

## LowellArts launches new “People Behind the Music” program

LowellArts announces the debut of a new music program for 2021, “Featured Artist Series: Connecting You with the People Behind the Music.”

The program will offer audiences a personal, insiders’ view into the current music scene from the perspective of West Michigan’s talented performers. The new program features one artist each month on the LowellArts website. Each featured artist of the month package consists of an in depth live-recorded video interview with the artist, an artist profile and links to past performances. The series will launch its first feature on Monday, Feb. 1 with Ryne Clarke of The Ryne Experience, who just released a new album called “The Onion Tree.”

The LowellArts music committee created this program as a way to support the local music community during the pandemic and beyond. Designed to further LowellArts’ mission of connecting artists and audiences, this new series will give West Michigan listeners a chance to meet the people behind the music

who have performed at LowellArts events.

Criteria for selecting performers for the series is that the artists must have previously entertained audiences at a past LowellArts event such as a LowellArts gallery concert, a Lowell Showboat Sizzlin’ Summer Concert or at the LowellArts Fallasburg Arts Festival. Artists that participate in the program will be eligible to sell CDs, albums and digital downloads in the LowellArts gallery as part of a soon-to-be established gallery music store and online store.

The interviewer will ask the artist to talk about a variety of topics such as how the break from performing due to the pandemic has affected them, how music has changed since they first started performing or recording, and/or how they feel the relationship between artist and listener is evolving in the age of digital streaming services. The interviewer will also invite the artist to perform a song live during the video interview.

In addition to the featured artist of the month being highlighted on the LowellArts website and

social media outlets, the vision is to reach a wider audience by collaborating with media partners. LowellArts is seeking media partners who, upon making a formal commitment, will have the rights to re-

publish the content of the feature, including the video interview, article text, photos, pre-pandemic performance video links and links to the artist website and merchandise. Please contact LowellArts at 616-897-8545

or [lorain@lowellartsmi.org](mailto:lorain@lowellartsmi.org) if you are interested in becoming a media partner.

For more information about the new series, visit [lowellartsmi.org/featured-artist-of-the-month](http://lowellartsmi.org/featured-artist-of-the-month).

### The Restless Viking



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### ABCs of history



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## Dreamgoats of Ada invents mobile goat milking parlor

by Tim McAllister  
lead reporter

Leah Sienkowski, an educator and the owner of the Dreamgoats herd of Nubian goats, has used \$8,650 in USDA grant money to create a mobile goat milking parlor.

According to a press release, the idea behind the parlor is “for small goat farmers to diversify their incomes and find flexibility.”

Goats love to explore; owners of goats with a mobile milking parlor would be able to reach their herds no matter where they end up. They could also use the parlor to offer milking demonstrations, allow their goats to graze hard-to-reach land with impunity, experiment with more efficient milking systems or simply milk their herd.

“The mission was to design and engineer a mobile goat milking parlor for

educational use,” Sienkowski said. “This included the floor plan, renderings, bill of materials, a feasibility study and sharing my results with farmers and ranchers in the upper Midwest. The parlor is designed to provide additional income streams. The mobility creates opportunities for education and increased land access. The multiple [milking] views would be useful for demonstrations and teaching. This parlor could also accommodate sheep, which are less commonly milked but similar in size and milking requirements.”

In a case of great minds thinking alike, after researching the idea Sienkowski discovered that Europeans have been using a version of this invention for years.

## An anonymous person made a cool ice hockey rink on the lake at Stoney Lakeside Park



Leah Sienkowski with the herd. [photo submitted]

“It seemed like an obvious innovation,” Sienkowski said. “Turns out, this idea is already in action in places like the Swiss Alps, where

the goats and cows follow the green grass up into the mountains for a good part of the milking season. However, these designs do

not follow the requirements for certification in the US and are for large commercial

Dreamgoats, continued, page 7

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# What counts as a COVID-19 death?

Say someone gets COVID-19, but dies after a heart attack. What is the official cause of death?

According to Dr. Teena Chopra, professor of medicine within the division of infectious diseases at Wayne State University, the virus would still be listed as a probable cause of death because COVID-19 contributed to the heart attack.

“Anytime COVID is listed on the death certificate, it should be counted in the COVID death” column, Chopra said.

That is because it’s known that COVID-19 can cause “multi-organ failure” and that patients with underlying heart disease are more likely to have severe outcomes from having COVID-19, she said.

Chopra said if COVID-19 is listed anywhere on a person’s death certificate, that’s going to count toward the overall coronavirus

death toll, even if the terms “probable” or “presumed” are used.

“So they will be counted every time, even if it is not a direct cause of death but it is a probable cause of death,” Chopra said.

The Michigan Information & Research Service sought to get at the question of what, exactly, counts as a COVID-19 death, as it’s been said the total COVID-19 death toll could be both underreported and overreported.

The experts MIRS spoke with both said the deaths are most likely underreported, a similar conclusion reached by a study from the University of Minnesota.

Former President Trump suggested on Twitter that the deaths have been overreported, which was then rebuffed in an interview with Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases.

Dr. Joneigh Khaldun, the state’s chief medical executive, was asked by MIRS in December about how the state advises medical professionals about establishing a cause of death for someone with multiple underlying conditions, but who also tested positive for COVID-19.

“If someone has a cause of death, even if they have something like diabetes or high blood pressure, if they do have a positive COVID-19 test that’s associated with their time of death, that is counted as a COVID-related death,” Khaldun said.

In Sept. 2020, Khaldun mentioned at a press conference that a 2-month-old boy succumbed to COVID-19. While the boy’s death certificate listed COVID-19 as a cause of death, he also had gastroschisis, a birth defect in which a baby’s intestines develop outside the body, according to Bridge

Michigan. It’s the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that’s responsible for setting the standards on these types of things.

Dr. Allecia Wilson, director of autopsy and forensic services at the University of Michigan, said the guidelines issued by the feds on COVID-19 death classification matches the standard practices for other types of diseases.

“What I like about this is following our routine practice guidelines for how we do death certification,” Wilson said. “It’s the treating physician overseeing the patient who makes the call on certifying the causes of death.”

The first part of the death certificate is where the main cause of death is listed. If the positive test of COVID-19 is what the physician believes “set everything in motion” for death, that’s where COVID-19 would be listed,

Wilson said. The second part of the death certificate is where other conditions are listed that may have contributed to the death, Wilson continued. COVID-19 would go there if it was a case where the virus just made another condition worse, such as chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, Wilson said.

Back to the hypothetical case of a COVID-positive person who dies after a heart attack, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services spokesperson Lynn Sutfin said the person would count as a COVID-19 death if:

The person had a positive COVID-19 test and are listed in the Michigan Disease Surveillance System, or MDSS, as deceased.

The person was identified as a confirmed case in MDSS and has a death certificate with COVID-19 listed as the cause of death.

The person dies within 30 days of onset of COVID-19 infection and has a death

certificate which classified the manner of death as natural.

If someone had COVID-19, but the physician doesn’t believe it contributed to the death of a person, then it wouldn’t go on the certificate, Wilson said, giving the hypothetical example of someone getting hit by a bus who happened to have COVID-19.

“You’re going to have people who are going to have a positive test, where it’s never on the death certificate, because it didn’t cause their death,” Wilson said.

As to whether COVID-19 deaths are underreported or overreported, both Chopra and Wilson agreed they’re most likely being undercounted.

Wilson said not everyone who dies is tested for COVID-19, and Chopra raised the issue about people dying at home earlier in the pandemic before a COVID-19 test could be done on them.

# Restaurant owner’s spouse “cries herself to sleep”

Although the historic Town Pump Bar in downtown New Baltimore was installed in 1941, its legacy stems from a “blind pig,” an illegal speakeasy serving alcohol to individuals during the Prohibition era.

According to current owner Eddie DiMaggio, the bar has opened every day since 1933, until it was ultimately caught in COVID-19’s wake. This phenomenon has hit the coastal community hard, as it has for restaurants and eateries throughout Michigan, which are waiting until Monday, Feb. 1 for relief on dine-in service bans.

“If there’s science that shows that restaurants and bars are the source of spreading the coronavirus in an unacceptable amount, then why don’t we share it with business owners so that they can innovate a way to overcome it?” asked Sen. Dan Lauwers (R-Brockway) last Wednesday at press conference staged at a neighboring eatery.

That day, Lauwers visited three restaurants in Michigan’s 25th senate district, including locations in Yale, New Baltimore and Bad Axe.

Meanwhile, at Little Camille’s By The Bay, nearly 40 attendees included House

Speaker Pro Tem Pamela Hornberger (R-Chesterfield Twp.) and US Rep. Lisa McClain (R-Bruce Twp.).

The city is in Macomb County, where President Trump won by 53.4 percent, US Senate candidate John James won by 51.8 percent and McClain won by 64 percent in the Nov. 2020 election.

Mark Miller, the owner of the New Baltimore restaurant, asked how one can live off of 25 percent of their paycheck.

“My wife Camille cries herself to sleep at night because of all of the anger and the depression,” Miller said. “It’s real. The virus is real. The depression is real. The anger is real. The suicides are real. We know how to take care of our customers. We know how to clean our facilities and we know how to sanitize between each endeavor.”

For the press conference, Miller decided not to wear a mask, wanting guests to see his emotions.

The event confronted the anxiety and dread of the community’s business owners. Miller said he feels like he’s applying for a lottery gift after the governor’s line-item vetoes of the 100th legislature’s COVID-19 aid package removed \$359 million in funding.

Earlier in the COVID-19 pandemic, specifically June 24-30, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found that out of 5,412 adults, 40.9 percent admitted to struggling with mental health or substance abuse during the pandemic.

More than 10 percent reported having seriously considered suicide in the foregoing 30 days and 13.3 percent disclosed increasing substance abuse.



