

LHS student's handcrafted furniture



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ABCs of history



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## Former Lowell football coach Noel Dean accepts coaching position in Georgia



Tift County Schools introduces Noel Dean as their new football coach. [photo courtesy Tift County Schools]

by Justin Scott  
contributing reporter

In June of 2018, Noel Dean retired from his long-held post at the helm of the Lowell football program. It didn't take him long to return to the sidelines. This past year he served as an assistant with the Lowell football program, where he was able to be a part of the coaching staff for his son Doak's senior football season. Now he has accepted a head coaching position in Georgia.

Tift County High School (GA) announced last week that they had hired Dean as their new varsity football head coach.

"Coach Dean understands hard work, success, and what it means to be a Blue Devil," Tift County principal Chad Stone said in a release

announcing the hire. "I am eager to see him work with our student-athletes and develop a football program that makes us better today than yesterday."

The move is going to be a big one for Dean, not just in terms of geography, but Tift County plays in one of the most challenging conferences in the nation, Georgia AAAAAAA Region 1. Dean is looking forward to that challenge. The Blue Devils went 2-7 last year and the school has an enrollment of 2,400.

"We are happy to welcome Coach Dean to the Blue Devil Nation," said Tift County Superintendent Adam Hathaway. "Our

Dean, continued, page 4

## City council meeting: Showboat construction delay, water/sewer agreement

by Tim McAllister  
lead reporter

Lowell city council had their latest regular meeting over the Zoom app at approximately 7:52 pm on Monday, Feb. 1, delayed from the usual 7 pm start time due to a meeting of the Zoning Board of Appeals. The city council meeting lasted one hour and seven minutes.

Citizen discussion at the beginning of the meeting was focused on the social district. First, Lowell resident Steve Doyle asked several questions of the council, all of which were answered to his apparent satisfaction. His queries included when will it start (probably late next week), who will be responsible for the warming stations (Lowell police, fire and/or public works) and what will be burned in them (wood).

Next, Lowell resident Ashley Dunn, owner of Creative Party Bug, asked about potentially placing pods, chalets, greenhouses or igloos along the Riverwalk as part of the social district. City manager Michael Burns said he and city attorney Jessica Wood would research and discuss the rules and issues involved, then present

the results at a future council meeting.

The council discussed the ongoing water/sewer negotiations between Lowell and Lowell Township. The next step is to have a "valuation" of the city's current water and sewer "assets" created. This would cost approximately \$40,000, and the assessment would likely be performed by Public Financial Management, Inc., a Pennsylvania company specializing in that activity.

"About a year ago we had the proposal for the city, the township and the developer to each pitch in a third," Burns said. "At the time, the city had no problem with the valuation being done, but the city didn't want to pay for it. That was the action that the council took about a year ago."

The developer recently offered to pay the city's third of the valuation's approximate \$40,000 cost, but only if the city and the township can come to an agreement. If the two parties cannot, then the city would have to contribute their third.

"If it doesn't cost us anything to get that [valuation] information,



Zoom screenshot of Lowell city council in discussion during their regular meeting on Monday, Feb. 1.

well, I don't see an issue with that," said councilor Marty Chambers. "I actually see that as a good thing. Because nobody really knows what a working sewer plant or a working, award winning water plant is truly worth, so I would be curious on the numbers."

The council also discussed selling the water and wastewater plants to the township. In that scenario, the city would become a wholesale water customer. Burns said that the village of Caledonia sold their water facilities to the township of

Caledonia "for no money."

"If we were to sell the assets - the water and the wastewater treatment plants - this valuation would tell us what the value may be," Burns said. "That would help us with this. This has to be something that's beneficial to the city. This has to be win/win for everyone. If we're not winning on this, then there's no reason to have to do this."

"I wouldn't say we're anywhere near selling anything right now," said Lowell mayor Michael DeVore.

"It's at least an idea to look at, it may go nowhere," Burns said.

Councilor Cliff Yankovich asked if Lowell Township still planned to purchase a 51 acre parcel on Grand River Dr. and build their own water plants on the site. DeVore replied that Lowell Township has withdrawn their offer to buy that property but has not abandoned the concept of building their own plants.

There were a few updates on the Lowell Showboat construction project.

Council, continued, page 7

Civics 101



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LHS sports  
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50¢





# Lowell church celebrates five years as “Open and Affirming”

by Tim McAllister  
lead reporter

This month the Lowell First Congregational Church, UCC, 865 Lincoln Lake SE, will celebrate five years as an officially “Open and Affirming” church.

“Being Open and Affirming is an official designation that comes from a coalition through the United Church of Christ,” said pastor Alyssa Anten and church member Paul Benjamin in a co-authored email to the Ledger. “Therefore it’s more than just a self declared title but rather a very rigorous and diligent attempt to let the community know that our church is a safe and affirming space for LGBTQ+ individuals and families. There has been an increasing movement of churches declaring themselves as ‘welcome to all,’ but what many LGBTQ+ folks find is that the welcome is extended to everyone but themselves. There is, in fact, a limit to who most churches will accept or tolerate. And, ‘tolerating’ is usually just a coded term for being ignored or receiving passive aggressive sideways glances or comments.”

A church can’t just slap an “Open and Affirming” sign on the front door and be done with it, there is a lengthy process involved in the designation that includes input from church membership. “For us, holding an official certification of being Open and Affirming provides our church with accountability to do what we say and practice what we say we believe,” Anten and Benjamin wrote. “If someone is interested in our church and is skeptical about our status of Open and Affirming, they can actually research the Open and Affirming coalition and see exactly what it is about. They can see the process that we went through to obtain this status, that our church had

to approve this by vote, and they can see that as an Open and Affirming congregation we are committed to ongoing learning about how to grow our identity as a safe and affirming space. And, if they have any issues with how we are living into that identity, they can actually take that up with the Open and Affirming coalition so we can do better! It’s exactly like any licensing or certification process, its goal is to protect the vulnerable and ensure that we are being kept to the standard that we declare.”

The official designation came down five years ago, but a lot of work went into obtaining it, work they plan to continue indefinitely.

“For many years, most of our members and several people in leadership positions, including our pastors, have been fully in support of and allies of LGBTQ+ people,” Anten and Benjamin wrote. “Once we started looking into the Open and Affirming designation of the UCC, we felt we were ready to bring the discussion out in the open and find out how our members really feel. Overwhelmingly we decided to become Open and Affirming. As far as maintaining the distinction, it’s more about living and being what God calls us to: Loving completely all people just the way they are. We believe God does not discriminate. God doesn’t set ‘rules’ for who is to be loved or included. We don’t believe, for example, being gay is a sin. God made us who we are and everyone should be able to celebrate that. The distinction of being Open and Affirming is a shout-out to the world that we are a safe place where people are not set apart from others because of how they were born or harmless choices they make for themselves. A person’s

identity is very sacred and something no one, let alone a church, should try to change. At Lowell UCC, we don’t believe that everyone has to hold the same identity in order to be part of the community. We choose to celebrate a person’s identity since we are all unique and equally valuable, and together we make up the tapestry that is God’s creation!”

While the official “Open and Affirming” designation is UCC-specific, any church could manage a version of the same thing if leadership and membership were willing.

“The Open and Affirming Coalition through the United Church of Christ has set up a process for interested churches,” Anten and Benjamin wrote. “This includes an extended period of study, prayer, reflection and dialogue before the congregation or governing body votes on an ONA covenant. The ONA Coalition offers support and resources during this time, but the part of the process of study and reflection is for the church community to determine who they want to be and whether the path to ONA is right for them. More information regarding the ONA process can be found at [openandaffirming.org/ona/why](http://openandaffirming.org/ona/why). For churches that are not part of the United Church of Christ, they may want to talk with their denominational leadership about what a path to a formal designation might look like. Again, this takes being ‘welcome to all’ one step further towards promoting safe and healthy and celebratory spaces for people who identify as LGBTQ+.”

Some denominations of Christianity use passages in the Bible to justify their outmoded attitudes about LGBTQ+ individuals. However, those passages



First Congregational United Church of Christ pastor Alyssa Anten speaking during the Peaceful Demonstration for Racial Equity on June 7, 2020.

were written over 2,000 years ago, and although one would like to assume society has progressed a great deal since ancient times, this is not always the case.

“The Bible actually says relatively little about gender when compared to the larger concerns God has about faithfulness and love of God and others,” Anten and Benjamin wrote. “Most modern day Christian denominations have a tendency towards ‘proof texting,’ which is taking certain texts out of their original context to justify what they are teaching. In fact, this has been the norm for biblical interpretation for quite some time. This is especially true of texts that speak about issues of gender. But in reality, understanding what Scripture is saying in context to us in our time requires studying Scripture in its entirety, not just one text at a time, and in most cases requires studying outside of Scripture to understand the historical and cultural context. Knowledge about what was happening in the present time of the Bible being written poises us to better understand what the Bible has to say to us today. In most cases, it is not

a 1:1 comparison. It takes knowledge, patience and an open mind to faithfully interpret Scripture over the course of history. This is true for all kinds of topics people like to know about it, but is particularly critical when it comes to studying what the Bible says about gender and sexuality. Above all else, Scripture is clear about our need to love others the way God loves them, and to see them as created in the image of God: the perfectly good, whole and holy, yet imperfect image of God that we ALL hold. Our church believes that we are all one and the same, regardless of how we identify or who we love, and we are unified in the one very most important thing about each and every one of us: that we are loved and cherished by the God who created us.”

