



Meds Café donates brand new rescue boat, engine to fire department

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

Last week Meds Café, 1965 W. Main, purchased a brand new rescue boat, rescue gear and a state-of-the-art motor for the Lowell Area Fire Authority.

“Lowell police officer Scot VanSolkema did 99.9 percent of the work on this,” said Lowell fire chief Ron van Overbeek. “The fire department was just fortunate enough to reap the benefits of it.”

The new boat is 16 feet long, can hold about 2,600 pounds and goes at least 40 miles an hour. The engine is the same one Navy Seals use. It will still work even if submerged, it will run on diesel, jet fuel, gasoline or whiskey and it has “stealth technology” that will render it undetectable by radar.

“Last year chief van Overbeek said he wanted to start looking into getting a new boat,” said LPD officer Scot VanSolkema. “It’s a Zodiac Milpro boat with a 55 horsepower engine. It’s the same boat that’s used



Lowell fire chief Ron van Overbeek, Kyle Miller, Jacob LaRoche and Casey Cole of Meds Café, a cardboard cutout of Meds Café owner Michael Atkins and LPD officer Scot VanSolkema with the new rescue boat.

around the world for rescue operations. They had a rescue boat, but it was about 30 years old, and it had a 25 year old, 25 horsepower engine. We got it through the 1033 LESO [Law Enforcement Support Office] program. It was overstock, brand new in the box, so it

was already paid for by the taxpayers, and they shipped it to us for free.”

Meds Café manager Kyle Miller said the store’s owners are intent on being a positive influence in the community.

“From the very beginning we’ve said that we want to do our best to give back to the

Lowell community,” Miller said. “We found a need that we were able to address, and we’re thankful that we were able to help them get what they need. We want to continue to give back. We sponsored a comedy show at the Fairgrounds last week where we all sat in our cars

and listened to comedians. It was fun to be part of that. Hopefully, after COVID, we’ll be able to have some sort event or celebration where we can interact face to face!”

“Before Meds Café opened up, I was talking to [owner] Michael Atkins about how he wanted them to be good stewards of the community, to give back and be part of the Lowell area,” officer VanSolkema said. “After they were open a few months I stopped back in and talked to them about how business was going. It was going great, even during the quarantine. We were talking about boats, and I asked if they might buy the fire department a boat. He said to give him some information about it, so I wrote up a packet. I included information about their then-current boat, gave them some information and pictures of this boat. We were able to get a pretty good deal from Reed Yacht Sales, and we made it happen.”

Lowell city council meeting



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Yoga on the farm



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Cooper Woodland Trail



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Ada/Lowell 5 could reopen before summer ends



Mason Asset Management and the Namdar Realty Group bought the Goodrich Quality Theaters chain for \$12 million and they plan to re-open the theaters in late July or early August.

VIP Cinemas will run the 21 theaters in the chain, which includes 12 theaters in Michigan, seven in Indiana and two in Missouri. One location in Illinois was sold separately and was not part of this deal.

“We are truly excited to be acquiring and reopening the GQT theaters and we remain optimistic about the future

of the industry,” said Mark McSparin, the new Goodrich Quality Theaters president, in a press release. “We will reopen with the main objective of maintaining quality operations for our guests through cleanliness, customer service, and value. The Goodrich name has been in the theater business for 90 years and we believe that it is important to keep the name going for many more years to come.”

The press release also said they will retain many of their staff, they plan to lower ticket and concession

prices and existing gift cars and rewards will be honored “subject to applicable law.”

Goodrich Quality Theaters filed for bankruptcy in March, citing estimated assets at between \$50 million and \$100 million, and liabilities at between \$10 million and \$50 million in their bankruptcy filing.

The Ada/Lowell 5 opened in August 1996. The current releases on opening day included “Flipper,” “Escape from L.A.,” “Independence Day,” “The Rock,” “Kingpin,” and “The Hunchback of Notre Dame.”

June police stats



Lowell Police Department made seven arrests during the month of June, compared to seven arrests in May, zero arrests in April, 10 in March, 13 in February and 12 in January.

One of the June arrests was for drunk driving, one was for driving on a suspended license, four were for outstanding warrants and four are described on the police department’s monthly statistics sheet as “other arrests.”

LPD also responded to plenty of misdemeanors during June. There were nine larceny calls, three breaking and entering

complaints, two malicious destructions, four dog/animal complaints, three disorderly conduct calls and seven assaults. Lowell police also notified eight residents about ordinance violations and issued 17 citations. There were 88 traffic stops in June; 77 of those drivers were released with a warning.

Lowell police were called to assist other law enforcement agencies 13 times and called other agencies for assistance 18 times in June. They were also called for assistance by citizens and motorists 26 different times.

Lowell police were dispatched to six accidents during June, none with injuries.

The Lowell Area Fire Department responded to 78 incidents during June; 40 in the city of Lowell, 26 in Lowell Township, 11 in Vergennes Township and one in Grattan Township.

50¢



Impact Church 'Love Week' trail clearing and more



by Brendan A. Sanders
contributing reporter

Many areas around the community got a facelift last week when Impact Church's Love Week took place once again.

Over 20 locations saw Impact Church community members help clean up and improve the community. From schools to parks, Love Week's 341 volunteers spent 1,051 total hours of work cleaning up the community they reside in, doing all the little things that many other organizations may not have enough time to do.

Among those deeds was the repair and cleaning of several trails in and around Lowell.

"We worked on three different trails in town," said organizer Bob Rogers. "The clerk in Vergennes Township at the time, Heather Hoffman, put me in contact with the trails committee and they said that there was [Cooper] Trail over by Foreman, the Cherry Creek trail and there was the trail that goes around Stoney Lakeside Park. One thing Love Week does is, we do the work that people, organizations and municipalities aren't able to get around to doing. The city,

the school, they only have so many people and resources to do stuff with. They have



to prioritize everything. That trail that goes around Stoney Lakeside has been on their list for years now, to get that cleared of trees and marked properly so that people can find it and not get lost. That's really what Love Week does, since Lowell Area Schools, the city of Lowell, Vergennes Township and other areas don't have the people and resources, once

a year we can come in for a week and take care of that stuff."

Among the other leaders of Love Week are Scott Dykstra and Bill McElroy at Impact Church and Andrew Bolkcom at First Baptist Church.

The highlight was the cleaning up of the Lowell Cooper Trail. A formerly little-known trail that is just over a mile loop through a forest that provides a lot of shade for its walkers. The parking lot for this trail is across the street from the still-under-construction Maple Ridge Manor. But clearing the trails was just a small part of the full week of activities that saw 21 total projects get completed. Other projects focused on the schools in the area, with the exception of

foursquare court. You could kind of see where the lines used to be, but now we marked all of those lines."

Work was done at the high school, focusing on the football field, cleaning bleachers and painting parts of the field for the July 23 graduation ceremony.

Other projects included work at Creekside Park, Impact Church partnered with First Baptist Church to work on that. Another project was a collaboration with Flat River Outreach Ministries.

The biggest project was repainting the Fallasburg Schoolhouse in the Fallasburg historical district, to give the building a fresh look.

Other projects helped the Chamber of Commerce, Gilda's Club and cleanup



there are any businesses or organizations that have something that we could do next summer - not very skilled labor type stuff, but stuff that we could have families and people come in for - it would help out."

With Love Week getting so big over the years, it has expanded into two Love Weekends.

"In the spring and fall we also partner with FROM for Neighbor to Neighbor," Rogers said. "We now have a weekend in the spring and fall that is focused on personal projects, where we can winterize houses, do landscaping, yard work or

other individual projects for anyone who needs help."

In the future, Rogers hopes to get more people involved in and around the community.

"We've been partnering with First Baptist Church for a couple of years now," Rogers said. "We're also looking to get a couple other churches in the area involved. We're working on the future for having some more community-wide organization and projects. Every year we get more and more people that want to be a part of this, so we want to sort of address that in the future."

Alto Elementary due to the construction.

"We spread mulch and weeded playgrounds," Rogers said. "One cool thing that we did at Murray Lake and Cherry Creek is we repainted some of the playground lines. Since the students will be outside a lot, we wanted to focus on the playgrounds so the children could play. So now Murray Lake has a full basketball court, kickball court and

around the Riverwalk and Lowell Park.

For future Love Week events, Impact Church is already looking for projects to help businesses and organizations around the community.

"Love Week is for municipalities, organizations, businesses [and] non-profits," Rogers said. "We don't do any personal projects for Love Week in the summer, so if



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Lowell council has first regular meeting at city hall since beginning of pandemic

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

Lowell city council had their latest regular meeting at city hall on Monday, July 20, the first public meeting held in that setting since the beginning of the pandemic.

The meeting was attended by 23 people, two of whom spoke during public comment.

First, Hudsonville attorney Katherine Henry spoke on behalf of her client, former Lowell police chief Steve Bukala, who also attended the meeting but did not speak.

Henry sent the council a letter on Tuesday, July 14 asking to have the matter placed on the meeting agenda but was denied. Henry's letter also gave the council a deadline of "by the close of the July 20, 2020 city council meeting" to settle with Bukala for \$8,000 in wages - which would allow him to retire with full retirement benefits - and to have the city release a public statement in support of Bukala, the Michigan Constitution and the US Constitution.

If the council did not agree before the end of the meeting, which they did not, Henry's letter threatened to "file for court relief" of at least \$522,000: \$487,855.11 in lost wages, \$34,149.86 for the city's lost contribution to Bukala's retirement account and \$2,400 in lieu of his health insurance coverage, plus undetermined amounts for punitive damages, statutory damages, attorney fees and court costs.

