

LOWELL SHOWBOAT



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50¢



MHSAA announces full fall sports season, so high school football is back on!

by Justin Scott
contributing reporter

On Thursday the Michigan governor's office and the Michigan High School Athletic Association surprised the state by reversing a decision to postpone football until the spring. Executive Order 176 put in place from the state, lifted restrictions in the regions of the state still in phase four of the Michigan Safe Start Plan. To the delight of players, parents, and coaches, the Michigan high school football season will go on in the fall instead of being postponed. The decision also allowed boys soccer, girls swim and dive, and girls volleyball to begin athletic competition.

The football season will begin September 18 in the state and will be a six-game season. Lowell football fans will have to tune in to WRWW this season more than usual, as initial discussions suggest only two people per player will be allowed to attend the event in-person. More details including a finalized Lowell football schedule, attendance overview, and



more information will be available in a future Ledger edition.

"We are excited about the opportunity to compete this fall. The young men have taken the correct mindset. Control what we can control. Our daily goals are there

for us to pursue. We will continue to 'be relentless,'" Lowell varsity head football coach Jacob Henige told the Ledger.

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services recommends against contact sports

including football, basketball, and soccer, but it does not prohibit them from being played.

While the COVID-19 pandemic has remained at large throughout the United States, the return of sporting events from high school to

the professional leagues has been gaining momentum. "With 25 states practicing and playing games and another eight states ready to go in a couple of days, it's different than three weeks

Football, continued, page 4

Road work begins in and around Lowell

Three more area roads are going to be closed starting this week.

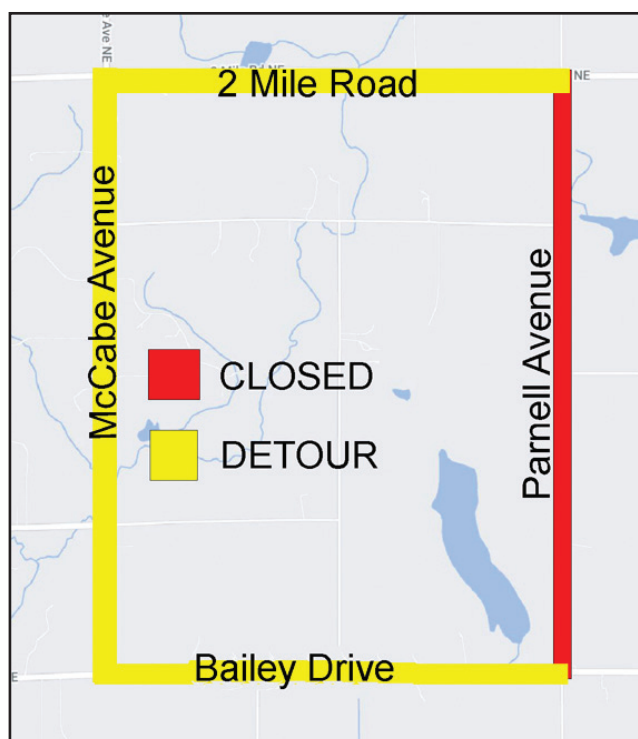
Parnell Ave. will be closed from Bailey Dr. to 2 Mile Rd. from Sept. 8 until Sept. 18, 2020.

The contractor, Rieth-Riley Construction, will ground or crush the existing asphalt pavement and then regrade, compact and cover it with two courses of new hot mix asphalt at a projected cost of \$550,000.

Lincoln Lake Ave. will be closed from Hart St. to Belding Rd./M-44 from Sept. 8 until Oct. 8

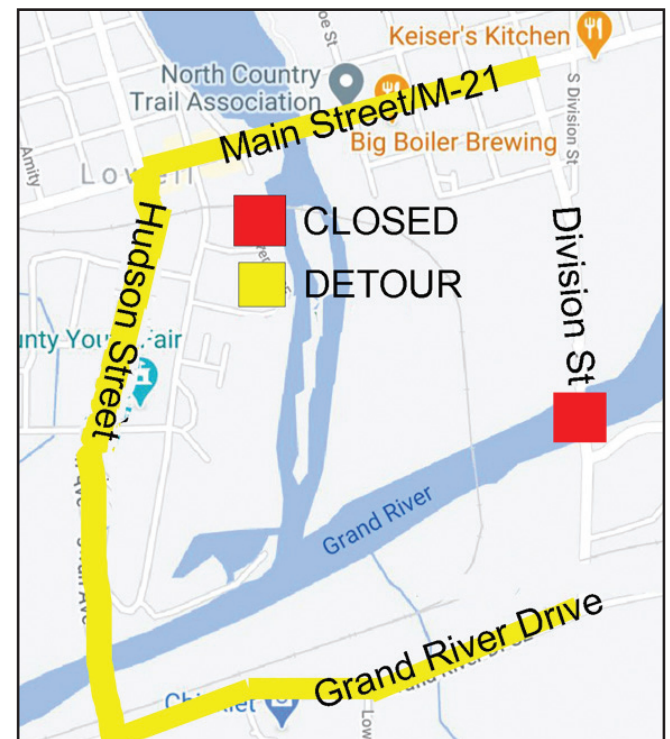
The Kent County Road Commission will complete tree and widening work north of M-44 on Lincoln Lake to create a dedicated southbound left-hand turn lane.

Lincoln Lake will also be restriped south of



M-44 to create a dedicated northbound left-hand turn lane. These left turn lanes are being created in anticipation of the future signal installation by MDOT.

Finally, "Lowell Bridge No. 16," the bridge across the Grand River on Division St., will be closed from Sept. 9 until Oct. 8 for phase two of the bridge rehabilitation



project. The bridge will be completely closed to allow completion of bridge joint replacement and substructure coating by the contractor

Milbocker & Son at a cost to the Kent County Road Commission of \$126,690, plus federal and state aid of \$270,750.

Lowell Rotary announces Paul Harris Fellow awards

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

The Lowell Rotary club announced last week that two of their members and two people from the community would be honored with the “Paul Harris Fellow” award.

Rotarians Carol Duncan-Smith and Theresa Mundt

it to the committee and the committee reviews it. We ended up with two Rotary members and two community members who give back. We’re recognizing the great things these people are doing, and

center on health and fitness, pet rescue and community service.

Theresa Mundt is active all over the place, primarily with Flat River Outreach Ministries, Christmas Through Lowell, Cold Weather Warriors, Pink Arrow Pride and plenty more.

“Right now, I’m getting excited about the new showboat and am passionate about being a part of the fundraising committee and her family,” Mundt said. “I enjoy volunteering as much as I can and I do quite a bit of volunteering being in the Rotary club. I’ve been to Haiti three times to install water filters for the people there and I would love to do more things like that in the future. My passion is helping others any way I am able to.”

Janice M. Thompson of Vergennes Township is a new recipient of the Paul Harris Fellow. Thompson was selected for her continuous leadership roles and her love of giving to others. Significant roles she has played include president of the Lowell Women’s Club, president of the Lowell Showboat

Garden Club, president of the Friends of the Grand Rapids Public Museum and vice president of the Grand Rapids Public Museum Foundation. Over the years Thompson has also been a front-line volunteer for Meijer Gardens, Fallasburg Historical Society, FROM, the Lowell American Legion and Gilda’s Club, and she is an MSU Master Gardener. Thompson is particularly well known for her two biggest passions. Each year she sends out more than 400 cards to those who are battling an illness, celebrating a birthday or anniversary, or who have been in the Lowell Ledger for a community accomplishment. Those suffering from cancer, a heart condition or another major malady have received a Teddy bear companion to be with that person while they are on their medical journey. Her beautiful Teddy bears have become legendary, recognizable companions, even to the doctors and nurses who serve these patients. In 2005 Thompson organized a Fourth of July activity at the Grand Rapids Public Museum called “Front Row



Carol Duncan-Smith

for the Fireworks” for foster care families, and she has raised nearly \$60,000 to fund this activity which has so far benefited 5,000 participants during its 15 year run.

