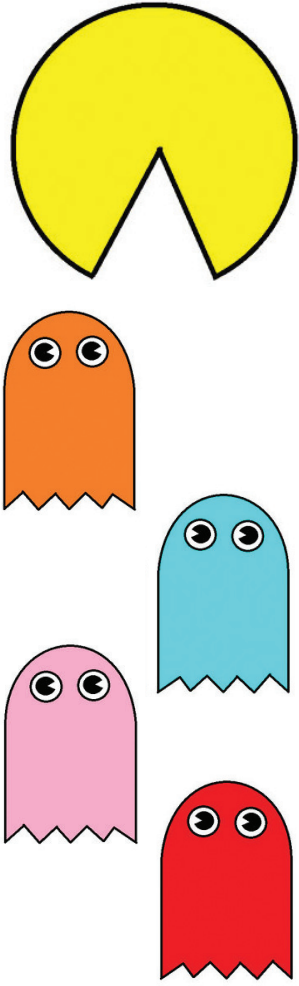


Vintage arcade coming to Lowell



page 3

Letter from LPD chief Chris Hurst



page 2



LHS sports page 8

50¢



LHS Links class re-opens 'spirit store' to create job training opportunities for special education students

by Bill Lee
contributing reporter

Two and a half years ago, Olivia Johnson, special education teacher at Lowell High School, had an idea. The program she had was already successful. Her special education students were working at different job sites in the community and gaining important experience and creating social connections that would help them in the future. But something was missing.

"We felt like we needed to hone in on skills in a direct setting where they could apply the skills," said Johnson, now in her sixth year at the high school. "Before the students go into the community to work, we wanted to prepare them and felt like just lecturing them every day at school wasn't really having much of an impact."

Enter the Links program at the Lowell High School store. The store, at the time,



Molly Wade, Melanie Wade, Hayden Videan and Connor Fitzpatrick working in the school store.

was vacant and is one of the first things students and teachers see when they walk through the front doors. Johnson and other teachers thought it would be great

to revive the store and have some of her students, along with students from the general education program, run the store together. The students sell food, drinks,

Red Arrow apparel, among other items for the school community. "Opening the school spirit store up again has brought some great pride to

the building," said Johnson. "Seeing my students in the store getting excited about

LHS Links, continued, page 7

Gena Granholm and Soldiers' Angels make holidays brighter for troops

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

Area resident Gena Granholm is a volunteer for Soldiers' Angels, a San Antonio-based non-profit organization dedicated to providing "comfort and resources" to military veterans and their families. Their motto is, "May no soldier go unloved, may no soldier walk alone, may no soldier be forgotten, until they all come home."

"I have belonged to Soldiers' Angels for five years now," Granholm said. "We filled and sent Christmas stockings to the troops. They've got pledges for 63,535 stockings this year. It's just a really good organization. As a matter of fact, one of the ladies at the end of it asked if she could join and I said, 'Yes, they take all people to help them!' You know, it doesn't take much to write a letter or to just send a card, and that can brighten up a service

person's face."

Granholm discovered the organization through a magazine article.

"I was reading Women's World magazine, and in the beginning of one issue, it had an article about honoring your heroes, and they wrote in there about Soldiers' Angels," Granholm said. "I checked it out and I've been writing letters ever since. The lady who started this [Patti Patton-Bader] used to send letters and packages to her son [Staff Sgt. Brandon Varn] over in Iraq, and he said, 'You know, I'm one of the very few that get packages here.' So she went out and she got neighbors and family members and they ended up sending packages to everyone in that troop until they came home. And that's how she started it. Then she started getting other people involved and it's now up to 24 countries. I've actually gotten a couple

awards for my writing, because if you get certain amount in a year, they'll send you a letter from the president of the United States."

She was inspired to this mission as a way to honor her husband and some close family members who were military veterans.

"I do this to honor my husband Allen Granholm, who was a disabled Vietnam vet," Granholm said. "My brother-in-law was in the Army and three of my uncles were in the service, one was a Marine, one was in the Navy and one was in the Army and was killed in action."

Granholm emphasized that it's important to honor and assist soldiers year-round, not just during the holidays.

"I do things for the troops all year long," Granholm said. "I write letters to service persons, I've written



letters to the hospitals in Germany and I have worked on honor flights. We get cards for people that are going on the honor flights so that everybody has the same amount of mail in their mail call when they come back from Washington, DC. I did two honor flights, I think the first one we had 110 and on the next one had 185 letters from all over the United States, and we put them in there. They actually sent me a thank you letter, and they cut out a star that was over the capital. This year, two other ladies from our church and myself adopted a family for Christmas. We have a young Marine who was six years in the service and he's

now working at the Veteran's Hospital in San Francisco. He has legal custody of a 17 and a 15-year-old, and then the three-year-old comes over on weekends. Their mother died in a car accident and their father is out of the picture. We have to get each one of them a present and send money for their dinner. And you don't have to send anything to the parents, but we're going to send something. I bought Christmas stockings, and we're gonna fill the stockings so that everybody has a stocking for Christmas."

For more information, to volunteer or to donate, visit soldiersangels.org.

Blood drive at Lowell YMCA on Dec. 28

The Versiti Blood bus will be at the Lowell YMCA, 1335 W. Main, from 8 am until 1 pm on Tuesday, Dec. 28 for a blood donation drive.

Each donor will get a \$10 e-gift card, and donating will also enter you in a drawing for an SUV.

Donating blood is essential and saves lives, and 33 percent of all donated blood goes to cancer patients. If you're nervous or uncomfortable about getting stuck with a needle, bring a friend or a good book along, and be sure to eat a healthy meal and drink plenty of water before donating.

For more information or to make an appointment, call 616-774-2300 or visit https://donate.michigan.versiti.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/143799.

Letter from LPD chief Christopher Hurst

Dear Lowell Area Community,

On December 8th, the Lowell Police Department and Superintendent Nate Fowler participated in an area-wide meeting with local school officials, local police chiefs, Sheriff Jennifer LaJoye-Young, and Kent County Prosecutor, Chris Becker. The meeting was an open forum to discuss threats against schools, law enforcement response and recourses, and school action plans. The following is a result of that meeting:

School and law enforcement leaders from across Kent County continue to work together in our shared responsibility to keep all children, students, educators and the community safe.

In the wake of the recent tragedy at the Oxford Community Schools, we want to assure you that we take this responsibility

very seriously. This is why our organizations are in frequent communication and have long-standing partnerships.

There has been an increase in threats directed at schools across the state. Because we take each and every threat seriously, we are asking for your help to educate your children and the broader community about the seriousness of making threats. Making threats is a crime and schools, law enforcement and the Kent County Prosecutor will work together to hold individuals who make threats to schools responsible for their actions.

The best way to keep our community safe is by reporting threats as soon as they are made. If you see something, say something. Please report all threats immediately to law enforcement and school officials. We



Chief Hurst

encourage individuals to use anonymous tip lines through Silent Observer at 616-714-2345.

We also encourage those with young people in their lives to monitor their mental wellness and be aware of signs of depression or distress during this difficult time. If a young person in your life needs help, please contact the Kent County Crisis Services line at 616-336-3909 to be referred to additional local resources and services.

Our children deserve a learning environment free from worry about senseless acts of violence. With your help, we can work together to keep our communities and schools safe.

Christopher Hurst
Chief of Police
Lowell Police Department

Gena Granholm and Soldiers' Angels Story on front page



Gena Granholm recently gave a talk about Soldiers' Angels and all the different things they do to help military families. Back row: Gena Granholm, Sandra Birmingham, Addysen Raden, Keira Birmingham, Katie Scarlell and Analise Ebaugh. Front row: Adelaide Buckingham, Tiffany Eagles, Emma Baker, Olivia Foley, Hannah Eagles, Mary Green Ebaugh, Genevieve Ebaugh and Ainslee Buckingham. [photo provided by Gena Granholm]

LHS theater department to present "Who Will Be the Next North Pole Star?" Dec. 16 and 18

by Gabi Yeary
contributing reporter

With only a few more days until Christmas, the annual Lowell High School Holiday Play is right around the corner and the students of the LHS Theater Department couldn't be more exhilarated!

Directed by Laurie Summerfield, the students will be presenting *Who Will Be the Next North Pole Star?* by Alexi Alfieri. The play follows Jack Frost, played by sophomore Victor Preiss, as he holds auditions at the North pole. It involves many fun and assorted acts such as elves that can bake, dancing reindeers and a

performance from Lowell's very own youth.

This year, the show will present some pre-show entertainment. From creating paper snowflakes, a bake sale, face-painting and a photo booth, parents will have more than enough activities to bring their family some holiday joy.

"Students put a lot of work into this production to make it special to us and to the audience, and I truly believe it is a great outlet for students to show off what they feel proud of," says freshman Jillian Fabis who plays the youngest of the North Pole bakers—Babycakes. And right she is, with only 13 rehearsals, the students of Lowell High School have put in the time and effort and managed to create a beautiful ensemble of holiday festivities for the community to enjoy.

In addition to the cast, Summerfield's Theater Tech class has been just as hard at

work. The class works on all the backstage management, such as lighting, set designs and all the magic behind the stage.

"Theater Tech helps me, along with many others, learn the ropes of the creativity that happens behind the scenes of every production," Brandon Hofmann, who plays the dancing reindeer Vixen and is enrolled in the class, states.

Who Will Be the Next North Pole Star? is a fun and creative show that gets everyone in the perfect mood for the holiday season. With so many exciting activities beforehand and an even more spirited show, you're bound to fall in love with every aspect of it.

It opens on Thursday, December 16 at 7 pm, with shows Friday, December 17 at 7 pm and Saturday, December 18 at 10:30 am. Tickets are \$5 and can be purchased at the door.