"Supporting the Constitution, it's not personal feeling, it's not political debate," Henry said at the meeting. "Whether they like the Second Amendment or not, or like the First Amendment, or any of the amendments, it doesn't matter. What's relevant is what's in there. And that anybody who is



Katherine Henry, former Lowell police chief Steve Bukala's attorney, speaking at the meeting.

sitting in those chairs [the city councilors] took an oath to uphold and support every single piece of that Constitution, whether they like those provisions or not. So to punish a public officer who took that oath for upholding that oath, it's abhorrent."

The second speaker was Rod Romeyn from Middleville, who told the council he was "ashamed of you people."

"I don't know who is who and who is what," Romeyn said. "You swore an oath to the Constitution, every one of you. This man [Bukala] did nothing wrong. This country is going down into tyranny, and someday we're going to be looking down your eyes, I promise you. You owe the man his apology. You owe this man his pension, or get him back on the police force. It's as simple as that."

Next, the council discussed the \$865,000 they still need to complete the new

Lowell Showboat project. The cost for heating and cooling the new Showboat is approximately \$500,000, but without climate control it will deteriorate faster and have much more limited use.

"We looked at all the costs [for] what could we cut," said Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce executive director Liz Baker. "Heating and cooling came in at - oh my gosh! - so much more than we anticipated. We could cut the design of the interior, but then you have an empty shell. But if it's heated and cooled, you could do that."

City manager Michael Burns said that fundraising has been difficult during the pandemic, but they expect to hit up the Lowell Area Community Fund, the Look Memorial Fund and the LCTV Fund for grants. Other potential sources of money discussed included "installment purchase financing" and donations



Rod Romeyn from Middleville said the city owes Bukala "his apology" and "his pension."

from private donors.

"It is still the goal that no city of Lowell tax dollars will be used to subsidize this project," Burns said. "As of today, this is still the case and the intent."

Once the new Showboat is welded together and placed in the water, the next step will be to choose a contractor to finish the interior.

In other business, the council voted to authorize Lowell Light and Power to issue \$995,000 worth of bonds to be used for "facility upgrades at LL&P's energy center," approved \$11,000 in CARES Act hazard pay for 11 Lowell police officers and denied an increase in vacation days for non-union city employees who have more than 20 years of service. City councilors Michael DeVore and Cliff Yankovich voted yes, councilors Greg Canfield, Marty Chambers and Jim Salzwedel voted no.

Lowell city council's next regular meeting is scheduled to take place at city hall at 7 pm on Monday, Aug. 3. This

date, time and location could change.

To watch city council, board and commission meetings from the past few

years, look for the "City of Lowell" or the "Lowell Light and Power" channels on YouTube or visit archive.org.

Gov. Whitmer makes appointments

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer has appointed Kenneth Morris of Lowell to the Michigan Public Safety Communications Interoperability Board.

Morris is a paramedic and the executive vice president of Life E.M.S Ambulance. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Biology from Aquinas College and earned his paramedic degree from Grand Valley State University. Morris is reappointed to represent local emergency first responders for a term commencing July 17, 2020 and expiring April 30, 2024.

The Michigan Public

Safety Communications Interoperability Board oversees the Michigan's Public Safety Communications System (MPSCS), an 800/700 MHz radio system and telecommunications network that also provides public safety specific applications integrated into the network. The Board is responsible for advising the Governor on all interoperability aspects of current and future technology in the state to ensure the public safety community is well prepared today and in the future with the emergency communications ecosystem.

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Group wants 'Unlock Michigan' called back

A committee represented legally by attorney Mark Brewer and led politically by former US Rep. Joe Schwarz is asking the Michigan Court of Appeals to order the Board of State Canvassers to call back the petition drive to repeal the 1945 Riot Act.

"Keep Michigan Safe" claimed in a suit filed Tuesday that state election officials approved an "inaccurate and misleading summary" for Unlock Michigan, which wants to eliminate the state law Gov. Gretchen Whitmer is using to issue her rolling emergency declarations.

Keep Michigan Safe claims the Board of State Canvassers did not provide proper notice that it was going to vote on Unlock Michigan's petition at its July 6 meeting. It also claims that Unlock Michigan's amended petition, which was approved by the board, was not properly disclosed to the public.

Brewer and attorney Christopher Trebilcock want the court to order election officials to order Unlock Michigan to re-start the process of presenting a proposed 100-word summary with proper public notifications in place.

Schwarz, a former state senator and physician by trade, said he represents a bipartisan coalition that "understands the seriousness of pandemic and the need for the state's chief executive to act immediately and outside of partisan politics."

"It would be great if the governor didn't need these powers, but she does," Schwarz said. "She isn't doing anything she wants to



Joe Schwarz

do. She's trying to keep us safe."

The basis of the suit is twofold. First, the content of the 100-word summary is a regurgitation of the one-sentence petition language. It doesn't give any context as to what would happen if the Riot Act were repealed and the 1976 emergency powers act were to remain.

It would effectively end the governor's emergency power, since it requires legislative approval after 28 days of a declared emergency, according to the suit.

Second, it claims that the Board of State Canvassers

never indicated on their public notice that they would approve the petition language to form and basically allow Unlock Michigan to proceed forward with their signature collection.

Fred Wzsolek of Unlock Michigan called the suit frivolous. None of the arguments made in the suit were made during the Board of State Canvassers meeting, signaling to him that nobody seemed to share these reservations at the time.

"It's hard to understand how a summary of a one-sentence proposal is misleading," Wzsolek said.

Lincoln Lake to be detoured through August



Lincoln Lake Ave. will be closed to through traffic from July 20 until Aug. 15, according to information from the Kent County Road Commission.

The work will close the busy avenue from Bradshaw Street to Lincoln Pines Dr., traffic will be detoured.

The repair work is projected to cost \$310,310, and the work will be done by Superior Asphalt, a Grand Rapids company.

It is a 'crush and shape' project, meaning workers will crush the existing asphalt and one or two inches of the underlying gravel and replace it with new 'hot mix' asphalt.

Correction: Bradley Wade, owner of Wade Printing & Publishing, called to say he was not carrying a firearm when he marched through the city several weeks ago, as reported in the June 17 edition of the Lowell Ledger.

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the lowell ledger

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Sources: ¹eMarketer; ²Lamar Advertising; ³Triad/Coda Ventures - The Newspaper Generation Study; ⁴Pulse of America 2018; ⁵NAA



viewpoint

outdoors

Experience the hunt

Dave Stegehuis

Hunting season is a ways off, but thinking about it and planning is all part of the experience. Spending time in the woods and fields in pursuit of game is about as removed from what is going on around us in our daily lives as one can get. During my lifetime so much has changed about how people live, their expectations, and attitudes. These changes

become common place and eventually everything is taken for granted, so nothing seems strange or out of place.

Nature operates on long established rules which do not change with time. When we enter the natural environment, we know what to expect when interacting with wildlife, weather, and landscapes. Walking

through the colorful pungent fall woods and being startled by a grouse exploding into flight from an alder thicket awakens the same emotions in me that it did well over half a century ago. The sense of wonder and excitement of being there is not diminished by time and intervening life experiences.

The hunting lifestyle has consequences well beyond the taking of game. High protein, chemical free, low fat meat for the freezer is a practical incentive to

hunt. Although there is no guarantee one will harvest an animal. The majority of time and effort spent on hunting does not involve the killing of game.

Hunting for most game species involves an expenditure of physical energy and provides incentive to get out for needed exercise. It is possible for those with physical limitations to experience the hunt through technical assistance as well as accommodating regulations. Hunting sheep

in the mountains will challenge the mental and physical limits of the most fit among us.

License fees and federal tax on equipment support game and non-game habitat maintenance and expansion as well as protection for wildlife. We all benefit from the attention focused on wildlife by hunters.

Getting out in nature is beneficial to our mental health and provides a

contrast to everyday concerns and allows us to reexamine our perspective on life and reorder our priorities.

There is another world out there. For those who have not experienced the excitement of the hunt and the intimate association with nature, the time may be at hand to explore the possibilities.



100 years ago The Lowell Ledger July 29, 1920

Considerable interest has been shown by Lowell citizens during the past week in a proposition known as the Lowell Sand and Gravel company, which is being organized by our townsmen, Fred A. Godfrey and John O'Harrow and others. A number of Lowell business men have visited the scene of the proposed enterprise, which seems to present large possibilities, worthy, at least, of a hearing and investigation.

So far as sleeves of indoor frocks are concerned, you may do exactly as you like; they may be short, medium length, or quite long; and they may be tight or leg o' mutton. This is a most convenient season; everything seems to be fashionable. On all sides we see the tunic girl and the pannier girl walking arm in arm, and the same may be said of the girl with bare arms and the one of the demure long sleeve.

Carl Benham lost one of his work horses last week, and Mr. Bolock, of Keene, lost a fine brood sow, and good sized pig, also a work horse last week.

75 years The Lowell Ledger July 26, 1945

The complete mechanization of American farming in the postwar period is predicted by E. L. Anthony, dean of agriculture, Michigan State college. Basing his belief upon the present use of the tractor, Dean Anthony states that soon one man will be able to handle 200 acres of farm land as easily as he handled 60 or 80 acres in the past. "To have said that American agriculture would be dependent upon the farm tractor for field power within the next decade, would have caused the person to have been called crazy. Yet, today the tractor is in such general use that it is a fundamental change in agriculture," the dean explains.

