

Sunshine Week



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50¢



New company Top Home Improvements manages to thrive despite pandemic

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

Lakota Tidd and Derek Cornish opened Top Home Improvements, 1151 Bowes, in late 2019, not long before the pandemic hit.

The company has grown quickly despite the worldwide upheaval. Tidd said that in the past year the company went from one or two window replacement jobs a week to enough work for a full time staff of more than 20, mostly Lowell area residents.

"Everyone here pretty much lives in Lowell, a large amount of us," Tidd said. "We try to keep it as local as possible. By now we've done probably 50 projects just here right here in Lowell.

My partner Derek and I, a big goal of ours was always to start something in Lowell, whether it be landscaping or something like that, just because we love it. We both grew up here. I grew up right on Alden Nash, and all of my family lives in Lowell as well. Both of us graduated from Lowell High School. I did in 2016 and Derek in 2010. A whole lot of our people just graduated from Lowell High School, and a lot of them live in Lowell. So there's a lot of young blood here. I would say the key things that separate us from most companies are our young blood, our drive and our will to succeed."

"I like the environment here, being a small company, and also being able to work in the town I grew up in," said Top Home Improvements employee Mason Misiak.

"It's a local mom and pop shop, and I like that," said Top Home Improvements employee Nate Bailey. "I also like the team atmosphere, where everybody is trying to help each other out."

"I think the biggest thing that makes us different is we're a self improvement company, we're not just a home improvement company," Tidd said. "I've been in this industry, and I have worked for a couple other companies. We're



Top Home Improvements owners Lakota Tidd and Derek Cornish.

very different than pretty much every other company that's out there. What's most fulfilling for me is to have somebody come in here and talk about maybe starting up their own kitchen company one day. We want this place to be like a rocket ship for people to come and learn a

positive mindset, positive skills, learn to talk to people, learn how to sell or market, and then eventually move on from here and do their own thing. That's what's cool for me. Self-confidence is the

Top Home Improvements, continued, page 3

"Billy Strings" from Ionia County wins Grammy Award



Last week, Billy Strings, birth name William Apostol, a native of Muir in Ionia County, won the Grammy Award for "Best Bluegrass Album of the Year."

In this photo, he is performing with Don Julin at the Lowell Bluegrass Festival at the Fairgrounds on Sept. 21, 2013.

Lowell Police Department activities in February

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

Lowell Police Department made 17 arrests during the month of February. These arrests included two for driving with a suspended license, 10 for outstanding warrants and five that are described in the police department's monthly statistics sheet as "other arrests."

LPD also responded to plenty of misdemeanors during February. There were five larceny calls, one malicious destruction, two dog/animal complaints, and seven assaults. Lowell police issued 24 citations and notified two residents about ordinance violations. Out of 54 traffic stops in February, they let 37 drivers go with a warning.

Lowell police were called to assist other law enforcement agencies 15 times and called other agencies for assistance two times in February. They were also called for assistance by citizens 50 times and motorists seven times.

Lowell police were dispatched to eight accidents during February, none with injuries.

Monday, March 15 city council meeting report



Zoom screenshot of Lowell city council in discussion during their regular meeting on Monday, March 15.

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

Lowell city council had their latest regular meeting, both in person and over the Zoom app, at 7 pm on Monday, March 15.

The meeting lasted one hour and 11 minutes.

One person spoke during citizen discussion.

“I really want to express my sincere concern for our town regarding all of the cannabis places,” said Lowell resident Deb Martin. “It comes from a mom with six kids, and we’ve been here 25 years.”

Later in the meeting, during council comment, councilor Marty Chambers said that a recent application

for a recreational marijuana store was rejected by the planning commission after a nearby church objected. The city attorney is researching the issue.

The city recently received a \$28,000 payment from the state for having one recreational marijuana store in operation at the end of the fiscal year, part of a \$10 million payout to participating municipalities. City manager Michael Burns estimated that next year the city could net between \$168,00 and \$224,000.

There was an update about the bathrooms and wireless Internet aspects of the

Lowell Showboat project.

“We did take bids for the full construction of the full DPW building, and also the alternate bid was just the bathroom,” Burns said. “The low bid [for just the bathroom] was about \$367,000 and the low bid to do the entire building was \$800,000.

The \$800,000 was probably about the range where we kind of expected it to be for the whole building. We thought the \$367,000 was kind of high. I’ve gone back with the architect to see what we can value engineer to get the price down. I don’t know how much you’re going to be able to shave, but as of right now the funds just isn’t there to do the bathroom the way you would like to do. [...] I’m not sure if we’re going to be able to do that right now, so we’re looking at alternative options for that.

There will be WiFi available for those who spend time on the Showboat. It will be installed by Kore Hi Com at a cost of \$7,332. This wireless signal will not extend to the Riverwalk, will only be accessible from aboard the Showboat and will require a password.

“We’re planning to install WiFi on the Showboat wirelessly from the city’s current servers and network,” Burns said. “That

will fall under the same protections we have with our current system. [...] Since this will be a meeting and gathering place, this is the most economical way to provide Internet service to the Showboat. In today’s age this is obviously a necessity.”

The council held a public hearing about the Lowell Area Trailway’s \$5,750,000 rail trail connection project and voted to submit an application for a \$300,000 grant from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund. If the grant is approved, the project will be paid for with that money, a MDOT Transportation Alternatives Program grant of \$2,905,000, private foundation donations of \$1,260,000 and \$25,000 from the city of Lowell.

Lowell represents the only gap in the otherwise continuous 125-mile-long Fred Meijer River Valley Trail. When the Lowell portion is completed it will be the fifth longest rail trail in the United States.

The trail scheme was revised recently by engineer Dave Austin from Williams and Works. Currently, the plan is to start at Alden Nash and Main, head across the street to the new township park, east through the Grand Rapids Gravel site, behind the water treatment plant, through Stoney Lakeside Park, south toward the river, across Hudson through the underpass, through Recreation Park, across

the Grand River on a new pedestrian bridge with extended piers, along the Grand River to S. Jackson and then to the city limits at Montcalm Ave.

“It isn’t like Dave just took this green marker and said, ‘This is where the trail is going to go,’” said Lowell Area Recreation Authority vice chair Mark Anderson, who said this grant was their “last option” to finance the project. “We actually walked all these, and then we had a long thought process with this of how are we going to touch everything in our community. So when we do this trail [...] we’re connecting most of our community to walk in to school. Now we’re connecting all four of our parks and we’re connecting to our North Park and our South Park. Now all these people from this end of town can safely get to all of our parks, all of our schools and everything else.”

“I would hate to see the city of Lowell be the gaping hole in a 100 mile trail system, that would be embarrassing,” said Lowell mayor Michael DeVore.

“Nobody went out of their way to try and direct the trail where it ended up,” said city councilor Cliff Yankovich. “They’ve been working their butts off to find a solution. [...] It’s a shame that Lowell is the sticky wicket in a 125 mile trail network that, once it’s completed, I think it’s going to help the town

immensely.”

Austin read aloud a letter of dissent he received from a person who lives along the proposed trail route, and said he would include the letter, along with any others he receives, with the grant application to the DNR.

“People live here for many reasons. Not everyone needs a ton of trails,” the letter stated. “Lowell, both township and city, are demonstrating that they could care less what the people think, and that their ideas are all that matters.”

Visit lowellareatrailway.org for more information about the trail project.

Burns said he recently discovered in the city charter that selling the water treatment plant and wastewater plant would require a vote of the people. PFM Financial Advisors will still conduct the planned valuation of the facilities.

Lowell city council’s next regular meeting is scheduled to take place via Zoom at 7 pm on Monday, April 5. There will also be a “Coffee with the Council” at the Chamber of Commerce building on the Riverwalk from 8 until 10 am on Saturday, April 3.

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.

LOWELL LIGHT & POWER Job Posting

Journeyman Line Worker

Currently LL&P is seeking a full-time Journeyman Line Worker to be responsible for the operation, maintenance and construction of electric distribution, transmission, and associated equipment of the LL&P electric system. A detailed job description, minimum qualifications, and a job application can be found at <http://www.lowell-light.org>. Competitive benefits package includes: health, dental, life, STD and LTD insurance, a defined contribution retirement plan, a 457 deferred compensation plan, and six weeks of vacation earned within the first years of service. Starting wage is \$44.89 per hour. Within six (6) months of hire, there is a residency requirement within 30 minutes of the City limits and obtainment of a CDL Class B.

Apprentice Line Worker

Currently LL&P is seeking a full-time Apprentice Line Worker with a minimum of 3000 hours credit to be responsible for the operation, maintenance and construction of electric distribution, transmission, and associated equipment of the LL&P electric system. A job application can be found at <http://www.lowell-light.org>. Competitive benefits package includes: health, dental, life, STD and LTD insurance, a defined contribution retirement plan, a 457 deferred compensation plan, and six weeks of vacation earned within the first years of service. Starting wage depends on time credit. Must possess a CDL Class B.

Please submit resume, cover letter, and employment application no later than April 3, 2021 to: Lowell Light & Power; Human Resources; PO Box 229; Lowell, MI 49331 or via email to customerservice@lowell-light.org.



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MDNR RTP - MDNR	\$ -	\$ 300,000	\$ 300,000
MDOT TAP	\$ -	\$ 2,905,000	\$ 2,905,000
City of Lowell	\$ -	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000
Lowell DDA		\$ 300,000	\$ 300,000
Lowell Township	\$ 5,000	\$ -	\$ 5,000
Vergennes Township	\$ 5,000	\$ -	\$ 5,000
Lowell Community Foundation	\$ 275,000	\$ 275,000	\$ 550,000
Meijer Foundation	\$ 250,000	\$ 250,000	\$ 500,000
Private Donation	\$ 50,000	\$ -	\$ 50,000
Fundraising	\$ 80,000	\$ 435,000	\$ 515,000
	\$ 665,000	\$ 4,490,000	\$ 5,155,000
MDNR Trust Fund	\$ 300,000	\$ 300,000	\$ 600,000
	\$ 965,000	\$ 4,790,000	\$ 5,755,000

Proposed budget of the rail trail connection project.

the lowell ledger

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Top Home Improvements, continued

biggest thing that we teach here, because once you find that, you can do anything. The only way you can fail is if you fail yourself.”

The company performs exterior home improvement jobs all over West Michigan, including windows, doors, garage doors, roofing and siding. While they normally work on homes, they also recently put a new roof on Keiser’s Kitchen and plan to replace the windows in some of the historic buildings on Main Street. In the near future, they plan to either move from their current location to something more spacious or open a second location.

“We have over 60 reviews now, and every single one except three are five star,” Tidd said. “Of the three that aren’t, one is a four star and one is a three-star. I did deserve that. It was when COVID struck and my manufacturer couldn’t get us windows. There were no windows! We actually started up at the exact worst time. It was brutal. But we ended up getting the windows in. No matter what, we now have a five star policy. When we leave, we make sure that we’ve done everything correct for you, everything the right way, and you’re 100 percent happy. However, we’re not perfect, and we do make mistakes. When we do, we fix them.”