According to a 2020 report from the World Council of Churches, the UCC has approximately 4,852 churches and 802,356 members around the world. The denomination was created in 1957 when two different denominations merged: the ‘Evangelical and Reformed Church’ and the ‘Congregational Christian Church.’ In general, the UCC promotes acceptance and diversity and is committed to being a united and welcoming church with a multi-racial, multicultural membership.

“The United Church of Christ has a rich history of being theologically and Scripturally rooted, well versed in history and culturally relevant,” Anten

and Benjamin wrote. “We believe ourselves to be a united and uniting body of faith, starting in 1957 with separate denominations coming together to form the United Church of Christ as it stands today. Much like many other mainline Christian denominations, the UCC believes in the triune God, and that our congregations are embodiments of God’s mission in the world. What sets the UCC apart is how firmly we believe in the diversity and inclusivity of God’s image and expression in the world, and urge that to come alive in our church communities. The UCC celebrates differences and welcomes points of commonality. We also believe that God is still actively speaking to us today, and is responding to our unique needs and challenges as the world evolves all around us.”

For more information about the church, visit [lowellucc.org](http://lowellucc.org), call 616-897-5906 or send a message to [info@lowellucc.org](mailto:info@lowellucc.org).

“The UCC is not the only denomination that has a certification or designation like this,” Anten and Benjamin wrote. “I would encourage any church who is interested in upping their game as being tolerant or welcome to all to explore a certification process so that we can all work together at holding each other accountable and doing what we can to make our communities safer and more celebratory for LGBTQ+ individuals and families!”

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# Lowell Area Schools 2021 Refunding Bonds (Federally Taxable)

The Board of Education of Lowell Area Schools is proud to announce the successful sale of its 2021 Refunding Bonds (Federally Taxable) in the amount of \$19,710,000. The 2021 refunding bonds are being issued for the purpose of refunding certain outstanding indebtedness of the school district to the State of Michigan under the School Bond Qualification and Loan Program and to pay the costs of issuing the bonds. The bonds reduce the repayments to the State of Michigan by a total estimated amount of \$2,354,000. The estimated reduction in repayments is based upon assumptions regarding the growth in the district's taxable value and School Bond Loan Fund interest rate.

In preparing to sell the 2021 refunding bonds, the school district, working with its municipal advisor, PFM Financial Advisors LLC, requested that S&P Global Ratings, a business unit of Standard and Poor's

Financial Services LLC ("S&P") evaluate the school district's credit quality. S&P assigned the school district the underlying rating of "A+" with a stable outlook. The rating agency cited the school district's strong median household effective buying income (EBI) and very strong per capita market value; strong operating performance with maintenance of strong reserves and moderate debt burden in their rationale for rating the school district at this level.

Lowell Area Schools' Board of Education is proud to announce this sale of bonds [and they are] grateful for the trust the community has put in us to manage taxpayer dollars

- Strong management of taxpayer dollars
- Manage growth in our community
- Provide outstanding faculties for learning
- Shorten the term to repay our current debt



Lowell High School

The school district's financing was conducted by the Michigan investment banking office of the brokerage firm, Stifel, the municipal advising firm, PFM Financial Advisors

LLC, and the law firm serving as bond counsel, Varnum LLP. The school district's 2021 refunding bonds were sold at a federally taxable interest rate of 1.341

percent with a final maturity of 2030, a repayment term of approximately 10 years. "Lowell Area Schools bonds were well received by investors in a strong bond

market," said Jeffrey Zylstra, managing director of Stifel. "The financing exceeded the goals of the district and resulted in significant savings for taxpayers."

## Little League Baseball season going ahead as usual

by Tim McAllister  
lead reporter

Player registrations are open and sponsorships are available for the 2021 Little League baseball season.

"We are planning for a typical spring Little League season," said Lowell Little League president Mike Minier. "Registration is currently open for all age divisions, ages five years and up. Our early development league for five and six-year-olds runs on Saturday mornings. The older age groups for softball and baseball leagues run throughout the week from April through June. Most games are held locally at Creekside Park, with some of our older age groups having opportunities to play against other local Little League organizations."

The league is always looking for volunteers to help with short term tasks like spring cleanup, opening day activities and picture day, as well as long term "committee" assignments such as field maintenance, registration, sponsorship and concessions.

"Of course, with COVID-19 safety protocols in place, volunteering may look a little different this season," Minier said. "All volunteers that would be in contact with children will need to complete a volunteer application form and pass a background safety check. Volunteers are a vital part of Lowell Little League, as we are completely run by parent



and community volunteers - from board members to coaches. Volunteers can support the league in many

different ways. They can help with one day events [or] support one of our different committees."

Minier said involvement with Little League Baseball is rewarding at any level, from player to volunteer to sponsor.

"Lowell Little League follows the guidance of Little League International and believes that local youth baseball and softball programs are built on life lessons, socialization and sportsmanship," Minier said. "That benefits all of the children and adult volunteers who support the league. Lowell Little League provides opportunities for children in the Lowell community to improve their health, make friends and practice teamwork and sportsmanship skills. Sponsors help leagues



operate smoothly by providing training resources for coaches, offset operational expenses like uniforms, equipment and field maintenance, assist in tournament costs and safety. Sponsors help leagues offer the best program possible, so that players, coaches and families can have fun and rewarding Little League experiences." For more information, visit [llmi.com](http://llmi.com), send a message to [lowelllittleleague@gmail.com](mailto:lowelllittleleague@gmail.com) or find them on social media.

### LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Lowell Charter Township Board will hold a public hearing on the proposed township budget for fiscal year 2021/2022 via zoom on Tuesday, February 16, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. For meeting information see the website @ [www.lowelltwp.org](http://www.lowelltwp.org).

**The property tax millage rate proposed to be levied to support the proposed budget will be a subject of this hearing.** A complete copy of the budget is available for public inspection at the Lowell Charter Township office.

Any interested party may submit written comments concerning the proposed budget until the date and time of the hearing.

Monica Burt, Clerk  
Lowell Charter Township

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## Dean, continued

process led us to one of the most successful high school football coaches in the country. Coach Dean has a long history of success as a head coach, leader, and member of his local community. We couldn't be more excited to add a coach of his caliber to our athletic program and the faculty at Tift County High School."

During his time at Lowell, Noel Dean earned three state titles, six state finals appearances, 12 district championships, earned state coach of the year three times, and over 200 wins. His record on the field is certainly impressive, but his work off the field with the Lowell community will be missed as well. He also helped create and grow Pink Arrow during his tenure and was awarded the American Football Coaches Association 2011 Power of Influence Award. Coaches who receive this award are recognized for their impact on their team, as well as the legacy they leave with the school and surrounding community. Pink Arrow Pride has raised over \$2 million that has stayed local, including Gilda's Club in Lowell.

Dean is grateful to have been part of the Lowell community for over 20 years. When asked what aspect of coaching at Lowell he'll miss the most, the answer was obvious. "Definitely the people," Dean said, "There have been so many great players, coaches, faculty, and families I've met over the years," Dean added.

Throughout his career,



**Noel Dean accepting the Community Partner Award from Gilda's Club at the "Gilda's Night of Gratitude" banquet on Nov. 12, 2018.**

there were plenty of good moments for Lowell football. Sure, there are the three state championships in 2002, 2004, and 2009. Clashes with Muskegon, packed games at Bob Perry Field, a four overtime game with EGR, and an overtime semifinal game with Walled Lake Western come to mind.

"There are so many great games thinking back, the state championships in 2002, 2004, and 2009 of course. Our first playoff game against Loy Norrix in

1997, 8-0 vs. 8-0 between us and Hudsonville in 2000, the 27-25 win over Zeeland in 1998, and the first Pink Arrow game against Holland." Those were just a few of the games that stuck out to Coach Dean over the years. Dean was inducted into the Michigan High School Football Coaches Association Hall of Fame in 2016, and will be looking to continue his success in Michigan down south. We wish Coach the best of luck down in Georgia!

## AG: Stimulus payments by prepaid Visa debit card are not a scam

Michigan residents who receive their stimulus payments in the form of a prepaid Visa debit card should know that this method is not a scam, Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel announced Jan. 22 as more second-round payments are disbursed by the federal government.

"As many Americans await their second stimulus payment, it's important to keep in mind that such payment may be disbursed in three different ways: direct deposit, paper check or prepaid debit card," Nessel said. "Mailed stimulus payments will arrive in a white envelope with the U.S. Department of Treasury seal.

Michigan residents screening their mail for scam offers should watch for that to ensure their stimulus funds are not accidentally discarded."

The preloaded Visa debit card displays the Visa logo on the front and the issuing bank name – MetaBank, N.A. – on the back. Each mailing also will include instructions on how to activate and use the card. Those who receive their stimulus payment via prepaid debit card can make purchases online or in-store wherever Visa debit cards are accepted. Recipients also have the option to transfer funds to a personal bank account and check their card balance online using a mobile app





**Dana Nessel**

or phone. The debit card provided by the federal government also includes certain protections against fraud, loss and other errors. Additional information on how to use the preloaded Visa debit card or to confirm the status of a stimulus payment can be found on the IRS website, irs.gov.