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# December and year end LPD statistics released

by Tim McAllister  
lead reporter

Lowell Police Department made four arrests during the month of December. These arrests included two for outstanding warrants and two that are described in the police department’s statistics as “other arrests.” LPD also responded to plenty of misdemeanors during December. There were seven larceny calls, one malicious destruction and six assaults. Lowell police issued nine citations and notified one resident about an ordinance violation. Out of 69 traffic stops in December, they let 61 drivers go with a warning.

Lowell police were called to assist other law enforcement agencies 14 times and called other agencies for assistance three times in December. They were called for

assistance by citizens and motorists 50 times.

Lowell police were also dispatched to 12 accidents during December, none with injuries.

That all adds up to a grand total of 91 arrests in Lowell during 2020, including eight for alcohol violations, two drug law violations, 11 drunk driving arrests, 14 for a suspended license, 27 for outstanding warrants and 29 uncategorized “other arrests.” Additionally, there were 13 assaults in Lowell during 2019, plus nine breaking and entering complaints, 10 malicious destruction incidents, 54 larcenies, 23 dog/animal complaints and 26 calls for disorderly conduct. Out of 921 traffic stops in 2020, the LPD let 687 drivers go with a warning and issued 255 citations.

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# Lowell city council meeting, Tuesday, Jan. 19



Lowell city manager Michael Burns in discussion during the city council's Zoom meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 19.

by Tim McAllister  
lead reporter

Lowell city council had their latest regular meeting over the Zoom app at 7 pm on Tuesday, Jan. 19. The meeting lasted slightly less than 90 minutes, and the council engaged in discussions about topics such as the Showboat, the new social district and a water rate study.

The council re-approved the social district they approved at their last meeting due to some changes. According to city manager Michael Burns, the hours and the borders of the district were altered.

"After further discussion, it was determined we did not take into account the summer concert series in regard to the social district," Burns said. "The area we drew up didn't take into account where many people congregate for the concerts. Quite honestly, this would be difficult to enforce on those days, so it makes more sense just to include it into the district. Our previous map also ended the district at the intersection of Main and Hudson. While New Union Brewery abuts the map, we think this needs to be modified for them to participate, just to be on the safe side. [...] We set the times of 4 pm to 10 pm Monday through Friday and 12 pm to 10 pm Saturday and Sunday. [...] After examining this closer, I would suggest setting the Sunday time from 12 pm to 8 pm."

The council passed two resolutions and an ordinance. The first resolution created

the social district and the second identified the business authorized for public alcohol sales, which will be New Union Brewery, Larkin's, Main Street BBQ, Flat River Grill, Sneakers and Big Boiler Brewing. The ordinance was to allow alcohol in Riverwalk Park.

"We're in the process of getting all the things we need," Burns said. "We're securing things for fire pits, we've got the police set up for it [and] we're getting additional trash cans for Public Works so we can manage this."

The council discussed the impact that construction of a new wastewater treatment plant in Lowell Township would have on sewer and water rates in the city and in the Township. Mark Beauchamp, president of Unity Financial Solutions, was on the Zoom meeting and shared the results of his company's "Water/Sewer Feasibility Summary" document with the council, including the need for about \$1 million worth of system improvements.

Beauchamp reported that if the "worst case scenario" came to pass and the township's and the city's services were completely separated, rates in the city of Lowell would increase by about 21 percent, an average increase of about \$10 a month. On the other hand, if the city was the sole provider of service for the township, he found there would be an increase to the

required system services to about \$3.5 million, of which \$2.5 million would be paid by the township. Rates in the city would go down by about seven percent in this scenario, an average monthly decrease of about \$3.44 per household.

There was an update about the Lowell Showboat project. About \$128,000 has been raised through various efforts of the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce and an additional \$41,500 has been pledged. After the construction company and consultants have been paid, Burns said he calculated there would be about \$137,000 left over to use to remodel the bathrooms, which will be in the former Public Works building directly across the Riverwalk from the Showboat.

"I believe they only have \$160,000 more that they need to fundraise to complete everything for the project," Burns said.

Lowell city council's next regular meeting is scheduled to take place via Zoom at 7 pm on Monday, Feb. 1.

To watch previous city council, board and commission meetings, look for the "City of Lowell" and "Lowell Light and Power" channels on YouTube or visit [archive.org](http://archive.org).



Unity Financial Solutions president Mark Beauchamp shared the results of his company's "Water/Sewer Feasibility Summary" document with the council.

## PFCU offers teachers chance to win \$150 for classroom expenses

by Tim McAllister  
lead reporter

Portland Federal Credit Union, 11635 E. Fulton, has created a brand new program to help local teachers, "Cash for Classrooms."

Simply head to [pfcu4me.com/CashforClassrooms](http://pfcu4me.com/CashforClassrooms) and nominate a local teacher, or you could nominate yourself if you are a local teacher.

Every week between now and May 28, PFCU will randomly choose one of the nominated teachers, who will win \$150 for classroom expenses.

To win, the teacher in question must be a current full time, part time or substitute teacher at a public, private or charter school.

According to a press release, PFCU's goal is "to recognize the dedication and hard work of teachers throughout the communities they serve,

# CASH FOR CLASSROOMS

particularly as they have faced the challenges of adapting to new classroom norms."

"This is just a small token of appreciation to show our gratitude to the teachers in our

community" said PFCU CEO Harvey Hoskins.

Entries will be carried over week to week, so teachers nominated will continue to be eligible to win until they're selected as a winner.



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**Today: Jan. 27, 2021**  
Wednesday, Jan. 27 is the 27th day of the year. There are still 338 days remaining until the end of 2021, and there are only 52 days until spring.

**Historic Events**  
1606: Beginning of the trial of Guy Fawkes and other conspirators of the "Gunpowder Plot." It will end with their execution on Jan. 31, 1606.  
1776: Henry Knox's "noble train of artillery" arrives in Cambridge, MA.  
1785: Founding of the University of Georgia, the first public university in the US.  
1820: Discovery of Antarctica by a Russian expedition led by Fabian Gottlieb von Bellingshausen and Mikhail Petrovich Lazarev.  
1825: Congress approves "Indian Territory" (in present day Oklahoma), clearing the way for the forced relocation of First Nations people and the "Trail of Tears."  
1880: Thomas Edison receives a patent for an incandescent lamp.  
1939: First flight of the Lockheed P-38 Lightning.  
1943: The first American bombing attack on Germany, when the Eighth Air Force sends 91 B-17s and B-24s to attack the U-boat construction yards at Wilhelmshaven, Germany.  
1944: Lifting of the 900-day Siege of Leningrad.  
1945: The Soviet Army liberates the remaining inmates of the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp.  
1951: Nuclear testing at the Nevada Test Site begins with Operation Ranger.  
1967: Apollo astronauts Roger B. Chaffee, Gus Grissom and Ed White are killed in a fire during a test of their Apollo 1 spacecraft at what was then called "Cape Kennedy Air Force Station" in Florida. The name of the facility was changed to "Cape Canaveral Space Force Station" by vice president Mike Pence on Dec. 9, 2020.  
1967: The US, the USSR and the UK sign the "Outer Space Treaty" banning deployment of nuclear weapons in space and limiting use of the Moon and other planets to peaceful purposes.  
1973: The Paris Peace Accords officially end the Vietnam War. Colonel William Nolde is killed in action, the war's final recorded American combat casualty.  
1980: Six US diplomats secretly escape from Iran in the culmination of the "Canadian Caper."  
1996: Germany first observes International Holocaust Remembrance Day.



Lowellian David Thompson was the chairman of an organization that placed this statue of astronaut Roger B. Chaffee at the corner of Fulton and Sheldon in downtown Grand Rapids in 2018. Thompson and Chaffee attended Central High School together, then the pair enlisted in the Navy where their careers diverged.



Roger B. Chaffee (far right) with fellow astronauts Virgil "Gus" Grissom and Ed White. The three men were killed in an accidental fire during a launch simulation on Friday, Jan. 27, 1967.

2003: The first selections for the National Recording Registry are announced by the Library of Congress.  
**Birthdays**  
1756: Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, composer  
1790: Juan Álvarez, president of Mexico  
1832: Lewis Carroll, novelist, poet  
1836: Leopold Von Sacher-Masoch, author  
1850: Samuel Gompers, labor leader  
1859: Wilhelm II, Emperor of Germany  
1885: Jerome Kern, songwriter  
1901: Art Rooney, football player, founder of the Pittsburgh Steelers  
1908: William Randolph Hearst, Jr., publisher  
1918: Lyle "Skitch" Henderson, pianist, composer  
1918: Elmore James, singer/songwriter, guitarist  
1919: Ross Bagdasarian, Sr., creator of "Alvin and the Chipmunks"  
1921: Donna Reed, actor  
1930: Bobby "Blue" Bland, singer/songwriter  
1936: Troy Donahue, actor  
1940: James Cromwell, actor  
1940: Reynaldo Rey, actor, screenwriter  
1942: John Witherspoon, actor, comedian  
1944: Nick Mason, drummer, Pink Floyd  
1947: Cal Schenkel, painter  
1948: Mikhail Baryshnikov, dancer, actor

# viewpoint



## 125 years ago Lowell Ledger January 31, 1896

The tin washer man has been canvassing these parts with pretty good success, doing a washing for each family before trying to sell his machine.

Miss Clara Barton, president of the American Red Cross society, has sailed for Constantinople to distribute relief to the suffering Armenians in spite of the sultan's recent refusal to allow such aid being given. Miss Barton will ask U. S. Minister Terrell to secure protection for herself and her staff to visit Armenia in person to alleviate the suffering.

The Grand Rapids authorities have quit hauling immoral women up before police justices and have got after the people who rent them rooms and houses. Quite a number of hitherto respected persons were arrested.

## 100 years ago The Lowell Ledger February 3, 1921

Two men will lose their arms and one may die as the result of an explosion of a steam engine on a farm between Ionia and Saranac Wednesday. Percy Sharpe, a veteran of the world war, and Herman Dawson are the victims. Sharpe is in a precarious condition and was unconscious for 10 hours. When the explosion occurred pieces of the engine flew in all directions, many striking the two men. The tractor was used to drive a portable saw mill.

