americans continually demonstrating selfless acts for the well-being of others,” Repass added. “People are clearly more concerned about a family member or friend getting sick than themselves.”

Nineteen percent are worried someone close to them will die compared to 12 percent who are worried about themselves dying.

Nearly eight-in-10 (78 percent) want politicians to focus on the welfare of the citizens and not on politics. One in four (25 percent) are concerned that the healthcare system will be

overburdened, and people won’t get the care needed.

The Center for Disease Control & Prevention received the highest job performance rating, 64 percent satisfaction followed by their state’s governor, 56 percent. A plurality (43 percent satisfied/33 percent dissatisfied) with President Donald Trump, 44 percent with Vice President Mike Pence with the balance unsure or having a “wait and see attitude.”

“This was highly dependent on political party,” Repass said. “As expected, more Republicans were satisfied with President Trump’s handling of the coronavirus pandemic, 73 percent, as compared to Democrats, 22 percent.

Although 20 percent are concerned about the virus causing an economic recession, very few are worried about permanently losing their job, only 7 percent, their company



going out of business, 5 percent, or the loss of retirement income from stocks and 401k, 8 percent. More than half, 57 percent, feel confident that their job will be secure throughout the pandemic.

Americans believe there are brighter days ahead with 40 percent saying the world will be a “better place” after the virus has been controlled, compared to 18 percent who believe the world will be worse off. In a year or two, half believe the world will be a better place because people will have an appreciation for what is really important in life, 54 percent; there will be new advancements made in medicine, 52 percent; and people will be more compassionate, 35 percent.

Actions Americans feel will have the most positive impact include paid sick leave for coronavirus recovery for themselves or to care for a family member, 67 percent; expanded SNAP and other benefits, 67 percent; extended unemployment benefits, 66 percent; and highly subsidized, reduced cost, or free medical services for coronavirus treatment and prevention, 65 percent.

Two in five Americans worry about health care costs increasing post coronavirus pandemic, 42 percent, and having to work longer in life than anticipated to offset money lost during this time, 41 percent.

The Research America, Inc. Covid-19 Public Opinion Poll was conducted between March 26-29 among a sample of 600 U.S. adults over the age of 18. The overall confidence interval for the survey is +/- 4.0 percentage points at the 95 percent

confidence level.

Methodology Statement

Results of this Research America, Inc. Covid-19 Public Opinion Poll are based on interviews conducted between March 26-29, 2020 among a national sample of 600 adults over the age of 18 in the United States. Data collection was completed online.

U.S. adults over the age of 18 in all 50 states were sampled for the survey and modeled to age and race demographics based on data from the United States Census Bureau. With online data collection it is not appropriate to apply a probability-based margin of error to interviews completed. However, applying statistical tests of significance to each question asked at the 95 percent confidence interval yields an overall statistical error of +/- 4.0 percentage points based on the 600 interviews. The 95 percent confidence interval varies by question and based on the distribution of responses to each question.

The purpose of the Public Covid-19 Public Opinion Poll is to provide a snapshot of opinion and timely views about Covid-19. Research America Inc. sponsored this survey

About Research America Inc.

Research America Inc. is a custom survey research and strategic consulting firm. The firm’s services range from consulting with clients to identify research objectives, through study design, data collection, analysis, and research-based strategy recommendations. For more information see www.researchamericainc.com.

Coronavirus: Americans are optimistic despite uncertainty.

Research America Inc. Survey
N=600 census rep
Survey conducted March 26-29, 2019

Anxiety is high...

- The level of personal fear and anxiety is high among many Americans – 61% extremely or very concerned about the coronavirus outbreak with only 13% not concerned.

- Nearly half (47%) of Americans say the coronavirus has had a negative impact on their life, with 19% reporting a strong negative impact.

...but Americans are willing to make sacrifices.

- Most people say they can live with extreme limitations for a month or two for the greater good.

17% Disagree

69% Agree

- Many say they don’t care how long restrictions are in place if it prevents widespread illness and death.

16% Disagree

66% Agree

Americans are concerned about others over self.

- Most people are more concerned about a family member or friends getting sick or dying than they are about getting sick or dying themselves.

- Other concerns include an overburdened health care system (25%) and recession (20%.)

Nearly all feel imposed restrictions are appropriate.

Support mass cancellations/closings	87%
Support travel bans	86%
Support restricted visitation at hospitals, etc.	86%
Support 14 day self quarantine	85%
Support temperature/medical screening	84%
Support closing borders	82%

Americans are most satisfied with the response of the CDC and state governors.

Many feel that the future is bright.

- Most Americans are hopeful the world will be better than before the virus - 40% say the world will be much or somewhat better vs. 18% feel it will be worse.

Ways the world will be BETTER	%
People will have better appreciation for what’s really important in life	54%
New advancements will be made in medicine	52%
People will better understand the individual and collective impact we have on the environment	39%
People will be more compassionate towards one another	35%

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