Family Dentistry Since 1994

- ▶▶ Gentle Dentistry for Children & Adults
- ▶▶ Immediate Emergency Treatment
- ▶▶ Cosmetic Dentistry, Teeth Whitening
- ▶▶ Preventive Care
- ▶▶ Extractions/Broken Tooth Repaired
- ▶▶ Dentures (Same Day Repair)
- ▶▶ Implants
- ▶▶ Insurance Plans Accepted



"Gentle & Painless Dentistry Is Our Goal"

Hours:
Monday.....9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Tuesday.....9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Wednesday.....9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Thursday.....8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Judd T. Carroll D.M.D.
103 East Main • Lowell, Michigan
(616) 897-7595
www.juddcarrolldentistry.com

the lowell ledger

(USPS 453-830)

Published weekly for \$25 a year for zipcodes beginning with 493 or 495; \$36 a year any other zip code.

Deadline for display advertising is Friday at Noon
Deadline for classified advertising is Monday at 5 pm

Jon Jacobs Publisher/Editor
Tim McAllister Reporter/Editor
Tammy Janowiak Classified/Accounting/Sales
Jon Jacobs Advertising Sales

(616) 897-9261

email: ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com

Second Class Postage Paid at Lowell, MI

Published every Wednesday

POSTMASTER: Send address change to:

The Lowell Ledger

PO Box 128 • Lowell, MI 49331

www.thelowellledger.com

THIS AD FOR SALE!

More than 50% of adults have a positive perception of ads in print newspapers.*

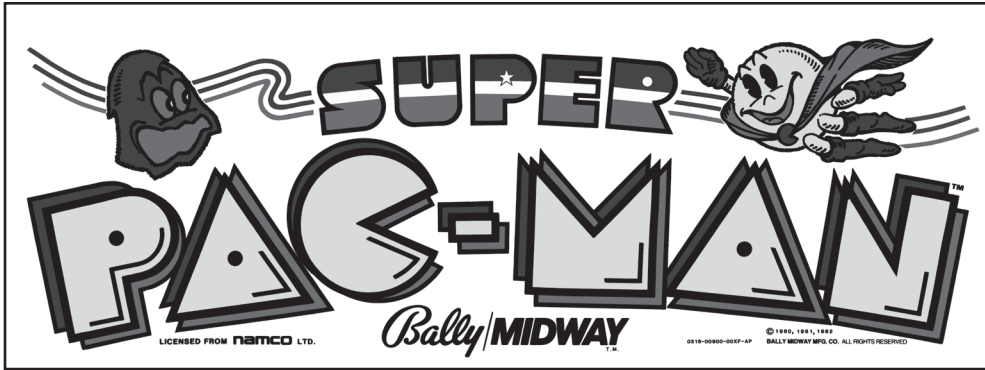
Want to be next to trusted content? Place your ad in this newspaper and a network of newspapers in the state!

Call this paper or 800-227-7636

www.cnaads.com *Kantar Millward Brown, Feb. 2018



Retro Electric Arcade to bring vintage gaming to Lowell



by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

The exact opening date has not been determined yet, but Lowell will soon be the home of a fun new business, the Retro Electric Arcade, coming soon to 2163 W. Main.

It will be both a retail store and an arcade, with vintage games to play and vintage goodies to look at or purchase. Sort

arcade games from the 80s and 90s like Donkey Kong, Pac Man, Galaga and Centipede. We also have a mix of classic pinball like Pinbot and Blackout as well as some of the newer Stern and Jersey Jack games like Avengers: Infinity Quest and Guns N' Roses. And games will always be rotating so we'll have new arcade and pinball machines coming in regularly. Most of our games

We're looking forward to sharing our collection of games and collectibles with the community. Our store will have all sorts of unique items for sale that have taken us a long time to collect. We will have fun candy and sodas that you can enjoy while you shop or play, and we can't wait to see friends and families enjoying time together playing our games."

The Crocker family – Carl



The front door of Retro Electric Arcade. "We do not know our opening date yet. We are working hard to get open as soon as possible," said the co-owner Nicole Crocker.



of like a museum, except you'll be able to play with and purchase some of the exhibits.

"Since we're both a retail store and an arcade, we wanted an open space where we could display our collection of 80s and 90s collectibles we'll have for sale, the new pop culture toys we have and, of course, all of our classic arcade games and pinball machines, some of which will also be for sale from time to time," said owner Nicole Crocker. "We have a mix of classic

are 30-40 years old and they use old technology with tube TV monitors, so they require a lot of maintenance. Our biggest challenge will be just keeping the collection of games up and running so that everyone can enjoy them. We're an admission arcade, also called a "free-play" arcade. This means that customers pay a flat admission fee to the arcade area. All of the games are set on "free-play," so you can play as much as you want - no quarters or tokens needed.

and Nicole, plus kids Jax and Lily – have lived in Lowell for about 12 years. Nicole has worked in graphic design and photography and is the owner of Buddy and Bean Flower Farm. Carl worked in the wine industry for 20 years before the couple started the Retro Electric Arcade.

"More information will be on our website, retroelectricarcade.com, as well as our Facebook and Instagram pages," Crocker said.



DON'T WAIT UNTIL IT HURTS!

There is nothing to be afraid of at Family Dentistry of Lowell.

With our comfortable office and caring staff, your visit is a pleasure not a pain.

Dr. Jennifer Byrd & Dr. Lindsay Isenhardt
147 North Center Street, Lowell
616-897-4835
Familydentistryoflowell.com

7 AM AND FRIDAY APPOINTMENTS AVAILABLE



LOWELL AREA COMMUNITY FUND ACCEPTS GRANT PROPOSALS

To be considered, all proposals must be submitted online by January 7, 2022.

Visit www.grfoundation.org/lowell to submit your application.

The Lowell Area Community Fund, a fund of the Grand Rapids Community Foundation, awards grants to tax-exempt, nonprofit charitable organizations that have an impact in the Lowell Area. The LACF funds innovative projects or programs that encourage community cooperation.

Reading is a lost art among lawmakers

by Fred Jacobs, CEO
J-Ad Graphics, Inc.

Maybe it's time candidates pass a literacy test before taking public office.

Most of us are likely under the assumption that legislators or someone in their office, at least, reads proposed bills and understands them before a vote is taken. In reality, though, most legislators don't even read the bills, claiming there's just not enough time. So they rely on staff, special interest groups or their own political party experts to educate them and to ultimately influence how they vote.

It's the new, corrosive politics in America. And it's yet another example of how the voice of the common people is being silenced by the prosperous and the powerful.

Under the U.S. Constitution and that of the State of Michigan, every bill must be publicly read three times in the Legislature before it may be passed. Because many bills

can consist of thousands of pages, the courts have held that reading the bill's title, not the entire document, can satisfy this requirement. Nowhere in the federal or state constitution or in related documents does it explicitly mention, though, that reading and understanding the legislation is necessary to the lawmaking process.

That's why there have been calls that legislators be required to read a bill before they vote even though some feel that adding a "read-the-bill" requirement could in fact lead to poorer quality legislation. The late U.S. Representative from Detroit, John Conyers, was famous for saying, "What good is reading the bill if it's a thousand pages and you don't have two days and two lawyers to find out what it means after you read the bill?"

I understand that frustration, but I also feel that stacking so much

into these bills is nothing more than an excuse for politicians and their backers to rush the process and bury items in a bill that, once passed, will satisfy their own agendas.

Sen. John Kennedy (R-La.) read enough of the recently-approved infrastructure bill to vote against it became he maintained that it will "cost taxpayers \$1.2 trillion, \$550 billion in new spending. This is not an infrastructure bill when only 23 percent of the new spending in the bill is for actual infrastructure."

Kennedy was lucky he could even find those details given, as he said, that "the bill is 2,700 pages, twice as long as the Bible, and we were only given a few days to read it."

But that's what happens when Congressional leaders push through massive legislation with little or no oversight. Special interest groups and legislators looking for payoffs to

their states or donors push these bills through Congress with little or no real understanding of their consequences.

No longer do we see the long debates on the merits of major legislation in open session where the public and reporters can follow the debates to vet the bills. To protect our democracy and take petty politics out of the system taxpayers should demand that before a bill goes up for final passage that every legislator sign an official document stating that he or she has read the bill in its entirety before the final vote. That would slow down the process and possibly reduce the 'add-ons' to bills that most times have nothing to do with the original legislation but are mere payoffs to other legislators to get their support for a bill.

We've experienced some of the same issues here in Michigan where, for nearly a decade, legislators tried to reform the no-fault auto insurance law. Every year the attempt failed, with little hope for a fix that would reduce auto insurance rates while still giving a high level of coverage to accident victims.

"It failed in a really kind of embarrassing fashion to the insurance industry," says personal injury attorney Steve Sinas of the Michigan-based Sinas Dramis Law Firm, adding that, when Democratic Gov. Whitmer took office, the Republican Party made it no secret that auto insurance reform was its

No. 1 priority.

The Republican Party brought in experts like Sinas to learn more about the topic, but there was no movement on the issue. Then, one day in early May 2021, there was suddenly a bill. At 2 a.m., the no-fault auto insurance bill passed through the House without a public hearing, relates Sinas. A few weeks later, the Senate passed its own bill, again without public hearing. And a few weeks after that, both the House and the Senate passed a collective, finalized bill that cemented the changes to the no-fault auto insurance law.

Sinas was in the state Capital the day the bill was passed into law. He called it a "chaotic scene" with citizens cramming together and yelling, "Where's the bill?" Then the elevator doors opened and a stack of the 120-page bills rolled out on a cart. No one had the time to read the bill before it was passed. The legislature didn't hold a public hearing. The bill was passed and, in one day, the no-fault auto-insurance industry changed the future.

"This is why people get screwed over when governments pass laws that they don't even understand without time for public comment," said Sinas. "And then the political parties convince everybody just to say yes, just because they think it's in their best political interest to do so."

But that's how the system works, it's not about what's in the best interest of most taxpayers, it's about inside

power and persuasion from special interests groups and financial supporters that win in the end. Michigan had one of the best insurance programs in the nation. Did it need some adjustments? Yes, but due to the fact there wasn't any public comment time, catastrophically-injured auto accident victims requiring 24-hour care were written out of the law. Payments to their caregivers under the new law were reduced by as much as 55 percent making it financially impossible to continue the level of care they were getting.

If legislators were forced to read the bill prior to voting they might have seen the flaws and, if public hearings were held, industry experts would have been given a chance to bring up the catastrophic consequences brought on if the bill was passed.