The Kent county road commission has received from the state \$89,900 as a good roads award of an expenditure of \$26,476, which included the cost of construction of three state trunk line roads and twelve county roads.

Latest reports on the new power dam project are that the necessary options have been secured and that the erection of paper mill in connection with project is a practical certainty. "Who sez Ole Ada can't boom," "Boost! Ye terriers, boost!"

## 75 years The Lowell Ledger January 31, 1946

James Gee, who has been in Blodgett hospital for the past ten days, was brought home Tuesday afternoon, feeling much better. Mr. Gee hopes to be back in the store in a week or two.

Mr. and Mrs. Roy Johnson have received word

from their son Frank that he arrived in Rosenheim, Germany, January 12, after a four day ride with twenty other service men in a box car from France to Germany.

The mussels that burrow in the mud of Michigan river bottoms and that once represented a half-million dollar annual income when sold to pearl button makers are apparently coming back after a period of scarcity.

## 50 years The Lowell Ledger February 4, 1971

Snow, bitter cold, winds, and more snow is the top news about the area this week...for most people. Coming almost four years to-date, after the record breaking storm in 1967, it seems we're destined for the same results. The storm that struck the area last Tuesday morning dropped off in its severity Wednesday, but picked up where it left off Friday evening, causing residents and motorists to again find themselves stranded or just plain buried via the roadway.

Area Postmasters announced this week that the public finance windows at the Lowell, Ada and Alto Post offices will be closed on Saturdays, starting February 20, 1971. Public lobbies will be open as usual on Saturdays for the convenience of lock box customers. However, manned windows providing stamps, money orders, registry, parcel post, information and other services will be closed.

In this day when snowmobiles are becoming a common sight in Michigan, an airsled is a rarity. Alex Adastik, however, is a prize winning local inventor who designed and built an airsled that travels on three runners with the aid of a seventy horse-power Continental engine.

## 25 years The Lowell Ledger January 31, 1996

The term "home shopping" has taken on a whole new meaning, thanks to West Michigan's largest realty company. In the age of information, Greenridge Realty, Inc. is providing prospective home buyers with an opportunity to home shop on its internet service. It is the first realtor in West Michigan to build a "home" page in the internet.

A week following a two-car accident on Segwun, just south of Emery Street, 19-year-old Michelle Schmidt remains in a coma at Butterworth Hospital. Schmidt, a senior at Lowell High School, was northbound on Segwun in the late afternoon hours of Jan. 23 when she lost control of her vehicle and slid across the center line, hitting a southbound vehicle.

The announcement won't officially be made for several weeks, but many cable subscribers have already been tuned in. Cable subscribers who have reprogrammed their cable within the last couple of weeks noticed an increase of three stations.



## to the editor

Dear Editor,

I would like to say something about the article in Jan. 13 Lowell Ledger captioned, "Chair Albert: Gov. Whitmer must advance reopening before new COVID spending will be considered".

The article stated that Albert is House Appropriations chair Thomas Albert. I can't envision starting conversations about how to allocate additional federal COVID-19 relief funds until the governor shows more willingness to restore the economy and a sense of normalcy," said Albert of Lowell.

I, Mr. Howard, believe restoring the economy to a sense of normalcy at this time is without merit because the spreading of COVID-19 isn't even close to being under control. A reopening of the economy to a sense of normalcy before the spread of COVID-19 is under control would be putting the cart before the horse. It would put many more at risk getting of COVID-19 and more deaths. Businesses and all mass gatherings, from weddings to sporting events, should adhere to

the wearing of a mask and social distancing with no deviation until the spreading of COVID-19 is under control. We have seen what happened to states that have opened up their economy prematurely during the pandemic. There have been way more COVID-19 infections and deaths. There are some that want to open up Michigan's economy no matter what the cost.

Now I would like to say something about Lowell's proposed downtown social district where people can purchase and consume alcoholic beverages in public. What's up with that? Do you think anyone is going to adhere to social distancing and the wearing of masks while doing alcohol socializing in public? A downtown social district where people can drink alcohol beverages in public doesn't say much for the community in the first place but it's surely a bad idea while Michigan and our nation is up against the spreading of COVID-19.

Sincerely,  
James Howard  
Lowell

Letters, continued, page 11

## We love to hear from you!

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

The requirements are:

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

# HEALTH

## M METRO HEALTH

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN HEALTH

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

# ABCs of Lowell History

The ABC's of Lowell History was introduced last year as a way to share some of the many fascinating stories from Lowell's past. It was initiated in part by the pandemic shutdown which led the Museum to seek alternative ways to share local history with the community. The series will continue with a second round of the alphabet.

the Steamboat Landing was located. Residents today may wonder where was Peck's Hill? who was Peck? and what was the significance of the Steamboat Landing?

On the East end of Lowell, opposite James Street, is the bend in the river. Today's "James Street Hill" was known as "Peck's Hill" to the pioneers.

the steamboat was a matter of no small interest to the people of the town and when the whistle blew for the landing the inhabitants both large and small would rush for the river and many times we could see ten or fifteen people running across the flats for the boat landing."

The Steamboat Landing brought traffic

warehouse, John Blain had a Blacksmith shop, the famous little red school was built in 1851 and sat where the United Methodist Church is now, Daniels and Young built a store and a dwelling, and Orson Peck began with a store in the warehouse but soon built his own store to the east of the school.

Orson Peck was born in New York in 1812 and

### - restless leg syndrome

Restless leg syndrome (RLS) causes significant symptoms in about two to three percent of people in the U.S. Women are more likely than men to be affected. Most people are at least middle aged or older when the develop symptoms, but children can have restless leg syndrome as well.

Restless leg syndrome causes an uncomfortable urge to move the legs. Usually, this urge is associated with unpleasant sensations in the legs. The sensations can be difficult to describe, but include burning, aching, tingling or crawling. Symptoms are worse while at rest; moving the legs usually provides relief. Symptoms occur mostly in the evening or

at night. The leg sensations often causes difficulty falling or staying asleep.

Diagnosis of restless leg syndrome is primarily based on a medical history and physical examination performed by a health care provider. Because the symptoms of restless leg syndrome often occur at night, a sleep study may also be ordered to rule out other conditions that could be contributing to poor sleep.

If symptoms of RLS are mild and infrequent, lifestyle change such as exercising regularly may be helpful. Massaging the legs or soaking the legs in water may also provide relief. Medications may be useful if symptoms occur on a regular bases and are bothersome.



The 1870 Birdseye lithograph of Lowell shows Peck's Hill on the far left side. The landing would have been at this bend in the river. The Methodist Church can be seen to the center of the image.

### P is for Peck's Hill

A pioneer resident of Lowell, John Blain - Blacksmith, stated that town first started at the bend of the Grand River at the foot of Peck's Hill, where

As early settlers came they traveled much the way the fur traders did - on the rivers. The canoes however, were replaced by steamboats. According to John Blain, "the arrival of

to the area and buildings were soon erected near the landing. The landing was directly south of the house of Mrs. Luz 1106 E. Main, according to a description given many years ago. Chapin and Booth built a

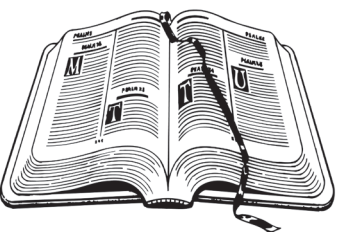
later came to Grand Rapids. In 1837 he built the John Almy Steamboat. The John Almy was intended to run on the upper Grand River, between Grand Rapids and Ionia, or Portland if the

ABCs continued, page 11

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# happy birthday

**JANUARY 27**  
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**JANUARY 30**  
 Susan Bell, Nicholas Kinsley, Tyler Call, Josh Dietz, Shirley Stevens.

**JANUARY 28**  
 Ryan White, Cher Mastenbrook, Amy Newhouse, Renee Peters, Veda Joyce Nearing, Kyle Washburn.

**JANUARY 31**  
 Rick Fonger, Brian Rasch.

**JANUARY 29**  
 Brenda Traetz, Kim Call, Karen Potter, Zach DeBold.

**FEBRUARY 1**  
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**FEBRUARY 2**  
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 Contemporary Service: 10:30 am  
 Sr. Pastor - Brad Brillhart

# Dreamgoats, continued



good at eating invasive species and nuisance plants, and they can turn these plants into milk. Goats make great friends and great brush hogs. They are pretty resilient and they are fun to watch. They have a really strong herd mentality and naturally follow their owners or herd queens. They won't mow your lawn, unfortunately, they prefer eating brush and trees."

In addition to her duties on the farm, Sienkowski also works as a school teacher.

"I enjoy having animals as my colleagues, playing in the woods and growing and raising food," Sienkowski said. "I majored in biology at Calvin College and studied organic farming in the summers, in the form of one farm job after another. I also teach outdoor education at Ada Christian School, where my goats live. I'm passionate about sharing my love of sustainable food production with my students and volunteers."

For farmers interested in this new idea, Sienkowski has organized informative workshops and webinars. The first of these will take place at 6:30 pm on Saturday, Jan. 30. To sign up for the event or for more information, visit [mobilegoatmilk.com](http://mobilegoatmilk.com).

herds. Our design accommodates between two and six goats at once, and thus can milk up to 36 goats per hour. Goats are generally milked one to two times per day. They require fairly regular milking to keep up production, so farmers usually milk at the same times each day to regulate production. High producing goats need to be gradually dried up, otherwise they are prone to discomfort and infection."

Her partner in designing the trailer is Ada company 2B Studio, a firm started by Sienkowski's father.

"They approach projects with financial feasibility and aesthetics in mind," Sienkowski said.