Jodie Vokes-Seese has

Vokes-Seese led the LoWellness Health Initiative to survey over 5,000 community members for a comprehensive wellness needs assessment. Vokes-Seese is currently a volunteer



Theresa Mundt

and community members Jan Thompson and Jodie Vokes-Seese were honored by the Lowell Rotary for their substantial contributions to the Lowell area. The Lowell Rotary also made a \$2,000 donation to the Rotary Foundation in their names.

“The Rotary gives out this special award, and what we have done is we have given it to four people in the community,” said Lowell Rotary treasurer Betsy Davidson. “We get feedback from all of our Rotarians, our members. They submit

to recognize those particular people, to let them know we see what they’re doing in the community.”

Carol Duncan-Smith is an agent with New York Life and the owner of Duncan-Smith Financial, where her focus is financial and insurance planning for both individuals and small business owners. Church and family activities are paramount in her allocation of free time. Leading music worship has been a life-long volunteer pastime. Other recreational activities



Jan Thompson



Jodie Vokes-Seese

lived in Lowell since 2005. She arranged to bring a free smoking cessation program to the Lowell community and provided free support groups that helped over 220 people in the Lowell community. Jodie serves as a co-chair for the Connecting Our Community capital campaign for the Lowell Area Recreational Authority. She has served on the board of directors for Flat River Outreach Ministries.

project manager for Main Street Housing, FROM’s affordable housing program. During the pandemic, she has also helped to arrange and deliver food from an area farmer’s market.

The Lowell Rotary provides grants to local community projects and scholarships for local high school students. For more information, visit their website, <https://portal.clubrunner.ca/3319>.



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Fallasburg Virtual Arts Festival will be Sept. 19-20



by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

Last month LowellArts announced that the 52nd annual Fallasburg Fall Festival for the Arts would be going ahead on the weekend of Sept. 19 and 20, but in a drastically different “virtual” version.

A lot more details were announced last week, about the food, music, art and more.

or mobile device at <https://www.lowellartsmi.org/fallasburg-virtual-arts-festival>.

“On the weekend of festival, we’re going to have a map on our website with the booth layout like we do every year, where people look at the map to find out where booth one is and so forth,” Smalligan said.



“Our intent was to try to showcase as much of the festival as we possibly can virtually,” said LowellArts executive director Lorain Smalligan. “When you look at our website, what you’ll see is that we’re highlighting what we consider the big parts of the festival. We’re just trying to showcase every aspect of the festival in some format, now and on the weekend of the festival.”

You’ll be able to “attend” the festival and look at all of the artists and their work from any computer

“This year they’re going to be able to click on the booths, and when they do it will open up to feature the artist with images of their work, a short bio and a link to the artisan’s website where you can purchase their work.”

Many organizations like churches depend on this event for a large chunk of their annual budget.

“To showcase the food booths that are there every year we will have information on our website about all the different

organizations, descriptions and links to their websites,” Smalligan said. “A couple booths might have food available that weekend, that is in the works and it will be posted.”

Artisan demonstrations are very popular, and those will be streamed online.

“We are going to have videos of the artisan demonstrations that occur in the pavilion every year,” Smalligan said. “Artists creating their art, just like what you would see if you came to the pavilion.”

There will be live music, but in front of a very limited live audience. Most will tune into <https://www.lowellartsmi.org/fallasburg-music-2020> to listen to the bands, which will include Jerry Carsten Dan, Midwestern Swing with Hayes Griffin and Jason Wheeler, Josh Rose and Kyle Rasche, Eli Roe, Peat in the Creel, Bruce Matthews Band, Mac/Mora, The Benzing/Graves Collective, The Ryne Experience, Easy Idle String Band, Hawks and Owls String Band and The Adams Family.

“We will have live music that weekend at Camp Clear Sky, located on Grand River Dr., not too far out of town,” Smalligan said. “They have a capacity of 60 people total with spacial seating and a

sanitary bathroom. They’ve been doing concerts there successfully all summer. Basically, what we decided to do is highlight 12 different groups in three sessions of live music. We’ll have music on Saturday the 19th from 12 until 4, we’ll have another session from 6 until 10 and then on Sunday we’ll have another session of music from 12 until 4. We have a professional videographer who is going to be there live-streaming the event, so those who are not comfortable coming out can still watch the music from home. The link to that is on our website. There will be four groups in each session, and they’re listed on our website. If you’re going to be seeing the event live, it is ticketed. If you go on our website, you can buy tickets to any of the three sessions. Tickets are \$20 each to attend, and it is limited to 60 tickets for each of the sessions. They can purchase

tickets here at LowellArts or on our website.”

This year’s quilt for the raffle is “Blue Lagoon” by Dawn Ysseldyke. Tickets are \$2 each, four for \$5 or 10 for \$10 and are on sale now at <https://www.lowellartsmi.org/quilt-raffle-tickets>.

“We have the quilt by Dawn Ysseldyke on display here in the gallery, and people can also purchase tickets for the raffle here or online,” Smalligan said. “We will draw the winning ticket at the end of festival weekend on Sunday the 20th at 5 pm.”

Another popular annual tradition is pumpkin decorating. This year they’re going to show them off online.

“Paulson’s Pumpkin Farm in Belding grew some nice, small pumpkins for us that are perfect for kids to decorate,” Smalligan said. “We have 1,200 pumpkins to give away, and people



can come to LowellArts to pick them up. We’re asking people to create a character on their pumpkin, and there is a Google form they can fill out with a picture of their pumpkin, their age and where they live, and we’re going to post those pumpkin pictures on our website.”

There is one silver lining in all this, for once it doesn’t matter if it rains that weekend.

“I don’t know if that’s a silver lining, I’d rather have a festival,” Smalligan said.

For more information call 616-897-8545, send a message to info@lowellartsmi.org or visit lowellartsmi.org.



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



MDHHS orders COVID-19 testing of MDOC staff



Building upon recent requirements for testing of Michigan's prisoners, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services Director Robert Gordon today issued an Emergency Order requiring COVID-19 testing for Michigan Department of Corrections staff.

"COVID-19 can spread quickly in congregate living settings," said Gordon. "Prison staff are the principal vector for COVID-19 to enter a prison facility. It is therefore imperative that they are regularly tested for COVID-19 to protect prisoners, the staff themselves, and their communities."

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer recently issued Executive Order 2020-170 to require that prisons and jails take preventative measures to decrease the spread of COVID-19, including testing at entry, transfer and release of any prisoner.

Under the Emergency

Order, prisons operated by MDOC must adopt testing protocols for anyone who works within the physical boundaries of the prison or comes into contact with prisoners while on the job:

Test all newly hired staff on their start date or in the 72 hours prior to start date.

Ensure any staff who are close contacts of someone with COVID-19 and/or who exhibit symptoms of COVID-19 receive a COVID-19 test. Follow MDHHS guidance on quarantine and transmission risk reduction for staff who are close contacts of someone with COVID-19 and/or who exhibit symptoms of COVID-19.

In facilities with any positive case among prisoners or staff identified within the last 14 days, test on a weekly basis all staff scheduled to work that week until no positive cases among prisoners or staff have been identified within the last 14 days.

Exclude from work any

employees who do not receive a test when required to get tested.

Previously confirmed COVID-19 positive cases need not be re-tested for 90 days after the initial positive test.

All prisons operated by MDOC must take the following steps effective immediately when a staff person tests positive for COVID-19 or is exposed to the virus:

MDOC must take all necessary precautions in accordance with relevant guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to prevent transmission of COVID-19. These steps may include requiring any staff who are suspected of exposure to COVID-19 to obtain testing outside the facility.

MDOC must exclude from work staff with COVID-19 until they have met all return to work criteria established by CDC.

This order is effective immediately, except that MDOC has until Tuesday, Sept. 8, to begin weekly testing. Weekly testing should begin as soon as practicable and this order remains in effect until lifted.

Information around this outbreak is changing rapidly. The latest information is available at Michigan.gov/Coronavirus and CDC.gov/Coronavirus.

Football, continued

ago," MHSAA executive director Mark Uyl told the Free Press. "You're seeing states, whose COVID-19 numbers are far worse than Michigan's. It has been, nationwide, a very successful start to the year."

The MHSAA had been awaiting an advisement from the governor's office before making a decision on moderate risk and high risk fall sports which included swim and dive, football, soccer, and volleyball. Low risk sports such as boys tennis, girls golf, and cross country have been able to compete throughout the state.