For more information about Top Home Improvements, call 616-808-1024, visit their website, tophomeimprove.com, or find them on social media.



A very busy office: Top Home Improvements employees Jay Armstrong, Talon Tidd and Makyla Martinez.



Mason Misiak, Lakota Tidd and Nate Bailey of Top Home Improvements.

Herbruck’s leadership given distinguished service award Award from MSU recognizes outstanding contributions to agriculture industry



Leaders of Herbruck’s Poultry Ranch today were honored with a Distinguished Service Award from the Michigan State University College of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

The award was given to Stephen Herbruck, Greg Herbruck, and Harry “Herb” Herbruck for their outstanding contributions to Michigan’s agriculture and natural resources industries.

“We are honored to receive the Distinguished Service Award today,” said Greg Herbruck, president. “We at Herbruck’s work hard to demonstrate our company’s core values, serving our employees and

our hens, as well as contributing to our local communities.”

“At Herbruck’s we are motivated by our responsibility to employees, customers and consumers, and aim to continuously innovate and reach a higher standard in our industry,” said Harry “Herb” Herbruck, director and executive vice president of operations. “It’s an honor to be recognized for our leadership in Michigan’s agriculture industry, and we will continue exemplifying the values this award represents.”

“We are humbled to receive the Distinguished Service Award from MSU and to be recognized for our contributions to agriculture and natural resources in

Michigan,” said Stephen Herbruck. “The agriculture industry has a profound impact on our local communities and economy, and we dedicate a lot of time and resources to making sure we’re caring for our communities, employees and hens because it’s the right thing to do.”

The College of Agriculture and Natural Resources honored 11 recipients of the award during a virtual ceremony Friday, March 12.

Herbruck’s Poultry Ranch is a fourth-generation family farm based in Saranac, Michigan. Herbruck’s is the largest egg producer in Michigan and has locations in Michigan, Indiana and Pennsylvania. For more information about Herbruck’s, visit: www.herbrucks.com.

Drivers should watch out for motorcycles

Motorcyclists by the thousands will be hitting the roads, ideally not literally.

Automobile drivers must do their part and “Look Twice to SAVE a Life: Motorcycles are Everywhere.” ABATE of Michigan urges drivers turning left not to attempt to judge the speed of oncoming motorcycles. Many car/motorcycle accidents occur in intersections.

Motorcyclists need to do their part and have a cycle endorsement added to their driver’s license. Due to COVID-19, motorcycle classes and skills testing were postponed in 2020. Classes for 2021 are filling up fast with class size limits and COVID-19 guidelines will be in place. Motorcycle basic public classes are only \$50.

Motorcycle license testing should be available from the Michigan Department of State. ABATE of Michigan urges all motorcyclists to be properly trained and endorsed. Unendorsed motorcyclists are 15 to 20 percent of the motorcyclist population, and in 2018 they accounted for over 50 percent of the fatalities.

As of July 1, 2020, Senate Bill 1 gave Michigan drivers a choice in auto insurance coverage levels.

“Auto drivers, bicyclists, pedestrians, snowmobilers and ATVers will all have a choice on their medical coverage, but motorcyclists hit by car drivers will be stuck with the car driver’s choice for medical coverage,” said ABATE legislative officer

Jim Rhoades.

Out of state motorcyclists will go to their choice in medical coverage. Only Michigan motorcyclists will be subject to the car driver’s choice for medical coverage. ABATE will continue to work with the Michigan legislature to correct this situation.

GRATTAN TOWNSHIP

**Regular Meeting 7:00 p.m.
Synopsis of Minutes
March 8, 2021**

Motions Approved

1. Public Hearing for 2021/22 Budget.
2. Resolution 2021-010 adopting General Appropriations Act
3. Ordinance 2021-001 to amend the Zoning Ordinance.

Our next Township Meeting will be **April 12 at 7 p.m.**

The approved minutes may be reviewed on our website at www.grattantownship.org

BOWNE TOWNSHIP NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Bowne Township Board will hold a public hearing on the proposed budget for fiscal year 2021-2022 at the Historic Township, 8240 Alden Nash Avenue SE, Alto, MI 49302 on Monday, March 29, 2021 at 7:00 P.M.

The property tax millage rate of 2.4145 proposed to be levied to support the proposed budget will be the subject of this hearing.

A copy of the proposed 2021-2022 budget will be available for public inspection during normal business hours at the township office Wednesday 9-12 & 1-3, Thursday 9-12 & 1-3, Township will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids to individuals with disabilities at the meeting upon 10 day notice to the Bowne Township Board.

Sandra L. Kowalczyk
Bowne Township Clerk

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The Sad Ballad of Jack Haggerty, a.k.a. Flat River Girl

by Tim McAllister
 lead reporter

Thanks to the pandemic, there isn't a heck of a lot going on to celebrate St. Patrick's Day this year. If one were Irish, they might be inspired to sing a sad ballad about the situation. Luckily, there exists a sad ballad about the Flat River that would be perfect to help you let those feelings out.

According to Johns Hopkins University's academic journal "Modern Language Notes," the author of the song, Dan McGinnis, and his friend Jack Haggerty worked together at a lumber camp along the Flat River in Greenville in the 1870s. Anna Tucker was "the belle of Greenville," whose fiancé, George Mercer, was made foreman of the camp, even though he was only 19 years old, much younger than any of the other workers. Jealous of Mercer's promotion over him, McGinnis wrote the song, using his friend Jack's name, in an attempt to make Mercer look bad. McGinnis didn't actually know either Tucker or Mercer personally, and Haggerty and Tucker never actually dated or had a relationship.

LOWELL, MICHIGAN, THURSDAY, JUNE 25, 1931

Remember When the Flat River Raftsmen Sang 'Jack Haggerty'?

Old-timers and present-timers will enjoy reading the following ballad of Jack Haggerty, old-time Flat river raftsman's song. Reference was made recently to this song in the "Remember When" department, and John Hastings, who had a copy in his possession kindly supplied same to the Ledger. The words fit well to a full, deep masculine voice and we can imagine how the rivermen of 50 years ago made the welkin ring with this ballad. We've got a pretty good notion that you will hear this old song when you come to the Centennial Homecoming August 6, 7, 8.

Sad Ballad of Jack Haggerty

My name is Jack Haggerty, from Greenville I come,
 All pleasures departed, from all joys I disdain;
 From the strong darts of Cupid, that gave me such grief,
 Till my heart breaks asunder I shall ne'er get relief.

My calling is rafting, where the Flat river rolls,
 My name is engraved on its rocks and sand shoals,
 Through shops, bars, and households it's very well known,
 They call me Jack Haggerty, the pride of the town.

I will tell you my troubles without more delay,
 How a sweet little lassie my heart stole away.
 She was a 'smith's daughter, on the Flat river side,
 And I always intended to make her my bride.

Her form like the dove was most slender and neat,
 And her hair hung in ringlets to her tiny white feet,
 Her voice was as clear as the nightingale's song,
 And it rang in my ears all the day and night long.

I dressed her in muslin, in silk, and in lace,
 In the costliest of jewels her hands I incased.
 I gave her my wages each month to keep safe,
 I begrudged her of nothing I had on the earth.

I took her to suppers, to parties, and balls,
 On Sunday boat riding was the first early call,
 She said that she loved me as we strolled through the town,
 Her words were sweet as music 'ere the rise of the morn.

I worked on the river, I earned quite a stake,
 I was steadfast and steady, I ne'er played the rake,
 I was buoyant and happy, on the boiling, white stream,
 My thoughts were of Anna—she haunted my dreams.

One day on the river a letter I received,
 She said from her promise herself would relieve,
 That the marriage to a loved one she had long time delayed,
 And the next time I saw her she would ne'er be a maid.

Her mother, Jane Tucker, was the one most to blame,
 She caused her to leave me, and blacken my name,
 She cast off the rigging that God would soon tie,
 And left me to wander, 'til the day that I die.

Farewell to Flat river, for me there's no rest,
 I'll shoulder my peevie and I will go west;
 I'll go to Montana, some comfort to find,
 And leave both Flat river and Anna behind.

Now all you bold raftsmen, kind-hearted and true,
 Don't rely on a woman—you're beat if you do;
 And if ever you meet one with brown chestnut curls,
 Just think of Jack Haggerty and the Flat river girl.

Lowell Ledger, Thursday, June 25, 1931, image courtesy KDL Englehardt Library.

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viewpoint

outdoors

steelhead fishing

Dave Stegehuis

Steelhead are big rainbow trout that spend most of their time in the Great Lakes. The Steelhead is a beautiful fish with silver sides and a pinkish stripe running down the middle. They are strong fighters and a real challenge to hook and land.

Come springtime the adult fish return to the rivers where they were born and complete the spawning process to produce the next generation. Some fish remain in the rivers year around, but in March, April, and May the home rivers draw a large

number of fish.

Steelhead as a species are struggling with food chain issues caused by invasive species. Consequently, fishing for them is highly regulated by restrictive limits, as well as when, where, and how fish may be taken. Anyone who plans to fish for steelhead must study current rules and regulations before casting a line.

Fishing for steelhead can be exciting as well as a reason to get out and enjoy the spring season in neat places where the fish

are found. I don't keep steelhead even when on water where it is legal in order to help sustain the resource. It is the experience that matters. Steelhead are difficult catch. I consider catching a steelhead on the level of bagging a turkey or deer. Others with more knowledge, skill, and perseverance will land more fish.

More people are discovering the value of getting outdoors and experiencing nature firsthand. Fishing for steelhead may be something to explore if one has never done it. You will encounter hard-core steelheaders on

the water. They will be outfitted to the nines from head to wading shoes, with fancy reels and rods, and various accessories. Don't be intimidated or embarrassed because we are all there for the same reasons, so join in on the adventure. Drift boats are common on larger streams and charter trips are available with experienced guides to provide equipment and advice for the novice.

Access the internet or partner with an experienced acquaintance to learn more about the opportunities to tangle with a great fish in great places. Good luck.

to the editor

To the Editor,

Thanks again for persevering. I think you should raise your rates. Another 'should' belongs to the recent article; "Lowell interest rates, high demand...". At the top of the piece could have been "Advertisement"; or, at the bottom, "Paid for by...". I suppose that was rather obvious.

Neither a journalist, realtor, or urban planner; I felt the piece lacked an attempt at some balanced perspective. Just one other noted source may have helped. Perhaps a mention of hidden costs would have sparked a "higher interest rate" by a more diverse, concerned public: those that pay.

West Michigan, recently notable Kalamazoo, the lakeshore, surrounding

counties, Ada, and our Lowell's "The Next Place to Be"; have all had their values touted in the suspect media. I support positivity. I remember Minneapolis/St. Paul/Madison once had, then lost, this similar distinction.

Much is lost when true value and costs are misplaced. Environmental quality (water, air, light, habitat, just open space), small businesses, taxation, variety, infrastructure, public services, security, fixed and low income housing, living wages and acceptance of diversity; all suffer. So much more to think about! I am grateful to this paper for helping.