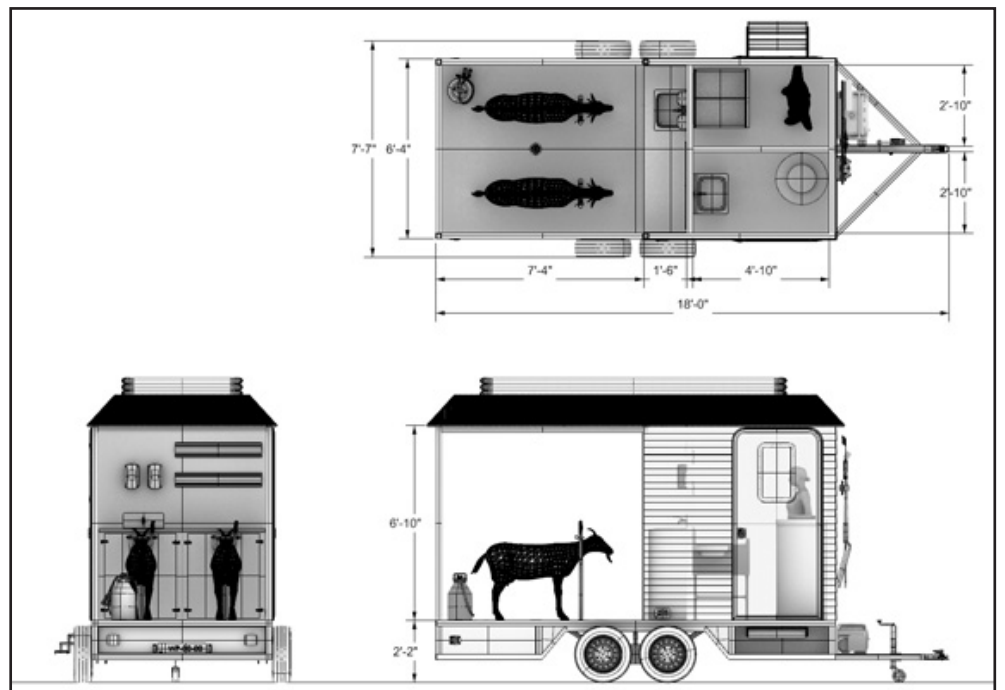
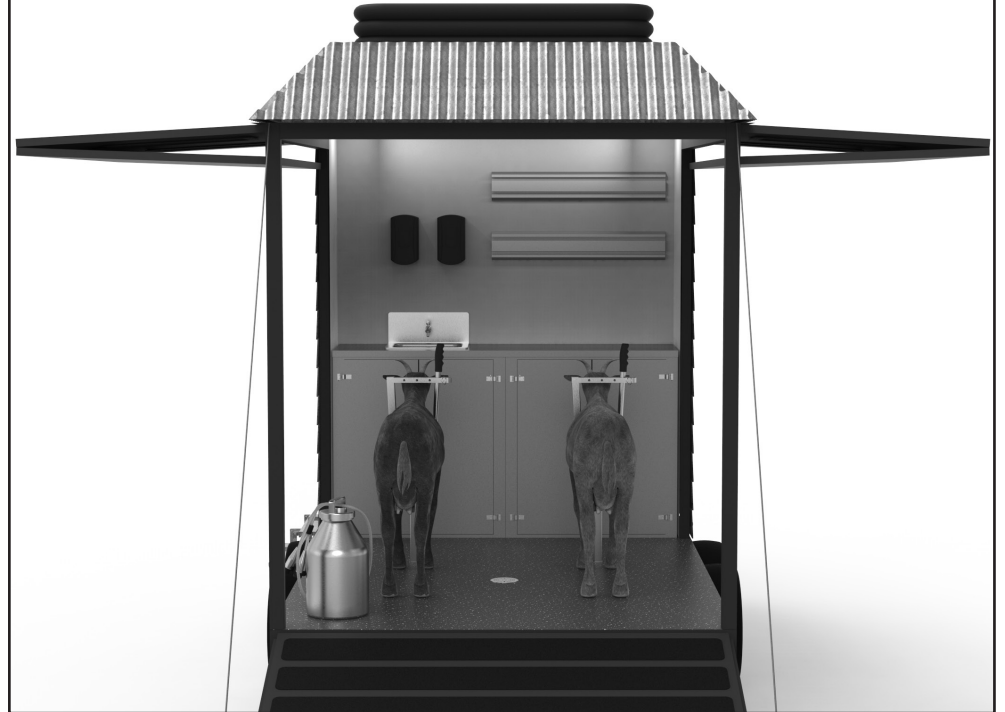
Sienkowski lives in Lowell and the Dreamgoats herd is based in Ada. She has been managing the goats since 2016.

"I run a herdshare, so about 20 families own a share of the herd and pick up milk each week from their goats," Sienkowski said. "They ferment it to make kefir, yogurt and cheeses for home use. I use it in place of milk anytime it's called for

in a recipe. Right now I am aging a Camembert in my fridge. I also make goat milk soap, which is especially good for the skin."

Goats are incredibly useful little animals, and they're also cute and friendly.

"My dream was to have a herd of dairy goats that also cleared land," Sienkowski said. "Goats are incredibly



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# Wittenbach wins service award from MS Horticulture

by Tim McAllister  
lead reporter

It was reported in the Michigan Farm News last week that Mike Wittenbach, fourth generation owner and managing member of Wittenbach Orchards, has won the 2020 “Distinguished Service Award” from the Michigan State Horticulture Society.

The farm has existed since 1899, when Wittenbach’s great grandfather Fredrick Wittenbach emigrated to West Michigan from Switzerland. Wittenbach’s father Edward took over maintenance of the farm in 1962, and Wittenbach has worked the land his entire life.

The farm has raised cattle, sheep, peaches, asparagus and various other “row” crops. Today, the farm focuses on growing apples, corn and soybeans, primarily for the wholesale market. They grow 12 varieties of apple tree (including MacIntosh, Sweet Tango, Gala, Honey Crisp and Fuji) in medium to high densities, supported by trellis systems and tree

stakes. They wind up with about six million pounds of apples each season. Most of the fruit is sold by a local packing house and sales agency, the rest winds up at local farmers markets.

Wittenbach has been the president of the Michigan State Horticulture Society as well as the Michigan Pomesters, and was chairman of the Michigan State Horticulture Trust Fund. He is currently on the board of directors of the Belding Fruit Storage and Next Big Thing cooperatives, and is a member of the International Fruit Tree Association. Wittenbach and his wife Marnie have three children. The couple enjoys traveling, hiking and skiing, and they have spent time everywhere from Africa to New Zealand.

Of their three kids, one is currently working at the farm full time, one is working on their master’s degree in horticulture at Michigan State University and the third is studying special education at Grand Valley State University.



## Civics 101: House of Representatives

by Lara Steffens  
contributing reporter

The branch of government featured today is Congress, the legislative branch’s highest office. Congress is outlined in the Constitution in Article 1. Congress is the group who makes the laws. They are then checked by the President in the executive branch to maintain the checks and balances system.

Congress is bicameral, meaning it has two chambers, the Senate and the House of Representatives. The Senate is considered the “upper house.” Senators serve six year terms and are elected by the people of the state they represent. There are two senators per state, no matter the population size.

The House of Representatives is considered the “lower house,” but they are more connected with the people of the state which they represent. They serve two year terms, and there are more representatives for states with larger populations.

The two chambers came about because of a disagreement between states when the Constitution was being drafted. Larger states wanted to go through with the Virginia Plan, which would have allowed states with a larger population to have more senators. Smaller states were in support of the New Jersey Plan. This plan argued that the Virginia plan was



Lowell’s representative in the US House is Peter Meijer, pictured here on a campaign stop in Lowell last summer.

unfair and wanted each state to have the same number of senators no matter its population.

In the end, Connecticut delegate Roger Sherman came up with the Great Compromise that set up

our current system of two chambers: one based on population size and one with a set number of senators.

In order for a law to be passed, a representative from the House of

Representatives needs to sponsor it. Then the House votes on it, and if it reaches a majority of 218 of 435, it moves on to the Senate. If it reaches a majority of 51 of 100 there, it goes to the President to be vetoed or passed.

## CITY OF LOWELL KENT COUNTY, MICHIGAN

### NOTICE OF ADOPTION AND SUMMARY OF AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 14-55 “TRANSPORTATION AND POSSESSION OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES AND INTOXICATING LIQUORS” OF ARTICLE III, CHAPTER 14 “PARKS AND RECREATION” OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF LOWELL IN ORDER TO PERMIT THE CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOL OBTAINED FROM SOCIAL DISTRICT PERMIT HOLDERS WITHIN DESIGNATED AREAS AND IN DESIGNATED AREAS DURING PERMITTED SPECIAL EVENTS

The Lowell City Council adopted Ordinance No. 21-01 amending Section 14-55 “Possession of Alcoholic Beverages and Intoxicating Liquors; Exception for Social Districts” of Chapter 14, “Parks and Recreation” of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Lowell on January 19, 2021. Ordinance No. 21-01 prohibits the consumption and possession of alcoholic beverages on certain city-owned property but creates exceptions for designated Commons Areas within Social Districts as permitted by City Council and authorized by the Michigan Liquor Control Commission and Public Act 124 of 2020 and for permitted special events held in designated areas. A copy of Ordinance No. 21-01 is available for inspection at City Hall, 301 East Main Street in the City during regular business hours of the City. Ordinance No. 21-01 is effective 10 days after this publication.



Susan Ullery  
City Clerk

## How to contact your legislators

**US Rep. Peter Meijer**  
110 Michigan St. NW  
Suite 460  
Grand Rapids, MI 49503  
Phone: 616-451-8383  
Fax: 616-454-5630  
<https://meijer.house.gov/>



Stabenow

**US Sen. Debbie Stabenow**  
731 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510-2204  
Phone: 202-224-4822  
<https://www.stabenow.senate.gov/>

**US Sen. Gary Peters**  
Hart Senate Office Building  
Suite 724  
Washington, DC 20510  
202-224-6221  
<https://www.peters.senate.gov/>



Peters



# County: "Don't Crowd the Plow!"

**DON'T**

Trucks release salt and sand from the back of the truck - if you're too close to the truck, materials could hit your windshield & obstruct visibility.