For volleyball, it gives the Red Arrows the season they had been hoping for. Lowell currently is ranked number one in the state in the latest MaxPreps rankings. The team has been practicing outside, as gyms are closed throughout the state.

The Lowell football team won't have the crowd behind them this fall, but will continue their stretch

of playing at least one game in the fall the past 100 seasons. The football team will also be participating in the playoffs for the

second straight season. That's because with a six game schedule, every team receives an automatic berth to the playoffs. A potential season opener would be September 18 against East Grand Rapids, though schedules are not finalized yet and are certainly subject to change.

Soccer has been practicing

the chance to compete for the first time this year on Tuesday against Forest Hills Central. Girls swim and dive will be able to compete

indoors, but like other sports social distancing and face coverings will be required outside of competition.

The West Michigan area still remains in phase four of the Michigan reopening plan, but the executive order allows these four sports to compete again. Which for the time being, has fall student-athletes excited.



viewpoint



125 years ago Lowell Ledger September 13, 1895

Greenville was startled about 4 o'clock last Sunday morning by a terrific explosion which broke the windows in the neighborhood and awoke the people from their early morning sleep. Upon investigation it was found that an attempt had been made to blow up the First Congregational church with dynamite, which was only defeated by the charge not being placed far enough into the stone wall, otherwise the magnificent structure would have been a complete ruin.

Messrs Myests & Helliker new proprietors of Hotel Waverly—formerly Train's—have thoroughly renovated and refitted that hostelry and placed the same in first class order. They are old and experienced hotel men and are running a thoroughly first class house. It is a pleasure to comment Hotel Waverly to the favor of the public.

Passengers in a recent west bound D. G. H. & M. train were amused at the contortions and gymnastic exercises indulged in by a couple of misses in their efforts to get their cloaks on over their big sleeves. The bowing, and hitching and poking and pulling were funny in the extreme. The young ladies got out of the car door sideways and stepped off at Lowell.

100 years ago The Lowell Ledger September 16, 1920

An informal meeting of the citizens of Lowell was held at the City hall on the above date, the Rev. E. R. Cochrun, presiding. The object of the meeting was stated by the chairman to be for a discussion of the enforcement of the laws in the Village and make such recommendations as might appear expedient.

The matter of the Boy Scouts band should be taken up at the public meeting at the City hall Friday evening. Most of the difficulties in the way have been taken care of and a public subscription with everybody helping a little will start things off in good shape. It is time the work should be started if the boys are to play in public next summer, for, from the scales up is a long way.

H. George D. Nutting, consulting engineer, in a communication to the city commission asks officials to authorize the investigation of his proposal to develop electricity from the water power of the Thornapple river at a point nine miles from the city. He declares that he will have a maximum of 1,300 electrical horsepower to sell to the city for lighting and pumping station purposes at a saving of from \$10,000 to \$25,000 over the present rate.

75 years The Lowell Ledger September 13, 1945

Frank and Nancy Alice Oatley were delighted Monday morning, when each received a letter from their father, Lt. D. H. Oatley, who was on the "Braxton," the 1st naval transport to enter Tokyo Bay with occupational forces.

Its wartime operations at an end, the Michigan Bell Telephone Company announces that it has launched a \$120,000,000, five-year post-war construction program. George M. Welch, president of the company, said the program will include the erection of 49 new buildings one of which will be at Lowell and 13 major additions to present buildings expenditure of \$50,000,000 for new central office equipment, long distance cable containing 50,000 miles of wire, and cables for local calls with enough wire to encircle the globe more than a hundred times.

All kinds of cheese became point free Wednesday morning of this week. Always something to be thankful for. Now bring on the apple pie.

50 years The Lowell Ledger September 17, 1970

An Alto man was drowned in a fishing accident on Lake Michigan over the weekend, and a companion was rescued after clinging to their overturned boat nearly 24 hours. Lawrence Benn, 40, was found dead by rescuers after clinging to the 15-foot aluminum boat in chilly Lake Michigan waters through most of the night.

A bottle containing a note from the 1970 Lowell High School senior class was recently found floating in lake Michigan near Ludington. The bottle was thrown overboard by members of the senior class while on the S. S. Milwaukee Clipper during the senior class trip in June 5. Bruce Ellison of Houston, Texas found the bottle on July 7 while vacationing in Ludington. The note, thrown overboard on the middle of the lake, stated in part, "Whoever finds this bottle is entitled to a \$5 reward."

The model of the Lowell Showboat, seasonally displayed in Christiansen's Drugstore over the last twenty or more years, has more than outlasted the original boat. The model was constructed by Tom Richmond, who was working for Mr. Christiansen at the time, and presented to Marie Steward, another employee. After Mr. Christiansen sold the store, the boat was not on display for two or three years until Mr. Manigold learned of its location and found it safely packed in a box in the attic. I wonder how many more Showboats it will out-last.

25 years The Lowell Ledger September 13, 1995

Educational and financial resources were reason enough for Lowell Superintendent Bert Bleke to recommend that the property at the northwest corner of Monroe and Avery be deeded over to the Lowell Library Advisory Board for one dollar. "Not only does the new library serve as an advantage to the kids in the Lowell community, but it will serve as an educational and financial resource for the school and community," Bleke said. "I believe a new library is a real important piece of community improvement."

Lowell City Council revisited the Bowes Road relocation project; however, two familiar points brought the issue to a halt. 1. A clarification from Lowell Township is needed to decide whether it will provide 25 percent of the entire cost of the \$40,000 it has pledged in Community Development Block Grant

funds toward the construction of the Bowes Road intersection. 2. The question of what will be the total cost for property acquisition needs to be determined.

The thought of 75 motorcycle club members parading with toys strapped on their bikes from Riverside Park in Grand Rapids to Fallasburg Park made Sherrie Stevens' eyes swell up with emotion. The toys will be dispersed by Stevens and her husband Dave to children in the pediatrics unit at Butterworth Hospital on Christmas Day.

to the editor

Dear Editor,

I am writing in regards to the Larkin's marquee located on Main Street.

As many of you may know we rent the marquee for personal messages.

Now that the election is approaching we have had many people purchase the marquee for their messages. We attach a disclaimer on the marquee stating who paid for it.

We would like to make it crystal clear that the messages on that marquee are not the opinions of Larkin's owner or staff.

Also, would like to inform the community that Larkin's cannot host the Chili cook-off this year due to the restrictions of the state. We have in the past had well over 500 people.

We are heartbroken over this as it would have been year 19 an we have raised over \$50,000 for local nonprofits. We will be back next year.

The Chamber of Commerce will be doing a version of a chili cook off on October 10.

We are also trying to figure out how to bring comedy back.

Trying to navigate in these uncertain times is a challenge and I would like to thank the chamber and all the downtown merchants and restaurants for working together.

And of course, all the folks who support us.

Deb Apol
Alto

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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ABCs of Lowell History

The Lowell Area Historical Museum's weekly feature to explore local history. The ABC's of Lowell's History this week is:

W is for Woolen Mill

An 1800's Woolen Mill was an important local business in a growing town. It used machinery and water power to turn raw fleece into yarn and cloth. Powered by water diverted from the Flat River, the Lowell Woolen Mill was able to use machines like a spinner, twister, skeiner and loom, that made it possible to wash, pick, card, spin, dye and weave wool in a fraction of the time it took to do it by hand.

The raw material needed was fleece. Many hundreds of sheep were raised by farmers in this area. One newspaper article reveals that farmers living near Pratt Lake drove their sheep to the lake to wash the wool before shearing them. Shearing was done once a year in the spring. The fleece could then be processed by hand at home or sold.

The Lowell Woolen Mill was built after the Civil War, in 1867 by C.A. Clark. He sold his entire interest the following year to Morris R. Blodgett, who did a large business. Blodgett advertised in 1871 that the woolen mill would scour your carpets for \$1.00 each and also advertised highest prices paid for wool.

Following Blodgett as owner was W.W. Hatch. Mr. Hatch, being engaged in the flouring business, didn't push the woolen industry,



and sold it to the Clark Brothers, sons of the builder, in 1875.