The purpose for which all Navy Mothers' Clubs are formed is to promote a program of educational welfare and social interest between the parents of navy men and women and the enlisted personnel. In order to carry on this work, each club promotes its own money-raising projects. Club No. 81 at Grand Rapids finds a good revenue is the placing of Navy Mothers jars in public places, where those who wish may make contributions.

Mrs. Eliza Monks, 91, of Lowell the mother of James and Guy Monks, was a guest on the Breakfast in Hollywood program, in Hollywood, Calif., Wednesday morning of this week. As the oldest guest, Mrs. Monks was presented with an orchid.

125 years ago Lowell Ledger July 26, 1895

Westphalia, a small German settlement seven miles east of Portland, came near being the scene of a lynching last week Wednesday night. John Radmacher is a young German who at one time owned considerable property. It is alleged that he became dissipated and has been reported as shamefully abusing his wife, a daughter of Constantine Nan, and a most estimable lady. Threats of lynching have been indulged in, but it appears they were given little consideration by Radmacher. Tuesday he had more trouble with his wife and it was quietly passed around that justice would be meted out. By strategy he was induced to the main business street Wednesday night and started home at 10:30. Near a clump of trees a mob of fifteen men assaulted him with horsewhips.

Musgrove or DeLeon, the quack doctor who owes this office for some extensive advertising, is on earth yet. He married a Grand Rapids girl recently, and showed up at Freeport last week in connection with the Spanish Oil comedy company. Thos. Evans of Bowne got after the gentleman and made him fork over a \$40 note that had been secured from Evans by Fraud. Musgrove had the note and he gave it up and skipped. Wonder why the Almighty lets such fellows live.

Mr. Cramer, the genial salesman of the Riverside dairy, met with an accident just as he was starting upon his route, Sunday evening, that deprived his patrons of milk for Monday morning's coffee. The wagon tongue dropped, the horses wheeled and ran, overturning the wagon and spilling milk and peddler into the road. The wagon was damaged to the extent of a few dollars and Mr. Cramer badly bruised up.

to the editor

Letter to the Editor,

The Governor of Michigan recently mandated businesses that are open to the public to deny service or entry to customers who refuse to wear a mask. There's no doubt wearing masks saves lives so wearing masks should be a given, but some don't see it that way, believing that they don't have to abide by the rules to wear a mask when entering a business open to the public and are making it difficult for the business to function and function safely.

Some people believe the push to wear masks is a political ploy, so their decision is not to wear masks. Politics shouldn't be

used in making a decision to wear or not to wear a mask specially when a life saving decision is involved. I believe those individuals and others who refuse to wear masks will continue their defiance until the rule on wearing a mask is enforced. \$500 fines have been suggested being one way to enforce the rule. I believe it's up to businesses and law enforcement to enforce the rule of wearing masks and if businesses don't make a serious attempt at enforcing the rule they could have their license suspended.

Sincerely,
James Howard
Lowell

We love to hear from you!

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

The requirements are:

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

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- hepatitis C

Hepatitis C is an infection of the liver caused by a virus. Hepatitis is contagious and is usually transmitted through contact with blood.

Most people with acute hepatitis do not even know they have an infection and many will develop chronic hepatitis C, a long-term smoldering infection. Over a long period of time 20-30 percent will go on to develop cirrhosis or liver cancer. Most cases of hepatitis C occur among baby boomers (people born between 1945 and 1965). Baby boomers may have been exposed to hepatitis C from injecting drugs, having a blood transfusion prior to 1992, having unprotected sexual contact with someone who has hepatitis C, or getting a tattoo with an unclean tool.

Symptoms of chronic hepatitis C are often nonexistent until severe liver damage occurs.

Because many infected persons do not realize they carry this infection, the Centers for Disease Control has recommended that all persons born between 1945 and 1965 be screened for HCV with a one time blood test. If hepatitis C is diagnosed, further testing will be indicated to determine the extent of liver damage. A liver biopsy may be performed to help determine the best treatment options.

Hepatitis C is currently treated by taking a combination of medications for several months. The cure rate for hepatitis C has increased exponentially with newer drugs that have become available over the last two to three years.

Even if you have no known risk factors and were born between 1945 and 1965, you should talk to your doctor about HCV screening.

Aurora University has named Zachary Tykocki of Alto, to the Dean's List for the spring 2020 semester. Tykocki is a Junior majoring in Finance, BS. The Dean's List recognizes full-time undergraduate students who have earned a 3.6 GPA or higher.

More than 2,800 Grand Valley State University students completed the requirements to receive their degrees this past April.

Grand Valley is dedicated to providing a rich learning environment for students, offering a wide range of majors and hands-on research opportunities. Highly credentialed and responsive faculty and individual advisors and mentors promote a liberal arts emphasis that teaches students critical thinking and problem solving skills.

Local students who graduated at the conclusion of the Winter 2020 semester in April include:

Ada: Keaghan R. Bacon, Bachelor of Business

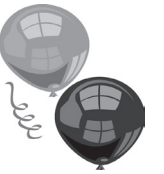
Administration; Evan E. Brunette, Bachelor of Arts; Jacob P. DeVries, Bachelor of Business Administration; John C. Doneth, Bachelor of Science; Carly A. Farmer, Bachelor of Science; Natalie E. Fischer, Bachelor of Science; Brendan C. Gallagher, Bachelor of Business Administration; Maggie E. Goebel, Bachelor of Arts; Bisam M. Javid, Bachelor of Science; Nicole E. Jimenez, Bachelor of Science in Nursing; Joshua S. Karafa, Bachelor of Business Administration; Nicolette G. Keller, Master of Health Administration; Colin R. O'Donnell, Bachelor of Business Administration; Quin E. Olney, Bachelor of Business Administration; Patrick J. Rapin, Bachelor of Business Administration; Collin J. Roys, Bachelor of Science; Adam R. Scripps, Master of Business Administration; Cassidy J. Ter Horst, Bachelor of Science; Bradley J. Thomas, Bachelor of Science; Nabeel O. Vali, Bachelor of Science; Joseph A. VanSlooten, Bachelor of Science; Chloe

A. Werkema, Master of Science
Alto: Ellery R. Alexander, Bachelor of Science; Leah M. Davis, Bachelor of Science; Taylor Y. Hawkins, Bachelor of Science; Hannah L. Petersen, Bachelor of Music; Eva F. Van Artsen, Bachelor of Science; Jessica K. VanderSloot, Bachelor of Science

Lowell: Jake I. Bates, Bachelor of Arts; Kayla A. Beaton, Bachelor of Science; Michael C. Bonney, Bachelor of Business Administration; Lisa M. Brown, Master of Philanthropy and Nonprofit Leadership; Lauren R.

Browning, Bachelor of Science; Joshua C. Buechler, Bachelor of Business Administration; Mackenzie M. Bush, Bachelor of Arts; Nichole L. Dalziel, Bachelor of Science; Eric A. Fey, Master of Education; Emma M. Heffron, Bachelor of Business Administration; Chelsea E. Kilmer, Bachelor of Business Administration; Larry M. Peavey, Bachelor of Social Work; Jacob D. Stephens, Bachelor of Science in Engineering, Master of Science in Engineering; Catherine Rosemarie Stump, Bachelor of Science; Katie R. Taylor, Bachelor of Science

happy birthday



JULY 22

Kelly Marie Roth, Laurie Fonger, Eric Shear, Noreen Myers, T.J. Butler, Allie Stuckey.

JULY 26

Elaine Gregersen, Eric Baird, Josh Geldersma, Ellen Dilly.

JULY 23

Dave Fosburg, Nathan Swift, Heather Pretzel, Robert Jahnke.

JULY 27

Kyle Hendrick, Mike Shalander, Jason Spencer, Paige Wilson.

JULY 24

Nathan Bush, Mike Lally.

JULY 28

Tom Speerstra, Rachel Shanne Smith, Bobby Wright, Tiffany Hunt, Alexander Barr.

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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
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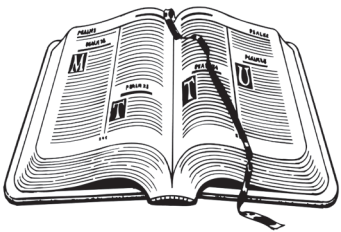
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LIFE GROUPS 11:00 AM (Nursery-Adult)
Awana (K-5 during school year) Wednesday, 6:15 PM

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Who sent the ‘Wear a Mask’ cellular phone alert?

Who authorized the message sent over the state’s emergency alert system Monday afternoon to remind of residents of the need to wear face masks?

Members of the Joint Select Committee on the COVID-19 Pandemic wanted to know from Kevin Sweeney, captain of the State Emergency Operations Center.

The message went out late, three days after the Governor issued her executive order requiring masks, said committee chair Matt Hall (R-Emmett Twp).

“I don’t see an issue with the message going out,” Sweeney said. “It was another way to remind our citizens that it is important to put the mask on to help save lives, so I don’t see an issue with having that message go out in different formats at different times. [...] There are guidelines that we have to follow. It has to be a life-safety type of thing. So when we sent out this message - COVID-19, wear the mask, because it is going to protect people - that was an important message to get out.”

Asked who wrote

the message, Sweeney explained it was crafted by the Michigan State Police’s SEOC public information officer in consultation with the governor’s office.

The message was criticized as soon as it was issued Monday.

Rep. Jack O’Malley (R-Lake Ann) contended emergency alerts are supposed to be for “immediate, time critical information” and are sent to all cell phones, radio, television, cable and broadcast media.

“Do you know the Goldilocks story? There’s too hot, too cold and just right,” Sen. Curtis Hertel Jr. (D-East Lansing) asked. “I am still waiting for the just right moment from this committee because it seems like no matter what the governor does, it’s either too hot or too cold.”