**Crowd the Plow!**

**NEVER PASS Plow on the RIGHT**  
Plows push snow to right shoulder & may use a wing (often 6-8 feet long) which is difficult to see.

**BLIND SPOT**

Don't assume the plow driver can see your vehicle. **The driver's field of vision is limited** You may see them, but they may not see you.

**Plow trucks travel between 25-35 MPH**  
Allow enough time & space to safely stop/slow down.

**Maintain at least 200-foot distance from plow truck to:**

1. ensure the driver can see you at all times
2. allow time for you to slow down or stop
3. avoid obstructing visibility from material release or cloud of snow

**Remember: Plow trucks may need to "back up" at intersections during storm response - make sure to leave them room to do so.**

The average speed of a snowplow is only 25 to 30 miles per hour, but a large enough amount of snow pushed off the road can damage a mailbox that is not in optimal condition.

Do not crowd the plow, maintain safe distance. Snowplows are large and operators cannot see directly behind the truck.

Slow down when you see a snow plow. Snow plows travel at a slower speed; the most common crashes are motorists hitting the rear end of the plow.

Stay alert and watch for a plow's green and amber lights.

Do not pass plows on the right. Plows push snow to the right shoulder and many are equipped with a wing, a six to eight foot extension on the right-hand side of the plow. This wing is difficult to see and can do harm to a passing car.

Do not pass in a snow cloud. Be sure the road ahead is clear of vehicles or snowdrifts before

attempting to pass on the left. A snow cloud could be caused by crosswinds or by a snowplow, so be patient.

Remember, plows do more than plow. Plow trucks also spread salt and deicing agents may spray your car. Maintain a safe distance between your car and the snowplow and be extremely cautious when passing on the left.

And never pass a snow plow on the right.

Playing outside? Stay away from the road.

Stay far away from the road when standing or playing outside. Plows can throw large chunks of ice and snow as they pass and the flying debris could hurt you.

Plow trucks are big, with blind spots, and a driver may not see you if you are standing too close to the road. A plow driver often has low visibility as snow flies onto the windshield. This makes it hard for the driver to see anyone along the road.

Never tunnel or build forts

in the snowbanks along the side of the road.

Drivers will definitely not see you if you have tunneled into a snowbank. If you're in the tunnel, you could be "snowed in" when a truck plows next to you.

Wear bright colors so

drivers can see you better.

When working outside, KCRC employees wear high-visibility clothing and vests so that motorists can see them better. When children wear bright colors, it helps motorists and plow drivers see them better too.

## Judge dismisses term limits lawsuit

On Wednesday, Jan. 20, a federal judge dismissed a lawsuit filed by a bipartisan group of 10 former legislators challenging Michigan's term limits laws more than a year ago.

US District Judge Janet T. Neff said the former lawmakers hadn't established "as a matter of law" that the state Constitution's term limits provision violates either the federal or state constitutions.

Former legislators Mike Kowall, Roger Khan, Scott Dianda, Clark Harder, Joseph Haveman, David Nathan, Paul Opsommer, Douglas Spade, Mark Meadows and

Mary Valentine filed the suit against Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson, seeking to toss the term limits voters added to the constitution in 1992.

Proposal B, which passed 58.7 percent to 41.3 percent, created two four-year terms for candidates seeking to be governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of state, attorney general and state senate. Three two-year terms were the limits for state house members.

The plaintiffs, who contend they would seek reelection and/or vote for other experienced candidates if it weren't for the term

limits, claimed the lifetime term limits was a "failed social experiment."

They alleged violations of the First and Fourteenth amendments' ballot access and freedom of association clauses, but Neff said those claims "are without merit." Neff also found the former legislators' claims of violations of the guarantee clause and Michigan Constitution were without merit.

Patrick Anderson, a leader of the original term limits constitutional amendment, said the court's decision confirms "what Americans have asserted for over 230

years: citizens have every right to limit the power and privileges of elected officials."

"The entire lawsuit was a matter of foolishness brought by legislators who should have honored their oath to uphold the Constitution, not attempt to end-run it," Anderson said.



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 With Chuck & Martha Hayden  
 www.restless-viking.com

~ one room schools

Can you imagine teaching a group ranging from pre-kindergarten to eighth grade? (Some of you probably can with our virtual learning this past spring.) Wendy Spray has taught on the remote island of Bois Blanc for over 15 years.

One year, her one-room school had a population of six students which consisted of two pre-kindergarteners, two second graders, one seventh grade and one eighth grade student. The eighth grader that year was one of her two sons. Once a student graduates from eighth grade, he or she transfers to Cheboygan high school which is located on the mainland.



**The Pines Elementary School classroom on Bois Blanc Island.** (This was taken during the summer when class wasn't in session.) Photo by Chuck and Martha Hayden.

Spray shared, "My very favorite part of teaching here was the fact I was able to be 'home.' Home is the place we hang our hearts and have a very personal draw and yearn to be in, around and with... Bois Blanc Island is the place which forever calls me home. I live in my island childhood home, next to my mother's childhood home, and have been able to call this home my entire life. Moving home to teach just added the special sunset (or sunrise) to the ever evolving days."

Bois Blanc Island has fifty year-round residents. It is approximately twelve miles long and six miles wide. It is located southeast of Mackinac Island. A thirty minute ferry ride from Cheboygan by Plaunt Industries is the most common method of travel to Bois Blanc. Well maintained dirt roads are the main trek throughout the island. There are more interesting two-track cuts through the forests, too. The trees on Bois Blanc have been the timber supply for Fort Michilimackinac on Mackinac Island where cutting trees is forbidden.



Bois Blanc is french meaning, "white wood" named for the basswood trees. However, locals pronounce their island home as "Boblo." This causes some confusion as there's an amusement park near Detroit called Boblo. The locals are quick to tell you, "It's Boblo."

This remote institution peaked my curiosity. I was entranced how the school was the center of the island neighborhood. Two small boys and their older adult person were in the schoolyard playing when we stopped to investigate and take photographs. "Grandma is the boss," a round faced youngster informed us, perched at the top of the slide. "Now, that is good to know!" I responded with a quiet smirk.

Of the 190,000 one-room school houses that used to be active across the nation fewer than 400 are open today. There are several currently operating in Michigan's "thumb" area and a few out east. Most one-room schools have become a memory.

As a youngster in the 1970's I was captivated by the television show, "Little House on the Prairie." The weekly episodes demonstrated the life of the Ingalls family through the 1870's-1890's based on the book series written by Laura Ingalls Wilder. Walnut Grove had a one-room school house featured in many scenes. I soaked it all in. Since I was four years old, I knew I wanted to be a school teacher and dreamed of having my own classroom someday.

I charged forward to learn about the four hundred schools still operating. There is Coon School in Ionia



**Bois Blanc Pines School District is the smallest school district in Michigan located on Bois Blanc Island in Lake Huron.** Photo by Chuck and Martha Hayden.

County which is nearby Lowell. It was built in 1866. Meggin Rice taught nine students last year (2019-2020) kindergarten through fifth grade. She is certified up to eighth grade.

Rita Grass wrote about cleaning slates in the nearby brook at Croydon school in New Hampshire. It's known as the oldest school which opened in 1780. Currently first through third grade students are taught here. In fourth grade, they transfer to Newport. Lynn Toushet, the teacher, described the wooden floors being worn down from the scuffing of generations of youngster's feet.

Once I began my teaching career in Lowell, Michigan (1992-2019) I fell in love with the Fallasburg Schoolhouse located north of Lowell. I became a board member and docent, monitoring the museum hours on Sundays. With grants from the Lowell Education Foundation, first grade classes were able to spend the day at Fallasburg. We organized the day much as it used to be in the mid - late 1800's. McGruffy readers and slates were used. Groups of students were called up to the recitation bench to recite their memorized lessons. A spelling bee was conducted. We played hide the thimble. At recess the boys used the left door and the girls used the right side. Students brought their lunches in pails. Last month I had the privilege of helping to paint the school.

Max recalled being brought to the Fallasburg school house for the day as a first grader. He had been in my class and is now my bar tender at a local restaurant. He reported that it was boring. He didn't like writing on the slate and there wasn't any equipment to play on at recess. He reassured me I had been a good teacher. He loves history now, but as a youngster he was more about modern amenities.

I only found one other island school that is uniquely similar to Bois Blanc. Monhegan Island is off the coast of Maine. There are fifty year-round residents. Fishing and lobster trapping are the main sources of income. Angela, a parent of a student at the school, told an NPR reporter that without the school it (the community) wouldn't exist. "The school brings the community together." Sarah Caban, the teacher, reaches out and invites people into the classroom to build a bridge between islanders and the children. This camaraderie drives the villagers to assist one another. The school's annual Christmas play is a community event with every resident in attendance.

You can imagine my excitement when we came across the Bois Blanc one room school! I messaged Spray, who graciously offered her insights and experiences teaching in this unique setting. "They (the students) easily heard the lessons their peers were receiving and working on. This was beneficial (in my opinion) as it allowed for reinforcement for the older students to hear the younger lessons and the same for the younger student to hear and absorb the lessons of the older grade students.

"The daily schedule was designed to incorporate and include all of the students as whole class activity in the morning, at lunch, at break/recess/game time and upon departure for the day.

"Students started the day reciting our Pledge of Allegiance and then the Michigan pledge, 'I pledge allegiance to the flag of Michigan, and to the state for which it stands, two beautiful peninsulas united by a bridge of steel, where equal opportunity and justice to all is our ideal.'