The Clark brothers were experienced woolen mill men and gave the mill new life and energy. They brought to market high quality woolen cloths as good as could be found from any Michigan mills. The machinery was sufficient to fill a two story building and basement that was 30 by 120 feet. As time went by, Henry F. Clark purchased the interest of his brother, Charles E. and became the sole proprietor. Under the Clark brothers' ownership they advertised all kinds of woolen goods such as cassimers, satinets, check flannels, dress flannels, both double and single width sheeting, and yarns in great

varieties. They offered a sale with greatly reduced rates such as never offered before on pure wool goods. They boasted of selling twenty five percent cheaper than ever before and all bills under \$10 received a five percent discount, and \$10 and upwards received a ten percent discount.

The mill also bought furs as seen in an 1889 Lowell Journal advertisement proclaiming "highest market price paid for pelts and furs at the Lowell Woolen Mills." Advertisements that year also included "We make heavy winter shirts and cut and make pants to order only \$4.00 per pair."

In 1899 the Woolen mill machinery was sold and moved to Alma for a

mill there. The building was put up for sale soon after and in June of 1900 it was sold and the new owner brought a shirt factory here. It was expected to hire 65 workers.

In 1901 the city purchased the Lowell Woolen Mill property for a park and other purposes for the price of \$1600.

Looking back in 1969, a newspaper reflected that only the older residents could remember that a woolen mill had once sat upon the city parking lot alongside the east Flat River. It was located just to the south of the Hooker/Forest Grain Mill east of the Flat River. A railroad spur was laid between the two businesses.

- infertility

Infertility is when a couple has tried to get pregnant for at least a year without being able to do so. Approximately one in eight couples fall into this category.

Infertility can be caused by problems with the woman, with the man, or with both partners. In some instances, there is never found to be a true cause. This makes diagnosing and treating infertility especially challenging.

Some men have low amounts of sperm, or no sperm, in their semen. This can be caused by either a blockage of sperm delivery or problems with sperm production. This is a common finding in men who have used performance-enhancing steroids in their lifetime. This can also be

seen with men who smoke, or drink too much alcohol.

For women, there may be an issue with the ovulatory pathway, or a structural issue within the uterus or ovaries themselves. Occasionally there are hormone imbalances with estrogen and progesterone which do not allow for conception.

If a couple has failed to conceive, their health care provider might recommend blood work, ultrasounds, and a semen analysis for the man. These tests are relatively un-invasive and provide a great deal of information for managing the infertility. If you and your partner are struggling to conceive, be sure to call your health care provider to discuss this.



WHY NOT SHOP HERE!

area churches

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Sunday School..... 11:20 AM
Evening Worship..... 6:00 PM
Nursery available at both services
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St. Mary Catholic Church

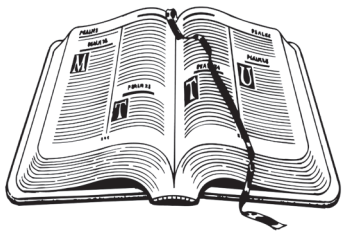
402 Amity Street • 616-897-9820
Website: www.stmarylowell.com
Weekend Masses: Sat 5 pm; Sun 10:30 am
Confession: Saturdays 3-4:30 pm
Prayer & Adoration: Wednesdays 8 am to 7 pm
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616-897-5906

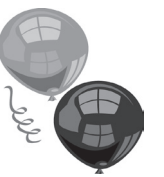
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897-7168 • www.fbclowell.org
Pastor Jon Pickens • Lead Pastor
Pastor Andrew Bolcom • Pastor of Discipleship
Christi Swain • Director of Children's Ministries
SUNDAY WORSHIP.....9:30 AM (Nursery provided)
LIFE GROUPS11:00 AM (Nursery-Adult)
Awana (K-5 during school year) Wednesday, 6:15 PM

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Sr. Pastor - Brad Brillhart

happy birthday



SEPTEMBER 9

Sarah Schalow, Amy Cook, Allison Maholic, Linda Morrison, Charles Gee, Todd Lenneman.

SEPTEMBER 10

Brecken Hendrick, Chris Gerard.

SEPTEMBER 11

Sean Ellis, Justin VanDyke, Susan Barry.

SEPTEMBER 12

Deborah Claypool, Nathan Propst, Jim Smith, Tyler Bitterman, Bob Lind.

SEPTEMBER 13

Randy McIntyre,

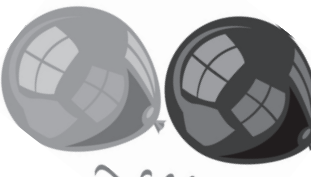
Gloria Ossewaarde, Haley Briggs.

SEPTEMBER 14

Christian Barnes, Dan VanDyke, Michael Timmers, Missy Ossewaarde, Megan Gee, Robert Alan Lind.

SEPTEMBER 15

Brandi Phillips, Mark Trierweiler, Nick Baker, Bryan Bitterman.



New grant funds expand pandemic-related behavioral health support

A new federal grant will help the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities Administration continue a crisis counseling program for Michigan residents experiencing mental health effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The \$1.9 million Regular Services Program: Crisis Counseling Assistance and Training Program grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency provides funding for an additional nine months of crisis counseling activities begun under a previous, short-term FEMA grant. It also allows for statewide expansion of behavioral

health outreach services previously focused only in the Detroit metro area.

“As the pandemic continues, we know Michiganders are suffering stress, anxiety, and depression because of COVID-19,” said MDHHS Director Robert Gordon. “This grant will help to sustain critical behavioral health counseling and referral services for our residents most in need of support.”

The new CCP grant will expand the current program by providing:

More trained crisis counselors available for free counseling. In April, BHDDA launched the Michigan Stay Well crisis counseling line that can be

reached by dialing the state’s COVID-19 hotline (888-535-3136) and pressing “8.”

Nine new counselors will join the seven existing ones, providing 24-hour phone-based emotional support and referral information. In addition to answering crisis calls from individuals, Stay Well counselors will establish and lead support groups offering participants the benefit of shared experiences. Due to social distancing requirements, group sessions will be conducted online or by phone.

More outreach specialists. Under the program, trained outreach specialists connect with members of COVID-19-vulnerable population

groups to provide guidance for healthy coping. Existing outreach specialists will continue to serve seniors and older adults; children and families; healthcare providers and first responders; and people experiencing racial/ethnic health disparities. With the new grant funding, six additional outreach specialists will be hired to support these additional vulnerable populations:

Unemployed residents. Homeless or housing-insecure individuals, including those in need of isolation housing due to COVID-19.

People with Substance Use Disorder and people using substances to cope with COVID19.

Immigrants/limited English-speaking residents. School teachers and staff. People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities/Autism Spectrum Disorder.

Outreach specialists will collaborate with neighborhood organizations and community mental health agencies in Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Genesee, Kent and Muskegon counties, as well as other COVID-19 hot spots as they emerge to disseminate psychoeducational materials, tip sheets and guidance. This will include hosting educational webinars and virtual Town Hall events.

Expanded media reach. An expansive media campaign

will promote the program’s services and resources using TV, radio, print, web and social media messaging to reach Michiganders adversely affected by COVID-19.

Other grant program partners include the Michigan Public Health Institute and Gryphon Place, a Kalamazoo-based crisis intervention call center.

For a menu of services and resources to help manage COVID-19 emotional distress, visit Michigan.gov/StayWell.

Information around this outbreak is changing rapidly. The latest information is available at Michigan.gov/Coronavirus and CDC.gov/Coronavirus.

Resources available during Suicide Prevention Week

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, Michigan Association for Suicide Prevention and national and local suicide prevention organizations have been working tirelessly to halt the growth of suicide rates in Michigan. As part of the effort, Gov. Gretchen Whitmer has declared Sept. 6-12 Suicide Prevention Week.

“Michiganders may be experiencing increased levels of emotional distress due to the pandemic and, therefore, it’s critical for people to know there are resources available and to help raise awareness about suicide prevention,” said Dr. Debra Pinals, MDHHS medical director for behavioral health.

Suicide is the tenth leading cause of death in both Michigan and the nation, and a top five leading cause among individuals who are 10-54 years old.