**NEWSPAPERS Outperform Magazines in Michigan**  
More adults in Michigan read a newspaper than local magazines.<sup>1</sup>  
More than **7 in 10** newspapers  
**2 in 10** magazines  
**Newspapers are the most trusted media source.<sup>2</sup>**  
Adults, across all generations, identify newspapers as their most trusted source of news and information – ahead of magazines.  
**79%** Eight in 10 newspaper readers took action as a result of reading a newspaper ad in the past 30 days.<sup>3</sup>  
**22%** of adults often purchase products and services as the result of a magazine ad.<sup>4</sup>

the lowell ledger

Sources: (1) Release 2 Nielsen Scarborough Report. Copyright 2018 Scarborough Research. All rights reserved. (2) Triad/Coda Ventures - The Newspaper Generation Study; (3) NAA; (4) AMGI/Parade Local Knowledge Survey



# viewpoint



## 125 years ago Lowell Ledger February 7, 1896

President Bergin says that the distance from the dam site to the center of distribution—the west side fire bell tower—is 900 feet less than eight miles. As will be seen by the council proceedings in this issue, that body has decided upon the Gravity dam as the one to be constructed. Reports from places where this style of dam is in use are very favorable.

The national house of representatives applauded the prayer of its chaplain that Cuba might win in her fight for freedom. If the house would give the Almighty a little assistance by granting Cuba belligerent rights the prayer would shortly be answered. It's powder, not prayers, that the Cubans need.

Mrs. Charles Hagadorn, wife of the Orleans farmer who was shot by Samuel Reeves, his hired man, has been arrested on a charge of conspiracy and is in jail at Ionia.

## 100 years ago The Lowell Ledger February 10, 1921

A bill forbidding the smoking of tobacco in dining rooms, restaurants, street cars and dining cars, has passed the house of the North Dakota legislature. This is simply a straw showing which way the wind blows. As we have said before, kindly consideration of the rights of others by smokers would do much to allay the anti-tobacco agitation. One of these rights is the privilege of guarding our youths from bad habits and the other is the right of non-smokers to breathe pure air. Surely, this is not asking too much.

Parents, who permit their children to run the streets nights are being hauled over the coals in Grand Rapids, and held responsible for the wave of juvenile delinquencies and general depravity said to be engulfing the city. The situation may be bad in the city, but similar conditions obtain in smaller communities also. We need more of the old-time home life and parental control. The judge who threatened to punish parents for their children's wrong doing was not far wrong.

Isn't Superintendent of Police Carroll a little hard on the better class of thieves when he says: "I think as much of a thief as I do of a liar?" There is another class as bad as the liar and that is the one that, for petty reasons approves or condones a lie.

## 75 years The Lowell Ledger February 7, 1946

Albert Hermans, proprietor of the new Gamble Store, 220 W. Main St., Lowell announces a Grand Opening this week Friday and Saturday, February 8 and 9.

Pvt. Hollis M. Alexander has completed his basic training at Fort Bliss Texas, and is being assigned to occupation troops. In addition to his basic training Pvt. Alexander was given anti-aircraft training on self-propelled automatic weapons. He is the son of Mrs. Myrtle Alexander of 127 Pleasant St., Lowell.

The Lewis Electric Company, which has occupied a portion of the block on West Main-st., owned by the Lowell Mfg. Company, for the past five years, has moved to its own location, 512 E. Main-st., where it is now doing business.

## 50 years The Lowell Ledger February 11, 1971

School Districts in Kent County have been handed a hard blow to their budgets by the State – a blow that has forced some systems into deficit spending and a possible cutback in educational services. The proposed two percent state aid reduction, on the heels of the recent Supreme Court Decision on textbooks and materials, has caused some area school administrators to speak out against the plan.

It's been, maybe, what our grandparents would call an old-fashioned winter, but not as extremely tough as it was in the days of long ago. Last Thursday's ice storm, however, brought back lots of memories for many of the townspeople, as the younger generation brought out the ice skates on Friday and used the city streets as a giant ice skating rink.

A \$28,000 contract was let last week to Excello Corporation of Grand Rapids for the renovation of the Lowell Post Office. Out of several bids submitted for the much needed project, only \$1,000 separated the bidders, Postmaster Charles Doyle revealed.

## 25 years The Lowell Ledger February 7, 1996

In an effort to develop better communication between local municipalities, in regard to fire department issues, the Vergennes Township Board has appointed township clerk Mari Stone and treasurer Jean Hoffman to the Fire Advisory Council.

Lowell resident Linda Taber has called the possible implantation of a seven-block schedule an "experiment" with kids' education. Lowell superintendent Bert Bleke called that charge "ridiculous." "The teachers and administration of this school district have worked hard and long in researching the seven-block schedule."

Residents in Lowell and Vergennes township may see more North Kent Transit Service vans in their neighborhood. The boards of both townships have allocated Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds to be a part of the service this year.

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## outdoors

rediscovering outdoors

Dave Stegehuis

We have all had to make changes in our lives because of coronavirus. Some more than others. Being cooped up inside fueled a desire to get outside. A lot of folks have discovered that many outdoor activities are healthy and relatively safe. On a recent Saturday afternoon, we drove to a public access lake in the area to fish for gills through the ice. In recent years there may have been a half dozen vehicles parked in the lot. This day the lot was full, and vehicles were parked along the access drive and along the county road. Fishermen were scattered from one end of the lake to the other.

Fishing equipment shelves at retailers were picked over early this year. Binocular sales have increased over 20 percent likely purchased by new birdwatchers. Last summer kayaks as well as bicycles became scarce at retailers. The sales of recreational vehicles of all kinds and tents set records. Campgrounds were buzzing with activity well into late August.

Another positive result of these hard times is that hunting and fishing license sales have increased significantly. The physical and mental advantages of

getting out for fresh air, exercise, and the calming effect of experiencing natural settings and wildlife are drawing people back to hunting and fishing. When life returns to normal, the new participants will probably stick around.

Over the last twenty years people have left the ranks of hunters and fishers for other interests or age and were not replaced by newcomers. This caused the state to have difficulty funding projects related to the management of fish and game. Maintaining the balance between the carrying capacity of available habitat and game populations requires hunters to control numbers.

Non-game species and recreational land management were also impacted by lack of this funding. License fees are necessary to support these efforts. Even if you don't hunt or fish, buy a license.

The resurgence of outdoor activity is good for Michigan's economy and most important good for the health and wellbeing of its residents and visitors. Also, the more of us who have a vested interest in our natural resources the more attention will be paid to protecting Michigan's outdoors.

## 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

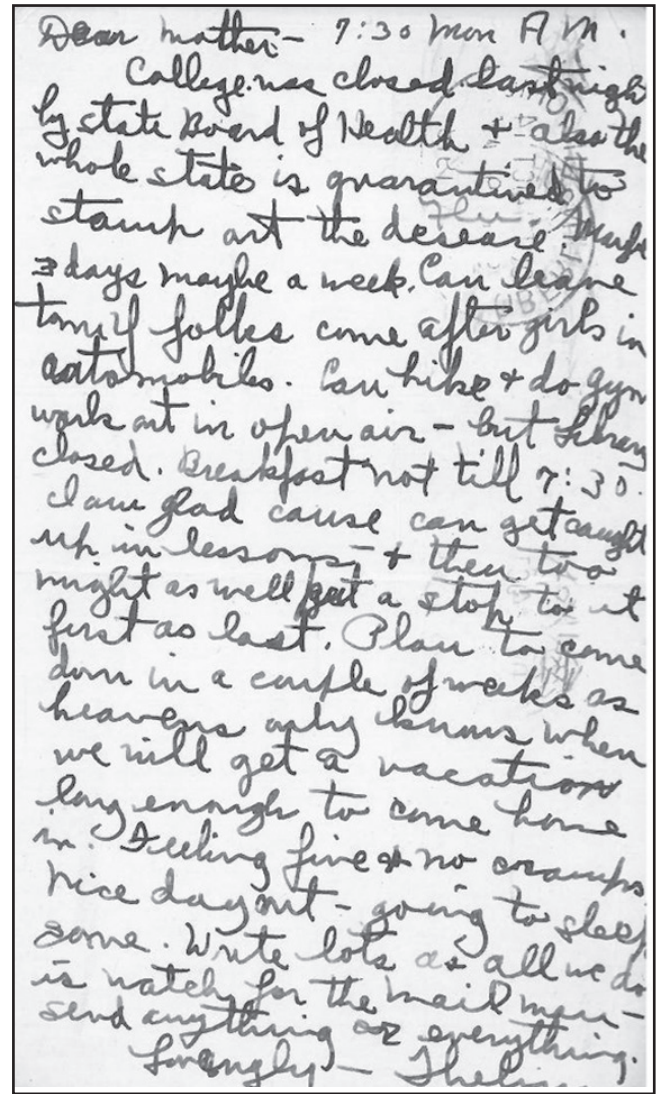
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN HEALTH

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 ABCs 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.

As of October 24, 1918, Lowell and vicinity had only a few (influenza) cases so far, and no deaths. Dr. S.S. Lee, Village and Township Health Officer, suggested preventative measures be taken. He gave the following recommendations: "close schools and public places, no visiting, spray nose and throat with antiseptic three times a day. Wash hands frequently and don't put fingers in nose or mouth. If you do business with the public, wear a gauze mask over your nose and mouth. Do all the business you can by phone." Dr. Lee was responsible for placing quarantine placards on houses with influenza. The sickness was to get worse, but on Christmas Day, 1918, the Village of Lowell was declared influenza free.