The committee invited Sweeney to appear to answer questions about how the SEOC has performed during the pandemic. Sweeney noted it wasn’t just COVID.

“When the protests were occurring, when our civil disturbances were occurring, we in the SEOC were

activated for three things at the same time,” Sweeney told the committee. “We had COVID going on. We had the civil disturbances going and we had the flood that had been going on.”

Sweeney said the center’s role is to coordinate with local emergency managers and assist them in obtaining the resources they need. As an example, in the Midland flood, locals needed more boats, so the SEOC turned to the Department of Natural Resources to provide the additional watercraft.

“Put it in perspective,” Sweeney told the committee. “In the Flint water crisis, which was previously our largest event, there were a total of 180 resource requests over a two-year period. Over two years, we had local emergency managers and health care individuals requesting water. They were requesting piping. [...] In the first four months of COVID-19, we have now had over 13,000 resource requests, 10,000 of those have been filled.”

He explained that in some cases, by the time the state acquired the resource, the local manager had found

it from another source or vendor.

Committee members asked if the SEOC has a pandemic response plan and Sweeney said it does. It was first written in 2005, updated in 2017 and he said the plan and SEOC had previously been activated during the H1N1 pandemic.

Noting that the SEOC typically is activated for disasters like floods or tornadoes, Hall asked if Sweeney believed the center should be part of MSP.

“To change the structure or the law, I think it is housed perfectly within the Department of State Police,” Sweeney said. “That is because we are used to responding to incidents. That is what we do. That is what the State Police does. And so to have us manage that program, working and coordinating with the other partners, I just think it is right where it should be.”

Sweeney said part of the center’s role is to assist with procurement of resources when they are in short supply, such as when the state and its hospitals were undersupplied with personal protection equipment. But



he also explained the extent of the center’s involvement is to refer tips on available supplies to the Procurement Office with the Department of Technology, Management and Budget.

The committee heard more testimony Wednesday from a local company that said it had supplies the state publicly indicated it needed.

EnvisionTEC CEO Al Siblani of Dearborn said he heard the state needed swabs for test kits that it could

supply. He worked with the federal Food and Drug Administration to make sure the swabs were made correctly.

Siblani said he has yet to hear back from Michigan officials, although he has shipped over seven million swabs to other states and local hospitals. He said he could deliver 100,000 swabs anywhere in the state tomorrow.

“There is no shortage,” Siblani said.

Number of MI sheriffs refusing to enforce mask rule is up to 12

At least 12 Michigan county sheriffs have announced they will not be actively writing \$500 tickets to business patrons who are not wearing masks indoors.

On Wednesday, Montcalm County sheriff Mike Williams and Ionia County sheriff Charlie Noll said the governor’s multiple executive orders “have led to great confusion among local law enforcement, as well as the public at large,” according to the Daily News.

They both said they would be referring any complaints to the attorney general’s office.

They join the sheriffs in at least Antrim, Arenac, Gratiot, Livingston, Saginaw, Shiawassee and Van Buren in saying they would not be enforcing the executive order.

The Macomb County sheriff wrote on Facebook they’re not issuing citations to non-mask wearers. The Menominee County sheriff issued a similar statement. Oakland County is referring cases to the attorney general.

Sheriff Kenny Marks



said if a person who doesn’t wear a mask refused to leave a business after being asked, that person can be charged with trespassing or disorderly conduct.

“The way the executive orders are written causes confusion and frustration among the public and law enforcement professionals that serve you,” he wrote. “I don’t want you to mistrust us. It is important to me that you understand the challenges we face together.”

In Wayne County, the

sheriff’s office has said it will not be taking the lead but will assist when needed, according to the Detroit Free Press.

Berrien County, Kent County, Kalamazoo County and Washtenaw County are taking the

eye toward voluntary compliance. Issuing a ticket appears to be the last resort.

The Bay County sheriff’s office said they will respond to calls for service, but will not be out looking for people not complying.

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VERGENNES TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a regular meeting of the Vergennes Township Planning Commission will be held on **Monday, August 10, 2020 at 7:00 pm at the Vergennes Township Hall, located at 10381 Bailey Drive, Lowell, MI** to consider agenda business as summarized below:

Public Comment will be accepted on a private road application from Lee Hovey to extend and upgrade an existing private road off Bailey Dr. called Talisman Dr. in section 21. The private road will be extended at the end of the road into 590 Talisman Dr. to create 4 more parcels. Property owners within 300 feet of the project parcels will receive this notice by mail.

The complete proposed private road upgrade and extension plans can be reviewed at the **Vergennes Township Hall, 10381 Bailey Drive, PO Box 208, Lowell, MI 49331 - Phone: (616) 897-5671** or on the website: **www.vergennestwp.org**. Written and oral comments will be received from any interested party until the conclusion of the public hearing. Written comments may be mailed, dropped off, or placed in the drop box at the Township Offices or emailed to the Planning Commission at: **zoning@vergennestwp.org**

Vergennes Township Planning Commission

The incredible love & war stories of Rev. Glenn Marks



In 2018, Rev. Marks finally received the Bronze Star award for his WWII heroics.

by Brendan A. Sanders
contributing reporter

There are few people who have experienced the life that Rev. Glenn Marks has.

Turning 95 years old on July 27, he has been a part of history's most defining moments and has contributed to many communities across the Midwest - especially Lowell.

Both a WWII hero and a pastor for 70 years, his work throughout the near century he has been on this Earth can still be seen with various churches being built with his guidance.

Rev. Marks was born

July 27, 1925 in rural Cass County, Michigan. From his birth, a day when the doctor had been out fishing and his three-year-old brother climbed a thirty-foot windmill, Rev. Marks' life has been extraordinary.

Growing up, he attended a single person schoolhouse in Bristol, IN, and lived on a small farm during the Great Depression. He wanted to be either a farmer or a carpenter when he grew up. But as he graduated high school, his life took a big turn.

America changed with

WWII; millions of young men were sent to fight all around the world. Rev. Marks was one of those men. Upon turning 18 he applied for the draft and was selected. He attended basic training as a clerk typist at Camp Grant, graduating and leaving for Europe on D-Day. After training to be a typist, he was shipped to Europe, passing the Statue of Liberty on his 19th birthday.

After several stops in England and several days on the stormy English Channel, Rev. Marks landed on Omaha Beach. He was then one of the leading troops into the Siegfried Line.

Germany launched its last large counterattack against Allied forces. The Battle of the Bulge had started, and Marks was in the middle of it. His position had been changed and now he was to assist the 1st Army in retrieving injured soldiers, both Allied and German.

The Rur River was where Marks would face his most

dangerous moments. With the first Army trying to take the dam on the river at all costs, Marks' crew was

tasked with retrieving the injured. Getting into a small tracked vehicle, they drove down the embankment towards the town, zigzagging down the hill as German 88mm cannon fire was shot towards their vehicle, three shells hitting nearby. As they entered the town and exited the vehicle, another shell hit near Marks, injuring a nearby soldier but leaving Marks unharmed.

"Later, I would learn from letters from my sister that my dad had gotten a bad feeling during this dangerous time for me, and had actually gone upstairs to pray that day for my protection," Rev. Marks said. "To this day I fully believe that I wouldn't be alive if it wasn't for him praying for me that day.

That night, Marks' crew was told to pick a house to sleep in. In the morning they left and went across town. An hour later, that house was destroyed by artillery fire.

Next, Marks' crew was to



Norma Jean and Rev. Glenn Marks, 1950.

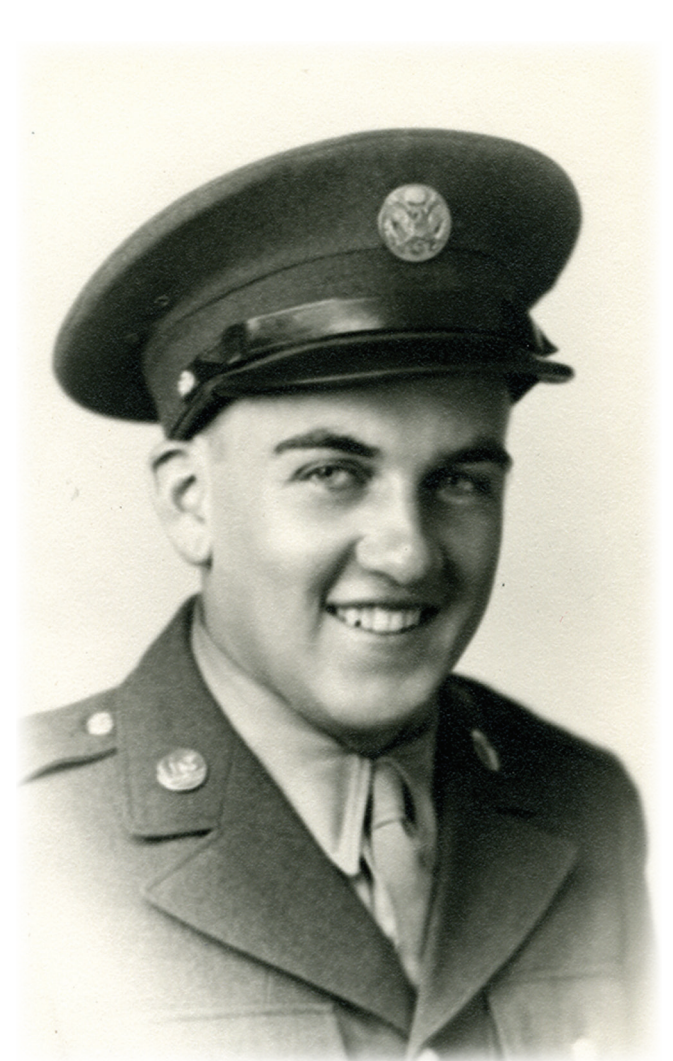
pick up four wounded men. The driver of the vehicle that was in control refused to go down a road that had not been cleared. Marks insisted they proceed, deciding that he would walk out in front of the vehicle in case a mine had been set.