Michigan has higher rates of suicide among people who are 10-19 and 25-44 years of age compared to the nation as a whole. Michiganders can help lower these rates by knowing the warning signs of suicide, encouraging those at risk to seek help, and having open and honest conversations about suicide.

“Suicide is a major public health concern across Michigan,” said Dr. Brian Ahmedani, chair of the Michigan Suicide Prevention Commission. “On behalf of the Suicide Prevention Commission, we applaud Gov. Whitmer’s declaration to support suicide prevention week. Our commission is working hard with leaders and partners from across our great state to gain a better understanding of this problem as well as determine the best ways to leverage key opportunities and resources to prevent suicide across Michigan.”

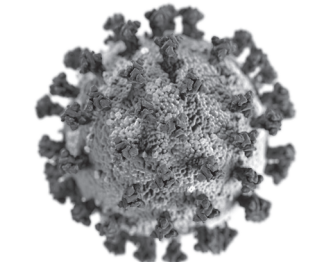
Warning signs for those at risk of suicide include:
Feelings of hopelessness.
Threatening to or talking about wanting to hurt oneself.
Loss of interest in activities.
Withdrawal from friends and family.
Change in eating and sleeping habits.
If you are in a crisis, or know someone who needs help, contact the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 800-273-TALK (8255) or visit the MDHHS Suicide Prevention website for more information.

Additional emotional-support services for those who are feeling emotional distress during the COVID-19 pandemic are available at Michigan.gov/StayWell or by calling Michigan Stay Well Counseling via the COVID-19 Hotline at 888-535-6136 and pressing “8” to talk to a counselor 24/7.

MDHHS launches streamlined benefits renewal forms during COVID-19

The benefits renewal process is now simpler for roughly two million food, health care, child care and cash assistance clients with the rollout of new, streamlined benefits renewal forms, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services announced today. Now, Michigan is the first state to have this kind of streamlined application and renewal in print and online.

Project Re:New, a collaboration between MDHHS and Detroit-based Civilla, began in 2018 and spans the department’s four largest assistance programs. The changes will help MDHHS serve Michigan



residents and families better and faster during the COVID-19 pandemic – a crisis that has left federal agencies and some state governments struggling to reduce application or renewal backlogs, and handle more hotline traffic across assistance programs that are a temporary lifeline for many residents.

“Life today is more stressful and complicated than ever. That’s why it’s as urgent as ever to simplify the way we deliver benefits,” said Robert Gordon, director of MDHHS. “To treat people with dignity, meet them where they are and take as little as possible of their time.”

Project Re:New follows the 2018 launch of a simplified application that was also completed in collaboration with Civilla through an effort called Project Re:Form. Like the updated application, the new renewal forms feature human-centered design to emphasize urgent information and outline clear steps, deliver directions in plain language and, importantly, incorporate feedback from clients and caseworkers on their experiences completing or processing forms.

Instead of using a renewal form that includes questions that may not apply to an individual’s assistance program, clients will complete one core redetermination form, and a one or two page supplemental form specific to each of their assistance programs.

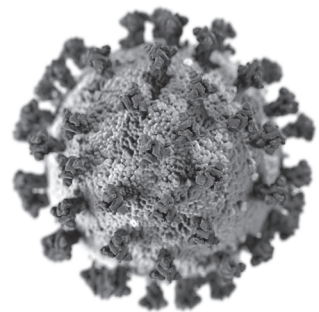
Project Re:New also led to the simplification of the six-month review form,

annual review form and online renewal option in MI Bridges, the state’s online assistance application and case management portal. Changes follow all existing eligibility and program requirements. The new renewal was piloted in MDHHS’ Madison Heights and Monroe offices. It resulted in 50 percent fewer office visits, an important reduction that puts clients and MDHHS field office employees at lower risk of exposure to COVID-19, a 96 percent completion rate, up from 73 percent and 60 percent fewer errors, reducing delays in processing time and generating a higher renewal rate.

“In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, this work demonstrates MDHHS’ ongoing commitment to improving benefit delivery and designing services that better meet people’s needs,” said Lena Selzer, design director at Civilla. “The work was guided by the expertise of hundreds of Michigan residents and MDHHS field staff. It would not have been possible without them.”

Rollout began this month

by mail, in person and online. It will continue gradually through next year as clients are due for renewal of benefits. Clients will



receive forms and a reminder to renew sooner than usual to give them time to submit forms before their interview with field staff—another change aimed at further reducing processing delays.

Project Re:Form was recognized by Harvard University as one of the 2018 Innovations in American Government Award’s Top 25 Programs. It took one of the longest benefits applications in the nation and transformed it, cutting the amount of time clients spent filling out the form, reducing error rates and helping caseworkers process applications in less time.

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From vision to reality: Lowell Showboat VI

Showboat Fundraising Committee is pledged to raising \$798,000

We are very pleased to announce the Lowell Showboat committee members to the Greater Lowell community and our goals.

Co-chairs Mark and Theresa Mundt said, "We are excited to be part of the effort to replace the old showboat with an all-new and repurposed boat that will continue to serve as a community icon for years to come."

Honorary chair Carolyn Jane Blough said, "At first I wasn't very excited, I was sad to see the old boat be

gone. My hope now is for Lowell Showboat VI to carry on the legacy as a new chapter opens in Lowell's showboat history."

The other committee members are Liz Baker, Carol Briggs, Tina Cadwallader, David Cadwallader, Bryleigh Cook, Jim Hodges, Chris Hodges, Teresa Hoffman, Jon Jacobs, April McClure, Carol McGregor, Nancy Raymor and Jim Salzwedel.

The fundraising committee has been meeting over the past four weeks, creating and

organizing the fundraising efforts.

Committee members are just beginning to present the facts and naming opportunities available to businesses and individuals.

"Our goal is to raise \$798,000 to finish Lowell Showboat VI as planned and designed," said Liz Baker, executive director of the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce.

Larger naming opportunities include items like the first, second and sun deck, paddle wheel, pilot



house and grand staircase.

Smaller opportunities include the smokestacks, bar, seating and tables. The naming opportunities start at \$100,000 and go down to \$2,500.

The public phase of fundraising will come after we have secured local grants and naming opportunities. We are looking at various options for the public to be involved. Some of our ideas include selling bricks —large and small — along

has been a historical icon of the greater Lowell community since 1931, serving as a catalyst in bringing the residents of our town and surrounding area together. After five showboat structures, we are about to launch Lowell Showboat VI into the waters of the Flat River.

Much nostalgia and happy memories surround the former boats. Many people reminisce about attending shows with

Sizzlin' Summer Concerts, with the boat behind our weekly performers, as well as Santa visits on the Lowell Showboat.

With the continual deterioration which resulted in closing the wooden structure of boat five to the public, a group of concerned citizens, under the direction of the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce, began plans to raise money in order to create a steel structure



lowell Arts

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the Riverwalk in front of Lowell Showboat VI. We are confident that there will be a means for all to share in this community effort "From Vision to Reality - Lowell Showboat VI." For further information or to learn how you can contribute, contact the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce.

About Lowell Showboat
The Lowell Showboat

popular headliners, singing in the chorus or being one of the end men. Some also remember running the several outboard motors that allowed the boat to travel down the Flat River, around cattail bend, to the showboat dock each summer.

Still others remember using the boat as a unique high school graduation backdrop or sitting at

"that would represent the long, proud history of the Lowell Showboat and last a very long time," as quoted by one of the members of the Showboat Committee. The committee's vision went beyond having a solid replacement of this community icon, to being able to offer a venue for community gatherings, which is currently much needed in our area.



Lowell woman opens online consignment shop

WearForward is a size inclusive, zero waste secondhand consignment store that recently opened in Lowell. This exclusively online store offers cost-effective, ethically sourced options for women's clothing. Owned and operated by Victoria Runstrom, a young mother and Lowell resident, WearForward is a store that is kind to the planet, as well as your pocketbook.