### Q is for Quarantine

The Lowell Area Historical Museum preserves artifacts that tell the story of Lowell through time. An artifact can tell the story of Lowell and also the world. The museum was gifted two postcards that not only tell of one local girl's life at college, but they show life in the fall of 1918 and the world events that affected her life.

Thelma Peckham was born in 1900 and by 1918 she was pursuing college studies in Oberlin, Ohio, during the influenza outbreak.

On October 14, 1918, she wrote,

"Dear Mother, college was closed last night by State Board of Health and also the whole state is quarantined to stamp out the disease. Maybe 3 days, maybe a week. Can leave only if folks come after girls in automobiles. Can hike and do gym work out in open air - but Library is closed. Breakfast not until 7:30. I am glad cause can get caught up in lessons and then too might as well put a stop to it first as last...Write lots as all we do is watch for the mailman - send anything or everything. Lovingly, Thelma"

Influenza was not the only thing happening in the world. Rumors had been circulating that the Great War, what we now call World War I, was about to be over.

In a postcard dated November 8, 1918 Thelma writes,

"Dear Mother - Just announced at dinner that Dean Bosworth's has found the report about Germany signing armistice, not official so can't have bonfire; we paraded all P.M. even faculty and Cleveland has celebrated all day too. I wonder if the news got all over the country. The telegraph said this noon that the report came direct from Washington. Anyway everyone predicts that the signing will come in a few days. We walked so many miles in the snake parades

all over the campus that I am dead tired and have a lot of work to do. All the girls were sending out registered letters of congratulations today so that was why I did. Hope the official word will come tomorrow - Thelma"

Indeed, on November 11 the signing did come and the November 14, 1918 headlines in Lowell screamed "GREAT WAR IS OVER" and over the following weeks celebrations were held and the whole world celebrated too.

Two postcards can tell quite a story of one girl's

place in history. The Lowell Area Historical Museum is honored to be able to protect and preserve these artifacts for Thelma Peckham Hahn, the Lowell community, and the world.

Thelma met Robert D. Hahn on a blind date while attending the University of Michigan. They were married. Their children were Gurney P. Hahn, Roberta Jones and Gretchen Hawley. Thelma's mother to whom she wrote the postcards was Hattie Mae Wilson Peckham. We also remember Thelma as the researcher and writer of Lowell's early history.

### - carpal tunnel syndrome

Carpal tunnel syndrome is a common, painful disorder of the wrist and hand. It happens when the median nerve, which runs through the wrist, gets squeezed under a band of tissue over the wrist joint. This causes pain and other symptoms along the nerve.

Anything that increases pressure on the median nerve can cause carpal tunnel syndrome. Sometimes pregnancy and health conditions like arthritis and diabetes can increase the pressure on the nerve. People who use their hands and wrists repeatedly in the same way (for example, typists, carpenters, and cashiers) are more likely to develop carpal tunnel syndrome.

Carpal tunnel syndrome may cause pain, numbness, or tingling in your wrist and hand, mostly in the

middle finger, index finger, and thumb. The symptoms are usually worse at night and when you use your wrists and hands a lot. Over time, grip strength may get weaker, and you may tend to drop heavy objects.

The diagnosis of carpal tunnel syndrome can often be made by examination of the hands and wrist. There are also nerve studies that can be done. These test how your nerves respond to electrical stimulation.

There are several treatment options for carpal tunnel syndrome. Not repeating the same hand movement over and over, doing hand and wrist exercises, and wearing a wrist splint may help. Anti-inflammatory medications may help to reduce the swelling. If these treatments don't help, surgery may be an option.

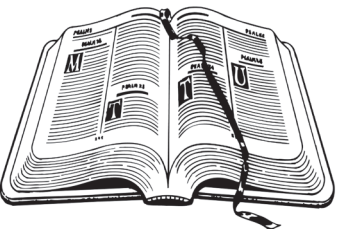
## business matters



Rick Seese is the Realtor of the Month for Greenridge Realty, Lowell office.

This award recognizes Seese for his outstanding success and achievements.

# area churches



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

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 897-7168 • www.fbclowell.org  
 Pastor Jon Pickens • Lead Pastor

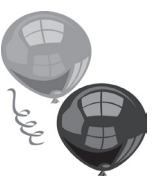
Pastor Andrew Bolkom • Pastor of Discipleship  
 Christi Swain • Director of Children's Ministries  
**SUNDAY WORSHIP**....9:30 AM (Nursery provided)  
**LIFE GROUPS** .....11:00 AM (Nursery-Adult)  
**Awana** (K-5 during school year) **Wednesday, 6:15 PM**

**CALVARY CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH OF LOWELL**  
 897-7060  
 Pastor Ryan Landt  
 1151 West Main Street, Lowell, MI  
 Morning Worship.....10:00 AM  
 Sunday School.....11:20 AM  
 Evening Worship.....6:00 PM  
 Nursery available at both services  
 Barrier-Free

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 WORSHIP  
 Traditional Service: 9 am  
 Contemporary Service: 10:30 am  
 Sr. Pastor - Brad Brillhart

## happy birthday



**FEBRUARY 3**  
 Dale Phillips, Clarice Poisson, Sana Bryant, Cassandra Thomas, Chris Dennie, Olivia Dennie, Jon Jacobs.

**FEBRUARY 4**  
 Kelsey Scheider, Alan Lally.

**FEBRUARY 5**  
 Ann Mulder, Colleen Myers, Mandy Schneider, Mike Conklin.

**FEBRUARY 6**  
 Donna Oesch, Reed Stormzand, Norm Johnson, Angie Blough.

**FEBRUARY 7**  
 Gordie Barry, Peggy Covert.

**FEBRUARY 8**  
 Laurie Chambers, Maya Newhouse, Steve Estes, Karis Dilly.

**FEBRUARY 9**  
 Tom Covell, Alan Ryder, Noah Newhouse, Madison Lombardo, Brady Foster, Dave Vankeulen, Charlotte Drake.





# Civics 101: the President and the Vice President

by Lara Steffens  
contributing reporter

The President and Vice President are the heads of the executive branch, which executes the laws passed by the legislature, as outlined in Article 2 of the Constitution.

Originally, the Articles of Confederation, which was the United States' first lawbook, had no executive branch, and the Founding Fathers were hesitant to have a head of state for fear of that person consolidating power and the government becoming a monarchy, which the Founding Fathers didn't want, as they had just left a monarchy.

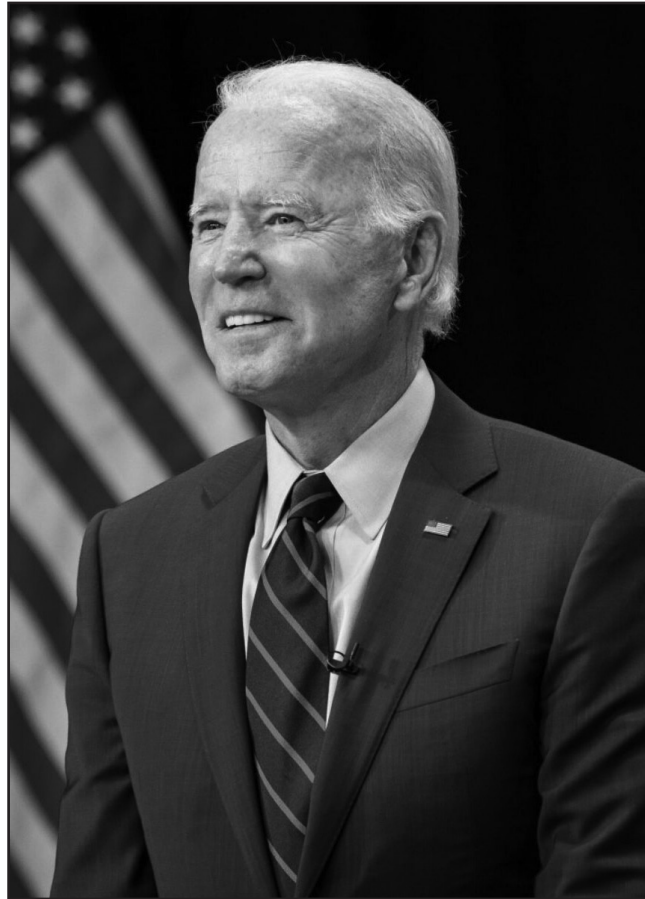
The Founding Fathers still needed a head of the executive branch, though, so they limited the responsibilities the President had and made sure the checks and balances system could override the President's decisions.

The President is the head of the army, the head of the state and has power over 15 other executive

departments.

The President's power has grown since the Constitution was written, and he or she now has much more influence over the executive branch. The Founding Fathers thought about having multiple Presidents to share the power, but chose a single individual in the end.

The President is chosen by the Electoral College, where the people vote and then the delegate with the majority wins all the electoral votes from the state. There was going to be a group of electors from each state instead of allowing individual citizens to vote, but that never came to pass. The electoral votes are decided by the people, and citizens have a much greater say in the election now than when the Constitution was ratified. This is the reason we have a popular vote and an electoral vote instead of the election hinging on the popular vote.



President Joseph R. Biden

There were no term limits until Franklin D. Roosevelt served four terms. Then the terms were limited to two so the President didn't gain too much power.