**Roxanne Turner in front of the Croydon Village school.** Photo courtesy of "The Concord Monitor"

"Winter is probably my favorite time here; the only noise is just about what you make yourself. Quiet and solitude are valuable commodities and some do not find them quite as rewarding as others."

Spray advises that anyone considering living on the island year-round should at least visit during the winter months.

"It can be difficult for anyone who has not witnessed

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# Restless Viking, continued

this way of living firsthand. There is a lot of planning and preparing. There is no quick run to the store for something missing from your pantry. There's no opportunity to run out for fuel or gas for the furnace or vehicles."

This wholesome richness builds a kinship among islanders. These fifty residents have an uncommon grit and tenacity. The school (and Hawk's Tavern) are the center of the this island's social interactions.

Spray's grandfather followed in his father's footsteps and continued to run and added to the family ferry business. Then her uncle took the reins. Currently her brother and two cousins are partial owners in Plaunt Ferry Co. Bois Blanc Island was the first place to ever have U.S. Postal Service use a snowmobile. This vehicle is on display by Plaunt Ferry Co.

Nearly forty years ago Johnny Carson interviewed the one student who attended Bois Blanc Pine Elementary School. The child reported that he had tied a cinder block to one side of the teeter totter so he could play. This child also appeared in "People" magazine.

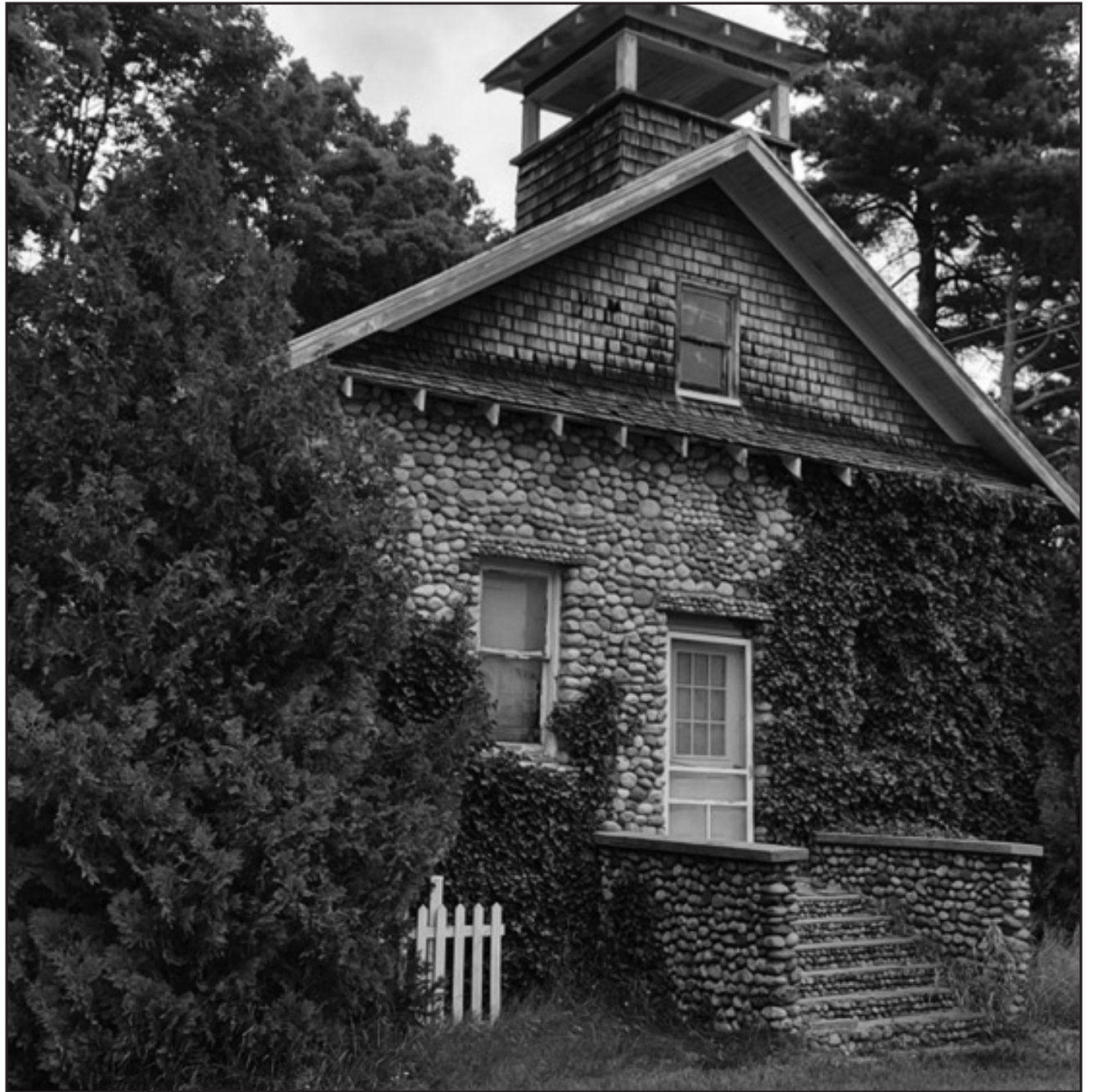
In 2013, Craig Chapman brought his children, Mitch and Natalie, to Pines Elementary School on Bois Blanc for the one room school experience. He wrote about their learning for the Big Rapids News. Spray met the family at the ferry dock. Grant, Spray's seventh grade son, gave the family a tour of the school and the grounds.

At night from Mike Dyer's porch they hailed the Coast Guard Cutter Mackinaw by radio. To reveal their location Mitch and Natalie signaled the cutter by flashing the porch light on and off. The cutter responded by using a bright search light. Then talking by radio the kids asked Ensign Katie Braynard questions about the cutter. They learned it was built in 2005 and is 240 feet long. It specializes in breaking ice and tending buoys. Over the summer the cutter had four distress calls. Braynard gave the kids (as well as everyone in the straights) a Great Lakes Salute of three blasts of the Mackinaw's horn.

The following morning the Chapman family packed lunches and headed to Pines Elementary for a day in the one room school house. At the time there were three students attending: Grant Spray and two first graders. Chapman sums up their day with, "no cliques or bullies, just learning and smiles."

I could feel the pride in Spray's words when she shared, "I had the great fortune of teaching both of my sons here on the island. My older was elected member of the student council and was voted as the school's Coming Home King (the only non-athlete nominated). My youngest earned a freshman achievement award and was inducted into National Honors Society as a sophomore. He has now graduated from LSSU with a degree in criminal justice."

All schools bring people together and are the center of many activities whether they are public, private or church-based. However, the extreme connectivity of communities built around one-room schools is unique and fascinating



**Emil Bunek, my grandfather, attended this one-room school house in Sutton's Bay, Michigan. We drove by it often and heard how my mother stole her way inside and found a book with his name on it. She didn't take it for fear of getting in trouble for sneaking into the school. Photo by Chuck and Martha Hayden.**

to me. The island history of multiple generations carries a richness with depth and pride. I stand in awe of these families and their rugged dedication.

With our current COVID-19 situation many families are forming small, in person "learning pods." These are designed to match families in a neighborhood to an instructor who will help carry out lessons during this 'at home' learning time. This model reflects the one-room

school house style which has had many positive results. I wonder how much our institutional format may change as we navigate this new way of life.

*References:*  
 Chapman, Craig. "The Big Rapids News" 2013 article  
 NPR Podcast Monhegan Island School off the coast of Maine 2005  
 NPR Podcast Croyden School in New Hampshire 2006

# ABCs, continued

water was deep enough at the time. Unfortunately, it was wrecked on the Grand River near the Flat River on its first run. In Grand Rapids Orson was known as a peddler and then opened his own grocery. In the fall of 1853 he brought inventory to the Chapin and Booth warehouse and moved to Peck's Hill.

Only one year later another Mr. Peck moved to Peck's Hill. Dr. Arvine Peck was also born in New York, though it is unknown if they were related in any way. Living here from 1854 until his death in 1884, Dr. Peck was called one of Lowell's 'most prominent citizens.'

Peck's Hill was used as a reference, as everyone knew where it was. Into the 1930's

obituaries listed Peck's Hill, but it seems to have fallen from use after that.

The following are a couple examples of notable Lowell residents who once lived on Peck's Hill. In August of 1866, once called Lowell's most distinguished son, Ernest Graham was born on Peck's Hill. Merritt Sayles, Civil War Veteran, owned a home on Peck's hill after moving to Lowell, and served as the village Marshal.

Times change and unofficial local reference points change, especially when named after someone long gone. The Lowell Area Historical Museum seeks to preserve the history and memories of Lowell, its people and stories.

# Letters, continued

Dear Editor,

Recently we heard of our former President Trump being silenced by several media companies. I'm addressing this article to Republicans, Democrats and Independents. Regardless of your political opinions, we should be aware the decision of one can affect more than one!

I'm concerned for all of us. Is this the first step to controlling what I can say if someone decides I shouldn't be heard? What's next? Will I be told when and where I can worship, shop and eat? The list can go on and on.

Scary times, folks! This is so contrary to the

way I've lived the past 88 years. I'm not sure how many more God will grant me on this earth. Perhaps I'll move on to another better place where all this will not matter. My concern is for my kids and grand and great-grands who will have to stand up for their rights and their faith.

We all must pray for our country that we maintain our democracy and God given rights. We, the people, have a voice. Don't forget it.