Large online consignment stores and fashion subscription boxes have been gaining popularity in recent years, but WearForward easily sets itself apart from the crowd. With a sleek website, an engaging social media presence and a commitment to donate a portion of its revenue to MomsBloom, a Grand Rapids based nonprofit, WearForward is a clothing store with a heart and a

drawn to clothing and it helped me in my personal life and with my own mental health and just figuring out who I was. Part of why I wanted to start this business is that fashion helped me find who I was - and finding out what my style was gave me a lot of confidence, personally. I wanted to be able to share that love and joy of fashion and being able to find new pieces and just be really encouraging and uplifting to women finding their style."

tags are plantable – you can actually plant them and grow wildflowers. So basically, zero waste means nothing my company does creates any negative effects on the environment," says Runstrom.

She is also proud to be a size-inclusive retailer. WearForward offers a wide range of sizes in her store and believes that all women should be able to find affordable clothing they love, regardless of their size.

"As someone who is a plus size woman, it is really hard to find clothing that's not expensive. It's especially hard to find clothing if you're trying to thrift either to save money or to shop ethically. It's just hard to find those larger sizes. So I really wanted to make sure that I'm including everybody, because everyone should be able to look fabulous for their budget and also be able to ethically shop. Plus size women want to look cute too and we want to be able to afford it! I also want to make sure that I'm including small sizes, too. Like XX-small and extra small because I know that sometimes those sizes can be really difficult to find as well."

The zero waste movement is growing, with companies like Subaru and Google embracing the philosophy and taking action to reduce their environmental impact. Runstrom takes her commitment to making WearForward a zero waste company seriously and has made every effort to ensure that customers feel confident in purchasing from her store. All the packaging including the mailers and protective cushioning are biodegradable.

"Zero waste means that nothing that my company does negatively impacts the environment. For example, I don't use any plastic materials in my packaging that won't decompose. I also only carry secondhand items, so there was nothing negative created by me sourcing those items. There was no pollution that was created. All of my mailers are 100 percent compostable, they're not made of plastic. Even my



Victoria Runstrom owner of WearForward.

a consignment store, but I wanted to be more than that. I wanted to inspire other women to feel like they can find confidence and go for the things they want in life. I'm trying to make it bigger than just a consignment store. It's going to be very similar to ThredUp or Poshmark, things like that. The difference is that I am local," says Runstrom.

conscience.

The items for sale are expertly curated by Runstrom who has a background in fashion. Before going into business for herself, she worked as the marketing director for another local consignment store, but she knew that she wanted to build a store that went beyond the traditional concept of a thrift store.

"I've been really

little bit differently than I would have if there wasn't a pandemic going on. I'm starting out strictly online instead of having a brick-and-mortar store. The end goal is to have a brick-and-mortar store in the downtown Lowell area, but I really want to have that online base first so that if there were another shutdown, I could still survive through it with my online sales. I'm hoping to have a storefront in Lowell by early spring of next year, because one of the things I love is just getting to meet people face-to-face, too. Especially with trying to help women find their style and find that confidence. That's a little bit harder to do online. Ideally, I would love to be able to have a space for that. The ultimate goal is to have a location, but I also want to be smart and safe about it, too."

Ultimately, Runstrom would like to move her enterprise into a storefront downtown. She's excited to offer additional services, including personal style consulting. However, she is waiting to see how things go with her online storefront and the pandemic before officially taking the plunge.

"I'll always have an excuse not to do it, you just sometimes have to go for it. It is definitely a scary time, especially as a small business, which is why I'm starting it out a

The store officially launched on Aug. 26, and Runstrom is busy processing several orders for eager buyers. A number of items have sold, but buyers should check back

often, as more will be listed soon. WearForward already has a substantial online following and has been welcomed with open arms by the Lowell community.

"I wanted to have a place where people of every shape and size can come and find ethically sourced, really cute on-trend clothing. I'm so excited! I've gotten so much love and support from the Lowell community and it just reminds me of why I love Lowell so much!"

For those interested in consigning, Runstrom offers three options: local porch pickup, in-home processing, and consigners who are located out of state can ship items to Runstrom for processing. "I do have a good amount of consigners right now, so that makes me excited. People have really appreciated the porch pickup process."

You can follow the store on Facebook and Instagram @wear_forward or shop online at: <https://wear-forward.com/>





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“New & You” is latest LowellArts member exhibit



by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

The latest exhibit in the LowellArts gallery is called “New & You” and it is a showcase of visual art by members and supporters of that organization.

The only rules for the submissions were the piece had to be appropriate for all ages to view and the artist

had to be 14 or older and a LowellArts member.

“We did not do a juried selection for this show, we wanted to include all of the many members who wanted to participate,” said LowellArts project director Janet Teunis. “A lot of

exhibitions are 18 and older, and we wanted to encourage the younger artists, to make sure they felt included. We had a great response, there are over 160 pieces in the show. We just asked to see a picture ahead of time to make sure the piece was

family friendly, but other than that...”

Because of the open nature of the exhibit, there is a mixture of professional and amateur artwork, and a lot of experimentation is on display. Artists and crafters have been spending a lot

of time at home during the pandemic and have come up with some interesting creations to show off.

“We made it clear in our call for artists that it’s called ‘New & You’ because we wanted to challenge some of our seasoned artists to maybe try something new that they hadn’t done before,” Teunis said. “Some of our members might not even consider themselves artists, so this is a new venture for them to have a piece in a show. We wanted to get a full range of experience levels. We try to do a member show at least every other year, but we moved this one up a bit.”

The artists with work in the show are Molly Alicki Corriveau, Jean Allemeier Boot, Cindy Allen, Jan Andre, Ralph Annunziata, Jan Arbogast, John Archer, Cindy Awrey, Mary Bamborough, Denice Barker, Serge Barlas, Susan Barlas, Russell Barneveld, Diann Bartnick, Danielle Benson-Fennell, Ted Bergin, Debbie Bergren, Fred Bivins, Barbara Bjelland, Jane E. Blacchiere, Cheryl Blodgett, Larry Blovits, Lisa Boerema, Kristin Brace, Sharon Brandner, Kai Bredwell, Jeffrey Brower, Bob Brown, Kris Brown, Michael Bryant, Sheryl Budnik, Dianne Carroll Burdick, Frank Bylo, Ron Campbell, Ted Carlson,

Herioux, Julie Hofheinz, Jerene Hofman-Bodkins, Deborah Hoover, Saralee Howard, Megan Hubbard, Sarah Hubbard, Grace Huizinga, Lori Ingraham, Bill Ingraham, Sally Jenks, Amy Johnson, Tammy Johnson, Melissa Jones-Fish, Madeline Kaczmarczyk, Kathleen Kalinowski, Lori Kammeraad, David Kerley, Doug Klemm, Colleen Klesmith, Edd Kloote, Charles Knudstrup, Michael Koole, Jane Kropewnicki, Mary Lamson-Burke, Carol Lurn, Darla-Jo LeBaron, John Leben, Susan Ledy, Robert Lee, M. Joy Lemon, Carole Lende-Svec, Jeffrey Lende-Svec, Steve Loar, Sandi Lummen, Brenna Mahn, Randy E. Masterson, Denise Mazur, Lauren McAuliffe, Sri McCarthy, Patti Mollema, Richard Muller, Thomas J Newhouse, Dennis O’Mara, Bonnie Palutke, Meredyth Parrish, Karina Peplinski, Colin Plank, Lawrence Podolak, Darlene Podpolucki, Kendra Postma, Betsy Ratzsch, Suzanne Reinbold, Erin Reinholtz, Loretta K. Rolison, Patti Salka, Tom Sampson, Barbara Schilling, Patti Sevensma, George Spence, Monica Stegeman, Jeanette Stewart, Earl Stringer, Jerri Teelander, Cyn Tennant, Tom Terry, Renée Therriault, Jane P.

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“Hot Heads” by Cyn Tennant.

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Tobie, Mary Tobin, Deborah Trent, Judith Tummino, Chris VanAntwerp, Jill VanAntwerp, Kelly VanderKley, Rick Veldman, Julia Voake, Kelly Walkotten, Lisa Willis, Kari Wilson, Lou Wolf Vallance, Gerard Wood, Ron Wood, Sara Youngman and Janine Zomermaand.