The Vice President replaces the President if he or she can no longer be President. The Vice President is also the presiding officer in the



Vice President Kamala Harris

Senate. They are also on the President's cabinet, and the President can choose how much authority to give them. It used to be that the runner-up in the election became

the Vice President, but now the President chooses their own running mate and they become Vice President.

## Council, continued

Completion of the Showboat itself has been delayed until mid-April because the "second floor ceiling grid" will not be shipped here until March 29.

"It's going to slow the project down some, and it's completely out of our control," Burns said.

Bids to put the bathrooms in the old public works building across from the Showboat are open and will be accepted until Wednesday, March 3.

Lowell Showboat Committee member Mark Mundt updated the council about that group's most recent efforts. So far, they have raised approximately \$644,000 of their \$780,000 goal, leaving \$136,000 left to fundraise. Mundt said they have "sold the heck out of bricks" to the tune of \$83,580, or 275 bricks. Brick sales will remain open for two more months.

Finally, Mundt said that during February, Wolverine Building Co. will match "dollar for dollar" any donation made to the Showboat up to \$5,000.

"So tell your friends we have an opportunity to make another ten grand," Mundt said.

Lowell Area Historical Museum executive director Lisa Plank provided the council with an update on the museum's activities last year and their plans for this year. Their "ABCs of

History" series has been popular online and in the Ledger, and Plank said it will be published as a booklet at some point in the near future. The museum's traditional school field trips went virtual in 2020, a situation they expect to continue for now.

"We have a lot of ideas for ways that we can still be an asset to the community and help to spread the word about the amazing history that Lowell has," Plank said.

The council voted to spend \$11,050 on a new temperature control system for city hall. The project's total cost of \$22,100 will be split evenly between the city and the Downtown Development Authority.

"The city hall temperature control system is the original system used for this building since it was constructed in 2003," Burns said. "The temperature control system is obsolete and has become very difficult to manage over the past few years as the technology has moved past the system's capability. [...] It's just old. We haven't updated it. I'll be honest with you, I kicked his can down the road as long as I could because I didn't want to spend the money. But you've got to spend the money now."

The work will be done by Grand Rapids company Enertemp, the firm that originally designed and installed the system back in

'03. "This will provide us with the following," Burns said. "It will replace and upgrade the controllers to a modernized controller system, it will provide one year of software maintenance, rebuild systems programs, rebuild graphics and schedules for new controllers, working with our IT consultant to establish new controller in our IT network and setting up alarms and remote notifications."

"I think this is the third time this has come up, so I

do believe it is time to get it done," Chambers said. "When we sit up there, you've got to wear your jacket to sit in that room. It's really no fun."

"It's time to rip off the Band Aid and get it fixed," said councilor James Salzwedel.

Lowell city council's next regular meeting is scheduled to take place via Zoom at 7 pm on Monday, Feb. 15.

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).

### REQUEST FOR BIDS

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

Sealed bid proposals should be sent to:

City of Lowell  
Attn: City Clerk  
301 E. Main St.  
Lowell, MI 49331

All bid proposals must be received by **Wednesday, March 3, 2021 at 11:00 AM** after which time no further bids will be accepted, and at which time the bids received will be publicly opened and read. All bids must be in a sealed envelope identifying the item being bid as "**Lowell DPW Building General Contractor.**"

To receive bid specifications, please contact our Architect, Michael Lynch at 616-822-0395 or [mlyncharch@comcast.net](mailto:mlyncharch@comcast.net).

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

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



Michael Burns  
City Manager

## CITY OF LOWELL PUBLIC NOTICE

**LAST DATE TO FILE NOMINATING PETITIONS  
TUESDAY, APRIL 20, 2021  
4:00 P.M.**

City of Lowell registered residents of the City interested in seeking election to the Lowell City Council to fill any of the three (3) two to four-year term vacancies occurring, must obtain nominating petition forms for circulation and return no later than 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 20, 2021. Petition forms are available between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday from the Lowell City Clerk, Lowell City Hall, 301 East Main Street, Lowell.



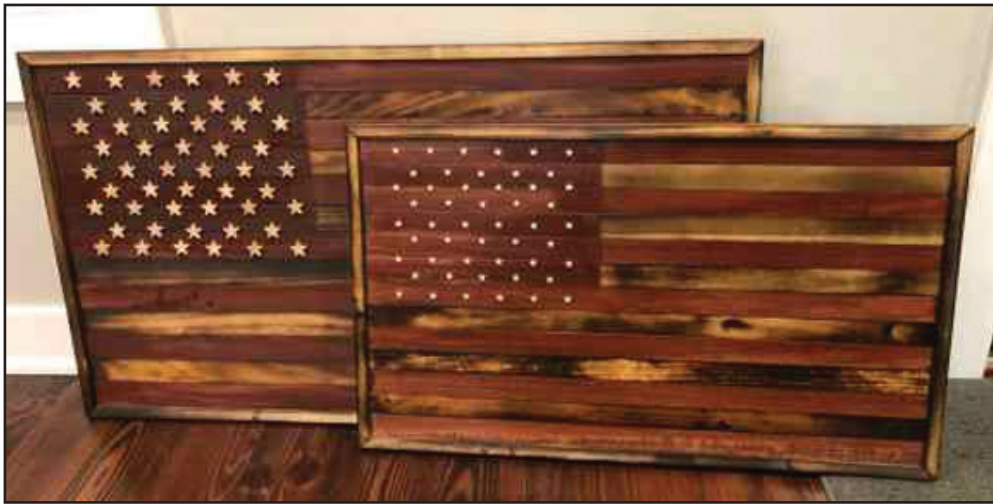
Susan Ullery  
City Clerk



# LHS student Kreuger starts wood furniture business

by Lara Steffens  
contributing reporter

A freshman at Lowell High School has started his own furniture business. Brayden Kreuger, 14, started making furniture two years ago. "In 2019 my dad and I built our house," Kreuger said. "That was where I learned how to cut and build things." Brayden used scrap wood from the Kreugers' house project to make his first pieces. "[My dad] helped me use a lot of the tools and walked me through the projects I wanted to make," Kreuger explained. He said that he's had a lot more free time since the pandemic hit, so he's been able to complete a lot more projects than perhaps he initially imagined he would. When asked what his favorite thing to build is, Brayden answered with, "I really like building a variety of small tables," Kreuger said. "I like to find popular ideas online that I like and then learn to make it my own." Brayden's toolbelt contains items such as a chop saw, table saw, drill, Kreg Jig and clamps. Well, perhaps not all those things are literally in his toolbelt. Anyway, he mentioned that his favorite wood to work with is pine wood. "It stains and burns very nicely," Kreuger explained. On top of his woodworking hobby, Kreuger also enjoys participating in cross country, hunting and snowboarding. You can find his work on Facebook Marketplace, and he also posts product pictures on his Instagram, @braydenswoodworking.



## GRATTAN TOWNSHIP

Virtual Meeting 7:00 p.m.  
Synopsis of Minutes  
January 11, 2021

### Motions Approved

1. Hiring of Ryan Carrigan as the new Township Zoning Administrator,
2. To forgive Chris Andreski's current sewer bill and commence quarterly billing upon expiration of building permit, C of O, or the April 2021 billing.
3. Committee Appointments for 2021.
4. Kent County Cooperative Agreement.
5. Resolution 2021-001 for BOR Protest in Writing.
6. Resolution 2021-002 Establishing Mileage Rates

## GRATTAN TOWNSHIP

Virtual Meeting 10:00 a.m.  
Synopsis of Minutes  
January 22, 2021

### Motions Approved

1. Compensation of committee members for attending virtual trial meetings.
2. Compensation of controller for conducting virtual meetings.
3. Resolution 2021-003 Recognizing Gregg Converse.
4. Issuance of building permits prior to Cowan Lake Sewer completion with conditions met.

## Virtual college financial aid sessions planned in February

Students and families looking for help paying for college are encouraged to register for the Virtual College Financial Aid Night hosted by Michigan Department of Treasury's MI Student Aid team. Sessions will be available from 6:30 to 8 pm every Tuesday and Thursday in February. All sessions are free and open to the public.

Participants will be able to gather information on the following financial aid topics:

- FAFSA application information
- Federal financial aid

programs

- State financial aid programs
- Scholarship searching
- MiSSG Student Portal Accounts

"Paying for college can be a difficult and frustrating process without knowing where to begin," said Robin Lott, Michigan Treasury's executive director of the Office of Postsecondary Financial Planning. "Our team is knowledgeable and equipped with helpful resources to assist students and families through the financial aid process. Attending a Virtual College Financial Aid Night is a great place to start."

Due to limited space, participants are encouraged to sign up for one session only. Registration can be completed by visiting the MI Student Aid website, [michigan.gov/mistudentaid](http://michigan.gov/mistudentaid).

Administered by the state treasury department, MI Student Aid is Michigan's go-to resource for finding the financial resources needed to pay for college.

More information can be obtained by emailing [mistudentaid@michigan.gov](mailto:mistudentaid@michigan.gov) or calling 888-447-2687.



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# Chocolate Stroll in downtown Lowell on Feb. 13

submitted by Mackenzie Davis

Following the opening of restaurants in downtown Lowell comes the yearly event known as the Chocolate Stroll! For the past three years merchants—an intrinsic part of this historic district—have come together to bring joy throughout the cold days of February.