The Sunlight Foundation, a national, non-partisan, non-profit organization has been joined by major news outlets calling for "Read the Bill" legislation that would require legislators to read and understand what they're voting on before they raise their hand. It's not just needed it should be required by every legislator at every level of government.

Our reporters have attended meetings where elected officials open member packets sent to them days in advance for the first time and which contain the information needed to take action. Their faulty defense for coming to a meeting unprepared is that someone in the organization takes the positions seriously, reads the information and is informed of the issues of the day. This is unacceptable and elected officials should be required to do their job or step aside and let a more serious candidate take the position of representing the people that placed the responsibility on their shoulders.

That's why we've continued to report on the No-Fault Insurance bill changes in Michigan. Without debate and proper public comment a piece of legislation was passed that has changed the level of care these accident victims were getting.

"Read the Bill" should become law. Reading only a bill's title or allowing a committee or special interest group to determine what's in the best interest of taxpayers is not acceptable.

It's time elected officials accept personal responsibility for their votes or resign.

business directory

FRY DADDY'S
608 West Main Street
Lowell, MI 49331
897-FISH



Fish, Shrimp, Wing
Dings, Chicken Strips

Friday Special
Lake Perch
Hours: Tues - Sat 2-8 pm
Closed Sunday & Monday

897-4123

Arctic Inc.
Heating & Cooling

- Heating & air-conditioning • Wall hung boilers & water heaters
- Geo Thermal systems • Radiant floor heat • Snow melt systems
- Whole house generators • Duct work • Humidifiers

SALES, SERVICE AND INSTALLATION, UPGRADES, NEW HOMES

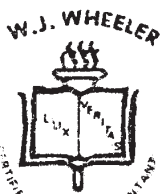
www.HeatingCoolingOnline.com

Rich's Service Co.
In-Home Appliance Repair
Dryer Vent Cleaning

INSURED • 20+ YEARS EXPERIENCE
Washers • Dryers • Refrigerators
Garbage Disposals • Stoves
• Dishwashers

RICH CURTIS • 897-5686
209 E. Main St., Lowell

BILL WHEELER
Certified Public
Accountant



103 Riverside Dr.
Lowell, MI 49331

897-7711

JERRY'S LAWN MAINTENANCE
& SNOWPLOWING

- Snowplow Service
- Winterizing of Sprinkling Systems
- Fall Cleanup

Over 25 years
of experience, insured,
referrals upon request

- Spring Clean-Up
- Lawn Maintenance
- Fertilizing & Bark

PHONE 616-822-4168

RISNER'S
ROOFING
& HOME IMPROVEMENT

SHANE RISNER • 616-897-1080
email: risnersroofing@gmail.com
website: risnersroofing.com

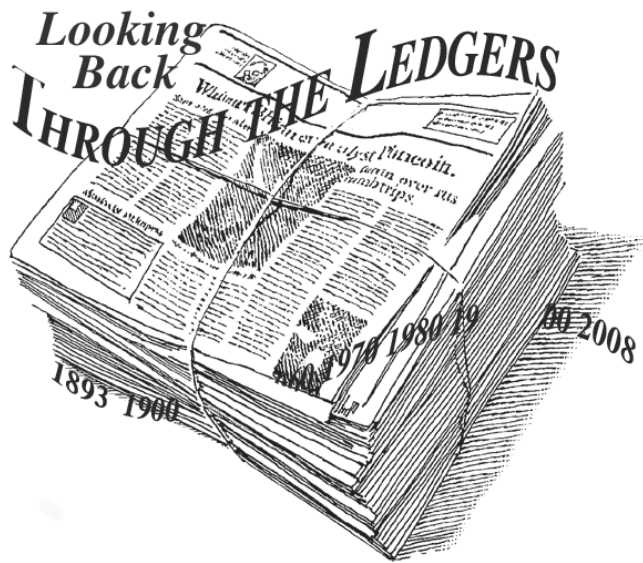
PUBLIC NOTICE

The Lowell Cable TV (LCTV) Endowment Fund Board is now accepting grant applications for 2022. Application forms and instructions are available at Lowell City Hall, Lowell Charter Township Hall, Vergennes Township Hall, Englehardt Public Library, Lowell Area Schools Administration Building and online on the City and Township websites. The LCTV Endowment Fund is a nonprofit fund established in late 2007 from the sale of the assets of Lowell Cable Television and is invested and administered by the Grand Rapids Community Fund. The LCTV Endowment Fund supports and promotes projects that benefit a broad segment of the Lowell area community, enhances the quality of life in the area, encourages cooperation among the communities and qualifies as a one-time capital improvement.

2022 grant applications should be submitted to the Lowell City Clerk's office, 301 E. Main Street, Lowell, Michigan 49331. The deadline for submitting 2022 applications is 5:00 p.m. on Friday, February 4, 2022. Questions should be directed to Susan Ullery, City Clerk.

viewpoint

to the editor



**125 years ago
Lowell Ledger
December 18, 1896**

This edition of the Lowell Ledger is missing.

**100 years ago
The Lowell Ledger
December 22, 1921**

Paul Husted, arrested by Deputy Sheriff E. C. Walker at 4 am, Friday, in Lowell, confessed to robbing four Grand Rapids homes. Three leather grips taken from him at Lowell were filled with stolen jewelry and clothing.

Following the rains of last week, Grand river at this point went over its banks and became a tearing torrent. Much water found its way into the basements of the Sorosis Garment Co. and the Hayes-Ionia plant, but no great damage was done. The oldest inhabitant fails to recall a time when the Grand was ever so high in December.

Grand Rapids Furniture is now being shipped to Los Angeles, via Philadelphia and the Panama canal at a saving from Western rail freight rates of 44 cents per hundred weight. If the deep water way from the Lakes to the Gulf of Mexico materializes further reductions in shipping, expenses will be affected.

**75 years
The Lowell Ledger
December 19, 1946**

When the lights came on our "Nativity Scene" in Richards Park last Saturday night it was indeed a modern miracle. With the order "no outdoor lighting for Christmas" the Christmas Committee gave up their plans for our Community Christmas.

The strange marriage of an American soldier to a girl member of a savage Igorot tribe in the Philippine islands was annulled after the veteran testified he wed under threat of death. Virgil C. Lehnus of Hays, Kan., testified in district court the marriage was performed in November, 1942 after he had escaped the Japanese but then had been captured by Igorots. He became ill and was nursed to health by an Igorot girl. He had to marry the girl, according to tribal law, but escaped shortly after the wedding, and was recaptured by the Japanese.

Frank Coons, who used to be a railway mail clerk, then reformed and returned to Lowell to sell haberdashery and Wolverine shoes, has added to his attainments by becoming a weather prognosticator. According to Ben Told, Frank forecasts a winter of heavy snows. He bases his predictions on the way the geese acted.

**50 years
The Lowell Ledger
December 23, 1971**

Boy Scout Troop 102 of Lowell will sponsor a door-to-door Drug Abuse Campaign starting at 7 pm on Monday, December 27. The scouts will greet homeowners with literature dealing with Drug Abuse, advising the citizens of the problem which the City of Lowell is now facing.

Mrs. Evelyn Smith, Alto Librarian and Bowne Township clerk, was among the 500 persons who toured the new Kent County Library headquarters at a two-day open house, December 13 and 14. The new building, located at 775 Ball Street NE, is the first permanent home of the Kent County Library system.

Lowell Police have solved one case of vandalism in the Valley Vista area, on the west side of town. Two juveniles, both girls, admitted to throwing a number of eggs at an apartment house on Valley Vista Drive. The girls also admitted to hurling eggs at another home in the Valley Vista area.



Dec. 18, 1996 Lowell Ledger image courtesy of Kent District Library.

**25 years
The Lowell Ledger
December 18, 1996**

Lowell Charter Township officials are preparing next year's wish list for the Kent County Road Commission and part of that is improving the intersection of Alden Nash and Cascade Road. The township estimates its 1997 budget for local road construction at \$40,000.

Break-ins and malicious destruction to the scout cabin at the north end of Washington Street continue. It has been a lingering problem that frankly makes Dirk Ritzema "sick." The vandalistic acts have been occurring off and on for 30 years.

Dear Editor,
December 7, 2021

An auspicious date to be sure, but that is another story. Well Winter has finally arrived nothing new here to folks in the North, a little cold, some snow and those long nights and short days. The kiddos are well into the school year and that is what I'd like to chat about.

I had the opportunity to attend the Winter Concert at the local high school and I'm sure something like it is duplicated throughout the land. I am privileged to live in a district that offers its students a chance to explore the challenges and joy of music, particularly instrumental music. Unfortunately, in some communities that chance has fallen victim to budget issues and the Covid situation did not help either.

I never had the occasion to learn to play any instrument, save the radio. Yep, I am quite accomplished at turning the dial. Nonetheless, I am a little jealous of folks who have mastered a keyboard, a bow, reeds, or tools of percussion. As I took my seat in the high school auditorium I was encouraged at the level of participation by parents, grandparents, and friends of the promised performers. The anticipation of things to come set forth a quiet discourse within the room. A murmuring throughout the audience. On this night we were to be treated to four concerts showcasing the talents of

over one hundred students. I want to give a nod to each ensemble: the Concert Orchestra, the Concert Band, the Symphonic Band, and the Symphony Orchestra (with a chicken). You say what? A chicken? It seems that in an effort to infuse some levity into the evening, students were allowed some creativity, some wore Santa hats, others decorated their instruments with ribbon or other symbols the season and of course a chicken in the base section. There were plenty of smiles to go around.

I would be amiss if I didn't play some tribute to Mrs. Tenney and Mr. Haan, who demonstrate day in and day out, that teaching is a special calling. To take youngsters, many of whom had never touched an instrument, and have them perform quite well for an audience of the public is to be envied. Again, I would encourage members of the public to seek out the calendars of the music arts within your schools, treat them, like the calendars of our athletic schedules and above all, attend the events. These students work hard to hone their craft, both in group settings, rehearsals, and alone in practice. They deserve our attention and support. On this night of cold and snow, the hearts of many were warmed by the youth of our community as they shared their talents. Thanks to one and all.