“New & You” will be on display until Saturday, Oct. 17 in the LowellArts gallery at 223 W. Main. It is open to the public every Tuesday through Friday from 10 am until 6 pm and every Saturday from noon until 5 pm. For more information call 616-897-8545, send a message to info@lowellartsmi.org or visit lowellartsmi.org.

LHS students adapting to changes due to the pandemic

by Sierra Hieshetter
contributing reporter

As the new school year officially gets started, the students of Lowell High School have had to adapt to many changes. From new building procedures, to class sizes and lunch protocols, the students of Lowell have a lot to deal with on top of the stresses of a brand new year. So how has the pandemic affected life at the high school?

Many students had expectations for returning to school during the pandemic. Senior Olivia Winn, a varsity cheerleader and softball player said, "I expected everyone to reunite and have it be a big cheery time, 'we're back together, back to normal!', and it wasn't." She stated that the first day of school was unique to anything she'd experienced before. "The first day of school was so different than any other first day. Everyone was not themselves. Everything was super weird."

Junior Lexi Hofmann, a member of the LHS theater department, had a similar story to tell. "I kind of expected it to be pretty much the same as what we had, just everyone would be wearing a mask, so it wasn't what I expected at all!"

Lowell High School has many procedures in place throughout the building to keep students and staff safe. Everyone must complete a health screening before entering the building and all people are to keep six feet apart whenever possible, but the big challenges for LHS students are the hybrid schedule and the hallway traffic patterns.

"Basically there are two different groups, Red group and White group, that splits the student body. I'm in the Red group so I go on Mondays, Wednesdays, and alternating Fridays. We just go to our classes normally, and on the off days we have online work that we do," said Hofmann. "It's weird because I don't see some of my friends that I'm used to seeing. So I have to go out of my way to see them outside of school. But it's also nice because I get to see people I don't

usually see, I'm making new friends."

The high school has also implemented a traffic flow procedure to limit the number of people in any of the hallways. Many of the hallways are now one way, causing initial confusion among quite a few students. Winn lamented, "The arrows on the floor are super confusing. Everyone is detouring around the school and no one knows where they're going even if they know where their class is! You end going in a big circle no matter what you do."

The high school also offered the option of entirely virtual classes for students who didn't want to risk face-to-face learning. Leah Halstead, a junior with asthma, decided to try the virtual program for a trimester, stating: "I would rather have regretted doing online, than regretted going in person because that would be a little more complicated."

The virtual learning option uses two online learning softwares. Odysseyware for all general education classes, and the Michigan Virtual Academy for all Advanced Placement, or AP, classes. Halstead commented on the differences between the programs. "It was a lot easier through Odysseyware because I have a teacher that I know and other LHS students in the classes. It was a lot easier to figure everything out. With Michigan Virtual it's been a lot harder because you get assigned random AP teachers, and it's just a lot more complicated with everything that you have to remember."

The virtual program also offers a much more independent curriculum than the face-to-face learning, as well as a sizable workload. "I thought it would be a lot less work, just being naive," said Halstead. "I knew I would be working, but not this much. You're self teaching and it's been a little hard getting used to it but I think I'm getting there."

But, despite the many changes to school curriculum and procedures

the morale among LHS students was high.

"It was the best it could've been", said Winn. "They let us come back to the best of their abilities, I don't think it could've been better." Hofmann added, "I think [the system] is the best option and I really like it." Most students seem to prefer some sort of face-to-face learning over being completely virtual.

Additionally, most students are hyper aware of the fact that their actions now will directly affect the type of year they get to have later. "I want a school year that will be normal in the future. We can go through this hard period so we can go back to what was normal," said Hofmann.

Winn followed up by saying, "I have hope I can still experience the best parts of the year. We are all prepared for them to come, it's just the fact of getting there. As long as we all follow the precautions now, in the near future we'll be able to have them. With our precautions now we'll get there eventually."

Heidi Kolp is an LHS English teacher of 19 years. Her goal for the year is to "give kids experiences" stating, "Things may not be the same, but we can sure give kids experiences worth remembering."

Kolp's impression of the student's attitude toward the new year was overall more subdued than normal, but still positive. "Students were more quiet than I thought they would be. I think I was ready for the changes and challenges, so it didn't affect me in the way it seems to have affected them." She added, "I see my job as helping [the students] to find the silver linings and to celebrate what we can do, not what we can't do right now. I'm super happy to be here with my students and colleagues."

Even with life at Lowell High School turned upside down, the students are overwhelmingly optimistic about their future school year.

Winn stated, "We could be sitting home, doing online, by ourselves, not

being able to leave our house, but instead we get to go half back, they are trying to give us enjoyment, so let's enjoy it! It's the best we can get right now, so let's make the best of it!"

Hofmann echoed the sentiment saying, "I think it could be a lot worse. Being all online would be way worse, so I'm just glad to be in school."

Even Halstead sees the

bright side of her situation. "I can take breaks whenever I need to, I can just go and get some food or whatever if I want to. Being able to work at your own pace is nice and not having to crunch has been really nice."

Winn concluded by saying, "I still have high hopes, and I'm looking on the bright side of everything. It's our year, it's

not last year, it was going to be different anyways."

The students of Lowell High School have a lot to adapt to as the school year continues, but they are staying optimistic about what the future could hold. The LHS students are resilient, open-minded, and determined to have, if not a normal year, at least a good year.

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Catch Up On Lowell High School Sports

Go Red Arrows!

the lowell ledger

obituaries

JACKSON

Mabel Arlene Jackson, age 90 of Lowell, passed away on Friday, September 4, 2020. She was preceded in death by her loving husband of 48 years, Lyle George Jackson; brothers, Jim Pierce, and Bob Pierce. Mabel is survived by her children, Robert (Janet) Jackson, Patricia (Dan) Reed, Joyce Coulter, and Terry Jackson; brothers, Ken (Shirley) Pierce, Tom (Lynele) Pierce, Barb (Jim) Payne; 11 grandchildren; and 15 great-grandchildren. Mabel was a dedicated wife for 48 years and a beautiful mother to four children. Her hobbies included gardening and reading. Funeral services will be held Saturday, September 12, 2020 at 11:00 AM at Cross Point Church, 315 W Washington St, Belding, MI 48809 with visitation from 10:00-11:00 AM. Rev. David Sims officiating. Interment Alton Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to Alpha Family Center of Lowell, 519 E Main St, Lowell, MI 49331.



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You can find detailed instructions on how to correct your Social Security earnings record at www.ssa.gov

gov and do much of their business with us online.

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



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college news

Over 550 students received their degrees from Northern Illinois University in August. Included among the graduates was Valerie Voisin of Alto who earned a Master of Science in Geology.

In recognition of outstanding academic achievement, Trinity Christian College, Palos Heights, Illinois, released the college's Dean's List for Spring 2020.

The Dean's List is Trinity Christian College's highest academic honor.

Traditional undergraduate students who attend Trinity full-time and earned a 3.5 grade point average earn this honor.

Alexis Suwyn and Matthew Tamminga, both of Ada, were named to the Dean's List.

LEGAL NOTICE

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

In the matter of
Madison Scott
Guardianship File No.
19-206,679-GA

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS including her father, David Hogan, and any other unknown family 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 November 18, 2020, at 10:00 A.M. at Kent Co. Probate Court, 180 Ottawa NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503 via Zoom before Judge David M. Murkowski (P35026) for the following purpose: Modification of Appointment of a Guardian for a Legally Incapacitated Individual.

Dated: August 31, 2020
Adult Protective Services, DHHS, Petitioner
121 Franklin St. NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49507
(616) 690-7176

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And looked the work, and descended,
I have come by the highway home.
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PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

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4x12 grid of numbers for a crossword puzzle solution.

Large grid of letters with words highlighted in circles and ovals, including CHARACTER, LRSPIHCBM, CIOOSACSRKATHBMCNHGT, UBANTAGONISTDYHFEGYO, ERHNEODDEENOUEMENTO, ASNKORAEYEPILOGUEKLC, GARAVINANDAUSSSESNYEG, INURTOITQYOTVVLGGRGPSK, DTKQIMNCNDSSEVIDENC EB, AIFYCARTIFRHEAMML, VHHRENIYRFAEA OEP LKTS, FEHACUEYGO LCLPDOBHGTV, VRCMB SV ECITDITOTPKVAI, BOGMACIBPLCUNIGSSSKCA, LD EUCRTVITICUNORNO, TANSKIAEAMTCLTSEIKT, KYRLSPRRUUAEHFITYRVFH, VAEDTTRRNP MGHENOKNCE, NULVOFAAKHYTECFONTAM, P YHYR VNOKAMHFRRHC OGE, RGNRYLHVVC AIN YA CMB C.