Thank you
Gary Dietzel
Lowell



125 years ago Lowell Ledger March 20, 1896

An important decision was handed down in the Circuit Court today in the case of Thum Brothers against Appelonius Floczynski, which has been pending for some time. The plaintiffs are the inventors of a sticky fly paper, and have had a monopoly of the trade for many years, because of the sole knowledge of a secret formula in its preparation. The defendant was formerly employed by the company, and learned the secret of the trade. The company was offered large sums of money for their secret, and when they refused to part with it an opposition firm hired Floczynski away from them and soon began the manufacture of fly paper.

Mrs. John Keifer, the Fish Lake woman who grabbed her husband by the whiskers and tried to cut his throat while he lay in bed, escaped from her attendants at Decatur and tried to cut her own throat. She almost severed her windpipe and will die. Her husband's condition is improving.

Buck, a man who has claimed to be a divine healer and who has given exhibitions in various parts of the state, was arrested tonight in a complaint made by Samantha Forbush for assault and battery. She claims that when she went to him for divine treatment he hugged and kissed her and acted differently from what a divine representative should. He was taken to jail loudly complaining of the prosecution and threatening divine vengeance upon his tormentors.

100 years ago The Lowell Ledger March 24, 1921

An extensive campaign to make traffic on Kent county highways safe has been begun by the Kent county road commission. Several bad curves will be eliminated, dangerous railroad crossings and sharp "dead" corners will be straightened, shrubbery and other obstructions to view will be removed and the railroads will be called upon to install swinging alarm bells where they are considered particularly necessary.

The statement by a Michigan legislator that Detroit has as many murders as New York city with five times the population should satisfy the demand for conclusive evidence that Michigan laws favor criminals and foster crime. Michigan punishes murder with a few years imprisonment while New York has capital punishment, and makes a 5 to 1 better showing.

The quarantine was lifted at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Houghton Wednesday, after four weeks of scarlet fever and Mrs. Archie Ross and daughter Leona, returned to their own home at West Bowne.

75 years The Lowell Ledger March 21, 1946

Dr. J. A. MacDonell, who has been serving as lieutenant in the medical corps of the U. S. Navy for the past three years has received his honorable discharge from service and next week will resume the practice of medicine with Dr. B. H. Shepard. Dr. and Mrs. MacDonell and their daughter Mary Ann are spending this week with relatives at Mt. Pleasant and other points. Welcome home!

It was considered by the Board of Managers very impractical to attempt to hold a State Fair this year, realizing the inability to secure critical material and labor to replace the buildings that have been destroyed by fire and to repair the other buildings and grounds and although the Board of Managers was very much interested in having a fair this year, it felt that when one is held it should be the best State Fair "in the country."

Something new under the sun. The Lowell Creamery is putting out square-cornered milk bottles, their main advantage being that they take less space in the refrigerator. Funny that the idea was not thought of years ago.



We love to hear from you!

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

The requirements are:

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

HEALTH

M METRO HEALTH

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN HEALTH

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

ABCs of Lowell History

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

W is for Wright Cemetery

Sitting on a quiet hillside on the south side of Foreman Street between Cumberland and Alden Nash Avenue is the peaceful Wright Cemetery. Named for the family who settled on the land, this small cemetery is still open for burials today.

Joseph Wright brought his family to Michigan from New York in 1840, settling on Section four in Lowell Township. Joseph is included in the 'citizen sketches' in Chapman's 1881 History of Kent County. The Wrights were part of the Zion Methodist Episcopal (German) Church in Lowell and funeral services were held there.



Many Wrights and family members are buried here. Daughter Louisa married David Shear. David had served in Co. C of the 1st Michigan Engineers and Mechanics as an artificer. Both are buried here along with several children who died while young.

There are always stories that touch your heart. Wright Cemetery has many, including three-year-old

Guy Pant who died in 1890 of diphtheria. In 1903 the newspaper describes Jessie Coonrod's death. "It came as a thunderbolt from a clear sky last Monday evening. Full of life and glee, she was romping with some young friends when she suddenly sank to the floor and with a few gasps expired." Her death determined to be 'internal hemorrhage, due to rupture of a blood vessel of the heart from over exertion.

This small cemetery is the resting place for immigrants who began their journey through life an ocean away. Christian, Marianna and Andrew Althaus were born in Switzerland, along with Jacob, Frederick and Rosetta Althaus Fuss, and Maria Althaus Roth. Pier (Peter) and Pietje (Nellie) Fopma were both born in Huns, Littenseradiel Municipality, Friesland, Netherlands. Walter Skarpinski was born in Poland before coming to the United States.

Marianna and Christian Althaus homesteaded where the Flat River Outreach Ministries and Fountain View properties on Fulton Street are today. The ancient pine tree in front is the only

reminder of those days. They were the great-great grandparents of Museum Curator and Educator Luanne Kaeb and siblings, and Museum Volunteer and Board Member Dale Kropf and siblings. Others in Lowell who claim the same relationship have the last name of Wittenbach, Roth, Clemenz and Fuss.

Frederick and Rosetta Althaus Fuss were Dale and Luanne's great grandparents. They farmed and operated a Brown Swiss dairy across the road from Wright Cemetery at 11901 Foreman St. The original cement silo, milk house and barn still stand.

In addition to David Shear, some of the veterans buried here include: Ralph Carrier- Pvt US Army World War II, Nathan Carrier- SA US Navy, Walter Skarpinski - Army. In 2019 a much loved husband, father and soldier, Sgt Brandon Joseph Prysock was buried here. He had received the Army Commendation Medal and the Iraq Campaign Medal.

In 1990 vandals attacked the Wright Cemetery. Lowell Granite owner and craftsman

ABC's continued, page 12

- folliculitis

Folliculitis is a rash that occurs in hairy areas on the body. The hair follicle becomes inflamed, often due to a bacterial or fungal infection. The rash is typically itchy and can feel like it is burning as well. Often small pus-filled lesions are present, with a hair in the center of each lesion. Folliculitis has many causes, and some conditions (like diabetes) can make a person more likely to develop folliculitis.

Some types of folliculitis are bacterial and require antibiotic treatment. Other types of folliculitis are nonbacterial, occurring from friction and natural body oils. Ingrown

hairs also increase the risk of folliculitis. Depending on the location and type of folliculitis, the treatment may vary.

To prevent folliculitis, make sure the water in hot tubs and spas is treated appropriately, decrease skin friction from tight clothing, and if you have diabetes keep blood sugars under good control.

Folliculitis often looks like acne and heat rash. Evaluation by your primary care provider may be needed to determine the type of rash present and the most effective treatment option. Severe folliculitis infections can lead to permanent hair loss and scarring if left untreated.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Grace V.
 Wishing you a very
Happy 13th Birthday
 on **March 21**

Love, Mom, Dad, Cristian,
 Gabriel & Grandma

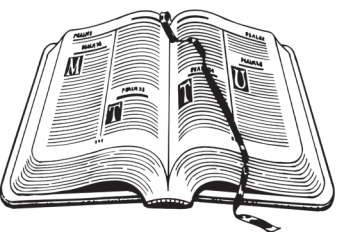
Happy 103rd Birthday

Marion Monks - Rutherford
 a life-long resident of Lowell and 1936 LHS graduate. Her birthday is **March 24.**

If you'd like to send her a card her address is:

425 Lafayette Street, Lowell, MI 49331

area churches



GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH
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Access Services at
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 Left hand side, click on Sermons, etc.

Joseph Fremer, Pastor **897-8307**
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 897-7060
 Pastor Ryan Landt
 1151 West Main Street, Lowell, MI

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

St. Mary Catholic Church
 402 Amity Street • 616-897-9820
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Weekend Masses: Sat 5 pm; Sun 10:30 am
 Confession: Saturdays 3-4:30 pm

Prayer & Adoration: Wednesdays 8 am to 7 pm
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Pastor Alyssa Anten
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FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF LOWELL
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 897-7168 • www.fbclowell.org
 Pastor Jon Pickens • Lead Pastor
 Pastor Andrew Bolkcom • 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

LOWELL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
 discover. grow. share
 621 E. Main Street
 897-5938
 www.lowellumc.com • Barrier Free Entrance

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

happy birthday

- | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| MARCH 17
Renee Barnes, Logan Landman, Zach Breimayer, Flora Jean Beachum. | MARCH 20
John Roudabush, Cody Moore, Denise Fyan. |
| MARCH 18
Bruce Phillips Jr., Chase Treglia, Jim Hacker. | MARCH 21
Terry Raymor, Ardis Barber, Molly Clark, Steve Kovacs, Grace Valle. |
| MARCH 19
Jeremy Barber, Terry B. Abel, Kimberly Dixon, Sean Ellison, Alberta Ryder. | MARCH 23
Brian Gabrion, Richard King, Brendan Lally, Caleb Koepfel. |

Today: Wednesday, March 17, 2021

Wednesday, March 17 is the 76th day of the year. It's also St. Patrick's Day. There are 289 days remaining until the end of 2021 and only three more days until spring.

Historic Events

45 BC: In his final victory at the Battle of Munda, Julius Caesar defeats the Pompeian forces of Titus Labienus and Pompey the Younger.

180: Following the death of his father, 18 year old Marcus Aurelius Commodus becomes emperor of the Roman Empire.

455: Upon becoming emperor of the Western Roman Empire, Petronius Maximus forces Licinia Eudoxia, the widow of his predecessor, to marry him.

1560: Fort Coligny, Villegagnon Island, Rio de Janeiro is attacked and destroyed by the Portuguese.

1776: After George Washington and Henry Knox place artillery in positions overlooking the city, the British Army evacuates Boston, ending the 11 month Siege of Boston, the initial phase of the Revolutionary War.

1780: George Washington grants the Continental Army a holiday "as an act of

board.

1921: The Second Polish Republic adopts the March Constitution.

1941: The National Gallery of Art in Washington, DC is officially opened by President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

1942: The first Jews from the Lvov Ghetto are gassed at the Belzec death camp in eastern Poland.

1945: The Ludendorff Bridge in Remagen, Germany, collapses ten days after its capture by the US Army, killing 28 Army engineers and injuring 63.

1947: First flight of the B-45 Tornado strategic bomber.

1948: Belgium, France, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom sign the Treaty of Brussels, a precursor to the North Atlantic Treaty that establishes NATO.

1950: Researchers at the University of California, Berkeley announce the creation of element 98, which

they name "californium."

1957: A plane crash in Cebu, Philippines kills Philippine President Ramon Magsaysay and 24 others.

1958: The United States launches Vanguard 1, the first solar-powered satellite and the first satellite to achieve a long-term orbit.

1960: President Dwight D. Eisenhower signs the National Security Council directive on the anti-Cuban covert action program. This will ultimately lead to the Bay of Pigs Invasion.

1963: Mount Agung on Bali erupts, killing more than 1,100 people.

1966: The DSV Alvin submarine finds a missing American hydrogen bomb in the Mediterranean off the coast of Spain.