**Roger Royer
Lowell**

We love to hear from you!

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

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

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

- Osteomyelitis

Osteomyelitis is an infection in a bone. It is caused by bacteria that spread through the blood from a wound or infection somewhere else in the body. In children, it usually occurs in the arms and the legs. In adults, it usually affects the feet, spine, or hips. People who smoke or have diabetes, a weak immune system, or poor circulation are more likely to get osteomyelitis.

Children usually have pain, swelling, and redness over the affected area. They may have a fever or trouble moving the affected arm or leg. They may be more tired than usual. Adults may have a fever or feel tired. They may have pain in the area over the bone and wounds that take longer to heal. Symptoms may take

weeks to develop after the infection has started.

In children, osteomyelitis is usually diagnosed by the symptoms and a physical exam. In adults, diagnosis can be harder because the symptoms and exam are not always clear. Blood tests can show an infection in the body. Other tests, such as an x-ray or MRI, must also be done.

The main treatment for children and adults is antibiotics. Antibiotics are usually given through an IV to get high doses of medicine into the blood. Then, antibiotic pills may be used. Children usually need about four weeks of antibiotics. Adults may need to take antibiotics for six to eight weeks. Sometimes surgery is needed to clean out the infected bone.

ABCs of Lowell History



The U.B. Williams clock in front of his store.

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 fourth round of the alphabet.

J is for Jeweler

For many years, the advertisement could be seen in the Lowell newspapers, "Williams THE JEWELER". The advertisement was for the business of Uriah Brooks Williams Jr., jeweler, silverware and optical goods such as watches and clocks.

U.B. Williams was the son of U.B. and Susan Snell Williams. The father was a business man in town, owning the "Elk Horn

Store", dealing in 'groceries and provisions, crockery, glass ware, etc.' In 1874, he had his vacant building moved from south of Union Block, to a visible high traffic location on the bridge. In 1871 Susan's mother, Caroline Snell, platted 100 lots on the west side of the village. The lots were sold out of Williams' store, the "Elk Horn Store."

The Williams family owned one of the grandest homes in Lowell. Today we know 314 S. Hudson as the Senior neighbors Center and Gilda's club or even as the home of Dr. Look, but it once was the U. B. Williams home.

U.B. Williams Jr. was born on March 12, 1875. Unfortunately for the Williams family, the father died suddenly three days later of heart issues.

Two years later, Susan Snell Williams would sell

the home and ten acres to the John and Charlotte Look family.

Uriah Brooks Williams Jr. worked as the town jeweler, advertising heavily in the local paper and in community projects, such as the Island City Cookbook of 1912. He even had a clock in front of his store with his advertisement around the clock.

He moved his business around as it grew, and eventually he even had buildings built and added to the business community of Lowell. In 1914 he had two stores built. They adjoined the post office on the east. One was occupied by Mr. Macham and his barbershop and the other by Nahum & Terppa of Ionia for a wholesale and retail confectionary and ice cream business called "The Sugar Bowl."

U. B. served the Village of Lowell as treasurer for many years. He also served in the Lowell Congregational Church, the 1908 Home Coming Festival organizational board, Lowell Masonic Lodge and the Ionia commandry of the Knights Templar.

After the death of his wife Jessie in 1919, U. B. Williams moved to East Lansing where he lived until his death in 1952. He moved to live with his wife's parents following her death. When he made the announcement that he was moving the Ledger printed his announcement 'with regret.' He was well loved in town and had served the community. During his time in Lansing he remarried, but always came to visit his Lowell Village friends.

LAMINATING
NEXT DAY SERVICE

8 1/2 x 11 Sheet... \$2⁰⁰ ea.
 Cards... \$1⁰⁰ ea.

the lowell ledger
 105 N. Broadway • 897-9261
 Hours: Mon.-Thurs. 8 - 5; Fri. 8-noon

area churches

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

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH
 10305 Bluewater Highway
 (Missouri Synod)
 Halfway between Lowell & Saranac on M-21
Sunday Services - 10:30 am
www.gslc.church
 Joseph Fremer, Pastor **897-8307**
 All facilities are wheelchair accessible

St. Mary Catholic Church
 402 Amity Street • 616-897-9820
 Website: www.stmarylowell.com
 Weekend Masses: Sat 5 pm; Sun 10:30 am
 Confession: Saturdays 3-4:30 pm
 Prayer & Adoration: Wednesdays 8 am to 7 pm
 RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN TO ADULTS



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
 865 Lincoln Lake SE • lowellucc.org
 Pastor Alyssa Anten
 Worship Service - Sundays 10 AM
 Open Table (No-cost meal) - Thursdays 5 - 7 PM
Open & Affirming • LGBTQ+ Inclusive
 616-897-5906

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF LOWELL
 CHRIST-CENTERED, KINGDOM-FOCUSED HOMES
 2275 West Main Street - (Barrier Free)
 897-7168 • www.fbclowell.org
 Pastor Jon Pickens • Lead Pastor
 Pastor Andrew Bolcom • Pastor of Discipleship
 Christi Swain • Director of Children's Ministries
SUNDAY WORSHIP.....9:30 AM (Nursery provided)
LIFE 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
 SoundCheck - 10:30 am
 Sr. Pastor - Brad Brillhart

happy birthday

- DECEMBER 15**
 Karen Latva, Tammy Baird, Roger Brown, Kathryn Duiven, Kristin Ellis, Danielle Brenk, Marea Borg, Kimberly Kline, Kelly Potter, Tom Kehoe.
- DECEMBER 16**
 Timmy Buechler.
- DECEMBER 17**
 Bill Ellison, Jerry Scott, Amy Riddle.
- DECEMBER 18**
 Danielle Anchors, Hillary Graves, Julie Alberts, Heather Walendzik.

- DECEMBER 19**
 Lori Moore, Carol Chamberlain.
- DECEMBER 20**
 Ed Mohr, William Henry Burt, Jackie Spencer, Rob Lombardo, Morgan Taylor.
- DECEMBER 21**
 Brooke Page, Zachary Tykocki, Debbie Walendzik, Eric Koepfel.



LHS Links, continued

the customers coming in has brought a lot of excitement to the building as it is the face of the building as you walk in. It has really enhanced our culture.”

The Links program has benefitted all of the students involved in so many ways. The range of skills to run a small business includes everything from greeting customers and selling products to completing transactions and doing inventory. Not only are all the students up to the task, but they seem to relish the responsibility of it.

Connor Fitzpatrick is one of Johnson’s students who has been a part of the Links school store program since it started.

“I enjoy working on making slushies, taking tallies and making popcorn,” said Fitzpatrick. “I like working the cash register the most because I like to earn money for the store.”

Lanndon Hamilton, a student in the general education population at LHS, just completed his first trimester working in the store.

“I learn a lot about the other students needs and how I can help them individually,” said Hamilton. “I really liked getting to know everybody on a more personal level and help teach them about some of the social skills.”

Hayden Videan, a student in Johnson’s class, agrees.

“I have learned how to be a better communicator because I greet a lot of people in the store and that is a great responsibility,” Videan said.

Johnson has not only seen incredible growth in her own special education students but also with students like Hamilton.

“Lanndon has learned about working with different populations of students and understanding their needs,” said Johnson. “That seems to be the general consensus that I have gotten from the other students that have worked in the classroom. It’s a fun class for them. They really enjoy getting to know the students in a different light besides just saying ‘hi’ every day. They really get to know what

their interests are and have conversations with them.”

One of the main goals of the program is not only to teach important lessons about running a small business, but it is also to help prepare students to succeed outside of Lowell High School after the students graduate.

“We’re trying to give our students different experiences, more interactions and more opportunities to practice their vocational skills that will allow them to get a job outside of school,” said Johnson. “We want them to become employable. Our main focus is working on employability skills and skills that will allow them to sustain a job. The more experience we can give them, the more they bring to the table.”

In the future, the Links program will continue with its successful school store. They have plans to partner with some local businesses to create some new opportunities for the students. Next they hope to work with Brody’s Be Cafe in downtown Ada to start up a coffee cart for its staff members.



Molly Wade and Lanndon Hamilton selling snacks at the store.

First Omicron variant detected in Kent Co.

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services and Kent County Health Department have been notified of a case of the Omicron variant in a Kent County resident.

“We are concerned, although not surprised, about the discovery of the Omicron variant in Michigan,” said Elizabeth Hertel, MDHHS director. “We continue to urge Michiganders ages 5 and up to get vaccinated and continue participating in measures we know slow the spread of the virus by wearing well-fitting masks properly, socially distancing, avoiding crowds, washing their hands often and testing for COVID-19. Vaccines are our best defense against the virus and how we can manage the spread of COVID-19.”

The Omicron variant, B.1.1.529, was classified as a variant of concern by the Centers for Disease Control

and Prevention on Nov. 30. Variants are classified as variants of concern if they show evidence of being more contagious, causing more severe illness or resistance to diagnostics, treatments or vaccines.

“We have tools that prevent the spread of COVID-19, including Omicron. However, we continue to see that those not utilizing these tools, including vaccines, are disproportionately affected by this virus,” said Dr. Natasha Bagdasarian, MDHHS chief medical executive. “The data is clear that these vaccines are extremely safe and effective, and the side effects of COVID-19 are much worse than receiving a vaccine. I emphasize the importance of

not waiting to get vaccinated. Now is the time.”

The initial detection of the COVID-19 case was reported to the Michigan Disease Surveillance System on Dec. 3. MDHHS was notified by CDC that it was the Omicron variant on Dec. 9 following genetic sequencing. The sequencing was conducted and reported by a commercial laboratory as part of the CDC surveillance program.

MDHHS is coordinating with the Kent County Health Department on investigation of the case which is ongoing. Public health follow-up will include an assessment of the potential for out of state exposure, compliance with isolation guidance and outreach to close contacts.

Vaccine records indicate the Kent County adult was fully vaccinated but had not received a booster dose.

“The identification of the Omicron variant is not unexpected,” says Dr. Adam London, Kent County Health Department Director. “We are fortunate that we have effective, safe and available vaccines that can protect us from this illness. We continue to urge people to get their vaccine and to get their boosters as soon as they are eligible.”