Martha Davis, the owner of Tap House Boutique, is ecstatic for this year's festivities, "Our event this year has 27 merchants so we are really excited about offering chocolate to all our shoppers and chance to win three times for \$50 in Lowell Bucks to the winner of our drawing."

By taking a picture of the "chocolate guy poster" (which every participating

merchant will have) and publicly posting it on your Facebook or Instagram page with the caption provided on the day of the event, you could have a chance to win this year's prize!

According to Davis, "All advertising, chocolate, and Lowell bucks are paid for by the participating merchants. This way visitors can enjoy their day strolling along the beautiful streets of Lowell and supporting local businesses."

This joyous event takes place on Saturday, February 13 from 12 pm to 5 pm—a perfect day for you and your loved ones to celebrate the upcoming holiday.

The merchants

participating in this year's event include All Weather Seal, Ability Weavers, Bettie's Pages, Big Boiler Brewery, Creative Party Bug (inside Showboat Spirits & Fine Wines), Deirdre's Cakes & Bakes (inside Bettie's Pages), FanDangled Custom Apparel, Fans In The Stands, Flat River Cottage, Flat River Gallery & Framing, Flat River Grill, Lavender & Lace Boutique, LowellArts, Lowell Branch/Kent District Library, Main Street BBQ, Miss P's Catering (inside Red Barn Consignments & Antiques), Mi Hometown Furnishings, New Union Brewery, North Star Antiques, Olivia Grace Salon and Facial Bar,



Opulenza Designs by Annette Chambers (inside Red Barn Consignments & Antiques), Red Barn Consignments

& Antiques, Rookies Sportscards Plus, Showboat Spirits & Fine Wines, Station Salon, Tap House Boutique and

WearForward. Hopefully, we will see you there walking the streets of Lowell on February 13th.

## "Green ooze" reaches \$3.1 million EPA price tag



[File Photo]

Legislation reviving the polluter-pay law takes another shot this new year after being left untouched in early 2019 and as the sighting of green ooze on I-696 approaches its two-year anniversary.

Still, more than a year later, the company responsible for more than two decades of violating hazardous waste storage laws has not paid a dime for the cleanup efforts.

This week marked \$3.1 million in expenditures the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has spent to clean up the green ooze that slugged its way onto the highway in Madison Heights during December 2019. In more than one year of cleaning up the neon green slime, the EPA drew

out over 350,000 gallons of contaminated groundwater.

During a virtual meeting on Tuesday, Tricia Edwards, the EPA on-scene coordinator based in Ann Arbor, said shipping

the hazardous waste off of the site for disposal "was extremely expensive."

"To give you an idea of how much water that was, it's like an Olympic sized swimming pool holds 660,000 gallons, so it's not that much, but it's a substantial amount," Edwards said.

Before the update was made, Sens. Jeff Irwin (D-Ann Arbor) and Jeremy Moss (D-Southfield) and Reps. Yosef Rahbi (D-Ann Arbor) and Jim Ellison (D-Royal Oak) resurrected bills blueprinted to make polluters pay.

Moss said these scenes of green ooze could exist all throughout the state, explaining that it "took kind of this disaster porn for many people to realize what could be underground in many contaminated sites all throughout the district."

When Irwin introduced the polluter-pay law in February 2019, which would allow the Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy to take action against polluters and necessitate them to pay for cleanup as much

as technically possible, it was referred to the Senate Environmental Quality Committee and never moved.

HB 4025 from Ellison and SB 0047 from Moss eliminate limitation periods of when an action can be filed and eliminates the area where the liability for the costs and damages can become unenforceable.

"This is an idea that's been around for a long time. It's an idea that the public broadly supports because that's how we teach our children. When you make a mess, you got to clean it up," Irwin said. "When a polluter is allowed to shirk their responsibility, they make millions of dollars off of that, so that's what we're up against."

According to Irwin, in an appearance on Michigan Radio in February 2019, an initial polluter-pay law was changed in 1995 by former Gov. John Engler's administration.

"Essentially what Engler did to change the law, on behalf of industry and polluter's mistake, was to

say that, 'Well, you have to clean up your mess, but you only have to clean it up to the extent that it harms people and the environment. You only have to clean it up to the extent that people are exposed to it,'" Irwin said.

In April 1995, Lansing-based polling firm Epic-MRA found that 85 percent of people supported the polluter-pay law, 46 percent said Michigan's environmental laws didn't go far enough and 14 percent saw them in general as being too tough.

According to the Ecology Center, Engler's decision was based on the "fashionable" suggestion that "the risks posed by environmental contamination sites are really very small, and that efforts to clean them up have become too costly relative to the risk period."

However, Michael Johnston, the vice president of government affairs for the Michigan Manufacturers Association, said "there's an obligation under the law for guarding against contamination of property and an obligation to clean it

up."

"Most of the properties you're talking about are historic. You are talking about properties that have been abandoned decades and decades ago, so the conversation about 'let's increase fines on abandoned sites' is almost nonsense," Johnston said. "Anything that will make it more difficult to get a site cleaned up is going in the wrong direction."

He described an increase in penalties as counterproductive "to the ultimate goal of getting properties back in sites, because many of the sites that are not being cleaned up are the orphaned sites."

Some other sites that Irwin mentioned to advocate the need for a strong polluter-pay law was Oscoda Township, where the now-disused Wurtsmith Air Force Base contaminated the area's groundwater and surface water with toxic "forever chemicals" like PFAS, and in western Ann Arbor and parts of Scio Township, where a 1,4-dioxane plume is roaming through the groundwater.

## Printing

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# Girls Track

# A LOOK BACK IN TIME

## Lowell places second in regionals

1980

The Lowell girls track team highlighted a great season by placing first in the Tri-River League, a shared title with Fremont. Awards were given to Elaine Blasher as Most Valuable, Sue Stormzand for Oil Can and Sherri Eley was voted as Most Improved. Qualifying for the State meet were Kathe Dey in the mile run, Sue Stormzand for discus, Diane Clark in long jump and Kelly Dickerson for shotput. The team's future looks good for next season because of the many returning underclassmen.



## Lowell tracksters share title

## Red Arrow girls win first ever regional title

1989

Across the finish line raced the girls track team with a 6-1 conference record. The leadership of Coach Kathy Talus and captains Ann Hildenbrand

and Pam Sterzick led the team to a season in the fast lane. All-Conference honorees for the 440 relay were Tonya Stepek, Karen Bussler,

Leigh Ranburger and Sterzick; while Hildenbrand joins Stepek, Bussler, and Sterzick to win the 800. Ranburger jumped to All-Conference in the long jump, Bussler sprinted in the 100 yard dash, and Deb Adams leaped in the high jump. State qualifiers were Bussler in the 100 yard dash; Ranburger in the long jump, and the mile relay team of Angie Arnett, Hildenbrand, Bussler and Adams. Bussler worked hard to earn MVP, Ranburger earned Most Dedicated, Adams was Most Improved, Arnett received the Rookie of the Year and Sterzick received the Coaches Award. The important key to the team's success, besides its hard work and hustle, was the support and spirit contributed by each member.



## Lady Arrows finish fifth at MITCA state meet

2019

The 2019 Red Arrow track team had an impressive season, winning both the conference title and the regional title and placed fifth at the state competition. This is the first time Lowell has competed in the state meet since becoming a Division 1 team. There were six girls that qualified for the state individual meet: Theresa Judd in the 100 hurdles and the pole vault, Kaylee Diamond in the high jump and long jump, Dianna Roth in the 100m and the 800m relay team of Roth, Julia Tuuri, Madison Brown and Kyra Synder.



## Ladies finish regular season strong and win conference



Red Arrow

- WINTER SPORTS

# SPORTS

## With no answers, winter contact sports unite in effort to return to competition

by Justin Scott  
contributing reporter

When the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services made their latest announcement, that winter contact sports of basketball, wrestling, competitive cheer, and hockey were not going to be playing on February 1, it was a devastating blow for many administrators, coaches, and student-athletes. They had been following state guidelines, wearing masks, and hosting non-contact practices in hopes of being able to have a winter sports season.

Now, all of that is in doubt, as a February 21 deadline approaches for a restart. Timelines have come and gone for these teams and unfortunately, time is running out for winter sports to compete. With that in mind, schools and student-athletes across the state, along with the Michigan High School Athletic Association, have been urging the MDHHS to allow the season to get going as soon as possible.

The OK White conference, composed of Lowell, Greenville, GR

Christian, East Grand Rapids, Byron Center, Forest Hills Northern, Forest Hills Central, and Northview, collaboratively issued a statement through social media.

“We want to thank our communities for their continued support of our student-athletes. While we are competitors in our athletic fields and arenas, we are united in supporting our student-athletes and coaches. At this time we have joined together as the OK White conference to advocate for the start of winter contact sports. Our efforts have included contacting local and state officials to share our thoughts, ideas, and concerns.

As the OK White conference, we know that our student-athletes are best served being involved in MHSAA Educational-based athletics. The learning opportunities that school sports provide are immensely valuable and impactful.”

The statement is one of many around the state as schools push for winter

sports to begin. Bowling, ski, and swim & dive are able to compete, but for the rest they will have to keep waiting even as many states around Michigan finish their winter sports seasons. Kent County superintendents, as well as coaching associations around the state, have sent letters to the state urging for sports to restart.