Even during these most dangerous times, Marks was never afraid.

"As we rode through the Allegheny mountains in Pennsylvania, I was reminded of the verse Psalm 125:2," Rev. Marks said. "As the mountains surround Jerusalem, so the Lord surrounds his people." I went between the cars and watched the sun set. It made so much of an impact on me that I can honestly say I was never afraid while I was in Europe. I knew I was in the Lord's hands."

After staying behind eight months to tend to the many wounded soldiers from the war, Marks returned home. He would attend college at the Fort Wayne Bible Institute, where he would meet his future wife Norma Jean Byars. After the duo transferred, they graduated from Bethel College in 1950, Norma Jean as Suma Cum Laude, and Glenn as Cum Laude.

That same year, they



Rev. Glenn Marks during World War II.

were married, a marriage that would last until Norma Jean's death in 2017. Marks earned his minister's certificate, something that he has had for 70 years, and they started their first church in Plymouth, IN.

Throughout the rest of the 1950s and into the 1960s, Rev. Marks would start four total churches in Indiana, in Plymouth, South Bend, North Manchester and Indianapolis. They started humbly, but with time grew into churches that all still exist today.

Faced with a choice of becoming pastor at a new church in Ohio or an established church in Pontiac, MI, Rev. Marks turned to God for an answer.

"After praying that morning asking god what to do, I saw a clear map of Michigan in the clouds," Rev. Marks said. "That told me everything that I needed to know. I found a pay phone and called the church in Pontiac."

After briefly pastoring in Pontiac, Michigan, Rev. Marks moved to Lowell in 1967, living at Meadowview Farms until 1971. He then built his home at Oak Hill, a house he lived in for 42 years. In Lowell, his family's hearts were refreshed, and they chose to see if there was any interest in creating a Bible study. Over the course of the 1970s this Bible study would grow into what would today be known as Evergreen Missionary Church.

The church that began as a Bible study has grown out of the garage that Rev. Marks built to the building that you can see today. The church

was built in a day - Aug. 8, 1981 - with an old-fashioned building bee.

Over the course of Rev. Marks' life, he has contributed to 40 building projects, including major supervision of 17 churches, four that he built while pastoring, and 11 buildings for various members of the community.

Rev. Marks had many hobbies along the way, with ponies that he owned throughout the years being the biggest pride and joy. Growing up, he had always wanted a pony, but with the Great Depression it would've been too much of an expense. After many prayers, he was able to get his kids a pony, Ginger. This would lead to the joy of 14 ponies over the course of 43 years, with 14 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren getting to enjoy them, too. When the time came where Rev. Marks couldn't take care of them anymore, Branch Adventures in Saranac was able to take his ponies, saddles, carts and covered wagon off his hands.

Today, Rev. Marks is still very active, living next to the Evergreen Missionary Church with his daughter Cindy Gerig. He cleans up the property from time to time, picking up sticks. Recently, he has helped tuck point the stone around the church that he had built nearly 40 years ago.

"Believe in Jesus, pray the prayer of a sinner and accept Him," Rev. Marks said. "God has promised to guide the humble. It's been a humble, fulfilling life for me."

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LowellArts gallery artist Matthew Farrell

by Brendan A. Sanders
contributing reporter

The human mind is complicated, and giving it something it can mold can lead to various amazing results.

That's what Matthew Farrell has done with many of his pieces that are now on display at the LowellArts gallery. Featuring a multitude of artwork inspired by the Minimalist and Formalist art movements, Farrell provides an intriguing view on the use of space.

"Most of my inspiration comes from my personal life and experiences," Farrell said. "Recently I have become very interested in ideas of space. Whether it is public, private, personal, or mental, space plays a major role in how we view and interact with the world around us."

Farrell is a graduate of Colorado Mesa University and earned his Master's in Fine Arts at Kendall College of Art and Design. He became interested in art in high school but it was

forms become the main ideas in the work. The forms evoke the human body, and I like to think of each panel as a still from a film or TV show, as the angles and composition of each shot helps tell the story. Since the works are so simple and abstract, the titles are very important in giving the viewer a jumping off point to start understanding the story of the work."

Farrell's simplistic style is a specialty in his art. He describes how his art is able to make the viewer notice little details in the work.

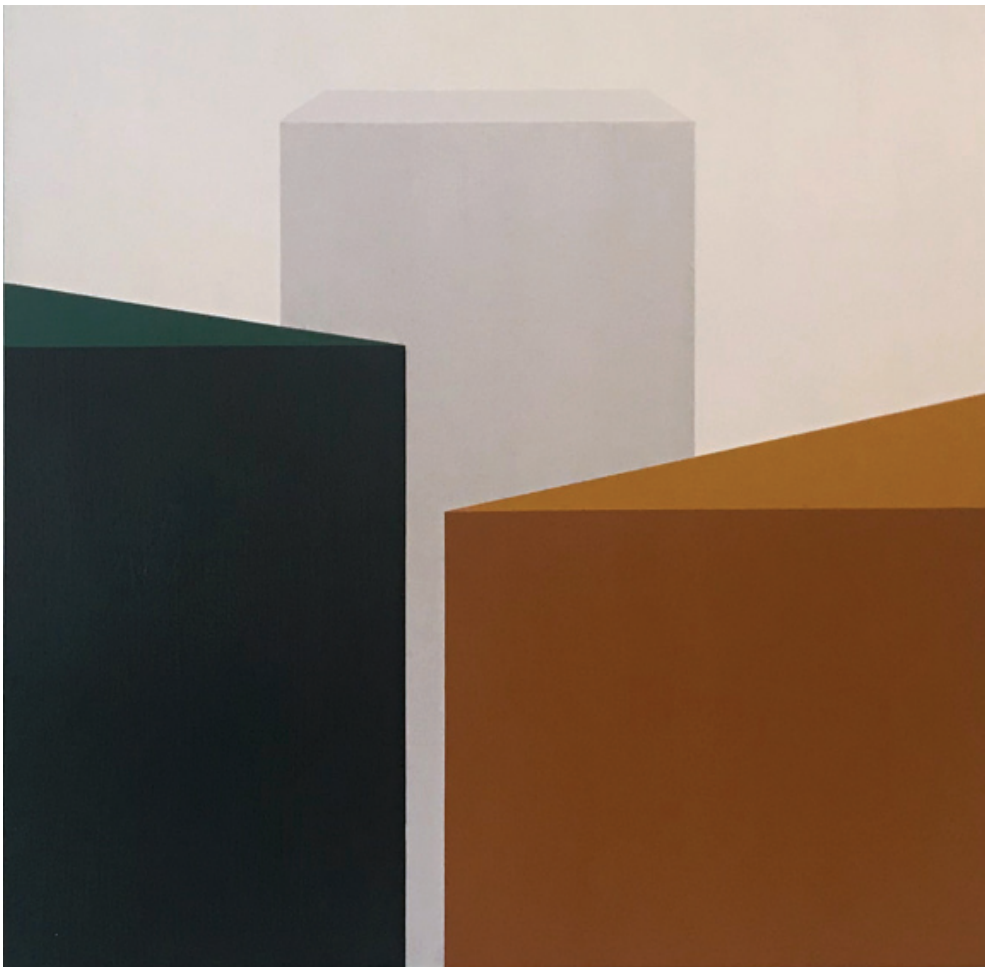
"The simplistic nature of my work is inspired by the Minimalist and Formalist art movements," Farrell said. "Using these methods, I dilute the visual information to amplify the important details within the images or objects. I use the materials and space between objects as metaphors to create an emotive response from the viewer."

An example of this work is shown in his "Knowing

Pleasing' pieces are meant to represent both sides of that coin. Side one being the pleasing side where the main character is void of color and the rest of the objects are vibrant, and side two being the point where we find our 'knowing.' The central object is bright orange and glowing while surrounded by muted objects."

Other pieces that are sitting in the gallery include sculptures that are also simplistic upon first glance, but the meaning can go deeper with a little digging. This includes the shape, the materials and the names of the projects.

"The materials in my sculptures are chosen for metaphorical reasons," Farrell said. "They play just as much of a role in the story I am telling as the shapes and imagery themselves. For example, the window screen is used to create a false sense of volume. From a distance the objects look solid, but the closer you get to them,



"I Was Nearly Catatonic" by Mathew Farrell.

really sparked at Colorado Mesa, where he discovered printmaking in 2010. His first group exhibition took place in 2011, and his first solo exhibition took place only a year later.

Farrell's work at the LowellArts gallery is a combination of both paintings and 3-D models, featuring blocks, cubes and boxes. These are spaced, shaded or created differently to give the viewer different perspectives.

"I think this comes from the compositions themselves," Farrell said. "The space, angles and interactions between the

vs. Pleasing" paintings that feature angled paintings of blocks, pieces that allow the viewer to draw various conclusions.

"The original idea came from a quote by Glennon Doyle out of her book 'Untamed,'" Farrell said. "She writes, 'We forgot how to know when we learned how to please.' She writes a lot about our own knowing, which is kind of like our inner soul. It is who we are and our base instincts. What I take from her work is that we lose our personal baseline when we are taught to please those around us rather than be ourselves. The 'Knowing vs.

the more weightless and vulnerable the material, and therefore the objects, feel."