The Omicron variant was first detected on Nov. 11 in South Africa and the first case was confirmed in the United States on Dec. 1. Michigan joins the list of more than 20 other states with confirmed Omicron detections.

According to the CDC, the Omicron variant will likely spread more easily than the original SARS-CoV-2 virus. How easily Omicron spreads compared to the Delta variant remains unknown. CDC expects that anyone with the Omicron infection can spread the virus to others, even if they are vaccinated or don’t have symptoms. With other variants, like Delta, vaccines have remained effective at preventing severe illness, hospitalizations and death and are expected to do the same against Omicron. The recent emergence of Omicron further emphasizes the importance of primary vaccinations and boosters.

There are several factors contributing to current case rates. However, according to state data, unvaccinated persons have 4.4 times the risk of testing positive for covid-19 and 9.3 times the risk of dying from covid-19 than people who are fully vaccinated.

Viruses constantly change through mutation, and new variants of a virus are expected to occur over time. MDHHS’ Bureau of Laboratories is a national leader in whole genome sequencing for SARS-CoV-2 and will continue to monitor for variants of concern.

Whole genome sequencing allows scientists to examine the genetic material of pathogens, including SARS-CoV-2. During the pandemic, laboratories across Michigan have been submitting samples to the state public health laboratory for surveillance to help monitor the emergence of any variants of concern. MDHHS Bureau of Laboratories prioritizes additional specimens for whole genome sequencing when there is increased concern for a new variant of the virus, such as in people with a travel history to places where the variant is known to be circulating.

Public health recommends that those testing positive for COVID-19 isolate for 10 days after symptom onset.

To find a vaccine, visit VaccineFinder.org.



Oak Meadow
TREE SERVICE INC.

Your Local Tree Care Experts

- ~ Tree & Shrub Fertilization
- ~ Disease & Insect Control
- ~ Pruning & Tree Removal
- ~ Stump Grinding
- ~ Fully Insured

Call Today!
616-890-2348




WINDOWS/SIDING
DOORS/INSULATION/GUTTERS

SAVE **50%** OFF

HEATING/COOLING BILLS
GUARANTEED!!!

SAVE 10% OFF WITH THIS COUPON

897-7300 allweathersealinc.com

319 E. Main Lowell



Not good w/any other offer/ Good on initial presentation

Red Arrow SPORTS

Wrestlers' first week of competition

by Justin Scott
sports reporter

Early competition for the Lowell Wrestling team yielded familiar results as the varsity A team competed at the Grappler Gold Invitational while the B team headed to Allegan.

The Grappler Gold competition included Algonac, Alma, Birch Run, Brighton, Constantine, Brownsburg (IN), Constantine, Davison, Dundee, Holt, Lakeville, Mt. Morris, Mumford, Traverse City St. Francis, Thornapple Kellogg, Traverse City Central, Wayland, and Woodhaven.

Indiana school Brownsburg won the competition followed by Davison, Dundee in a distant third, Lowell, and Alma rounding out the top five.

For Lowell, Carter Blough stole the show, defeating defending Division 1 state champion Jimmy Colley of Davison in the championship match of the 220 pound weight

class. Blough was Lowell's only champion in the tournament.

Carson Crace finished runner-up in the 182 pound weight class falling to his Davison opponent in the championship round. Also placing for Lowell was Owen Segorski (6th, 126), James Link (4th, 138), Ramsy Mutschler (7th, 138), Nate Cleaver (4th, 145), Jared Boone (7th, 145), Tacho Gonzales (5th, 152), Bryson Vandermeulen (4th, 285), Carter Cichocki (3rd, 106), and Jackson Blum (5th, 120).

The B squad placed sixth in Allegan with Stevensville Lakeshore winning the tournament. Lowell, because of their large size, splits their teams between tournaments to get different wrestlers experience, something very few wrestling teams in the start are able to do. So Lowell B competes against most other squads



Lowell wrestling after winning the Olivet High School tournament.

A lineups. While the A team typically will have the team's starters, they do

rotate out periodically. For example, Landon Miller (1st) and Easton Lyons

(6th) who competed for B last weekend are typically starters for the A lineup.

On the Friday prior to both tournaments another Lowell varsity squad won the Olivet HS tournament.



Bowling season underway

by Justin Scott
sports reporter

Matches against Grand Rapids Christian and Middleville Thornapple-Kellogg have kicked off the season for the Lowell High School bowling teams.

Led by returning state qualifier Courtney Witten, who bowled a 202,

Lowell's girls team beat Grand Rapids Christian 20-10. Witten also had a team-high 198 in a 19-11 loss to Middleville TK.

For the boys, Lowell was led by Noah Proctor with a 199 in the match against Middleville TK 20-10. Caden Witten

bowled a 228 in a 28-2 loss to Grand Rapids Christian.

The bowlers are at home against Greenville and East Grand Rapids before taking three weeks off from competition for the winter break.



Get more insurance choices by going independent.

Call Dave Emmett at 616-361-3400 or visit gma-insurance.com.

GLENN MORRIS & ASSOCIATES
Insurance Services



Products not available in all states.



Donating to help KY & other states hit by tornadoes

People are looking for ways to help those in need as Kentucky and other states begin to recover from the damage caused by severe storms and multiple tornadoes over the weekend.

BBB's Give.org recommends before making a contribution or sending a donation to verify if the charity they choose to support meets the BBB Standards for Charity Accountability.

"Instead of clicking on links that others may send in texts and social media, make a donation directly through the charity's website". Says Lisa Frohnafel, President and CEO of the Better Business Bureau Serving Western Michigan. "In an emergency, that is the fastest way to help those who need it. The BBB lists legitimate charities at give.org."

Take time to find out how the organization plans to address immediate or long term needs. The first request for a donation may not be the best choice.

The BBB suggests starting with these Accredited Charities to provide assistance:

American Red Cross

announced how they are providing assistance across multiple states.

Salvation Army (the national office is a BBB Accredited Charity) also shared how they are providing assistance in some areas.

Feeding America is active in providing groceries to those in need.

Crowdfunding

Crowdfunding campaigns are already being set up for those in need. While some may be drawn to providing direct assistance to individuals, BBB Wise Giving Alliance recommends the following tips:

Give to people and organizations you know. It is safest to give to crowdfunding postings of people you personally know. If that is not possible, consider a posting that is being managed by an established charitable organization that can be checked out.

Not all crowdfunding sites operate alike. Some crowdfunding platforms do a better job of vetting postings and projects that appear on their site than others. Review the site's description of its



"An apartment complex in Dawson Village, KY was nearly erased by the storm that hit on Friday night." Photo and caption by William Widmer for The New York Times.

procedures. If they do take precautions, they generally announce that fact loudly to help encourage giving.

See if the posting describes how funds will be used. Vague descriptions of how the collected funds will be used should also be met with caution. Thoughtful collections will take the

added step of identifying and verifying needs before money is raised.

Don't assume pictures represent an official connection to the person or family identified. Unfortunately, some crowdfunding postings may be using pictures of needy individuals without their

permission. As a result, you can't assume an official connection. Again, each site has different rules on what they allow.

Your contribution may not be deductible as a charitable gift. If a crowdfunding posting is claiming to be helping a specific named individual or family, donors

in the U.S. generally cannot take a federal income tax deduction, even if the individual or family is in need. See IRS Publication 526, for more information on this subject.

Report any suspicious donation requests to bbb.org/scamtracker.

Write a Letter to Santa

and your letter will be published in the 12/25 edition of the Buyer's Guide

Send your letter to:

Mail: P.O. Box 128, Lowell, MI 49331

Email: ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com

Or drop your letter off at our *santa door* anytime at 105 N. Broadway, Lowell

Santa will reply if you include your name and address



DEAR SANTA

COVID-19 wastewater monitoring dashboard released by health department

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services has released a new data dashboard on the MDHHS COVID-19 Wastewater website to display COVID-19 wastewater monitoring data from the Sentinel Wastewater Epidemiology Evaluation Project. SWEEP provides a detailed, weekly analysis and interpretation of wastewater data from a subset of existing COVID-19 wastewater monitoring sites in Michigan.

The purpose of COVID-19 wastewater monitoring efforts is to identify and

track the SARS-CoV-2 virus in communities – and SWEEP helps to do that in a faster and more targeted way. The results can provide an early detection of the virus before people become sick or get tested and before cases are reported. Local health departments and their partners use this data to track COVID-19 in their communities and inform their public health responses. This monitoring method is noninvasive and privacy-protecting, as it provides information about populations of people and

not individuals.

“The SWEEP data provides an in-depth overview of wastewater monitoring efforts at regional and statewide levels,” said Dr. Alexis Travis, MDHHS senior deputy director, public health administration. “Interpretation of the data provided on the dashboard helps to quickly and easily identify patterns in SARS-CoV-2 levels, track trends and monitor distribution of the virus in wastewater across the state. Over time, data from these wastewater treatment plants can be

compared to other sampling sites and COVID-19 case data within the same region.”

Starting in June 2021, MDHHS expanded upon a previous pilot project to support wastewater testing for SARS-CoV-2 at over 400 sites throughout Michigan. A subset of these sites was chosen for SWEEP to allow for a more focused and timely data analysis that can be updated weekly.

The SWEEP dashboard displays site-specific wastewater monitoring data and trends from 19 wastewater treatment plants

in 17 counties and the City of Detroit. These sites, referred to as sentinels, are distributed across the eight Michigan Economic Recovery Council regions. These sites were selected based on a set of criteria that provide timely wastewater data on a large population in each region of the state.

Current data shows that SARS-CoV-2 levels in wastewater are high throughout 7 of the 8 MERC regions of the state. The level of virus has increased at 9 of the 19 SWEEP sites during the second half of

November. For 15 of 19 sites, the most recent level of virus recorded was higher than 75 percent of all previous samples from that same site. These increases coincide with rising COVID-19 cases reported in the state.