1968: Over 6,000 sheep are found dead in Skull Valley, UT after nerve gas testing by the US Army Chemical Corps.

1969: Golda Meir becomes the first female Prime Minister of Israel.

1985: Serial killer Richard "the Night Stalker" Ramirez commits his first two murders.

1988: Avianca Flight 410, a Colombian Boeing 727 jetliner, crashes into a mountainside near the Venezuelan border, killing 143.

1992: A car bomb attack at the Israeli embassy in Buenos Aires kills 29 and injures 242.

1992: A referendum to end apartheid in South Africa passes, 68.7 percent to 31.2 percent.

2000: A fire kills 533 members of the "Movement for the Restoration of the Ten Commandments of God" cult, either a mass murder or a mass suicide orchestrated by cult leaders. Another 248 cult members are found dead elsewhere.

2003: Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth



March 17, 1973: The Pulitzer Prize-winning photograph "Burst of Joy" is taken by Sal Veder of the Associated Press. The photo depicts Lt. Col. Robert L. Stirm, a former prisoner of war, being reunited with his family. It came to symbolize the end of US involvement in the Vietnam War.



A creepy painting of "Pogo the Clown" by serial killer John Wayne Gacy, born March 17, 1942.

solidarity with the Irish in their fight for independence."

1805: The Italian Republic becomes the Kingdom of Italy and Napoleon Bonaparte the King of Italy.

1842: In Nauvoo, IL, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints forms its Relief Society, one of the oldest and largest women's organizations in the world.

1852: Annibale De Gasparis discovers the asteroid "Psyche" from the north dome of the Astronomical Observatory of Capodimonte in Naples, Italy.

1891: SS Utopia collides with HMS Anson in the Bay of Gibraltar and sinks, killing 562 of the 880 passengers on

Affairs Robin Cook resigns from the British Cabinet in disagreement with the government's plans for the 2003 invasion of Iraq.

Birthdays

1231: Emperor Shijō of Japan

1473: King James IV of Scotland

1777: Patrick Brontë, priest, author

1777: Roger B. Taney, chief justice of the US Supreme Court

1888: Paul Ramadier, prime minister of France

1902: Bobby Jones, golfer

1907: Jean Van Houtte, prime minister of Belgium

1907: Takeo Miki, prime minister of Japan

1919: Nat "King" Cole, singer, pianist

1920: Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, president of Bangladesh

1930: James Irwin, colonel, pilot, astronaut

1936: Ken Mattingly, admiral, pilot, astronaut

1938: Rudolf Nureyev,

dancer, choreographer

1938: Zola Taylor, singer, the Platters

1941: Paul Kantner, singer/songwriter, guitarist, Jefferson Airplane

1942: John Wayne Gacy, serial killer

1944: Pattie Boyd, model

1944: John Sebastian, singer/songwriter, guitarist, the Lovin' Spoonful

1945: Michael Hayden, CIA director

1949: Patrick Duffy, actor

1951: Scott Gorham, singer/songwriter, guitarist, Thin Lizzy

1951: Kurt Russell, actor

1954: Lesley-Anne Down, actor

1955: Gary Sinise, actor

1959: Paul Black, singer/songwriter, drummer, L.A. Guns

1960: Arye Gross, actor

1960: Vicki Lewis, actor

1961: Casey Siemaszko, actor

1962: Janet Gardner, singer, guitarist, Vixen

1964: Rob Lowe, actor

1967: Billy Corgan, singer/songwriter, guitarist, the Smashing Pumpkins

1969: Alexander McQueen, fashion designer

1970: Gene Ween, singer/songwriter, guitarist, Ween

1972: Melissa Auf der Maur, singer/songwriter, bass player, Hole

LOWELL LIGHT & POWER Job Posting

Communications Specialist/Office Assistant

Currently LL&P is seeking a full-time Communications Specialist/Office Assistant to assist customers with account information, various billing inquiries, concerns, payments and work orders. Prepare and maintain customer account information. Assist customers with establishing, transferring and disconnecting their electric service. Monitor and prepare materials for monthly collection processes. Participate in committee and team activities. Perform other duties or special projects as required or assigned. Develop and write communications materials for websites, newsletters, customer bill inserts, direct mail, email marketing and social media as required to communicate with employees, customers and local officials. Competitive benefits package includes: health, dental, life, STD and LTD insurance, a defined contribution retirement plan, a 457 deferred compensation plan, and six weeks of vacation earned within the first years of service.

Please submit resume, cover letter, and employment application no later than

March 26, 2021 to:

Lowell Light & Power; Human Resources;

PO Box 229; Lowell, MI 49331 or via email customerservice@lowell-light.org.



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Pandemic redefines public access to gov't meetings

by David A. Lieb
Associated Press

It wasn't long ago when a "public meeting" of the city council or state legislature meant the general public could show up to watch and, quite often, speak about proposals and perceived problems.

The coronavirus pandemic has put an end to that in many places, perhaps permanently altering the way the American public interacts with government.

A year after COVID-19 triggered government shutdowns and crowd limitations, more public bodies than ever are livestreaming their meetings for anyone to watch from a computer, television or smartphone. But in some cases, it's become harder for people to actually talk with their elected officials.

An Associated Press survey of state legislatures found that most no longer allow people inside their chambers to observe, and some still do not allow people to testify remotely at committee hearings where legislation is shaped. At some city council meetings convened remotely, the only avenue for public input is a written comment.

"In a way, this is kind of

helping move us toward a country where citizens can be more involved in their government through Zoom, and that's a good thing," said David Cuillier, an associate journalism professor at the University of Arizona who is president of the National Freedom of Information Coalition.

But overall, he said, the pandemic "has created more problems" for public oversight of government.

All 50 state legislatures already provided video or audio of their floor sessions before the pandemic. The Missouri and North Carolina senates currently are the only chambers offering just audio, which can make it difficult for listeners to recognize the speakers.

As a result of the pandemic, all legislative chambers now also provide live audio or video feeds of at least some committee hearings. A growing number are archiving those files for people to access on demand, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures.

But the AP survey found that 13 legislative chambers in eight states - Alabama, Arkansas, Iowa, Indiana,

Louisiana, Missouri, Nebraska and Ohio - still do not allow people outside the Capitol to testify remotely by phone or video during committee hearings. Most of those chambers let the public attend hearings in-person, but some people have been reluctant to do so because of COVID-19.

"I won't send any person into that Capitol right now, no matter how important the issue is. It's just not safe," said Jen Bersdale, executive director of the nonprofit advocacy group Missouri Health Care for All, which scrapped its in-person lobbying day at the Capitol.

Bersdale helped organize a letter from about three dozen organizations urging Missouri lawmakers to allow remote testimony at hearings and make themselves available for video or phone calls with people who do not want to enter the building.

The Republican-led Missouri Senate does not allow remote testimony. The GOP-led House adopted a rule this year leaving the decision to each committee. But approval must be granted at least one committee hearing in advance, which could be a



full week based on typical schedules. So far, only a few of the four dozen House committees have used the option.

Democratic state Rep. Tracy McCreery said she fears the lack of remote testimony is "shutting down public voices."

"It feels like it's just legislators and lobbyists, and I really miss just talking to Missourians that aren't getting paid to be in that building," McCreery said.

The Arizona House also leaves it up to committee chairs to decide whether to allow remote testimony. But anyone wanting remote access to hearings first must go to the Capitol to register.

Republican Rep. John Kavanaugh, chairman of the House Government and Elections Committee, initially refused to let the public testify remotely at his hearings because he feared getting overloaded with witnesses from other states. He later allowed it after he saw that virtual testimony worked fine in other committees.

But Kavanaugh remains concerned that interest groups could game the system by lining up scores of people to provide video testimony.

"The problem, of course, is not hearing what people have to say. It's getting a grossly distorted representation of people's views because certain organized groups totally dominate the input," Kavanaugh said.

When the coronavirus emerged last year, some local governments and court systems struggled with how to allow public access while still complying with orders that prohibited or significantly limited in-person gatherings. The result was that some initial actions were taken in secret.

Many courts have since expanded their use of virtual hearings, especially for pretrial motions and bail determinations. Inmates have appeared by video from jails and attorneys from their offices or homes.

The remote hearings have saved travel time for lawyers and jail staff.

"If tomorrow COVID were cured, would we still continue with virtual hearings? Well, probably, yeah," said Bill Raftery, a senior analyst at the National Center for State Courts.

Though some states already allowed officials to participate remotely in meetings, most states had to change or suspend their open-meeting requirements to accommodate coronavirus precautions.

Washington Gov. Jay Inslee, for example, prohibited in-person government meetings unless they limit capacity, keep attendees at least 6 feet apart and require masks. The Democratic governor's order also requires the public to be able to listen remotely by telephone.

Legislation by Rep. Gerry Pollet, a Democrat, would put the remote public-access provisions into state law, require more entities to post their meeting agendas online and require that the public be given a chance to comment at any regular meetings - remote or live - where final actions are taken.

"It's been very much of a surprise to people to learn [during the pandemic] that there is no right under the state open-meetings act for

the public to comment at public meetings," Pollet said.

The California city of Redlands, east of Los Angeles, used to allow people attending its meetings to publicly speak about issues. Since the pandemic, the council has held virtual meetings that are livestreamed on its website. The public can watch but can no longer speak. Instead, the city clerk reads aloud any written public comments received at least 24 hours in advance of a meeting. Late comments are added to a packet of materials for council members but not audibly shared.

The written-only format often has drawn more commenters than the in-person meetings did, said city clerk Jeanne Donaldson.

But Ross French's comment, which criticized the "temper tantrum" of a councilman, wasn't read aloud because he sent it several hours after the deadline. That left him disappointed. Tone, inflection and emotion often get lost when thoughts are not personally spoken, he said.

"When someone else is reading your copy," said French, a digital communications manager at a local university, "it's never going to be exactly how you intended it."

Happy St. Patrick's Day

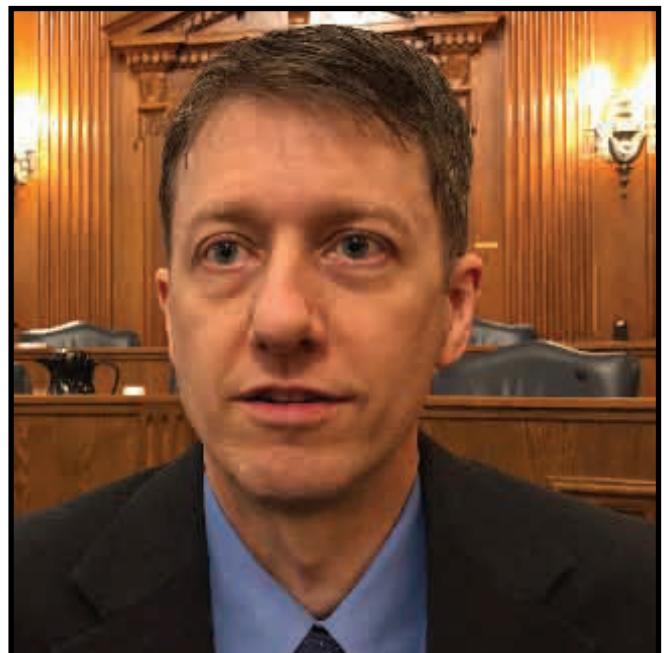
Carrie, Katie, Marlene, Lorie, Ed, Patty, Dr. Jim

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I owe a rockpit more than \$4 million because I said it was bad for the environment

by Maggy Hurchalla

I've been SLAPPED. Brutally.