Farrell described how he created all of his work, including the newly-furnished skill of painting, due to the rise of COVID-19.

"My process starts with the initial idea," Farrell said. "Something I feel or experience usually triggers some sort of image in my mind. Once I have that part, I mull it over and decide the best way to represent that idea. Sometimes it can be better illustrated as a 3-D object, and other times as a painting or a print. Painting is actually pretty new to

Lowell Farmers' Market is in full swing!



The market is going to be open from 10 am until 3 pm every Thursday through Oct. 1.
For more information, visit discoverlowell.org or call 616-897-9161.

my work. My degrees are actually in printmaking, but with COVID and not a whole lot of access to a printshop, I have had to adapt. Thus, I have started painting, which I have really grown to enjoy."

The main message that he wants others to receive from his work is to notice the space that is around you.

"Whether we notice or acknowledge it, space is you, it is me, and it is what is in between," Farrell said. "Space has a large impact

on how we see, perceive and interact with the world around us. It governs our relationships. The distance we keep between us and others, both physically and mentally, is shaped through the level of comfort, trust and vulnerability we share. These are the things - and emptiness - that hold all of the meaning within my work," Farrell said.

Farrell wants to make sure artists keep working on their craft.

"If you're stuck, just

keep creating," Farrell said. "The artistic process is what sparks new ideas. The act of creating, even if it's doodling or experimenting with random materials you find around your world, will spark your imagination and allow you to create new, finished work. Some of my best work has."

Currently, Farrell works for a sign company where he programs, cuts and applies vinyl graphics. To view more of Farrell's work, visit his website at matthewfarrellart.com.



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Bluebird Meadow Goat Yoga pivots to 'farm yoga'



Bluebird Meadow owner Lisa Johnson with a friend. [photos on this page by Than Johnson]

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

Bluebird Meadow Goat Yoga, 2821 Boynton NE in Ada, can't host their regular goat yoga sessions right now because of the pandemic, so they are now offering "farm yoga" instead.

"I originally started the business doing goat yoga," said Bluebird Meadow owner Lisa Johnson. "That is where you do

or a child's pose. People are usually more tickled by their interactions with the goats, rather than annoyed! But right now we are on a 'pandemic pause' because of the CDC's recommendation that animals from one household not interact with people from another household. You can imagine if we're in a

out on the lawn right next to the pasture where the goats are," Johnson said. "It's a very immersive experience for people. We've got a donkey and a horse, there are ducks and chickens wandering around... We did a practice last week that put all the ducks to sleep! There is a pond on the farm where we've had blue herons land and some mallards. It's just an opportunity to be in nature, surrounded by these really cool animals. We might do some meditation, just by taking in the sights and the sounds of the beautiful natural setting."

The farm also hosts bachelorette parties and corporate team building events, and you can even spend the night there, they're an "Airbnb" location.

For more information, visit their website, bluebirdmeadowgoatyoga.com, find them on social media or call 616-644-3328 or send a message to bluebirdmeadowgoatyoga@gmail.com.

"People want to be able to connect with other human beings right now, and we can do this safely,"



"We space our mats a good distance apart." - Lisa Johnson



"A farm is basically the perfect yoga studio." - Lisa Johnson



Bluebird Meadow is an Airbnb location, and they also host various types of group events on the farm.

a yoga sequence, which takes about an hour, and the goats are interacting with the people as you do the poses. There's this intersection between the therapeutic benefits of yoga and animal-assisted therapy. The goats are fun little critters, so being with them brings another level of peace and joy. They're very curious and just so cute. For example, they may jump on people if they're in a table pose

penned area on the grass doing yoga, and the goats are going from person to person, it could conceivably spread the virus. So we've morphed into offering farm yoga."

All indoor yoga studios in Michigan are closed because of COVID-19, but Johnson said it's actually better to do yoga outdoors.

"A farm is basically the perfect yoga studio, so we're doing the yoga

Johnson said. "We space our mats a good distance apart, for example. It gets people connected with nature after they've been shut in for so long. It's a chance to ground and center yourself, and to be with people in a safe setting. It brings me a lot of joy to offer this space and this experience to people."



"People are usually more tickled by their interactions with the goats, rather than annoyed!" - Lisa Johnson

New raised garden bed installed at Gilda's Club

Over a decade ago, David and Jan Thompson purchased a sign for Gilda's Club and the Senior Neighbors Center, 314 S. Hudson Street, SE, which now stands on the property's east lawn. The sign had landscaping around its perimeter, though over the years, invasive plants moved into the surrounding garden and the plants became overgrown. As a result, the Lowell Showboat Garden Club decided to build a raised-garden bed and reduce the overall size of the garden for ease in planting and maintaining. The partners in this endeavor included Kenny Wittenbach with Dirt Cheap and John Greenop of Greenop's Lawn & Landscaping, Inc. To kick off the project, Wittenbach removed the plants, shrubs and soil from around the sign. Then after digging a trench around the sign, Wittenbach filled that trench with gravel to support the weight of the retaining wall blocks. Finally, Wittenbach delivered eight yards of soil to fill the bed and spread around the bed site to help grow new grass.

As part of Impact Church's Love Week, John

Greenop volunteered his services to build the bed. On Tuesday, July 14, the Greenop's crew arrived early to begin their work leveling and laying block. The raised-garden bed is 20 inches high with a cap covering, 16 feet in length and six feet wide. Approximately six yards of soil was used to fill the garden bed, and the remainder was raked around the project site and planted with grass seed. After a layer of straw, the job was done. The outdoor lighting needs to be re-installed and the garden bed planted. Plans are underway for both.

Wendy Wigger, President of Gilda's Club of Grand Rapids, thanked all the volunteers for their "time, talent and generosity." Wigger added, "This whole world needs a reason to smile and you [volunteers] helped give us another reason to do so." Gilda's Club of Lowell shares the same facility as the Senior Neighbors Center. Their weekly Tuesday evening programs feature support groups for children and adults, educational lectures and workshops and, true to Gilda Radner's namesake, offer plenty of fun activities for all ages. For a



full listing of services please visit: www.gildasclubgr.org/lowell-programs/. The Senior Neighbors Center promotes the well-being of older adults with services that promote self-sufficiency, especially to those with physical, social or economic needs living

in Kent County. Services include home maintenance, housing assistance, transportation, medicare and medicaid counseling. For a complete listing of services visit www.senioreighbors.org/centers/lowell/.

The Lowell Showboat Garden Club (LSGC) was

proud to fund the project in conjunction with a grant obtained from the Michigan Garden Club, Inc. Since 1949, LSGC has sought ways to beautify the Lowell community. Other notable projects sponsored by LSGC are maintaining the flower pots along the Riverwalk

Plaza and planting daffodils along the nature trail at the North Township Park.

The club meets on the third Monday of each month at 6:30 pm. Normally, the meetings are at the Senior Neighbors Center though all events appear in upcoming events section of The Lowell Ledger.

Coronavirus-related Medicare scam alert

Since older Americans are particularly vulnerable to coronavirus (COVID-19), we want to remind Medicare beneficiaries to be vigilant and take precautions to avoid falling victim to healthcare fraud during this pandemic. We're warning Medicare beneficiaries that scammers may try to use this pandemic to steal their Medicare number, banking information, or other personal data.

Unfortunately, scammers take advantage of the most vulnerable people during times of uncertainty and change. You must protect yourself by making sure you only give your Medicare number to your doctor, pharmacist, hospital, health insurer, or other trusted healthcare provider.

If someone calls you on the phone, saying they're from Medicare, and asks for your Medicare number or other personal information – just hang up. Medicare representatives will never:

- Call beneficiaries to ask for or to "verify" Medicare numbers.
- Call to sell you anything.

- Promise you things if you give them a Medicare number.
- Visit you at your home.
- Call you to enroll you in a Medicare program over the phone, unless you called us first.



Medicare cards no longer have Social Security numbers on them to reduce fraud and protect beneficiaries from identity theft. Even with this change, you should guard your Medicare card like you would a credit card. Be sure to check your Medicare claim summaries for errors and questionable bills. If you suspect Medicare

fraud, please report it by calling Medicare's toll-free customer service center at 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). You can also visit Medicare online at www.medicare.gov/forms-help-resources/help-fight-medicare-fraud.

Please help inform others by sharing this message with family and friends.

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.