On Saturday, many young student-athletes gathered in Lansing for a #LetThemPlay rally. The rally, billed as a peaceful protest, was just that. Speakers including radio personality Bill “HUGE” Simonson, and student-athletes pled their case to get winter sports going again. Nearly all in attendance wore masks, understand the severity of the COVID-19 pandemic, but simply want the opportunity to compete. All states around Michigan (Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio) are allowing winter sports to compete. The MHSAA, who has been advocating for the return of winter sports, was encouraged by the event. “I think the most important voices that really won the day yesterday were those of

our athletes,” said MHSAA Executive Director, Mark Uyl. “They’re showing incredible leadership in showing an incredible civic duty.”

Lowell Caledonia senior hockey player Austin Douma, was one of several Lowell winter student-athletes who attended. “To get a glimpse at the support and push by almost everyone in the state to get sports back was an eye opener. As I talked with my team after, we were optimistic that our season should start sooner, rather than later. It was shown at the protest that everyone is following protocols and wearing their masks, so overall it should have a big impact on overturning the order,” Douma said. The rally was organized by Coopersville senior basketball player, Ethan Coady.

The hockey team has been practicing at Kentwood Ice Arena the past few weeks. While it has been easier for sports like hockey to have contactless practices, sports like wrestling have had to be innovative to

get in shape while waiting for sports to begin again. For hockey, most has been normal throughout practices. “One aspect of practice that has been a lot different is the fact that we have to follow all protocols by wearing masks on the ice, and we also enter and leave the rink in 15 minutes so contact tracing won’t be a problem. It takes away from some of the fun we would have, but whatever we can do to play again is what we will do,” added Douma.

Many Michigan student-athletes have taken to social media, using the #LetThemPlay and #LetUsPlay hashtags. That includes posts that have gone viral, with the wording “I am a Senior student athlete. I play for \_\_\_\_\_ When we return to play I will hold myself and my team accountable for all COVID safety protocols. Share a picture if you feel the same way. #letusplay”

Lowell girl’s basketball players released a video noting the harm that the postponement of sports is having on student-athletes, and urging state officials to

allow for sports to start back up again.

These viral posts, and the success of the #LetThemPlay rally has given many hope that the MDHHS will let sports start earlier, even as the February 1 deadline comes and goes.

For student-athletes, especially seniors like Douma, they’re just hoping to be able to compete this season. “Hockey is a crucial part of my life and continuing my hockey career in juniors next year is a goal of mine. Without a season it is certainly taking away that extra exposure I need to get to the highest level I can play at. Everyone on my team is in the same boat. We want to play. We have a really good team this year, and we want to make a playoff push. I believe we can, and no season would take key opportunities and lessons away from us.”



## Ski team competes in second race of season

by Justin Scott  
contributing reporter

In their second race of the ski season, the Lowell girls finished third place in both slalom and giant slalom, while the boys team took third (giant slalom) and fourth respectively. The girls team also placed first in D2 competition, while the boys team took second

For the Women’s GS Race: Kaylee Byrne placed second; Olivia Torline came in 15th; Emma Schmidt placed 16th, and Sydney Spanbauer placed 17th.

For the Women’s slalom Race: Byrne placed second; Spanbauer came in 17th; Torline placed 18th and Schmidt placed 20th.

For the men’s GS Race: Colton Byrne placed third;



Lowell ski after a successful Friday at Caberfae. Photo courtesy of Lowell ski team.

Preston Sobeck came in sixth; Hunter Stepanovich came in 12th and Cole Lillie placed 16th.

For the men’s Slalom Race: Byrne earned fourth

place; Sobeck placed seventh; Stepanovich placed 19th and Lillie came in 21st.

Last Friday at Caberfae, Byrne placed first in the giant slalom and seventh

place in the slalom event. Byrne earned fourth place in the giant slalom, leading the team to a sixth-place finish. Lowell had races at Cannonsburg on Monday and Tuesday this week.

## Bowling teams kick off season



The Lowell girls bowling team had a great start to the season, taking first place at the Mona Shores Invitational. Haylie Beers took first overall in the tournament with a 355. Teammate Savannah Escobedo took second overall with a 353.

Last week, in their openers at Northfield Bowling Lanes, the boys and girls both dropped matches to Northview. The boys fell 23-7, and the girls fell 21-9. Photo courtesy of Lowell Bowling.



# obituaries

## CLARK

Betty Lou (Beak) Clark, age 95 (1925-2021), is resting peacefully in the arms of Jesus, having taken her final breath on January 27, 2021. She was preceded in death by her husband, Dave A Clark, Jr; parents, Charles 'Todd' & Irma Beak; three brothers, Lloyd Beak, Bruce Beak, and Kenneth Mercer. Betty is survived by her daughters, Candyce Clark Sisson and Corliss Clark Bulthuis; grandchildren, Carol Sisson Wingeier (Dan), Robin Sisson Hewitt (Tim Vaught), Shannon Sisson (Ryan Roark), Jennifer Johnson, and David Bulthuis (Sarah), 15 great-grandchildren, nine great-great-grandchildren, and numerous nieces and nephews. After graduating with the Lowell High School Class of 1943, she attended Texas Christian University in Fort Worth Texas for a year. She returned to her parents' home in Cascade and enjoyed working at "Herp's" in downtown Grand Rapids. After marrying, she worked at raising her daughters while managing the family business, Clark Plumbing and Heating of Lowell. After retiring, she joined a country clogging group, touring West Michigan fairs and craft shows, thus fulfilling a lifetime love of music and dance. No service is scheduled at this time. A celebration of Betty Lou's life will be announced later this year.



## EGGLESTON

Karen Eggleston, 56, previously of Lowell, passed away peacefully January 27, 2021. Karen was preceded in death by her father, William Eggleston. Karen is survived by her mother, Alice Hoogerheide Eggleston; siblings, Kathy Eggleston, Bill (Paula) Eggelston, Sherry Eggleston, Bob Eggleston, Elizabeth (Jim) VanDrunen, Carl (Tammy) Eggleston, Melissa (Jose) Salinas, Nickole (Eric) Grosin; and her loving companion, Danny Reece. An aunt to many and a friend to all. A private family memorial is scheduled and a celebration of life will take place at a later date.

# LEGAL NOTICE

### TO ALL CREDITORS:

Nancy Ann Sorrelle, who lived at 3353 Riverwood Dr., NE, Rockford, MI 49341, died on 1/9/2021. There is no personal representative of the estate to whom Letters of Administration have been issued.

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against Nancy Ann Sorrelle or the Nancy A. Sorrelle Revocable Trust, dated 8/22/2007, amended and restated on 4/20/2009, and amended on 5/6/2011, will be forever barred

unless presented to Michelle Jennings, Successor Trustee, within four months after the date of this publication.

Notice is further given that the Trust will thereafter be assigned and distributed to the person entitled to it.

Michelle Jennings  
3353 Riverwood Dr., NE  
Rockford, MI 49341

By: Craig A. Bruggink  
Attorney for Successor Trustee  
429 Turner Ave., N.W.  
Grand Rapids, MI 49504  
616-456-5048

## HECKSEL

Erin Kathleen Hecksel, age 66, of Lowell, passed away on Friday, January 29, 2021. She was preceded in death by her parents, Branch Ryan & Marilyn Deerogee; and sister, Shannon Ryan. Erin is survived by her husband of 47 years, Kenneth Hecksel; children, Jacob (Anna) Hecksel, and Sarah Johnson; grandchildren, Ryan and Sydney Johnson; brothers, Kevin Ryan, and Mark Ryan; sisters, Gay Dick, and Melinda Sheldon; several nieces & nephews; many special friends; and canine companions, Edward & Jane. She worked at Amoco and the Shell Station in Lowell. She loved to spend her free time tending to her flower beds in the spring. Erin was a friend to everyone and loved to spend time with her posse. A Celebration of Life will be held at later time. The family asks for those who wish to honor Erin simply pay it forward and do a good deed for someone else.



## KELLAM

Monday, January 18th, 2021 Bret Kellam crossed the Rainbow Bridge at the age of 60 to be rejoined with his Moon and his Stars, Mary Beth Wade. He is preceded in death by his parents, Pauline M. Kellam and Donald S Kellam Jr. He will be deeply missed by his children, Matt "Chewie" and Nicole, Brenda and David, Jenny "Boo" and Rob, and Randy and Melissa; his five grandchildren; his siblings, Mark, Carl, and Gwyn; his dear friend, Megz; his dogs, Ryker-Roopert and Kaiya, and all the other furbabies in "The Pack." Bret loved music of any kind. You could find him at his computer finding yet another obscure but great band to add to his ever-growing list of music which he shared with those he loved. He was also a computer guy. Most of his working life was in IT. He spent much of his free time on video games or following one YouTube rabbit hole



after another. He especially enjoyed watching train rides through exotic lands, flying plane simulations, creating structures through physics-based programs, or building amazing bases to keep out the zombie hordes. He provided a listening ear, a comforting hug, or a helpful hand when needed. He was more loved than he ever understood and will be missed more than he could ever imagine.



# Workers in your home and Social Security

Do you plan to pay a cleaning person, cook, gardener, babysitter, or other household worker at least \$2,300 in 2021? This amount includes any cash you pay for your household employee's transportation, meals, and housing. If you will pay at least \$2,300 to one person, you have

benefits and Medicare coverage. Generally, people need 10 years of work to qualify for:

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



some additional financial responsibilities.