Data from the larger Michigan COVID-19 wastewater monitoring project is available on the Michigan COVID-19 Wastewater dashboard. For more information on wastewater monitoring, visit the State of Michigan Wastewater Surveillance for COVID-19 website.

Pfizer booster doses authorized for ages 16-17

Following CDC approval, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services is urging all eligible Michiganders 16 and up to get the Pfizer booster vaccine if they have received their two primary COVID-19 vaccines. Currently, Pfizer is the only authorized vaccine for under age 18.

“Vaccines are the way out of the pandemic, and now we can continue to protect ourselves further from COVID-19, which continues to surge in our

state,” said Dr. Natasha Bagdasarian, MDHHS chief medical executive. “Keeping our children safe includes getting them vaccinated and boosted, and this in turn will help alleviate burdens on our health care system to help avoid our children needing emergent care. We urge all Michiganders ages 5 and up to get vaccinated, and Michiganders age 16 and up receive their booster as soon as they’re eligible after their primary doses.”

The COVID-19 Pfizer booster dose may be

given with other vaccines, including the flu vaccine, at the same time.

Michiganders should bring their COVID-19 vaccine card or immunization record with them when getting their booster dose, which are available at any vaccine provider. Downloadable immunization records are accessible free of charge at the Michigan Immunization Portal. Visit Michigan.gov/MiImmsportal and upload a valid government issued photo ID such as a driver’s

license, state ID or passport. If you do not have records in the portal, contact your health care provider or local health department.

As previously recommended, Michiganders with moderately to severely compromised immune systems should receive an additional dose of mRNA COVID-19 vaccine at least 28 days after a second dose of Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine. This additional dose is intended to improve the response of people who

are immunocompromised to their initial vaccine series.

To date more than 6.1 million Michiganders aged 5 and up have gotten at least their first dose of one of the three safe, effective COVID-19 vaccines. In the last 30 days of complete data (Oct 21 – Nov 19), 97,310 (71 percent) of 137,472 cases, 1,134 (72 percent) of 1,584 hospitalized cases, and 588 (76 percent) of 772 deaths were among individuals not fully vaccinated. Many Michiganders are still in

need of the extra protection provided by booster doses, including residents of long-term care facilities where outbreaks can spread quickly and extra protection is strongly recommended.

To schedule a primary or booster dose of the COVID vaccine, visit vaccines.gov.

To learn more about the COVID-19 vaccine, visit Michigan.gov/COVIDVaccine.

For more information about COVID-19 in Michigan, visit Michigan.gov/coronavirus.

School bus safety enforcement results released

To ensure students’ safety when traveling to and from school, law enforcement officers across Michigan performed dedicated patrols as part of a safety initiative looking for drivers illegally passing school buses.

In its second year, “Operation Safe Stop” is an enforcement campaign that was conducted statewide

from October 18-22. Law enforcement agencies worked with their local school districts to provide education and enforcement to their communities.

Officers made 122 traffic stops and issued 50 citations for illegal passing of school buses, and also garnered 29 other citations and three misdemeanor arrests.

“Drivers have an obligation to know and obey the laws regarding when to stop for a school bus,” said Michael L. Prince, director of the Michigan Office of Highway Safety Planning (OHSP). “Ensuring our students are safe during loading and unloading must be a priority for everyone.”

Drivers must prepare to

stop when a school buses’ overhead lights are flashing yellow and stop at least 20 feet away from the bus when the overhead lights are flashing red.

A total of 18 law enforcement agencies participated in the five-day enforcement period, which included municipal and county officers as well as the

Michigan State Police.

“I am grateful to our bus drivers, law enforcement officers, and Michiganders who drive safely for keeping our kids safe on the road,” said Governor Gretchen Whitmer. “Operation Safe Stop is an effective joint effort that reminds us that we all have to be mindful on the road and do our part to help

kids get to school safely. We will continue finding ways to help kids stay focused on learning without worrying for their health and safety, both in and out of the classroom.”

For more information about “Operation Safe Stop” and school bus safety, visit Michigan.gov/SchoolBusSafety.

Local Newspapers are

▶ **IMPORTANT** ◀

Any Way You Look At It

We keep you informed on
Community Events,
Lowell Area Schools, Sports,
Local Government,
Local Businesses and Much More!

Support Your Local
News Source -
The Lowell Ledger

the lowell ledger

Call To Begin Your Subscription Today!

105 N. Broadway • 897-9261 • ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com

GRATTAN TOWNSHIP

Regular Meeting 9:00 a.m.
Synopsis of Minutes
December 13, 2021

Motions Approved

1. ORD-2021-006 DTE Gas Company operations.
2. To purchase a new pump for GV-GPS#6 not to exceed \$6,200.00.
3. The 2022 Township calendar.
4. The 2022- fiscal 2023 Board Meeting schedule.
5. The 2022 Planning Commission and Zoning Board schedule.

Our next Township Meeting will be
January 10, 2022 at 7 p.m.

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

More than 155,000 uninsured drivers purchased car insurance since auto no-fault reforms took effect

The cost to get insurance in Michigan decreased by 27% in 2020, making it more affordable to insure a car

The Insurance Alliance of Michigan (IAM) today announced more than 150,000 drivers who previously didn't have auto insurance have purchased it since reforms to Michigan's broken, outdated auto no-fault system took effect last summer. Of those 155,170 drivers, more than 66,000 were driving without car insurance for three years or more. According to the Insurance Information

Institute, one in four drivers in Michigan didn't have car insurance in 2019.

"The fact that more drivers can finally afford car insurance and are getting it for the first time — or for the first time in several years — is further proof auto no-fault reforms are working," said IAM Executive Director Erin McDonough. "For the first time in eight years, Michigan is no longer the most expensive state to insure a car. Premiums are

down 27 percent, according to insure.com. We want to thank lawmakers for staying the course on these reforms so more people could afford car insurance."

According to data compiled by IAM member companies, which reflects 66 percent of Michigan's auto insurance market, 155,170 previously uninsured drivers purchased car insurance between July 2020 and the end of August 2021. During

the first month the reforms took effect more than 23,000 people purchased policies. On average, more than 11,000 drivers who didn't have car insurance before are purchasing it every month in Michigan.

Since reforms took effect on July 2, 2020, Michigan drivers have saved \$1 billion on Michigan Catastrophic Claims (MCCA) fees alone, which is on top of any savings on their premiums. The MCCA also announced

it would be refunding drivers \$400 per-vehicle because of a surplus, putting more money back into the pockets of Michiganders. The surplus stemmed, in part, from savings from a reasonable medical fee schedule, which took effect this summer. The medical fee schedule reined in overcharging that had been rampant for decades.

"Insurance premiums are decreasing, more drivers are able to afford car insurance,

and the MCCA is providing refunds to millions of drivers," McDonough said. "This adds up to a win for Michigan drivers who had been paying the highest auto insurance premiums in the country for far too long."

Michiganders who have not yet purchased car insurance should do so before the end of the year. The amnesty period for Michiganders to purchase auto insurance without penalty ends on Jan. 1, 2022.

Today: Wednesday, December 15

Wednesday, Dec. 15 is the 349th day of the year. There are 16 days remaining until the end of 2021.

1791: The US Bill of Rights becomes law when it's ratified by the Virginia General Assembly.

1836: The US Patent Office building in Washington DC nearly burns to the ground, destroying all 9,957 patents issued by the federal government to that date, plus 7,000 patent models.

1864: The Battle of Nashville [TN] begins. It will end the following day with the destruction of the Confederate Army of Tennessee by the Union Army of the Cumberland.

1869: The short-lived Republic of Ezo is proclaimed in the Ezo area of Japan, the first attempt to establish a democracy in Japan.

1890: Hunkpapa Lakota leader Sitting Bull is killed

on Standing Rock Indian Reservation, leading to the Wounded Knee Massacre.

1893: Antonín Dvořák's Symphony No. 9, a.k.a. "From the New World," a.k.a. the "New World Symphony," premieres in rehearsal at Carnegie Hall in New York City. The public premiere will be Dec. 16.

1903: Italian-American food cart vendor Italo Marchiony receives a US patent for inventing a machine that makes ice cream cones.

1917: An armistice between Russia and the Central Powers is signed.

1941: German troops murder over 15,000 Jews at Drobytsky Yar, a ravine southeast of the city of Kharkiv, Ukraine.

1942: The Battles of

Mount Austen, Galloping Horse and Sea Horse begin during the Guadalcanal Campaign.

1944: A single-engine UC-64A Norseman airplane carrying US Army Air Forces Major Glenn Miller is lost in a flight over the English Channel.

1945: General Douglas MacArthur orders that Shinto be abolished as the state religion of Japan.

1960: Richard Pavlick is arrested for plotting to assassinate President-Elect John F. Kennedy.

1960: King Mahendra of Nepal suspends the country's constitution, dissolves parliament, dismisses the cabinet and imposes direct rule.

1961: Adolf Eichmann is sentenced to death after

being found guilty by an Israeli court of 15 criminal charges, including crimes against humanity, crimes against the Jewish people and membership in an outlawed organization.

1965: Gemini 6A, crewed by Wally Schirra and Thomas Stafford, is launched from Cape Kennedy, FL. Four orbits later, it achieves the first space rendezvous, with Gemini 7.

1970: Soviet spacecraft Venera 7 successfully lands on Venus, the first successful soft landing on another planet.

1973: John Paul Getty III, grandson of American billionaire J. Paul Getty, is found alive near Naples, Italy, after being kidnapped by an Italian gang on July 10.



December 15, 1939: "Gone with the Wind" premieres at Loew's Grand Theatre in Atlanta, GA.

Child Support Advisory Council drives change in dept.

Michigan's Office of Child Support has listened to parents who are on its recently formed Child Support Advisory Council and taken several actions in response to input.

Since February, Michigan's Office of Child Support — which is part of the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services — has hosted the Community Advisory Council that it formed to help make sure the office is fair and works for everyone.

"MDHHS values input from the people that we serve," said Lewis Roubal, the department's chief deputy director for opportunity. "Hearing diverse viewpoints helps the Office of Child Support make decisions that are beneficial to children and families."

Several significant program changes have been achieved since the council began meeting. They include:

An improved process for handling child support program complaints.