I owe a rockpit \$4.4 million.

In 2008, Lake Point LLC got special permission to change a failed subdivision in western Martin County, Florida, into a rock-mining project. The company said it was designed to help save the Everglades, the Wild & Scenic Loxahatchee River and the St. Lucie Estuary. I questioned whether a rockpit could provide those benefits.

The 2008 recession made rock mining a losing business. In 2012, the owners proposed to join up with American Water Company to try to sell water to the city of West Palm Beach.

I, along with others, objected on the grounds that it's not legal to sell Florida water. I also asked lots of questions about how the promised benefits would be accomplished.

County staff reviewed the project and told Lake Point that it was in violation, because it was mining outside of agreed-on limits.

Lake Point then sued the South Florida Water Management District, Martin County - and me. It was a "strategic lawsuit against public participation" - SLAPP.

Criticizing the project cost me a lot of time and money. I still have large lawyer bills to pay. I feel like the kid who got my face rubbed in the mud by the playground bully.

That said, I'm not sorry I spent seven years defending the First Amendment against a vengeful billionaire. I am not crushed or intimidated. On Valentine's Day, a new friend and admirer of the First Amendment brought me a large box of chocolates. I decided that if I ate them all for breakfast Lake Point couldn't garnish them.

I had a legion of people, including family and friends and people I never met, rooting for me on behalf of the First Amendment. I had the best good-guy legal team you could imagine.

My homeowner's insurance company enthusiastically took on my defense.

George Lindemann Jr., one of Lake Point's principals, had unlimited resources and a civil court system that a retired judge told me was meant for corporations, not people.

Because of what I went through, I am worried about the First Amendment rights we all thought we had. I learned a lot about why we should not leave decisions about what's right when it comes to public-policy issues to a single judge and

jury. It started when I received a letter from Lindemann's lawyers telling me I must apologize for all the things I said in a public email I sent to the Martin County Commission in January 2013. I didn't because all the things I said were true.

The next month, Lake Point sued the county, the water managers and then me. I informed my insurance company, which directed me to let the law firm they hired direct my defense. I did. The firm did an excellent job.

Then, 17 months later, without notice, the company announced I did not have coverage and it would not allow me to hire the firm to continue to defend me. It took until 2016 to get the records they had.

We didn't get to trial until 2018 because dragging out the case is part of SLAPPs' punishment strategy.

The circuit judge had strong opinions about the case. Before it started, he told us the trial would not take long: "She interfered with a contract. The only issue should be how much the damages are."

Prior to the trial, the judge agreed to Lake Point's request to bar certain testimony. There could be no mention of the Lindemann family's vast wealth, or any mention of the fact that

Lindemann had served time in federal prison for having his show horse killed for the insurance money. That might prejudice the jury against Lake Point.

I was not allowed to say why I sent emails instead of appearing at meetings in Martin. My little brother and I were taking turns staying in Miami with my sister who had advanced Parkinson's disease. The judge said that might bias the jury in my favor.

The second day of the trial, the judge asked me and my lawyers to meet in his chambers. He told me that he knew I meant well, but I had gone too far. He said he had taken the liberty of drafting a letter of apology for me to sign. He said he was sure Lake Point would let me off if I apologized and agreed not to criticize the project in the future.

I told him the issue was a matter of principle with me. I knew I told the truth. I could not say I lied. We asked the judge to recuse himself from the case. He refused.

In another odd twist, I learned that trial lawyers don't have to tell the truth. They are not under oath and have something they call "litigation privilege."

The judge ruled that anyone who criticized a multimillion-dollar business had a duty to preserve all

correspondence from their very first comments. I freely admitted that, prior to the lawsuit, I regularly deleted emails so my mailbox would not get too full. The judge told the jury that they could make an "adverse inference." They could assume that I deleted incriminating emails and could use that as evidence in deciding if I was guilty.

Even with that stacked deck, I had faith in the jury. I had reputable expert witnesses to verify the truth of my statements.

Lake Point painted me as a person who pretended to be an environmentalist, but had decided to spend her life destroying Lindemann's company because she hated small businesses. It seemed ludicrous to suggest that while people I loved were dying, I was concentrating on a plot to destroy Lindemann.

There were some things I hadn't understood about juries.

Mark Twain once pointed out that the problem with the jury system was that only those who swore they knew nothing about community issues and had no opinions were allowed to serve on juries.

I found that jurors can get away with lying. We learned after the trial that the jury foreman had not included on his sworn jury form that he had been convicted in

the Florida Keys of spearing female lobster with eggs, which is illegal. Though I'm not a female lobster, that information would have been more than enough to dismiss him from the jury pool - first, for his lack of candor and, second, for clear bias against environmental laws.

The jury made no "finding of facts" on which it based its decision. It simply found me guilty of "tortious interference." They took just 45 minutes and obviously did not take time to read the emails and the evidence. They levied the exact amount of damages Lake Point asked for.

None of this should have happened, but when a deep-pocketed corporation SLAPPs an individual or a small business, such things are more likely.

A three-judge panel of the Fourth District Court of Appeal agreed with Lake Point's contention that I had waived my First Amendment rights. They agreed with all of the "facts of the case" that Lake Point supplied to them. They apparently did not review the evidence that

provided a very different set of facts. They refused to grant a new trial in spite of the trial judge's conduct or the juror's misconduct.

The panel said I said that the benefits of the project had not been documented. They said that was a lie because there were documents, even if they didn't prove the benefits. They also said that being "influential" or talking to officials who were your friends was evidence of actual malice.

The full court of the Fourth DCA, the Florida Supreme Court and the US Supreme Court all refused - without comment - to review the case.

I lost. Some awful new precedents have been set that can affect everyone on all sides of every public issue.

The First Amendment is not dead, but it's dangling. All of us need to work together to save it.

Maggy Hurchalla is an environmental activist in Martin County, FL and a former Martin County commissioner.



SUNSHINE MATTERS

A hike in taxes, but you didn't know.
Drilling on state land, but without public input.
Toxic water polluting the community, but with no warning to you.

Sunshine Act and Right-to-Know laws prevent scenarios such as these by guaranteeing your right to access government meetings and public records. These laws ensure government transparency and accountability, the cornerstone of democracy.

Our journalists fight for access to government activity to keep you informed, securing your vital role in public decision-making.

Newspapers provide sunshine in the darkness.

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
 LOWELL CHARTER
 TOWNSHIP
 PLANNING COMMISSION**

The Lowell Charter Township Planning Commission will hold a public hearing to amend Article 15 of the Lowell Charter Township Zoning Ordinance. The amendments would delete the existing language for the Commercial Planned Unit Development District in Article 15 and adopt new regulations for the I-96 Planned Unit Development (PUD) District as Chapter 15. The proposed I-96 PUD District would permit both commercial and industrial uses, with certain uses prohibited, and limit the commercial uses to 15 percent of the area proposed for I-96 PUD zoning.

The requirements allow the Township Board to approve modifications from the site development requirements for the zoning district in which the use or uses proposed are normally allowed. The proposed amendments also provide specific requirements for landscaping, building facades, sidewalks, performance standards for industrial uses, procedures for review and approval standards and other requirements.

The public is invited to attend this hearing which will be held as follows:

WHEN: MONDAY, APRIL 12, 2021
TIME: 7:00 P.M.
**WHERE: LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP HALL
 2910 ALDEN NASH AVENUE SE
 LOWELL, MI 49331**

The proposed amendments are available for review at the Lowell Charter Township offices, 2910 Alden Nash Avenue, SE, Lowell, Michigan, 49331 during normal office hours on Monday, Tuesday, & Thursday. Phone 616-897-7600.

The amendments may also be viewed on the Township web site at www.lowelltpw.org one week before the public hearing date.

Tim Clements, Secretary
 Lowell Charter Township
 Planning Commission

Red Arrow

- HOCKEY

SPORTS

Hockey team earns top seed

by Justin Scott
contributing reporter

This year, the region runs through Lowell-Caledonia. LC was given the top seed and a coveted pre-regional bye for this week's regional hockey tournament. The team enters regionals 9-7-1 on the heels of a 7-2 win over East Grand Rapids on senior day.

Other games last week included a 3-1 loss to Mona Shores and a heartbreaking 3-2 loss to Forest Hills Northern/Eastern which featured three goals in the last minute of play. Austin Douma and Dylan Olsen scored goals in the loss to FHNE. Assists were recorded by Nick Lockhart (2), Drew Klomprens, and Douma. Olsen's goal

came with 17.9 seconds left in regulation which gave LC a 2-1 lead. FHNE came right back and scored the game-tying goal with just 1.6 seconds remaining in the game to force overtime. There, FHNE would go on to win the game 20 seconds to in overtime. Lockhart also scored Lowell-Caledonia's lone goal against Mona Shores.

With the win over East Grand Rapids, and a tie between Mona Shores and FHNE, LC clinched the second spot in the Baum Division on points. Mona Shores won the conference with 27 points followed by Lowell-Caledonia, Forest Hills Northern/Eastern, East Grand Rapids, Forest Hills

Central, and Grand Rapids Christian.

Lowell-Caledonia plays next this Wednesday at 5:00 pm at Kentwood Ice Arena against the winner of Grand Rapids West Catholic and Jenison in the regional semifinal. A potential regional championship game will be played against Hudsonville, East Kentwood, Grandville, or West Ottawa.

Elsewhere in the area, Byron Center was ranked the top team in the state by Michigan High School Hockey Hub.



Russell Langenburg carries the puck up the ice for Lowell-Caledonia.

Woodsy owl poster contest winners

The National Garden Clubs, Inc. (NGC) and U.S. Department of

Agriculture Forest Service (USDA) are celebrating Woodsy Owl's 50th birthday in 2021. This iconic symbol highlights basic environmental conservation principles and is associated with such mottos as "Give a Hoot-Don't Pollute" as well as "Lend a Hand-Care for the Land." In commemoration of this special event, the NGC and USDA is sponsoring a nationwide

poster contest. Here in Michigan, the Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc. (MGC) and local clubs like Lowell Showboat Garden Club sponsored their own contest for grades 1 through 5. This year was a challenge because of the coronavirus and the interruptions in the students' schooling.

The Lowell Showboat Garden Club is pleased to announce the local winners of the poster contest. Grace Sweeney and Deidra Uzarski were the third and fourth grade winners,

respectively. Both will receive a certificate and a \$20 cash prize. Their entries were forwarded to the MGC and will be judged against other first place finishers from around the state.



Deidra Uzarski's poster submission.



Sweeney's poster submission.