When you pay at least \$2,300 in wages to a household worker, you must do all of the following:

- Deduct Social Security and Medicare taxes from those wages.
  - Pay these taxes to the Internal Revenue Service.
  - Report the wages to Social Security.
- For every \$2,300 in wages, most household employees earn credits toward Social Security

• Medicare benefits. You can learn more about reporting household worker income by reading *Household Workers* at [www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10021.pdf](http://www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10021.pdf).

*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 [vontil@ssa.gov](mailto:vontil@ssa.gov).*



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## college news

Samuel J. Schwierking, of Lowell, Industrial Engineering, was among the more than 11,000 Iowa State University students have been recognized for outstanding academic achievement by being named to the fall semester 2020 Dean's List. Students named to the Dean's List must have earned a grade point average of at least 3.50 on a 4.00 scale while carrying a minimum of 12 credit hours of graded course work.

Northern Michigan University announces the Dean's List for the Fall 2020 semester.

Lauren Aud, Kelsey Hill, and Meghan Meyer, all of Ada, qualified with a grade point average of 4.00.

The following students qualified with a grade point average of 3.50-3.99: of Ada: Ethan Hale, Olivia Jarzabek, Jacob Lenderink, Lena Ostergren, and Mary Simmons; of Lowell: Marlie Fowler, Soren Hanson, and Madison Sage.

The University of Wisconsin-Madison has recognized students named to the Dean's List for the fall semester of the 2020-2021 academic year.

Students who achieve at a high level academically are recognized by the dean

at the close of each semester. To be eligible for the Dean's List, students must complete a minimum of 12 graded degree credits in that semester. Each university school or college sets its own GPA requirements for students to be eligible to receive the distinction. Most call the honor "dean's list", but some grant the "Dean's Honor List" and "Dean's High Honor List."

Local students named to the Dean's List: Margaret Hayes, College of Letters and Science, and Jordan Helmbrecht, School of Business, both of Ada.

Cameron Krahn, College of Engineering, of Ada, was named to the Dean's Honor List.

Nathanael Olander of Lowell, was named to the Cedarville University fall 2020 Dean's List. This recognition required Olander to obtain a 3.75 GPA or higher for the semester and carry a minimum of 12 credit hours.

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

## Live the Life You Want

### Helping someone in crisis

Melissa Spino MA LPC CDMS  
Life Transitions Therapy LLC

Last year was a year of many changes and for some many challenges. 2021 seems to be following that trend but hopefully things will soon normalize. The change in our norm is uncomfortable for many because we just don't know what is going to happen next. For those that have anxiety, depression, mood disorders, suicidal thoughts, or may be experiencing grief all this change can be difficult to handle. It may even send them into crisis. So how can you help someone get through a mental health crisis?

#### The Do's

Just know that people want to feel like they have support during times of crisis. You don't have to know the perfect thing to say, just be there as a supporting, caring, non-judgmental presence. They need to feel heard, understood, and know that their feelings matter, that they matter. Familiarize yourself with active listening techniques. Don't be afraid to ask if they are thinking about suicide. If they are, don't judge, give advice, or minimize their concerns or feelings. If you feel they are truly a danger to themselves or others, call 911 and relay the following:

Give as much information as possible including any diagnoses, symptoms, and the nature of the emergency.

Request a crisis intervention officer (CIT) as they have additional training to deal with this type of crisis. Clarify if it is a psychiatric emergency.

If you believe they may provoke an officer into firing their weapon (also known as "suicide by cop"), tell that to the dispatcher, repeatedly and right away to the officer(s) that respond.

Provide the officer(s) with the summary sheet of information from the WRAP noted below, if available.

If this is someone close to you, create a plan to help them though a potential crisis. Many professionals suggest using the WRAP Plan (Wellness Recovery Action Plan). This plan includes the following:

- Phone numbers for their mental health therapist, psychiatrist, primary care physician, and all other current healthcare providers
- The person's contact information who is listed as their medical or health care power of attorney on their advanced directive. They may also be called durable power of attorney for health care or health care proxy. It is the person they have named to make health care decisions for them when they can't.
- Their emergency contact person's name and phone number along with contact info for family and friends that can offer caring, non-judgmental support.
- Local crisis, ERs, and mental health organization phone numbers and addresses
- A list of triggers and tools successfully used in the past to combat these triggers
- A list and schedule of community resources such as support groups, meetings etc.
- A list of all medications currently being taken (name, dosage, how often taken, prescriber).

Here are a few free and helpful resources that can be contacted 24/7 to add to the WRAP.

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline – Call 800-273-TALK (8255) to speak with a trained crisis counselor.

NAMI - text HOME to 741-741 for free, 24/7 crisis counseling via text.

National Domestic Violence Hotline – Call 800-799-SAFE (7233) to speak with trained experts who provide confidential support for those experiencing domestic violence or seeking resources and information.

National Sexual Assault Hotline – Call 800-656-HOPE (4673) to connect with a trained staff member from a sexual assault service provider in your area. They offer numerous resources and services. Crisis chat support is also available at their online hotline. Go to [online.rainn.org](https://online.rainn.org)

It's important to set reasonable expectations on the amount of support you can offer. You can't be there 24/7 so if needed, bring others in (personal or professional) to help support them during their crisis.

If they are experiencing high anxiety or even a panic attack, help them focus on the present.

Practice the 3-3-3 rule I mentioned in a prior article. Have them look around and name three things they see, three sounds they hear, and three parts of their body. This helps the brain focus elsewhere and not on what is causing the anxiety or panic.

Breathe. I teach 4/7/8 breathing. Google how to do this very effective breathing technique.

Help them realize that in the present moment, they are okay. They have shelter, food, support and they are safe.

These are just a few of the ways you can help someone in crisis. Now let's talk about what to avoid.



Melissa Spino  
MA LPC CDMS

#### The Don'ts

These are things that are not helpful and can actually make the situation worse.

- Don't put yourself or others in danger
- Don't blame or shame
- Don't judge
- Don't give advice
- Don't believe or act like their behavior is who they are. No one chooses to be in crisis. It's a mental health issue and a behavior, not who they truly are.

Don't wait until you're feeling resentful or burned out to practice good self-care. Keep health boundaries in place and take the time you need to recharge.

Don't ignore or avoid a person in crisis. Sadly, I mention this because it happens. A person feels too overwhelmed, resentful, or burned out so they avoid or ignore the person in crisis. This is why self-care is so important so a regretful decision can be avoided.

Remember that all of us have various levels of fear, pain, and grief and it comes out in different ways. Let's show compassion to each other during this emotionally charged time. Try to be patient. Remember this is a temporary situation and it will pass. It is survivable. Be cautious but optimistic.

I hope you find this helpful, but it is not intended to diagnose or treat. Be sure to seek professional help if anyone is a danger to themselves or others.

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# FUN PAGE

## SUDOKO

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

Level: Beginner

### 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!

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

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

Puzzle solutions on page 13

TEA TIME WORD SEARCH

CAFFEINE CAMELLIA SINENSIS

HERBAL LEAF

PEKOE PLUCK

EARTHY

LOOSE

STEEP

AROMA

FIRING

MATCHA

TASTE

BITTER

FLAVOR

OOLONG

TEA

BLACK

GREEN

ORGANIC

WHITE

BLEND

HARVEST

OXIDATION

## Guess Who?

I am an actor born in England on February 6, 1994. I was a drummer in a noise-rock band before getting my start acting on television and in films. I became well-known through a popular sci-fi Netflix series following a group of children in a suburban town.

Answer: Charlie Heaton

## WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to tea.

R N E G E

--	--	--	--	--

Answer: Green

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					
49					50				51		52	53	54	55
56					57				58					
59					60				61					
62					63				64					

### CLUES ACROSS

- Nuclear near reach weapon
- Of she
- Hyperbolic function
- Rice dish
- A team's best pitcher
- Strong and healthy
- Induces
- Popular manga series
- From a distance
- Split
- Consumed
- Cushions
- All over
- One who provides food
- St. \_\_\_ Girl, brand of beer
- Walking slowly
- Wood
- Semitic gods
- Bugle
- 60-minute periods (abbr.)
- Congressman
- Plant of the heath family
- Subdivision of an army
- Having many different forms
- Shellfish
- Latin for hail
- Between sixth and seventh

- Maori war dance
- Precious or semiprecious stone
- Teeter totter
- Deity
- A major division of geological time
- Fishing net
- Small Caribbean bird
- Field force unit
- Japanese beverage

### CLUES DOWN

- Prevents oil spills
- Monetary unit
- The color of the sky
- Dough used to make tortillas
- Popular comic strip character
- Distinct form of a plant
- Replenishment
- Has its own altar
- Expedition to see animals
- Group of related organisms
- His and \_\_\_
- Frenetically
- Small integer
- Unit of energy
- Studies of culture
- Taxi
- Doctors' group
- Don't know when yet
- Former measure of length
- Popular CBS series
- Skin condition
- Christian creator and ruler of the universe
- They \_\_\_
- Caused severe damage
- Work done under harsh conditions for no pay
- One point east of due south
- Sea eagles
- Drenched
- State capital
- Italian city
- Sweetheart (archaic)
- Brief talk
- Popular disco group: Bee \_\_\_
- First Chinese dynasty
- Military vehicle
- Chinese Moslem



# 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

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>

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

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

**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: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