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obituaries

DEN BRAVEN

Neil Arthur Den Braven of Ocean Grove, NJ, passed away peacefully on Saturday, July 11, 2020 at his home. He was 90 years old. Neil was born in Paterson, NJ and served as an Army Sergeant First Class during the Korean War, fighting on the frontlines. He was an active member of St. Paul's United Methodist Church in Ocean Grove and previously served as a church Trustee. Neil enjoyed helping at the annual St. Paul's Thanksgiving Dinner and was a volunteer caretaker for the church's landscaping needs. He served as past president of the Ocean Grove Auditorium Choir and was also a member of the Ocean Grove Auditorium Ushers Association. Neil



served as the Captain of the Ocean Grove Fire Police and was a member of E.H. Stokes Fire Company No. 3. He was also a former member of the Ocean Grove First Aid Squad, serving from 1970 – 1980. Neil loved all things Ocean Grove and enjoyed walking on the boardwalk or simply sitting on the porch or in the Firehouse. He was preceded in death by his wife, Betty Den Braven (nee Greydanus), his parents, Tunis and Nellie (nee DeKorte) Den Braven; and his sister, Corene Kuiken. Surviving are his four children, Sharon (Bob) McEwan of Ocean Grove, NJ; Randy (Leslye) Den Braven of Pine Grove, CA; Glen (Kay) Den Braven of Lowell; and Dawn (Matt) Yoder of Marion, IN; his thirteen grandchildren, Rob (Toni) McEwan, Stephanie (Ken) Washeleski, Jim (Amanda) McEwan, Megan Den Braven, Rebecca (Phil) Lockhart, Allison Den Braven, Sean (Samantha) Den Braven, Aleesha (Brandon) Raker, Ryan Den Braven, Mikayla Yoder, Colin Yoder, Evan Yoder and Seth Yoder; his four great-granddaughters, Camryn McEwan, Lauren Gazell, Breslin Meiste, Amelia Raker; and his great-grandson, Liam Neil McEwan; along with his many nieces and nephews. A celebration of Neil's life was held on Tuesday, July 21, 2020 at the Ocean Grove Boardwalk Pavilion. In lieu of flowers, Neil's family has requested that donations in his memory be made to: St. Paul's United Methodist Church Landscaping Fund, 80 Embury Ave, Ocean Grove, NJ 07756.

LEGAL NOTICE

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
COUNTY OF KENT

NOTICE TO
CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate

FILE NO. 20-207617-DE

Estate of JANICE ANN
ROWLAND. Date of
birth: 03/22/1947.

TO ALL CREDITORS:

NOTICE TO
CREDITORS: The
decedent, Janice
Ann Rowland, died
6/22/2020.

Creditors of the
decedent are notified
that all claims against
the estate will be
forever barred unless
presented to Charles

Rowland & Pamela
Jakeway, personal
representatives, or
to both the probate
court at 180 Ottawa
Avenue NW, Suite
2500, Grand Rapids, MI
49503 and the personal
representatives within
4 months after the date
of publication of this
notice.

July 20, 2020

Karen S. McFadden
(P-57043)
403 W. Main
Belding, MI 48809
616-794-1220

Charles Rowland
14747 Barber Crk.
Kent City, MI 49330

Pamela Jakeway
11467 Hart Ave.
Greenville, MI 48838

FINKLER

Dawn Marie Finkler, age 48 of Lowell, passed away peacefully on May 29, 2020. She is preceded in death by her parents; Dale L. Finkler and Lois (Myers) Finkler. She is survived by her grandma, Doris (Myers) Canfield; several aunts and uncles; and many other relatives and friends. Special thanks to Spectrum Health Neuro Services for the many years of excellent care. Visitations will be held at 2pm on Sunday, August 2, 2020 at Roth-Gerst Chapel, 305 N. Hudson, Lowell. Memorial contributions may be made to Flat River Outreach Ministries, 11535 Fulton St E, Lowell, MI 49331.



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KERR

Sidney B. Kerr, age 86 of Lowell, left our world, Friday July 10, 2020. He was a beautiful soul, who is now reunited with his lifelong sweetheart, Carole Gean Kerr (Burch). Sidney like many of the Kerr's who have gone before him lived a long and fulfilling life in Vergennes Township. He was also preceded in death by his parents, Leonard and Ruth (Fero); brother, Leonard (Gloria) Kerr. Sidney is survived by his children, Richard (Mary Jo), Karen (Dave) Pedley, Bev (Craig) Vanderstelt; grandchildren, Anthony Pedley, Dustin (Dena) Pedley, Casie (Justin) Quist, Zac Vanderstelt, Brianna Vanderstelt, Lok Vanderstelt; great-grandson's, Connor Pedley, Oliver Quist; and brother, Gordon (Char) Kerr. He was a great companion to his brothers, loving husband to Carole and an amazing father to his children. His grandchildren brought so many smiles to his face as they called him "PaPa". Sidney was a very inquisitive man yet very self-less to many who had the privilege to know him. Family isn't always blood, but the people in your life who mean so much to you as Jim, Bill and the Newhof Crew has been. He was also a great uncle, friend, and community member. Family was very important to him and will forever remain in our hearts for his love, kindness and enduring support and will be missed greatly. The family would appreciate in lieu of flowers you would consider a donation to Kindred Hospice, 625 Kenmoor Ave., SE Suite 115 Grand Rapids, MI 49546 who helped the family go through this journey and for keeping Sidney at peace. A private family graveside service will take place at a later date.



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Looking Back, continued

50 years The Lowell Ledger July 30, 1970

A crowd of more than 4,000 people lined the banks of Lowell's Flat River Monday night as the week's first colorful Showboat paddled its way into the 1970 season. Mail order and gate ticket sales were reported brisk but the grand stand was not filled to capacity on Monday or Tuesday night. Early week crowds, on hand to see Gary Puckett and The Union Gap were composed mainly of young people but a large turnout of older showgoers was evident.

"I don't want to make a federal case out of this," Fred Phelps, post office custodian said Tuesday, "but someone has stolen two petunia plants from near the flagpole of the post office – the United States Post Office, Lowell, Michigan 49331." Phelps said he has a good idea who the culprits are and was waiting for their next move. "They should know that they can't use petunias that belong to the whole country for their private use. We want them back or I'll have to report it to postal authorities in Washington, D. C. 20025," Phelps said.

As the first two storefronts in Lowell – the Christensen Drug Co. and the Chamber of Commerce office – neared completion this week, the president of the ornamental iron company which supplied the wrought iron announced he would come to Lowell to talk with interested businessmen and residents.

25 years The Lowell Ledger July 26, 1995

The 20-30 mile an hour winds that came racing through Lowell early Saturday evening left in their wake more than the average amount of branches and twigs. It brought to its foundation nearly 70 years of tradition and nostalgia. The grandstand that served as a seating box for horse race watchers and later for baseball and softball games at Recreation Park was leveled by the storm.

The Lowell Charter Planning Commission has cleared the way for Woodruff Palmer to build his dream. The commission approved a special use permit for Palmer to start construction on an 18-hole golf course off Cascade Road. Before granting the permit, the commission issued specific conditions in conjunction with the construction of the project before it is opened to the public.

There will come a day when the old Waterville Mill will be restored with glass windows and flower boxes, but for now the painted boarded up windows will suffice. The Waterville Mill, also known as the Stutz Mill years ago (named after its owner), currently sits on MacArthur Street in Saranac.

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Financial Focus

With Christopher C. Godbold

Edward Jones

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What Should You Do With an Inheritance?

If you were to inherit a large sum of money, what would you do with it?

The question may not be hypothetical, especially if you are in the millennial, Gen X or Gen Z demographic groups. That's because the baby boomers – often referred to as the richest generation in history – are poised to transfer some \$30 trillion in assets over the next few decades, according to the consulting firm Accenture.

Of course, this is a “macro” figure, and everyone's situation is different. Furthermore, since baby boomers are living longer, more active lives, the total amount passed on may end up being considerably less than the estimate. Nonetheless, you may well receive a medium-to-large inheritance someday, and when that day arrives, you'll need to decide how best to use your newfound wealth.

Your first move may be to do nothing at all. Generally speaking, you have enough time to decide how to handle the various elements of an inheritance, although if you are inheriting an investment vehicle such as an IRA or a 401(k) plan, you will eventually have to make some decisions about liquidation or withdrawals. (And since these accounts may carry tax obligations, it's a good idea to consult with your tax advisor fairly soon after you receive your inheritance.) But if a big part of your inheritance simply consists of cash parked in a bank account, there's nothing wrong with moving the money into a cash management account

at a financial services company until you decide what to do with it.

However, after some time has passed, you may want to put your inheritance to good use. If you're already working with a financial advisor, you might want to get some guidance on how to use your new assets to strengthen your existing investment strategy. Do you have any gaps in certain areas? Can you use the money to help diversify your holdings? Diversification can't guarantee profits or protect against all losses, but it can help reduce the impact of volatility on your portfolio.

And, of course, if your inheritance is large enough, it may permit you

to “max out” on your IRA for years to come, and possibly free you to have even more of your salary deferred into your 401(k) or similar employer-sponsored retirement account. Plus, you could use the money for other long-term goals, such as funding a tax-advantaged 529 college savings plan for your children.

You also might use part of your inheritance to donate to the charitable organizations you support. Due to recent changes in tax laws that caused many people to stop itemizing their deductions, charitable groups are in more need of support than ever.

And last, but certainly not least, take this opportunity to review your

goals. Is your inheritance large enough for you to adjust your planned retirement age? And if that age may indeed change, what about your other plans for retirement? Will you now be free to travel more or pursue other hobbies? Will you even need to modify the way you invest for your new reality, possibly by taking a less aggressive approach? Again, a financial professional can help you answer these questions.

Someone thought enough of you to leave you a valuable inheritance – so use it wisely.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor. Edward Jones, Member SIPC

Live the Life You Want

Being realistic supports a strong intimate relationship

Melissa Spino MA LLPC CDMS
Life Transitions Therapy LLC

This article is the first in a series on relationships. I often work with couples for various reasons but two issues are especially common and problematic. One is the idea that relationships are about finding your “other half”, someone to “complete you” or your “soul mate”. The

other is the “ideal” partner image. This is the idea a person has in their mind, often since childhood, about their perfect partner. Their “Mr. Right” - “Miss Right” or “Prince Charming” – “Cinderella”. Coming into a relationship with these types of fantasy ideas often sets the stage for problems.