Red Arrow

- WRESTLING

SPORTS

Wrestling team humming entering postseason competition

by Justin Scott
contributing reporter

Heading into districts this week, the Lowell wrestling team is primed for another state championship run. During the week, Lowell swept a quad beating East Kentwood 78-6, Grand Haven 64-12, and Allendale 57-18.

Over the weekend, Lowell defeated Division 1 neighbor Rockford by a score of 51-15. Christopher Rogers gave the Red Arrows a win by pinfall at 103. Ramsy Mutschler at 125 started off a string of five straight wins with a 39-second pin followed by wins from James Link, Zeth Strejc, Cole Huisman, and Tacho Gonzales. Jacob Lee, Derek Mohr, Carter Blough, and Keegan

Nugent all record victories in the heavier weights.

Over the weekend, Lowell defeated Edwardsburg 61-15. Will Link started off the dual with a bang and a potential individual state finals matchup against Jackson Hoover, ranked No. 3 in the state. Trailing 9-6 in the third period, Will was able to get a takedown, allow an escape, then another takedown to bring the match to overtime where he got yet another takedown to win the match. Gonzales, Carson Crace, Lee, Mohr, and Blough followed up with successive pinfalls to jumpstart Lowell to a 33-0 lead.

With the five wins last week, Lowell turns their attention to districts week. Lowell falls in Division 2

again this year, and will enter the tournament as the top-ranked team in the state. The Red Arrows' district is composed of Lowell, Ionia, and host Forest Hills Eastern. Ionia and FHE will face off in the semifinals, with Lowell receiving a bye. The district final match will take place Wednesday at 7:00 pm.

Ionia enters the district tournament coming off a 1-2 weekend with a win over Saranac, and losses to Plainwell and Hastings. FHE is a returning district champion, falling to Allendale in last season's regional semifinal round.

The individual district round starts this Saturday and will be hosted by Lowell. Teams in this year's individual district



Chris Rogers recorded a pin against Rockford.

are Forest Hills Eastern, Grand Rapids Northview, Wyoming Godwin Heights, Allegan, Byron Center, Hastings, Ionia, Middleville, and Wyoming Kelloggsville. East Grand Rapids, Thornapple Kellogg, Starting weight is 145. Grand Rapids Christian, Wayland, Wyoming,

- GYMNASTICS

Gymnastics records best conference finish

by Justin Scott
contributing report

An excellent performance by the Lowell gymnastics team gave the Red Arrows the highest finish in their history in the OK Rainbow conference. Lowell's second place finish with a score of 139.7 placed them behind state-power Rockford in the conference standings. Historically, Lowell has finished third in their conference on numerous occasions dating back to the program's start in the mid 1970's but passed Forest Hills this year in the league.

Marlie McDonald, Katy

Hock, and Marissa Wever earned All-Conference honors for the gymnastics team. Ivy McDonald also earned All-Conference Honorable Mention. Leaders for the team were Wever (2nd) and Alexis Clark (3rd) on the vault. Wever also took first on bars, McDonald finished third on the bars apparatus. McDonald placed third on beam and fourth on all-around. Wever placed fourth on floor, third in the all-around.

Lowell will turn their attention to the regional

tournament which is hosted by Rockford, where the MHSAA will also hold the state finals. There are four regions in gymnastics throughout the state. Lowell's region is composed of the Red Arrows, host Rockford, Calumet, Coldwater, Escanaba, Forest Hills, Kenowa Hills, Jackson, Marquette, Negaunee, and Parma Western.



The Lowell gymnastics team after the Conference Meet. Photo courtesy Lowell Gymnastics.

- GIRLS BASKETBALL

Lady Arrows give Maroon Giants tough test

by Justin Scott
contributing reporter

The Lowell girls basketball team faced two tough opponents last week before rebounding with a win over Zeeland East.

With a schedule already featuring the likes of Rockford and East Grand Rapids (No. 2 in the state), games against OK White leaders Byron Center (No. 19 in the state) and Kalamazoo Central (No. 10 in the state) wouldn't faze the lady Arrows who are playing without starter Summer Havey due to an injury.

The game against Kalamazoo Central was scheduled as a substitute for a game originally scheduled against Greenville due to COVID-19 related concerns within the Greenville program. The Maroon Giants, led by Miss Basketball candidate and University of North Carolina commit Morasha Wiggins, were too much for the Red Arrows despite a valiant effort. Lowell trailed by just five heading into halftime, with the final score being 62-55 in favor of Kalamazoo Central.

Against Zeeland East, Lowell pulled away from the Chix with a strong

fourth quarter after leading by just five heading in. Braxcynn Baker led the Red Arrows with 20 points. Baker was named Grand Rapids Player of the Week last week. Fellow freshmen Taryn Jackson followed up with 13, and Emma Bruwer finished with 10 points. Bruwer led the way with 19 points against Kalamazoo Central. Against Byron Center, Lowell lost by a score of 70-53.

This year's Lowell team is an extremely young varsity team, featuring several freshmen not only getting playing time, but starting as well along with two seniors. Baker, Jackson, Piper Risdon, and Bruwer are all freshmen who have gotten significant minutes for the Red Arrows. Lowell also has a number of sophomores contributing valuable minutes including varsity returners Havey and Lexi Howell.



Freshman Piper Risdon pushes the ball up the court.

The varsity boys basketball team fell to Forest Hills Central 73-55 last week.



obituaries

CHESEBRO

Edith E. Chesebro, age 90, of Ada, passed away Tuesday, March 9, 2021. She was preceded in death by her son, Donald Chesebro. Edith is survived by her husband of 68 years, Lawrence Chesebro; children, Sharon Grau, Darlene Horsley, Marlene Chesebro, Michael Chesebro, and Larry (Kristan) Chesebro; sister, Marie Kohlbeck; sister-in-law, Sally Gould; grandchildren, Terry (Staci) Chesebro, Kelly (Mark) Thelen, Rebecca (Mark) Nicholson, and Cyndi Nicholson; great grandchildren, Bradlee (Josh), Marcellus, Dylan, Sophia, Emma, Kiera, Andrew, and Samuel; great-great grandson, Sage; and several nieces and nephews. Edith grew up in Ada. She was a very active mother to her six children. Edith was always involved whether she was volunteering at the school or being a Den Mother for her son's scouts. She loved to travel; she visited Hawaii 5 times and was able to explore Florida and Australia. Edith will be remembered as a loving mother who enjoyed spending time with her family above all else. A Celebration of Life will take place at a later date. Memorial Contributions can be directed to a Charity of Choice in Edith's honor.



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CRAIG



Eugene Craig, age 93, of Alto, passed away Tuesday, March 9, 2021. He was preceded in death by his wife, Phyllis Craig. Eugene was survived by his children, Mark (Becky) Craig, and Deb (John) Stormzand; grandchildren,

Terri Cross, Stephanie (Steve) Owen, and Travis Craig; eight great grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews. He was a proud veteran of the United States Army and went on to become a member of the Alto American Legion. Eugene was self-employed for many years as a handy man and took on many construction jobs. He enjoyed spending his time hunting, fishing, and gardening. A Celebration of Life will be held at a later time. Memorial contributions can be directed to the Alto American Legion, 6052 Linfield Ave SE, Alto, MI 49302.



 ROTH
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GERST



David Gregory Gerst Sr., age 91 of Lowell, MI & Naples, FL., entered Eternal life Saturday, March 6, 2021. He was preceded in death by his wife, E. Joyce (2010); daughter, Pamela Ann (1977); and siblings. David is survived by his children, Susan (Peter) Rigas, David (Leslie) Gerst Jr., Mark (Michelle) Gerst; grandchildren, David (Angela) Rigas, Dr. David (Dr. Monica) Gerst III, Molly (Bryan) Anderson, Meghan (Garrett) Runion, Remington Gerst, Marc Gerst; Nick (Serena) Rigas, Katie (Matt) DeCamp, Susie Rigas, Paulina (Jesse Guevara-Lehker) Levy, Kevin (Kira) Tyler, Kelsey Tyler; 21 great-grandchildren; sister-in-law, Kay Hinkston; also, nieces and nephews. He was born in Traverse City, MI September 20, 1929. David served in the United States Marines during the Korean Conflict. He and wife Joyce started their family funeral businesses in 1969 by purchasing O'Brien-Gerst Funeral Home, in 1972 Roth-Gerst Funeral Home, and also, he and his sons acquired Eggebeen-Gerst Funeral Home in the early 80's. Dave loved and enjoyed the Great Lakes, Gulf of Mexico, boating, and living his retirement years in Naples, FL. that he fondly referred to as "Another day in paradise". He was a good, quiet, solid, caring man that will be missed. Dave's family would like to say a special thanks to Porter Hills, Senior Helpers, Green Acres, Amy R., and Emmanuel Hospice staff for the wonderful care given to our dad and grandpa. Visitation was held Wednesday, March 10, 2021 from 1-3pm at ROTH-GERST CHAPEL, 305 N. Hudson, Lowell, MI 49331, and 6-8pm at O'BRIEN-EGGEBEEN-GERST CHAPEL, 3980 Cascade Rd. SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49546. Mass of Christian Burial was held Thursday, March 11, 2021, 1pm at St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church, 2750 Burton St SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49546. Mass may be viewed at <https://youtu.be/dvg4TKk2htU> Interment Findlay Cemetery, Ada Twp. Memorial contributions may be made to Emmanuel Hospice, 401 Hall Street, Ste 263, Grand Rapids, MI 49503.



 O'BRIEN EGGEBEEN
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Looking Back, continued

50 years The Lowell Ledger March 25, 1971

It is hoped that on every street in Lowell, there may eventually be a haven for children needing a helping hand while on their way to and from school. This haven will be the home of a "Block Parent," identified by a card displayed in the front window, featuring an upturned hand and the words "Block Parent" in bright red on a white background.

In the interest of Ecology and the prevention of litter, some of the largest soft drink manufacturers in the state are raising their deposit charges on returnable bottles. The traditional deposit of two cents a bottle has been in existence for the last 60 years by most of the companies involved in the new charge. One company is raising the bottle deposit 50 percent to \$1.50 per case.

A computerized piano and organ teaching technique suggests a coming evolution in the instruction of instrumental music. It is being marketed by famed pianist and recording star Roger Williams, Humanics, Inc. and International Music Corporation here. The "electronic teacher" called the Decker Computer Console System, makes it possible to learn as much in 39 weeks with a half-hour practice session every day as a traditional student learns in three to five years, Williams says.

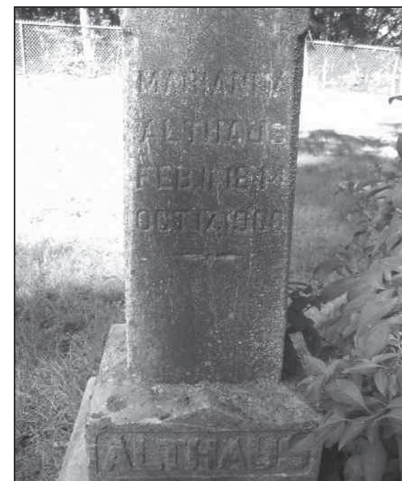
25 years The Lowell Ledger March 20, 1996

In an effort to recoup lost funds and to provide park space, Lowell Charter Township agreed to purchase two Tax Reverted Lands. "This is the first time we've done this," said township supervisor John Timpson. "I asked the DNR how to do it; they gave me the paperwork and now it's done."