Glad Fletcher  
 Lowell Twp

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# obituaries

## BAKER

Susan Janet "Jan" (Burdette, Crandall) Baker passed away in Traverse City, MI on January 20, 2021 at the age of 85. Jan was born on March 6, 1935 in Natick, MA to her parents J. Mace and Dorothy Crandall. Jan married the love of her life, Edward Baker Jr. on May 2, 1988. Susan, known as Jan to her family and friends, most recently resided in Beulah and was a member of Trinity Lutheran Church in Frankfort. Jan grew up in a



military family and lived throughout the United States during her youth as her father was transferred among various naval duty stations. As an adult, Jan primarily resided in Lowell, where she raised her family and was employed by the Lowell Police Department. Jan also worked as a phlebotomist at Blodgett Hospital in Grand Rapids and as a dental assistant in Ada. Jan loved to hike

and swim and taught swimming lessons so others could enjoy the water as she did. Jan had a passion for reading and served as a volunteer at numerous libraries. She also volunteered her time at Paul Oliver Hospital in Frankfort and at senior centers and animal shelters in various communities where she lived. Jan loved to sit in her chair by the front door to watch all the birds, and she would do so for hours at a time. Jan and her husband, Ed, very much appreciated the love and care given to her by the staffs at The Pavilions of Traverse City, The Maples of Frankfort, and Munson Hospice. Jan is survived by her husband, Edward Baker Jr.; sons, Duke (Diane) Burdette and Cole (Diane) Burdette; daughters, Belinda (Robert) Burdette-Reedy and Kish Johnson; grandchildren, Erin Burdette, Emma Burdette, Elise Burdette, Eric (Garland) Kazmierski, Lani (Gary) Burdette, Robert Reedy, Jessica Reedy Romero, Joe (Kacie) Johnson, Kaitlyn Johnson, Amanda (Michael) Kalfas, Matthew Baker, Alexandra (Eric) Baker, Corey Garza, and Alana Saindon; great-grandchildren, Noah Romero, Adaline Johnson, Charlotte Kazmierski, Mara Saindon, Solomon Kalfas, and Asher Kalfas; stepchildren, Steve (Mary) Baker and Renee Baker; brothers, David Crandall, Bill Blount, and Ross Blount; as well as her sister, Cora Wise. Jan is preceded in death by her grandson, David Mason Burdette and brother, Bob Crandall. Services are not being planned at this time. Jowett Family Funeral Home is handling the arrangements for the family.

## ESPARZA

Arturo Esparza "Artie", P.E., born June 9, 1947 in Mexico City, Mexico, passed away Jan 22, 2021, peacefully, surrounded by his family in Michigan. Art is survived by his beloved wife, Mary (McElheny) of 45 years. He was the loving son of Francisco and Joaquina (nee Flores)



Esparza, and through marriage, of Larry and Aileen McElheny (deceased); loving brother, George (Debra) Esparza; Brother-in-law to Eugene McElheny, Lois Hawkins, John McElheny, Margery McElheny, Lauretta McElheny and Jane Conroy. Art, known as Uncle Artie, adored his many nieces and nephews, including Theresa (Shawn) Drummond, Cathy Smith, Laurie (Ed) Kuypers, Ryan (Robert) Esparza, Kristen Hynes, Kevin Hawkins and many others; great-uncle to Allie and Claire Kuypers; Lilian, Ruby, and Cruz Esparza; and Braden and Chase Hynes. Art emigrated from Mexico to Rockford, Ill., at the age of 10 with his parents and younger brother. He earned a degree in biology from Milton College and went on to earn a bachelor's in Mechanical Engineering from Western Michigan University. He met the love of his life, Mary, during their college days at Milton and began married life on April 5, 1975. Art was employed by Amway for 20 years and went on to build his own engineering business, Applied Energy Engineering. Uncle Artie loved holding and snuggling the babies in the family and spending time with them as they grew older, from holding them on his lap at the computer to playing tag and hide-and-seek. As an active member of the Lowell, Mich., business community, Art used his bilingual skills and engineering experience to assist local small business owners start up their new businesses. The family would like to give a special thanks for the care and support from staff at Metro Health Cancer Center and Metro Heath Hospital. Visitation will take place beginning at 10 AM, Friday, January 29, 2021, at St. Mary's Catholic Church in 402 Amity Street Lowell, Michigan 49331; followed by Mass at 11 AM. A celebration of life will be held at a future date. Memorial Contributions can be directed to: Metro Health Cancer Center: <https://metrohealth.net/about/metro-health-hospital-foundation/>, option "Cancer Center at Metro Health." or Gilda's Club Grand Rapids <https://gildasclubgr.org/ways-to-give/>

## SWAN



Herbert J. Swan, Jr., age 94, of Lowell, passed away January 24, 2021. Mr. Swan was a beloved husband, dad, grandpa, great-grandpa, son, brother and uncle. He is survived by daughters, Cathy Ormiston

of Belding, Laurie Wernet, Lynette (Jim) Salzwedel, all of Lowell; five grandchildren, Heather (Pete) Merren, Jason Ormiston, all of Greenville, Mac Wernet of Lowell, Mike (Kelly) Wernet of Byron Center, and Tyler Salzwedel of Holland; four great grandchildren, Henry and Owen Merren of Greenville, Griffin and Paige Wernet of Byron Center; many nieces, nephews, and a large extended family. He was preceded in death by his parents, Herbert J. Swan, Sr., & Leola (Stevens) Swan; wife, Colleen F. (Yeiter) Swan; infant daughter, Leanna; and son-in-law, Tom Wernet. He was one of eight brothers and sisters, survived by one sister, Jean Robinson of Grand Rapids. Herb was a WWII veteran, a furniture craftsman for many years at Superior Furniture Co.



and Forslund Furniture, a member of the Loyal Order of Moose and a volunteer fireman. He helped deliver food and gifts for Christmas to those in need. Herb enjoyed deer hunting and golfing He was the maker of an abacus for a school project and the creator of many ice-skating rinks in the backyard. Herb was always ready to drive a relative or neighbor to any appointment. He was rich with a loving family and many friends. Visitation with the family will be FROM 1-2:30 PM on Thursday, February 4, 2021 at Roth-Gerst Funeral Home, 305 N. Hudson Lowell, Michigan 49331. Memorial contributions can be made to the National Kidney Foundation, 30 East 33rd Street New York, NY 10016 or the American Heart Association, 7272 Greenville Ave. Dallas, TX 75231.



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~ Mark Twain

## LEGAL NOTICE

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
PROBATE COURT  
COUNTY OF KENT

decendent, Gerald Alan Cook, died Nov. 10, 2020.

months after the date of publication of this notice.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS  
Decedent's Estate

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Heather Lisi, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 180 Ottawa Avenue NW, Suite 2500, Grand Rapids, MI 49503 and the personal representative within 4

January 20, 2021  
  
Mary L. Benedict (P45285)  
4519 Cascade Rd SE Ste. 14  
Grand Rapids, MI 49546  
616-942-0020

Heather Lisi  
980 Fero Ave NE  
Lowell, MI 49331  
616-328-9185

FILE NO. 21-208538-DE  
  
Estate of GERALD ALAN COOK. Date of birth: July 28, 1956.

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misc.

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WHISTLE STOP MINI STORAGE - 12661 Vergennes, N. of Lowell. 5x10; 10x10; 10x20; 10x30; 12x40. Fenced lighted, key code entry. Call for more information, 897-8872.

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PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

Grid of puzzle solutions with words filled in.

Grid of numbers for a puzzle solution.

Word search puzzle with words circled in a grid.



## Financial Focus

With Christopher C. Godbold

Edward Jones

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### Remote work may offer financial benefits

During the COVID-19 pandemic, many of us have been forced to work from home. But once we've moved past the virus, many workers may continue working from home. More than one-third of companies with employees who started working from home now think that remote work will stay more common post-pandemic, according to a Harvard Business School study. This shift to at-home

work can affect people's lives in many ways – and it may end up providing workers with some long-term financial advantages.

If you're one of those who will continue working remotely, either full time or at least a few days a week, how might you benefit? Here are a few possibilities:

Reduced transportation costs - Over time, you can spend a lot of money commuting to and from

work. The average commuter spends \$2,000 to \$5,000 per year on transportation costs, including gas, car maintenance, public transportation and other expenses, depending on where they live, according to the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis and the U.S. Census Bureau. If you are going to work primarily from home, you should be able to greatly reduce these costs.

Potentially lower car insurance premiums - Your auto insurance premiums are partially based on how many miles you drive each year. So, if you were to significantly reduce these miles by working from home, you might qualify for lower rates.

Lower expenditures on

lunches - If you typically eat lunch in restaurants or get takeout while at work, you could easily be spending \$50 or more per week - even more if you regularly get coffee drinks to go. By these figures, you could end up spending around \$3,000 a year. Think how much you could reduce this bill by eating lunch at home during your remote workday.

Lower clothing costs - Despite the rise in "casual dress" days, plenty of workers still need to maintain appropriate office attire. By working from home, you can "dress down," reducing your clothing costs and dry-cleaning bills.

As you can see, it may be possible for you to save quite a bit of money by working from home. How

can you use your savings to help meet your long-term financial goals, such as achieving a comfortable retirement?

For one thing, you could boost your investments. Let's suppose that you can save \$2,500 each year by working remotely. If you were to invest this amount in a tax-deferred account, such as an IRA or your 401(k) or similar employer-sponsored plan and earned a hypothetical 6% annual return for 20 years, you'd accumulate more than \$97,000 - and if you kept going for an additional 10 years, you'd have nearly \$210,000. You'd eventually pay taxes on the amount you withdrew from these accounts (and withdrawals prior to age 59½ may

be subject to a 10% IRS penalty), but you'd still end up pretty far ahead of where you'd be otherwise.)

You also might use part of your savings generated by remote work to help build an emergency fund containing a few months' worth of living expenses. Without this fund, you might be forced to dip into your retirement accounts to pay for something like a major home repair.

Becoming an at-home worker will no doubt require some adjustments on your part - but, in strictly financial terms, it could lead to some positive results.

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

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## Live the Life You Want

### Our thoughts, feelings, and behavior connection

by Melissa Spino MA LPC CDMS  
Life Transitions Therapy LLC

Have you ever wondered how our thoughts, feelings, and behaviors are related? Let's look at this in action. Using any situation, we have thoughts about the situation which in turn trigger feelings, and based on our feelings about this situation we engage in behaviors. These behaviors can have a negative, neutral, or positive impact on the situation.