Building a Solid Foundation

This is not to say that you need to avoid knowing the traits and values you want in a partner. I'm saying instead, be realistic. Toss the rose-colored glasses and with them the fantasy of your ideal romantic partner and that they are there to complete you. You may be surprised to find you don't know your partner as well

as you thought and may not have gotten who you were looking for. See your partner for who they really are so you can start to build a real relationship not one based on fantasy.

Constant togetherness or dependency to fill a void in yourself (someone to “complete you”) just causes more pain and suffering. I find that a person with this ideal doesn't know how to love themselves so they look to find love elsewhere. You can only receive love from another person when you

feel it toward yourself. Love from someone else can't keep you from feeling lonely or incomplete. It won't fill that emotional void inside you. Work to accept and love yourself, the perceived good and bad. Come to the realization that you are important and you matter. You are worthy of love.

To support yourself on this journey start by reading my articles on co-dependent relationships, assertive communication, self-talk, self-compassion, and boundaries. They can be

found in back issues of the Lowell Ledger, The Buyer's Guide & News, LinkedIn, or on my Facebook page at [facebook.com/LifeTransitionsTherapyLLC](https://www.facebook.com/LifeTransitionsTherapyLLC). Getting rid of these fantasy ideals allows true love to emerge because it tosses out expectations on what true love is “supposed” to look like. This is the start of building a strong foundation for your relationship.

This article is not intended to diagnose or treat.

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FUN PAGE

SUDOKO

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

Level: Intermediate

Here's How It Works:

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

SUN SAFETY WORD SEARCH

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

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

Puzzle solutions on page 13

SUN SAFETY WORD SEARCH

DERMATOLOGIST

RASH RAYS

SUNSCREEN ULTRAVIOLET

BRIGHT BURN CUMULATIVE DAMAGE DANGEROUS

EXPOSURE EYES MELANIN MELANOMA OUTDOORS PEAK RADIATION

SAFETY SHADY SKIN SPECTRUM SUN SUNGLASSES

Guess Who?

I am a TV personality born in Australia on July 24, 1998. I come from a famous animal activist and education family. I grew up in the spotlight thanks to my father's very popular television series.

Answer: *Bindi Irwin*

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to sun safety.

V O R C E

□	□	□	□	□
---	---	---	---	---

Answer: *Cover*

			1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		
	10	11							12				13	
	14							15					16	17
18							19			20		21		
22					23				24		25			
26					27				28		29		30	
		31	32						33		34			
35	36										37			
38					39				40					
41				42		43		44				45	46	47
48			49		50		51					52		
53				54		55						56		
57			58		59				60	61	62			
	63	64							65					
		66							67					

CLUES ACROSS

- One-time world power
- Central Florida city
- Winged nut
- Elevate spiritually
- Creative
- It cools your home
- Woman (French)
- "60 Minutes" network
- Old World lizard
- Swiss river
- Ethnic group of Cambodians
- Abba __, Israeli politician
- Tire measurement
- Affirmative
- Thrust horse power (abbr.)
- One point north of due east
- A type of "pet"
- Tech giant
- European nation
- Fencing swords
- Acquired
- Origin
- Cashless payment interface (abbr.)
- Pouch
- Peter's last name
- Inclined
- Palestinian territory __

CLUES DOWN

- "Pulp Fiction" actress Thurman
- Actors' organization
- Conscientious investment approach (abbr.)
- Ranch (Spanish)
- Beginning
- Index
- Portuguese wine
- A feudal superior
- Military brach (abbr.)
- Lithuanian given name
- A way to become different
- Able to be domesticated
- Defensive nuclear weapon
- Hosts film festival
- Strip
- A type of syrup
- Bravo! Bravo! Bravo!
- Weather Underground activist
- Run batted in
- Frozen water
- Sodium
- Philly specialty
- Cuts the wool off
- Rules
- Icelandic literary works
- Tattled
- Shows you how to get there
- Arranged alphabetically
- S. Thai isthmus
- The 17th letter of the Greek alphabet
- Woods
- Make yourself attractive
- Concealed
- Large primate
- A favorite saying of a sect or political group
- Tropical fruits
- Obstruct
- Car mechanics group
- Stroke gently
- They're in your toolbox
- Throngs
- One and only
- In a way, bent
- "Downton Abbey" broadcaster
- Herring-like fish
- A major division of geological time
- Vast body of water
- Cannister
- Encourage
- The man

Local artist makes tiny pieces with big impact

Stacie Tamaki first came to Michigan as an ArtPrize participant in 2014. At the time, she was based in California and working as a lifestyle blogger and web developer. After an overwhelmingly positive experience exhibiting at the Grand Central Market and Deli, she made the decision to relocate to Michigan.

grandfathers had passed away before I was born. She immigrated to the United States as a teenager. She never learned to speak English well and she never learned to read English. So my best memories of her are things she showed me, versus things she told me. That is obviously a very sentimental reason for me

eventually discovering that she could fold three-quarter inch squares into three-eighths of an inch high paper cranes. Using this process, Tamaki was able to fold 1,000 cranes into an eight-by-eight mobile that measures around 18 inches in height. She notes that she doesn't use any special tools, just "fingers, hope, and luck."

"Once I did that, I was just hooked on folding in miniature. The added bonus was that when people saw them, it just blew their minds. It's why I love going to Artprize. It's literally jaw-dropping for people. They'll see the mobile from a distance and the moment they realize what they're looking at, their jaw will literally drop. I like that because I think as adults particularly, we become very jaded and very cynical and very narrow in our perceptions of what is possible. When I can show someone something that kind of knocks them off of that and they realize that this is possible because, 'This is in front of me – and look, she's folding one right now!'"

Tamaki's art is truly something to behold. The individual pieces come together to make something otherworldly. Observing the precision of each miniature piece and flawless composition that comes together to create a larger, cohesive object is nothing short of magical. Visitors to ArtPrize asked Tamaki if she had anything available to purchase. These requests inspired her to develop a product line and Tinygami was born. She currently operates an Etsy store where a variety of origami pieces are available for sale.

Tamaki also found a community among her ArtPrize patrons. Several



These tiny tulip pendants are available on Tamaki's Etsy page.

of them asked if she had plans to teach in-person classes. She wanted to create a space for people who appreciated origami to come together and learn, but felt strongly that it should remain free of charge.

"It's what I call 'art within reach,' meaning it is accessible to everyone regardless of age or ability. I used to paint when I was younger and to paint you have to be able to afford paint and canvas and brushes and probably some lessons. But with origami, you can go to the library and check out a book, you can go and Google to get free instructions, you can use any kind of paper, and anyone can do it. I didn't want to exclude anyone from participating and learning from me by having classes that you have to pay for, and that's how I came up with the idea of just having the community folding group."

She considered hosting the group in Grand Rapids, but was worried that the cost of the venue and parking for participants might present a barrier for those who could not afford to pay. The Englehardt Library ended up being a perfect meeting place for this group and Tamaki has seen steady growth, with more people from Lowell and the surrounding area joining all the time.

and paper at home can join Tamaki in her online folding lessons. The accessibility of the art form makes this an ideal hobby for anyone who wants to participate.

"I think this is one of the great things that people can do while they're stuck at home. There are so many other art and craft forms, but then where do you get the supplies?"



Before the pandemic, the West Michigan Origami Club met monthly on Saturday mornings. The group attracts a broad range of individuals who are eager to share their love of origami with one another, "Our youngest participant is six years old and then we have people all the way up to retirees."

Tamaki is quick to mention that just because we aren't able to meet up in person these days, doesn't mean she has stopped teaching. As soon as schools closed, she began creating instructional origami videos and posting them on YouTube. She will also be hosting virtual events sponsored by KDL in August. Anyone with an internet connection

In addition to teaching, Tamaki has written an instructional book about origami and is available for public speaking engagements. A self-described "highly-social introvert," she is always eager to hear from her patrons, who she refers to as her unofficial business advisors.

"What I do isn't for everybody. But for the people who enjoy it and appreciate it, it's here for them."

To learn more about the artist and the West Michigan Origami Club at the Englehardt Library, visit: <https://www.tinygami.com>



Stacie Tamaki.

"Coming out here and living in the woods made me so happy. I was just so much happier. I found that I gained a lot of clarity about what I wanted to do and what was important to me – and who I am, to be honest."

Tamaki had never lived in a rural area before, but found a certain peace in Michigan. Unfortunately she also discovered that slow internet speeds prohibited her from continuing her work in tech. She took this as a sign that it was time to head in a new direction and began working as a full-time origami artist from her small studio in Greenville.

Tamaki learned to fold paper cranes, a symbol of good fortune in Japanese culture, from her grandmother when she was very young. Her mother had a book of origami instructions she used to learn how to fold more models. She estimates that she was around five years old when she began teaching herself how to fold origami.

"My maternal grandmother was the only grandparent I ever knew because both of my

to continue folding them," says Tamaki.

Cranes are traditionally folded to celebrate weddings in Japanese culture. 1,000 cranes are folded and made into a display called a senbazuru that is thought to bring good luck to the bride and groom. But Tamaki began to think about what happens to the cranes after the wedding. These traditional displays are massive in scale and difficult to move and preserve after the ceremony.

"I didn't start folding them in miniature until 1995. That was when I had this kind of crazy idea that I wanted to fold and make a mobile of 1,000 cranes. Usually the paper people use to do that are six by six inch squares of paper and the mobile will be eight feet high." So she thought to herself, "I'm going to try making it small enough that it could fit into a small glass display case, so it wouldn't get damaged or dusty. So I just started cutting the paper down."

Origami paper is traditionally available in six-by-six pieces. She began cutting the paper smaller and smaller,



This origami box is only an inch tall. It has two tiny bunnies sharing a tiny carrot on the lid.