Greater sensitivity in the wording the Office of Child Support uses to refer to Michiganders the program serves. The office is moving toward referring to "case members, program participants, parents and caregivers" instead of "customers" or other terms.

Changes to ensure the advisory council is aware of the Office of Child Support's projects and initiatives and to provide an opportunity for input by council members.

Creation of this council is a part of MDHHS efforts to promote diversity, equity and inclusion.

"Being a part of the

Office of Child Support Advisory Council has been extremely rewarding," said India Hoskins, a parent from Kalamazoo. "The existence of this council alone shows the system can and wants to do better for the many families involved. We have started turning our experiences and our stories into an actual proposal. The sharing of these stories is honestly the best thing I think the council has done so far. We've created a safe space for people to share their experience as it relates to child support, custody, paternity, and the overall complexities of the system stretching much further than the Office of Child Support. Getting that on the table for others to acknowledge and turning those stories into a policy proposal provides a level of healing," she said. "Each and every

one of us is committed to making a change to benefit all Michigan families — regardless of race, educational attainment, sexual orientation, or economic status. We are real people looking to make real change!"

Another council member, Shaunta Patton, a parent from Jackson, said he feels blessed to be able to work together with a group that is diverse, committed and passionate.

"The work we started on behalf of child support payers and recipients has been amazing," he said. "I learned so much about the work of the Office of Child Support and how complex the needs are across the State of Michigan. I am sure all council members can say we appreciate the partnership and the opportunity to make the child support process

more equitable for all families."

The Office of Child Support held virtual informational meetings in October 2020 about plans to form the council. Invitations to these meetings were distributed to a wide range of individuals, groups and demographic populations using both traditional and digital methods. Interest in the meetings was higher than expected, with 56 attending. The 12 council members were chosen from 42 applicants who expressed a keen understanding of the council's goals and objectives and a willingness to think globally beyond their own personal situation.

Council membership crosses an intersection of demographics, with representation from different races/ethnicities, genders, ages, education levels,

LGBTQ status, incomes and geographic locations. All except one have either paid or received child support in their families. Members have voiced special interest in areas including veterans, fatherhood, special needs children, domestic violence and accessibility/disability issues. Child support programs across other states and tribal governments have shown great interest in the council, and several Office of Child Support staff members have presented at national conferences.

"Child support programs recognize the need to grow and change to serve in ways that do not unintentionally harm," said Office of Child Support Director Erin Frisch. "We're proud to be partnering with this group of committed individuals in Michigan to be trailblazers in this area."

obituaries

HOBBS

Neil Eugene Hobbs of Charlotte passed away unexpectedly at home on December 8, 2021. Neil was born June 4, 1950 in Grand Rapids, Michigan to the late Charles and Helen (Clark) Hobbs. He graduated from Lowell High School and proudly served his country during Vietnam in the US Navy. Neil worked along with his cousin, Rick Courter, at Courter Construction doing various home improvement and building projects. He enjoyed his work on old cars including his 1954 Chieftain and 1970 Oldsmobile Cutlass. He loved Nascar and Football, spending time with his wife and family and poker nights.



Neil was a talented woodworker and craftsmen who built everything from work benches to doll houses. He loved to spend time outdoors whether it was gardening or meticulously grooming his yard. Neil was a very quiet and laid back man, but his presence in a room was powerful.

He is survived by his loving wife, Spring (Hicks); children, Craig Hobbs, Brandon (Brandy) Hobbs and daughter, Amber (Mark) Jones; 6 grandchildren, siblings, Laurel (Ron) Hayward, Charles (Renay) Hobbs and Patrick (Bobbie) Hobbs; several nieces and nephews; brother-in-law, Donnie Whipple and his favorite yorkie, Sophie Louise.

A Celebration of Neil's life with military honors will be held Monday, December 20, 2021, 4:00 pm at the Lowell Township Hall, 2910 Alden Nash, Lowell, Michigan 49331. Memorial contributions may be given to The Heroes Operation (<https://theheroesoperation.org/donate/>). Arrangements by the Holihan-Atkin-Barclay Funeral Home, Grand Ledge. Share your memories and condolences online at www.holihanatkin.com.

MOCHMER

Paul Mochmer, age 37 of Lowell, passed away unexpectedly Sunday, December 5, 2021. He was preceded in death by his father, Jerry Cole; and grandmother, Betty Miller. Paul is survived by his mother, Brenda Cole; brothers, Matthew and John; sisters, Angela, Andrea, Joanie; special cousins, Abbie and Katelyn; many more loving cousins; aunts, Linda (Michael) Willard, Glenna (Mark) Blanding, Joan (Charlie) Pfishner, Georgia Howe; friends, Chad, Wes, Hope; and fur babies, Rocky, and Bunny. He graduated from Lowell High School in 2003. Paul enjoyed listening to audio books, Anime, various online and tabletop games. Memorial services will be held from 2-5 PM on Saturday, January 8, 2022, at the Lowell Moose Lodge, 1320 E. Main St. Lowell, Michigan, 49331. Interment Oakwood Cemetery. Memorial Contributions can be made to Humane Society of West Michigan, 3077 Wilson, Grand Rapids, Michigan, 49534.



RUTHERFORD

Marion E. Monks was born in a small farmhouse on the south side of the Grand River in Lowell Township. She was the fourth of four daughters born to Guy and Esther (Stevens) Monks. Growing up on the little dairy farm was a delight to her - from chores, to playing in the creek, to truly walking through knee-deep snow to attend Snow School. Her family was blessed to hear all about her childhood which almost seemed like fairytales



to the generations that followed: taking a pony cart to school with her sisters, her mother warming soap stones in the wood burning kitchen stove and putting them in her bed to keep her warm during cold winter nights, or playing tag with their billy goat. She taught us a love for nature, patience and perseverance. As a member of the Greatest Generation, she led her family through periods of illness, war, financial struggles, epidemics, grief, joy, pandemics and much more by her actions and deeds. There was always room for one more around her table. Marion attended Lowell High School and graduated with the class of 1936. Her father took her to downtown Lowell to purchase her first store-bought bathing suit to wear on her class trip to Lake Michigan. In later years, she was still surprised that her parents had been willing and able to make such a generous cash-transaction gift. It was during her high school years that she met the fellow, Richard L. Rutherford, from town that she would later marry and raise a family. She recalled that he would bring her newspaper clippings for weekly current events assignments as her folks didn't receive a paper. He loved visits to her parents' cozy farmhouse. Marion and Richard L. Rutherford eloped in July of 1936, and married in Bowling Green, Ohio. She told us that even though the depression had ended money was still tight and factored into their decision. The women of the Snow Community hosted a bridal shower for her upon her return and to this day she has a cookie jar that she received as a gift. They started married life in an upstairs apartment at his parents' home on Hudson Street in Lowell. The celebration of the birth of their first child June of 1937 was short-lived as their precious baby boy did not live to come home from the hospital with them. In November 1938, they welcomed another son, Richard John, who was delivered in their upstairs apartment. Longing for a yard, a picnic table, and a clothesline of her own, she and Richard moved across the Flat River to a one-story home on Lafayette Street in 1942. Marion and Dick had two more children, Stephen Fallas in 1945 and Julie Ann in 1954. Her home welcomed many generations of family, friends and neighbors as well as all of her children's friends. She was fortunate indeed that many of these people stayed in touch with her during her remarkable 103 years of life on earth. She was blessed to have family, caregivers and in-home health care so that she was able to remain in her beloved house up until her passing. At this time, the family wishes to extend a special thank you and express our gratitude to Sarah and Tyler DeBrot who cared for Marion during the last six years of her life. Relocating to live with her was the catalyst that allowed Marion to continue living in her home. They rarely missed an opportunity to get her on her porch

during nice weather, made sure that she had meals that she enjoyed and kept her involved in the world around her. Just as she cared for others, she was cared for when the time came that she required assistance. Marion attended the very first Lowell Showboat performance with her parents and subsequent seasons with her high school girlfriends. She and her sister, Norma, dressed up like "hippies" and traveled by canoe to the 1975 Reo Speedwagon concert at the Showboat. Her last visit to the showboat was during the summer of 2021 when she was able to see the new boat in the water. Activities included frequent visits to her parents' farm, picnics, hikes, camping, fishing, Lowell Showboat Garden Club, Lowell Congregational Church Deb Group, Boy Scouts, Campfire Girls, Card Club, Fallasburg Historical Society and more. She worked at the local dime store when she was newly married, worked at a factory in Ionia "spitting and pounding tacks" during the war years, maintained the home front when her husband was called into the Army during World War II and traded food and gas ration allocations between her sisters to make sure everyone had what they needed. Marion started working in the Lowell Area Public School System in the mid 1960's. Some may remember her as the hot-lunch lady who would occasionally slip a slice of fresh baked bread or a cookie straight from the oven to a hungry teacher or student. This was probably not an acceptable practice but those at the receiving end were always grateful. She loved her work at the schools-the teachers, students, and support staff in the various buildings. She chose to retire at 70 years old because she was expecting her first grandchild. Four years later she welcomed her second grandchild and the two of them became her life's pleasure and passion. Once again, she was filling her home with children, their friends and their pets. In 2020 Marion was blessed with her first great grandchild. When asked who she would want to tell first she responded, "probably their great grandfather." Marion was preceded in death by her husband Richard L. Rutherford, infant son Richard L. Rutherford, Jr., son Richard J. Rutherford; sisters Vera Antonides, Wilma Fairchild, and Norma Hemingson; sisters-in-law Mary Jane Theobald and Jean Martin; brothers-in-law Lester Antonides, Arnold Fairchild, Howard Watrous, Robert Hemingson, Charles Martin, Norm Theobald and John Rutherford; nieces Jean Daverman, Juanita Czapek, Marian Mayou and Nancy Theobald; nephews Doug Antonides, Jim Watrous, Robert Theobald, Sr, and Larry Martin, Sr. She is survived by her son Stephen Rutherford, daughter Julie (Will) Beaton, grandson Jason Beaton, granddaughter Sarah (Tyler) DeBrot and great granddaughter Charlotte DeBrot; nieces Renee Fairchild-Watson, Sandy Antonides, Suzanne Martin, Faith Martin, and Debbie Theobald; nephew Guy Watrous; as well as many great and great-great nieces and nephews. The family wishes to acknowledge her longtime friends Virgil and Carmen Roudabush, Velma Perry, her card club members, and her Lafayette Street neighbors. Thank-you also to friends and caregivers Charmain Burke and Arlene Spickler, the team at Visiting Physicians Association, Grace Hospice, and the Lowell Rite Aid. A private service was held at Roth-Gerst Funeral Home with interment at Lowell Oakwood Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in her memory to MomsBloom (momsbloom.org) Grand Rapids, MI, an organization to connect families in Kent and Ottawa Counties with newborns to passionate community members who provide hands-on postpartum support.