William T. McMannis, vice president/general manager of Goodrich Quality Theaters, Inc., says Lowell 5 will have the look and comfort of the metropolitan theaters. "It will be equipped as well as the theaters in Chicago," McMannis said Friday, following the groundbreaking ceremony at the Lowell 5 site just west of Family Fare on M-21.

Lowell's Water Treatment Plant took a step toward modernization following the city's okay in the purchase of a personal computer, software, programming and hardware for its operation. Plant superintendent George Regan said the computer system will assist in automating the plant and high service pumps and provide remote control for the booster station.

ABCs, continued



John Wilterink spent several days working to repair the damage, re-leveling, resealing and setting up monuments.

History can be found all around us, not just inside books. A cemetery contains the stories of those who rest there. Even the smallest of cemeteries contain important stories.

Marianna Althaus stone at Wright Cemetery.

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misc.

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PRICELESS STORAGE - Indoor/outdoor. New Units on Alden Nash, 1 mile South of 196. Call for specials 558-2900.

HALL FOR RENT - Lowell Veteran's Center, 3116 Alden Nash. Newly remodeled, smoke-free, private, great location & great rate!

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

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NEED PERSON THAT KNOWS IMAC COMPUTER - Must be familiar with Microsoft Office and setup website. Reference needed. Call 897-0833.

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2020 WATER QUALITY REPORT FOR CITY OF LOWELL AND LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP

Is my water safe?

We are pleased to present this year's Annual Water Quality Report (Consumer Confidence Report) as required by the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). This report is designed to provide details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. This report is a snapshot of last year's water quality. We are committed to providing you with information because informed customers are our best allies.

Do I need to take special precautions?

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Water Drinking Hotline (800-426-4791).

Where does my water come from?

Your water comes from 4 groundwater wells, each over 87 feet in depth, and drawing from the Grand River watershed. They are located at 1596 Bowes Road in Lowell behind the water plant.

Source water assessment and its availability

The state performed an assessment of our source water in 2003 to determine the susceptibility or the relative potential of contamination. The susceptibility rating is on a seven-tiered scale from "very-low" to "very-high" based primarily on geologic sensitivity, water chemistry and contaminant sources. The susceptibility of our source is moderate.

Why are there contaminants in my drinking water?

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity:

microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, that may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife; inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial, or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming; pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses; organic Chemical Contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems; and radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

How can I get involved?

We invite public participation in decisions that affect drinking water quality. Lowell City Council meetings are held on the first and third Mondays of the month at 7:00pm in the Council Chambers at Lowell City Hall, 301 E. Main, Lowell, MI. Lowell Township meetings are held at 7:00pm on the first and third Mondays of each month at the Lowell Township hall, 2910 Alden Nash s.e. Lowell, MI. For more information about your water, or the contents of this report, contact Brian VanVeelen at 897-5234. For more information about safe drinking water, visit the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency at [WWW.epa.gov/safewater/](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/).

Monitoring and reporting of compliance data violations

City of Lowell and Lowell Township Water Department failed to conduct monitoring for disinfection byproducts on time. We are required to sample annually. Due to an oversight, The City of Lowell and Lowell Township Water Department took The samples late. Although the late sample was below the MCL we are uncertain whether or not there may be any adverse health risks associated with this violation. We are making every effort to assure this does not happen again.

Disinfection byproducts include trihalomethanes (THMs) and haloacetic acids (HAAs). Some people who drink water containing these byproducts in excess of the MCL over many years may experience problem with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous systems, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

Variance and Exemptions

The table below lists all the drinking water contaminants that we detected during

the 2020 calendar year. The presence of these contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done January 1 to December 31, 2020. The state allows us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year,

Additional Information for Lead

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. City of Lowell is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

Water Quality Data Table

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The table below lists all of the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the calendar year of this report. Although many more contaminants were tested, only those substances listed below were found in your water. All sources of drinking water contain some naturally occurring levels; these substances are generally not harmful in our drinking water. Removing all contaminants would be extremely expensive, and in most cases, would not provide increased protection of public health. A few naturally occurring minerals may actually improve the taste of drinking water and have nutritional value at low levels. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done in the calendar year of the report. The EPA or the State requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not vary significantly from year to year, or the system is not considered vulnerable to this type of contamination. As such, some of our data, though representative, may be more than one-year-old. In this table you will find terms and abbreviations that might not be familiar to you. To help you better understand these terms, we have provided the definitions below the table.

**Water Quality Report,
continued, page 15**

WATER QUALITY REPORT, CONTINUED

Contaminants	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL, TT, or MRDL	Your Water	Range		Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source
				Low	High			
Disinfectants & Disinfectant By-Products								
(There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants)								
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb) City of Lowell	NA	80	15.2	NA	15.2	2019	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb) Lowell Twp.	NA	80	16.6	NA	16.6	2019	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Haloacetic Acid (ppb) City of Lowell	NA	60	2.0	NA	2.0	2019	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Haloacetic Acid (ppb) Lowell Twp.	NA	60	1.67	NA	1.67	2019	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Chlorine (as Cl ₂) (ppm) City of Lowell	4	4	.428	0.15	0.65	2020	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Chlorine (as Cl ₂) (ppm) Lowell Twp.	4	4	.419	.32	.53	2020	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Inorganic Contaminants								
Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen] (ppm)	10	10	.977	0.864	1.09	2020	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	0.68	0.1	0.9	2020	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Sodium (optional) (ppm)		MPL	17.2	15.9	18.5	2020	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching
Microbiological Contaminants								
Total Coliform (positive samples/month)	0	0	0	NA	NA	2020	No	Naturally present in the environment
Fecal coliform/E. coli - in the distribution system (positive samples)	0	0	0	NA	NA	2020	No	Human and animal fecal waste
A violation occurs when a routine sample and a repeat sample, in any given month, are total coliform positive, and one is also fecal coliform or E. coli positive.								
Radioactive Contaminants								
Alpha Emitters (pCi/L)	0	15	2.7	NA	NA	2013	No	Erosion of natural deposits

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS)							
Regulated Contaminant	MCL, TT, or MRDL	MCLG or MRDLG	Level Detected	Range	Year Sampled	Violation Yes/No	Typical Source of Contaminant
Hexafluoropropylene oxide dimer acid (HFPO-DA) (ppt)	370	N/A	ND	ND	2020	No	Discharge and waste from industrial facilities utilizing the Gen X chemical process
Perfluorobutane sulfonic acid (PFBS) (ppt)	420	N/A	ND	ND	2020	No	Discharge and waste from industrial facilities; stain-resistant treatments
Perfluorohexane sulfonic acid (PFHxS) (ppt)	51	N/A	ND	ND	2020	No	Firefighting foam; discharge and waste from industrial facilities
Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFHxA) (ppt)	400,000	N/A	ND	ND	2020	No	Firefighting foam; discharge and waste from industrial facilities
Perfluorononanoic acid (PFNA) (ppt)	6	N/A	ND	ND	2020	No	Discharge and waste from industrial facilities; breakdown of precursor compounds
Perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS) (ppt)	16	N/A	ND	ND	2020	No	Firefighting foam; discharge from electroplating facilities; discharge and waste from industrial facilities
Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) (ppt)	8	N/A	ND	ND	2020	No	Discharge and waste from industrial facilities; stain-resistant treatments
Inorganic Contaminant Subject to Action Levels (AL)							
Lead - action level at consumer taps (ppb) City of Lowell	Action Level	MCLG	Your Water ¹	Range of Results	Year Sampled	Number of Samples Above AL	Typical Source of Contaminant
	15	0	1	<1.00 to 21.00	2019	1	Lead service lines, corrosion of household plumbing including fittings and fixtures; Erosion of natural deposits
Copper - action level at consumer taps City of Lowell Copper (ppm)	1.3	1.3	0	0.00170 to 0.0186	2019	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead - action level at consumer taps (ppb) Lowell Twp.	15	0	0	<1.00	2019	0	Lead service lines, corrosion of household plumbing including fittings and fixtures; Erosion of natural deposits
Copper - action level at consumer taps Lowell Twp. Copper (ppm)	1.3	1.3	0	0.00179 to 0.0115	2019	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

Ninety (90) percent of the samples collected were at or below the level reported for our water.

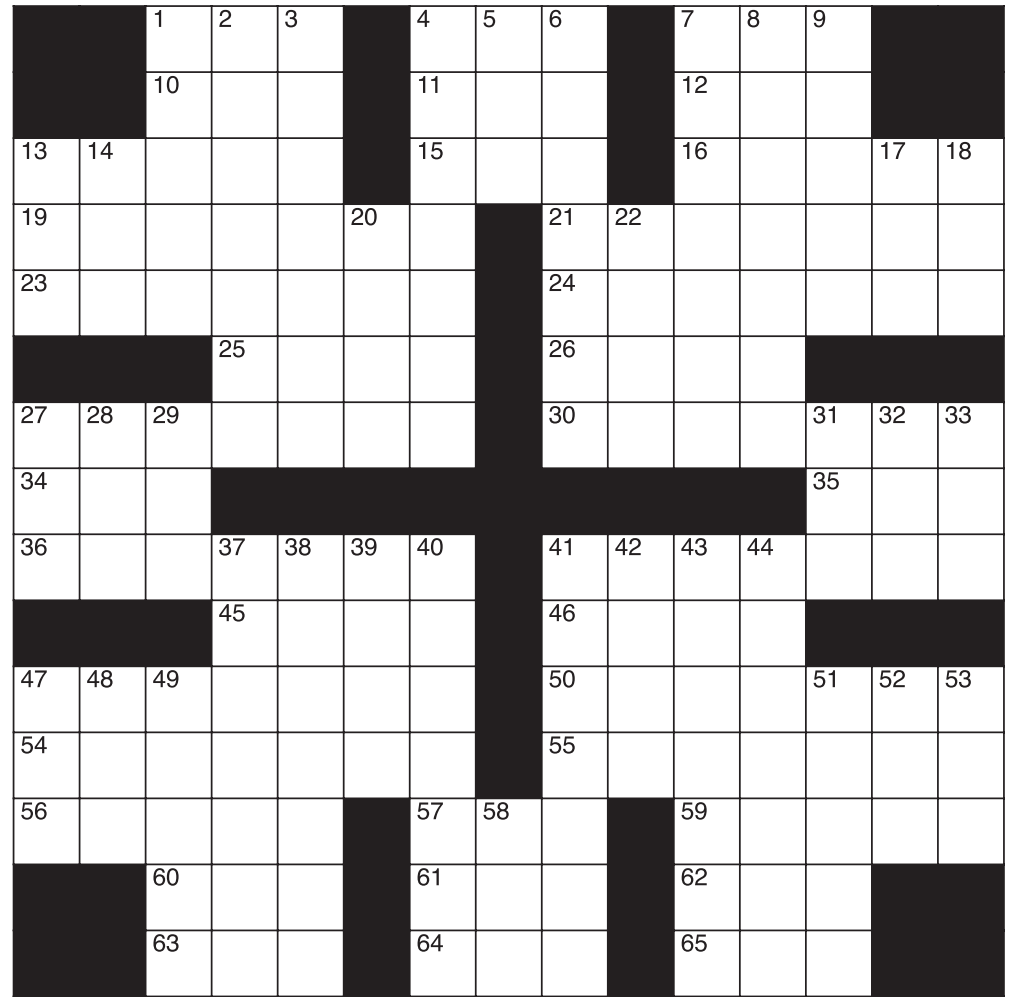
Unit Descriptions	
Term	Definition
ppm	ppm: parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)
ppb	ppb: parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/L)
positive samples/month	positive samples/month: Number of samples taken monthly that were found to be positive
positive samples	positive samples/yr: The number of positive samples taken that year
NA	NA: not applicable
ND	ND: Not detected
NR	NR: Monitoring not required, but recommended.