Live the Life You Want

The effects of gratitude

Melissa Spino MA LLPC CDMS
Life Transitions Therapy LLC

You may have heard the quote “Gratitude Changes Attitudes.” Can something so simple be that powerful? Yes! Psychologically, gratitude boosts happiness and positive moods, shifts attention away from negative emotions, fosters healthier relationships, reduces stress, increases life satisfaction, and reduces ruminating (central to depression). Physically, people that are grateful tend to feel less pain, sleep better, and have stronger immune systems.

Additionally, studies show grateful people tend to do better professionally and academically. Yet these are only some of the benefits.

Gratitude is being thankful for what you have. It’s an emotion, a mood, or personality trait that makes us feel happier. Some are more inclined to feel grateful but even if you are not one naturally inclined to feel grateful you can tap into its power by making it a daily habit.

Increasing Gratitude

- Keep a journal that in some way notes the joys of daily life.
- Get out of auto

pilot. If you are living on auto pilot it’s tough to feel grateful or happiness because you are just going through the motions of life.

- Create a list of items for which you can be grateful every day. I keep a list of things for which I am grateful. When I feel “off” or “out of sorts” I reach for my list. I seldom have to go beyond the first five items. I don’t just read the list, I feel the emotions behind the statements. The first thing on my list is: “I opened my eyes this morning.” I think about how many people may not have and that is powerful. This is a gift for

which I am grateful and never fails to shift my mood to a more positive one.

- Write thank-you notes, appreciation notes, or love notes to others.

- Think about people who have inspired you and why. Then try and do the same.

- Find a purpose. If your purpose is not connected to your job or a hobby consider volunteering in an area you are passionate about. Whatever your purpose, boundaries and self-care are critical.

- Practice random acts of kindness. I feel so



Melissa Spino
MA LLPC CDMS

much gratitude when I can help others. Help an elderly or disabled neighbor, share food from your garden, run errands for someone that

can’t, share knowledge and skills, even anonymously pay for someone else’s order. Be sure to maintain required social distancing.

I am grateful to be a lifelong resident of this community and to be able to give back. Let’s all work together as a community to be supportive of one another and to lift each other up.



Financial Focus

With Christopher C. Godbold

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Grandparents: Consider These Financial Moves

Each year, on the first Sunday after Labor Day, we observe National Grandparents Day. Although it’s not as widely recognized as Mother’s Day or Father’s Day, if you’re a

grandparent, you probably want to do whatever you can to help your grandchildren on their journeys through life. So, you might want to consider the following moves:

Contribute to their education. If you want to help your grandchildren pay for college, you have a variety of options, including 529 plans. You could also simply set aside some money in an investment account earmarked for education. But you don’t just have to stick to helping out financially – you might also want to do some research to see what scholarships are available.

Consider a UGMA/UTMA account. The Uniform Gifts to Minors

Act (UGMA) and Uniform Transfer to Minors Act (UTMA) are custodial accounts that provide a relatively easy way for you to give money to your young grandchildren. A financial advisor can help determine if such a plan is right for you. However, once you put money into the UGMA or UTMA, you no longer have any legal access or authority over the funds unless you are the custodian managing the account.

After children reach the age of majority – typically 18 or 21 – or the age of termination if the state where they live allows for the assets to be held until a later age, they will control the assets, and they may not want to use the money as you had envisioned, such as for college. (Also, tax issues for custodial accounts can be complicated, so, before opening a UGMA or UTMA, you’ll want to consult with your tax advisor.)

Consider gifts to older grandchildren. If you have

older grandchildren, you might want to help them out if they’re saving for a down payment on a home, or are between jobs, or perhaps are even having children of their own. You can give \$15,000 per year, per individual, without having to file a gift tax return. Your spouse can also give \$15,000 per year to the same individual, again without triggering the need for a gift tax return.

Review your will. If you’ve already created your last will and testament, you may want to review it upon the arrival of grandchildren. You can include specific instructions, such as requiring your grandchildren to turn a specific age before they can receive their inheritance. You could also codify the same requirements through the use of a living trust. Contact your legal advisor to determine if such a trust is appropriate for your situation.

Update beneficiary designations. If you want your grandchildren to

receive proceeds from various accounts, such as your 401(k), IRA and life insurance, you may need to update the beneficiary designations, which can even supersede the instructions on your will. Keep in mind that if you have grandchildren with special needs, you may want to designate a supplemental needs trust for your grandchild as the beneficiary instead of naming your grandchild directly. Again, contact your legal advisor for more information.

These aren’t the only steps you can take to help your grandchildren, but they should give you some options to consider. The world is an expensive place, and any assistance you can provide to your beloved grandkids can make a big difference in their lives.

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

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

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 13

LIBRARY WORD SEARCH

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

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

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PERIODICALS RETURN VOLUME

ANNOTATION ANTHOLOGY APPENDIX ATLAS BARCODE

CALL NUMBER CARREL CHECKOUT CIRCULATE CITATION

FOLIO HOLDINGS INDEX JOURNAL LOAN

Guess Who?

I am an actor born in England on September 10, 1960. I lived in England, Nigeria and the U.S. as a child. I gained prominence as an actor for my roles in many films, such as "Pride and Prejudice." I have earned one Academy Award.

Answer: Colin Firth

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to libraries.

K B O S O

--	--	--	--	--

Answer: Books

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					68						69			

CLUES ACROSS

- Aurochs
- Central Dravidian language
- Split pulses in Indian cooking
- Tropical starchy tuberous root
- Well known constellation
- About aviation
- Bowfin genus
- Proper
- Expression of annoyance
- Cabbies
- Bro or sis
- Spiritual leader
- Where football coaches work
- Old TV part
- A way to color
- Touch lightly
- Surround
- Breached
- Aristocratic young woman
- Dry ravine
- Hebrew measurement units
- Supporter
- Type of sword
- Influential Irish playwright
- Witch
- Flower cluster
- Mark Wahlberg's animal friend
- Psychedelic amphetamine
- Actors' group
- Cool!

- Salts
- Group of SE China
- Illuminated
- Semitic Sun god
- Water (Spanish)
- Employed
- Japanese ankle sock
- Fishing fly
- Some pheasants are this
- Literary name for Ireland
- Must have
- A way to write
- One point east of southeast

CLUES DOWN

- American state
- Hindu model of ideal man
- Type of acid
- Drenches
- "The Raven" writer
- Emerged
- Alpha Centauri: ___ Centaurus
- Democratic Presidential candidate
- Hostelry
- Fathers
- Any plant with leaves used for flavoring
- Member of a Semitic people
- Lesotho monetary unit
- Lots
- Jewish address corresponding to "Sir"

- Male parent
- A way to get
- Body part
- Seam in an organ
- Landlocked African country
- Process for producing ammonia
- Excessive fluid accumulation in tissues
- Bogged down
- Native American tribe
- Unfashionable person
- Female grunts
- Well known
- Gurus
- Norse mythological site
- Tell on
- ___ Farrow, actress
- Cotton fabric
- Reciter of Scandinavian poems
- Clouds
- Satisfies
- Shuttered Air Force base in Germany
- Phil ___, former CIA
- Japanese seaport
- Female horse or zebra
- First month of ancient Hebrew calendar
- Trigonometric function
- Fashionable knowledge (Slang)
- Insecticide

Riverview Flats could be ready to go by Halloween

Construction is progressing quickly at Riverview Flats, the condos that are going into the old Unity School on High St., and residents could start moving in by the end of October.

The project broke ground in January, but construction has been delayed during the pandemic.

“Now that we are going again and have materials, [it’s going] pretty good,” said Unity School Investors principal Todd Schaal.



The view of downtown Lowell and the Flat River from the newly-built second floor. [photos by Todd Schaal]



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