#### The Connection in Action

Let's define thoughts, feelings, and behaviors. Thoughts are our attitudes, perceptions, and ideas. Feelings are our emotions such as excitement, happiness, anger, or awe. There is often a physical sensation attached to our feelings-emotions such as having butterflies in your stomach when nervous

or feeling tension in the neck when angry. Last is behaviors. This is when we show how we are thinking and feeling through our actions.

One of my favorite sayings sums up this connection really well.

"Watch your thoughts,  
For they become words.

Watch your words,  
For they become actions.

Watch your actions  
For they become habits.

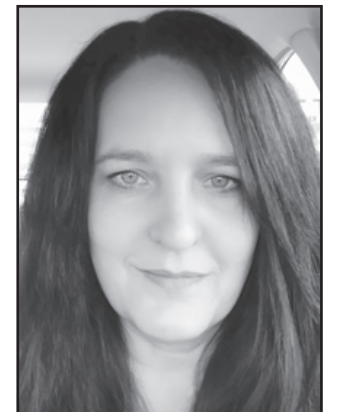
Watch your habits,  
For they become character.

Watch your character,  
For it becomes your destiny."

You have probably heard the saying: insanity is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting a different result. While I'm not a fan of the word insanity the point is clear about this unhealthy cycle. If you are exhibiting unwanted behaviors over and over, start by looking at the thoughts and feelings behind the behavior.

Let's take anger as an example since it is an emotion so many feel. If you are feeling angry, stop and find the thought behind it. Often it is that something is unfair and you want it to stop. Now, let's identify the emotion behind it. Breathe and pay attention to your self-talk. Maybe you are feeling hurt? When you can break down the thoughts and emotions behind a behavior you can decide if what you

are feeling needs to be acted on. If you are angry because something is unfair and you want it to stop because it is causing you hurt feelings or pain try instead behaving in a healthier way instead of lashing out in anger. Maybe



**Melissa Spino**  
MA LPC CDMS

say to the people involved "I'm feeling angry because I feel this situation is unfair" and see what happens.

When you start recognizing the thoughts and emotions behind a behavior you can decide if the behavior is one that you want to keep or change. Is the behavior jaded by past experiences? Try changing your thought to one that is more objective and evidence-based and less "feeling" based. Just because we have a thought that does not make it a fact. So, work to change your thoughts, even a little, and it will impact your emotions and in turn your behavior.

I hope you find this helpful and a positive step toward ending unwanted thoughts, feelings, and behaviors. This article is not intended to diagnose or treat.

## VERGENNES TOWNSHIP ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS PUBLIC NOTICE

There will be a meeting of the Vergennes Township Zoning Board of Appeals on February 11, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. at the Vergennes Township Hall located at 10381 Bailey Dr. (Lowell) at the corner of Parnell to hear the following business:

A variance application has been received from Michael Grohman for the parcel known as 13850 Covered Bridge Rd to divide the land into two parcels with one of the parcels to be less than 3 acres. This parcel is in the Fallsburg village area just north of the covered bridge. The variance is from the R-A Rural Agriculture District section 201.304 E and F.

The complete variance application can be reviewed at the Vergennes Township Hall from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays and from 9 a.m. to noon on Thursdays or on the website at [www.vergennestwp.org](http://www.vergennestwp.org). Public comment will be heard at the meeting and comments received by mail, email, in person or in the Township drop box will be considered if received at the Township office prior to 6:00 p.m. on the day of the meeting. Comments may be emailed to: [zoning@vergennestwp.org](mailto:zoning@vergennestwp.org)

To view the application on the website, click on "Departments," then "Zoning Board of Appeals," then "Pending Applications." Also, watch the website for info plan on if the meeting will be by a ZOOM meeting or in person meeting.

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# FUN PAGE

## SUDOKO

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

Level: Advanced

### 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!

# ESTATE PLAN WORD SEARCH

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

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

Puzzle solutions on page 13

- |   |   |   |  |
|---|---|---|--|
| ESTATE PLAN<br>WORD SEARCH                          | CHILDREN<br>CODICIL<br>CONSERVATOR      | ESTATE<br>EXCLUSION<br>FIDUCIARY<br>FUNDS<br>GRANTOR<br>HEIR<br>INHERITANCE | PROBATE<br>PROPERTY<br>PROXY<br>TAXES<br>TRUST<br>WILL |
| ADMINISTRATOR<br>ANCILLARY<br>ANNUAL<br>BENEFICIARY | CONTEST<br>CREDITOR<br>DEED<br>DISCLAIM |   |  |

## Guess Who?

I am a talk show host born in Mississippi on January 29, 1954. I was crowned "Miss Black Tennessee" while in college and also started co-anchoring the news when I was 19. I've had a hugely successful career as a TV host and producer.

Answer: Oprah Winfrey

## WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to financial planning.

P E N X E S S E

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Answer: Expenses

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		

### CLUES ACROSS

- Gather a harvest
- Federal Republic of Germany
- Bravo! Bravo! Bravo!
- "The Little Mermaid"
- The common gibbon
- Volcanic island in Fiji
- Mother of Perseus
- Egg cells
- Teams' best pitchers
- Credit associations
- Advance
- Hair styling products
- Benign tumors
- Arriving early
- Called it a career
- \_\_\_ Paulo, city
- Avoid with trickery
- Easter egg
- Veterans battleground
- Lack of success
- Thing that causes disgust
- Deep, continuing sound
- Ancient kingdom near Dead Sea
- You might put it in a fire
- Partner to "oohed"
- Actor Idris
- Slippery
- Plant of the bean family

### CLUES DOWN

- One point north of northeast
- Patti Hearst's captors
- Places to hang clothes
- Midwife
- Of she
- S. Korean statesman
- Indicates position
- Where rockers perform
- Substitute
- \_\_\_ juris: of one's own right
- Earliest form of modern human in Europe: \_\_\_-magnon
- Adult female bird
- Do away with
- Lens
- Flattened appendage
- Post or pillar in Greek temple
- A medieval citizen of Hungary
- Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation
- Abba \_\_\_, Israeli politician
- Sew
- Evergreen trees and shrubs having oily one-seeded fruits
- Swiss river
- Grayish-white
- A way to illustrate
- College basketball superpower
- Midway between south and southeast

# LOWELL SHOWBOAT VI



Much nostalgia and happy memories surround the former boats. Many people reminisce about attending shows with 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 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 recreate a steel structure "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

### Where We Stand....

We have accumulated \$3.155 million from State and various grants, miscellaneous fundraisers, local businesses and individual community members. We are still in need of additional funding to complete the interior of the boat and adjacent restroom facilities (located in the DPW Building). We began our private Naming Opportunity Campaign a couple of months ago. We are very excited to announce we have received over \$800,000 in donations towards our \$780,000.

**A Glimpse of What You'll See...**The plan for the new Lowell Showboat VI was chosen to reflect the aesthetic of the American Classic Design in nautical blue, white and cranberry red. This theme continues to be evident in the preservation of our Historic Downtown. White woodwork, dark stained wood floors and an elegant staircase are the centerpieces of the refined interior. The exterior of the boat is in keeping with the original color scheme, unique trim, and railings from Lowell Showboat five.

The Lowell Showboat VI boasts over 3500 square feet of climate-controlled space for any special event. The boat will seat 100-150 guests in its enclosed areas which includes the Pilot House. Outside seating will allow for many additional guests. This venue is available year-round for the first and second decks and about 7 months of each year for the entire boat. The Lowell Showboat will leave a steadfast impression for those that tour, book an event or are a guest at a special occasion.

### Suggested Uses...

- Weddings and Receptions
- Family Reunions and Gatherings
- Showers and Graduation Open Houses
- Business Gatherings, Conferences, Retreats & Meetings
- Photo Ops for Families and Businesses
- Community Events like, Riverwalk & Sizzlin' Summer Concerts
- And of course, Santa Visits!

### What Will My Gift Accomplish?

By introducing our Brick Campaign, our hopes are that you will be moved to help us complete this icon and spectacular rental venue within our community. By selecting a brick level, your support will bring the Lowell Showboat VI to reality. We offer a heartfelt thank you for your interest in Lowell Showboat VI and its continuation as a beautiful icon and venue within our community.

Sincerely,  
The Lowell Showboat Fundraising Committee



## FROM VISION TO REALITY... LOWELL SHOWBOAT VI

### Continuing a Community Icon....

The Lowell Showboat has been an 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.

## Brick Opportunities

### BRICK ORDER FORM (Please make a selection below)

Checks to Greater Lowell Chamber Foundation" P.O. Box 224, Lowell, MI 49331

Level	Donor Recognition Area	Donor Commitment
<b>Admiral</b>	8"x8" brick with up to 4 lines of text containing 16 characters in each line.  Your name on the donor recognition plaque  2 tickets to the Inaugural Gala Celebration!	<b>\$1000</b>
<b>Captain</b>	8"x8" brick with up to 4 lines of text containing 16 characters in each line.  Your name on the donor recognition plaque	<b>\$500</b>
<b>Ensign</b>	4"x8" brick with up to 3 lines of text containing 16 characters in each line.  Your name on the donor recognition plaque	<b>\$250</b>
<b>Swabby</b>	4"x8" brick with up to 3 lines of text containing 16 characters in each line.	<b>\$125</b>

**Admiral Level - for \$1000 Choose Here**   
**Captain Level - for \$500 Choose Here**

**8" by 8" brick with up to 4 lines of text containing 16 characters (and spaces) in each line**


**Ensign Level - for \$250 Choose Here**   
**Swabby Level - for \$125 Choose Here**

**4" by 8" brick with up to 3 lines of text containing 16 characters (and spaces) in each line**


Signature of Person Placing Order: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Info: Cell \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Payment Type:

Cash: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Check/Money Order: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Paid: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