Important Drinking Water Definitions	
Term	Definition
MCLG	MCLG: Maximum Contaminant Level Goal: The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.
MCL	MCL: Maximum Contaminant Level: The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
TT	TT: Treatment Technique: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
AL	AL: Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
Variances and Exemptions	Variances and Exemptions: State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions.
MRDLG	MRDLG: Maximum residual disinfection level goal. The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.
MRDL	MRDL: Maximum residual disinfectant level. The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.
MNR	MNR: Monitored Not Regulated
MPL	MPL: State Assigned Maximum Permissible Level

For more information, please contact:

Water Plant Superintendent: Brian VanVeelen
Address: 1596 Bowes Rd. Lowell, MI 49331
Phone: (616) 897-5234
E-Mail: bvanveelen@ci.lowell.mi.us

FUN PAGE



CLUES ACROSS

1. ___ fi: popular genre
4. Curved shape
7. Defunct airline
10. Beverage receptacle
11. Corporate bigwig
12. Belong to he
13. They cover cuts
15. Cost per mille
16. Walk into
19. Power-producing machine
21. Part of one's character perceived by others
23. Emotionally appealed to
24. Protected
25. Wrestling icon Okerlund
26. Thailand's former name
27. Muscle weaknesses
30. Chooses
34. American film studio
35. Expression of satisfaction
36. Mythical winged horse
41. Ballplayers
45. Edible seaweed
46. Chinese politician
47. Tested for fertility
50. Glove worn with medieval armor
54. Basaltic lavas
55. Small shoaling fish

CLUES DOWN

56. Surrendered
57. Taxi
59. Potato part
60. Female sheep
61. Trouble or difficulty
62. Put into service
63. Soviet Socialist Republic
64. 17th letter of Greek alphabet
65. Type of student
13. Engine additive
14. A passage with access only at one end
17. Midway between northeast and east
18. Cool!
20. Brazilian NBAer
22. NW Pennsylvania city

27. Young dog
28. Mimic
29. Large truck
31. The NFL's Newton
32. One and only
33. Diego, Francisco, Anselmo
37. Julie __, actress
38. More nourishing
39. Compound
40. A small carrier attached to the side of a motorcycle
41. Object of fear or alarm
42. ___ Ladd, actor
43. Sacred place
44. A way to express enjoyment
47. Trigonometric function
48. A team's best pitcher
49. Intersecting points
51. Roundishly shaped
52. Adam's partner
53. God of battle (Scandinavian)
58. Human hormone

Guess Who?

I am an actress born in Georgia on February 23, 1994. I started my career in a national commercial for laundry detergent at age 5. I had my breakthrough role opposite Sean Penn. I was the youngest person to be nominated for a Screen Actors Guild Award.

Answer: Dakota Fanning

We keep springing ahead while debate around Daylight Saving Time continues

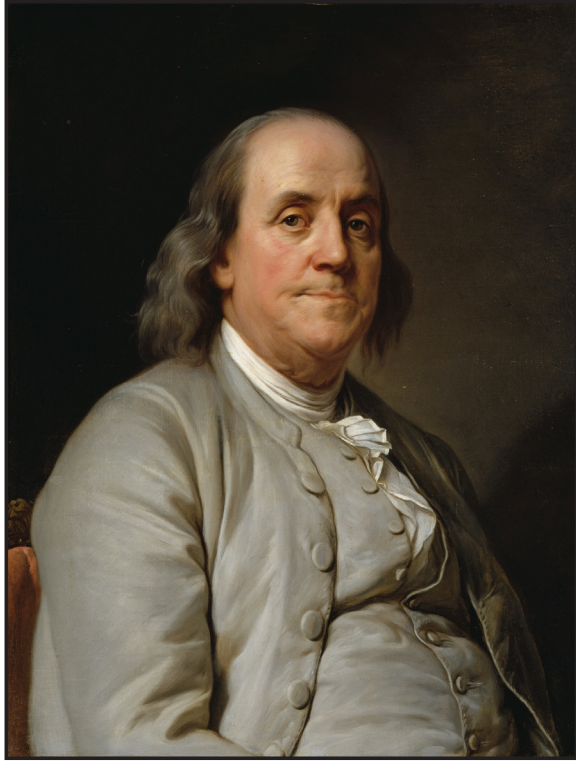
by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

Every spring we set the clocks an hour ahead, every fall we move the hands back an hour, and twice a year we have a big debate about why we still do it.

According to the Franklin Institute, Daylight Saving Time was invented by Benjamin Franklin when he lived in Paris. Franklin suggested it as a way for Parisians to save money on candles and lamp oil.

Modern use of Daylight Saving Time can primarily be credited to (or blamed on) two men: George Hudson, an entomologist and astronomer from Wellington, New Zealand, and William Willett, a builder from Surrey, England.

Wellington worked the day shift and wanted more time in the sunlight to collect insect specimens. Willett was an avid golfer who wanted more daylight hours for people to pursue recreational activities.



Benjamin Franklin, George Hudson and William Willett were the three main originators of Daylight Saving Time.

The first city to officially adopt Daylight Saving Time was Port Arthur, Ontario, in 1908. The first country to adopt it was Germany in 1916, part of their effort to conserve coal during World

War I. Soon after that, most other countries involved in the conflict began to use Daylight Saving Time.

The US first implemented daylight saving nationwide in 1918, as part of the Standard Time Act. After World War I, Congress

abolished Daylight Saving Time at the federal level after farmers lobbied hard against it. However, some states with large cities kept the practice.

During World War II, President Franklin D. Roosevelt enforced

“War Time,” the return of Daylight Saving Time, to standardize the country’s clocks for military purposes.

In 1966, Congress passed the Uniform Time Act mandating that states either adopt Daylight Saving Time or stick with standard time year ‘round.

Today, the US and more than 70 countries observe Daylight Saving Time, including the United Kingdom and most of Europe.

In the US, 15 states have enacted legislation ending their participation in Daylight Saving Time: California, Florida, Delaware, Louisiana, Maine, Oregon, Idaho, South Carolina, Tennessee,

Utah, Washington, Arkansas, Georgia, Ohio and Wyoming.

Furthermore, Arizona, Hawaii, Guam, American Samoa, Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands ignore Daylight Saving Time altogether and don’t do anything, remaining on standard time.

According to the US Department of Transportation website, “Daylight Saving Time is observed for several reasons. It saves energy.

During Daylight Saving Time, the sun sets one hour later in the evenings, so the need to use electricity for household lighting and appliances is reduced. People tend to spend more time outside in the evenings during Daylight Saving Time, which reduces the need to use electricity in the home. Also, because the sunrise is very early in the morning during the summer months, most people will awake after the sun has already risen, which means they turn on fewer lights in their homes. It saves lives and prevents traffic injuries. During Daylight Saving Time, more people travel to and from school and work and complete errands during the daylight. It reduces crime. During Daylight Saving Time, more people are out conducting their affairs during the daylight rather than at night, when more crime occurs.”

On the other hand, the website SaveStandardTime.com says, “data and history show that geographically appropriate, permanent standard time is the best civil clock for health, safety, education, productivity, wages, environment and civil liberty.”

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION

The Lowell Charter Township Planning Commission will hold a public hearing to consider the re-adoption of the Township Zoning Ordinance which has been re-formatted to make the Ordinance easier to read and utilize in both electronic and printed form. Minor changes have been made to add illustrations, change the term “article” to “chapter”, add color headings and footers, correct spelling and numbering errors and re-format the Table of District Regulations for easier reading.

Several substantive amendments were made including adding a definition of Building Height, reducing the required front setback for Agricultural Service Establishments from 60 feet to 50 feet and adding language to require that the Township Board hold a public hearing for all Planned Unit Development rezoning requests in accordance with Michigan zoning law. The adoption of this re-formatted Ordinance is necessary to ensure that it will be considered the official Zoning Ordinance of Lowell Charter Township.

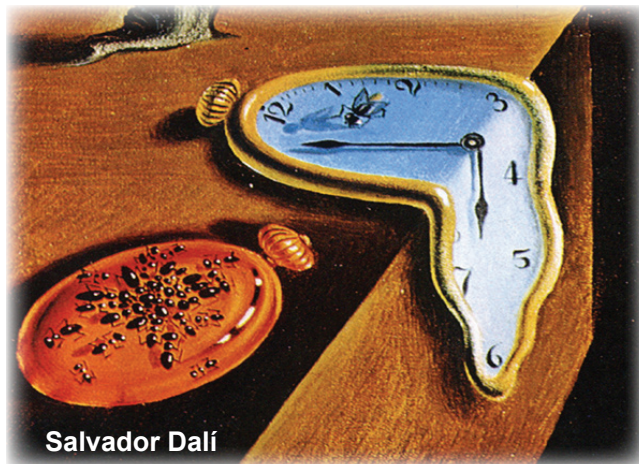
The public is invited to attend this hearing which will be held as follows:

WHEN: MONDAY, APRIL 12, 2021
TIME: 7:00 P.M.
WHERE: LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP HALL
2910 ALDEN NASH AVENUE SE
LOWELL, MI 49331

The proposed amendments are available for review at the Lowell Charter Township offices, 2910 Alden Nash Avenue, SE, Lowell, Michigan, 49331 during normal office hours on Monday, Tuesday, & Thursday. Phone 616-897-7600.

The amendments may also be viewed on the Township web site at www.lowelltpw.org one week before the public hearing date.

Tim Clements, Secretary
Lowell Charter Township
Planning Commission



Salvador Dalí



**Faxing, Scanning, Copies, UPS Shipping,
Printing, Yard Signs & Much More!**

Buyer's
Guide and News

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105 N. Broadway, Lowell • 897-9261
Hours: Mon. - Thurs. 8-5 pm • Fri. 8-noon