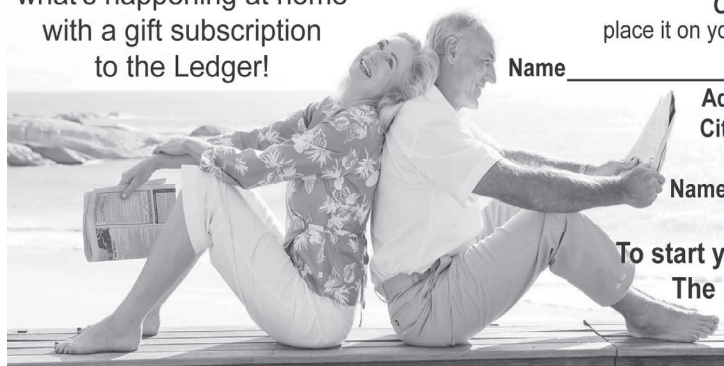


Know any snowbirds?

Keep them up-to-date on what's happening at home with a gift subscription to the Ledger!

Local News - Sports delivered to their mailbox!

Just fill out the form below and mail it with payment to the Ledger office OR we can take your information over the phone - place it on your credit card and we'll start the subscription the next week!



Name _____ Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Name of person sending the gift _____
We'll send a card announcing your gift!

To start your subscription - mail payment with order form to:
The Lowell Ledger • PO Box 128 • Lowell, MI 49331

or call **616.897.9261** ^{\$25 (in Kent County)} ^{\$36 (out of county)}



WE SHIP UPS

The Buyers Guide

105 N. Broadway
Lowell • 897-9555

office hours:
Mon.-Thurs. 8 a.m.- 5 p.m.
Fri. 8 a.m. - noon
closed Sat. & Sun.

classifieds

for sale

USED TIRES - Call with size, 616-292-7649/616-295-8820. Rob's Auto - thanks.^{TFN}

REACH OVER 100,000 AREA HOMES - with our Marketplace! One call & one payment, only \$40! Includes 20 words & 1 black & white photo. Only items for sale please. Perfect place to advertise a vehicle or camper for sale! The ad runs in the Lowell Buyer's Guide & News, Hastings Reminder, Marshall Advisor/Chronicle & Battle Creek Shopper News. Call 897-9555, email: classifieds@lowellbuyersguide.com or stop by 105 N. Broadway for more info.

NEWSPAPER END ROLLS AVAILABLE AT THE BUYERS GUIDE - Many uses, table cover, art projects, packaging, etc. Usually \$5-\$10 each. Stop by & grab one today! 105 N. Broadway.

help wanted

IMMEDIATE OPENING - Buyers Guide walking route carrier. Deliver approx. 250 papers weekly. Must be dependable! Work less than 1 day a week! Get paid weekly, pickup papers at Buyers Guide office. Will consider a 14-year-old with a commitment from a parent for help with pickup. Apply in person, 105 N. Broadway, Lowell.

wanted

FREON WANTED: We pay \$\$\$ for cylinders and cans. R12 R500 R11 R113 R114. Convenient. Certified Professionals. Call 312-291-9169 or visit RefrigerantFinders.com

UPS SHIPPING COPY SERVICE, (black & white & color!) FAX SERVICE, SCANNING SERVICE LAMINATING PRINTING BUSINESS CARDS ENVELOPES BANNERS POSTERS & MUCH MORE AVAILABLE AT THE LOWELL LEDGER BUYERS GUIDE 105 N. Broadway HOURS M-Th. 8-5 p.m. Fri. 8-noon Ph. 897-9261

for rent

WE DO BUSINESS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE FEDERAL FAIR HOUSING LAW - Equal Housing Opportunity. It is illegal to discriminate against any person because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin.. Anyone who feels he or she has been discriminated against may file a complaint of housing discrimination: 1-800-669-9777 (toll free) 1-800-927-9275 (TTY).

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

HALL FOR RENT - Lowell Veteran's Center, 3116 Alden Nash. Newly remodeled, smoke-free, private, great location & great rate! www.VFW8303.org. All Vets Coffee Hour the 3rd Thursday of each month at Keiser's. Bring a friend. Call John at 299-0486 or 897-8303.^{TFN EOW}

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

misc.

NEED AN AL-ANON MEETING? - Al-Anon is a fellowship of families and friends of alcoholics. Join us Sunday-Saturday at 10:30 AM and 7 PM on Zoom. Come learn the Steps, Traditions & Concepts of living and coping, in Serenity, with alcoholism. There are no dues or fees for Al-Anon. For Zoom meeting ID & Password, please call Joy at 616-901-7779.

TOPS (TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY) WEEKLY MEETINGS - Tuesdays, 6:30 pm at Schneider Manor Community Room, 725 Bowes Rd., Lowell. Cost \$32 per year and \$5 per month... start losing weight TODAY

Use Seal N Heal® to seal wounds on dogs & cats with a bitter taste to prevent gnawing, allow healing. At Tractor Supply® (www.fleabeacon.com)

Soybean yield loss due to white mold? We want to help with a winning strategy for 2022. Call Gary, Heads Up Plant Protectors. 517/930-5370!

services

I BUY, SELL, SERVICE - new/used appliances. 40 years experienced. Call 616-585-1709.^{TFN}

TWO BROTHERS AUTO SERVICE - 5400 Ivan Rd., Saranac, 616-642-9180. 30 years experience, state certified, licensed & insured. Hours Monday - Friday 8 am - 5 pm. Dave Traver head mechanic.

NOREEN K. MYERS, ATTORNEY AT LAW - Compassionate, experienced, effective legal representation. Specialties include: wills & trusts, work related injuries, employment discrimination. 307 E. Main, Lowell, 897-5460.

EMERGENCY ROAD SERVICE - Lowell & surrounding areas. On road repairs. Rob's Towing & Auto Salvage. "CHEAP HOOKER" 616-292-7649 or 616-295-8820.

services

WHEN IN AN ACCIDENT - YOU CAN CHOOSE WHO TOWS YOUR VEHICLE - Request J&K Roadwide Service, 616-690-0983.

DRIVER'S LICENSE SUSPENDED OR REVOKED? - Don't get sucked into \$100-\$300 evaluation fees...I NEVER charge for your record evaluation & consultation! Driver's license RESTORATION: \$3500 incl. all filing fees AND FREE consultation & evaluation of your case. Have a question? Call Attorney Martin Mead (616) 235-0330.

CARPENTER WANTS JOBS, JOBS, JOBS - New homes, remodeling, additions, flooring, siding, decks, kitchens, baths, plans drawn. Licensed since 1967. References. Mel Cooke, 676-9239. No Sunday calls please.

Show Local Businesses Some Love!



Eat. Shop. Explore.
LOCAL

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| P | A | N | | | | | | | G | N | A | T | | | | | | |
| A | G | E | S | | | | | | | L | A | U | R | A | | | | |
| L | O | U | T | | | | | | P | O | U | T | E | R | | | | |
| M | U | R | A | T | | | | | F | R | O | G | M | A | N | | | |
| A | T | O | N | E | | | | | I | R | O | N | I | E | S | | | |
| S | I | N | G | L | E | S | P | A | C | I | N | G | | | | | | |
| | | | | | D | A | M | | L | E | G | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | P | I | C | | P | A | R | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | R | I | F | | P | E | I | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | M | A | R | I | L | Y | N | M | O | N | R | O | E | |
| | | | | | P | A | N | A | C | E | A | | | T | E | A | L | S |
| F | L | I | T | T | E | D | | | | | | | C | U | B | I | C | |
| L | A | D | I | E | S | | | | | | | | S | I | V | A | | |
| A | T | E | N | S | | | | | | | | | S | E | E | P | | |
| G | A | N | G | | | | | | | | | | S | S | E | | | |

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

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

COPY SERVICE
 Black & White and Color
 Quick Service, Great Quality

 105 N. Broadway, Lowell • 897-9555

obituaries

SMITH

Nina "Gran" Smith, aged 97, was welcomed into the presence of Jesus on Tuesday Dec 7. We liked to tease her and say she was "older than dirt," which always made her laugh. You may have known her as Nina or Aunt Nina, but most people knew her as Gran, even if you weren't related to her. Nina Alice Oversmith was born on April 17, 1924 in Nashville, MI. She had one brother and six sisters, all of whom she outlived. In 1944, she married Alvis (NOT

Elvis) in Oklahoma, where oddly enough, her last name changed from Oversmith to just Smith. A few years later, they moved to Portland, Oregon, where their son, Bob, was born. In 1947, they moved to Bath, Michigan, where they welcomed a daughter, Pam, and another son, Ken. In 1958, the family moved to Grand Rapids, where Gran got a job at GM working 25 years sewing car seats on the upholstery line. Gran loved the simple things in life. She was an avid gardener, a master sewer and knitter and played a mean game of cribbage. If you ever had the pleasure of going to a meal at Gran's, you got a taste of her old fashioned southern cooking. She would have put the Food Network chefs to shame with her biscuits and gravy, boiled dinner or her famous pecan pie. If you ever played scrabble or Words with Friends with her and she beat you, it was most likely because she was cheating. She would never admit that, but a lot of us thought her use of the scrabble dictionary was a tad questionable. But we'll let that slide. If you were married or had a baby since the 70s, you probably have something hand-knit from Gran. Maybe a set of dish rags and towels, an afghan or baby blanket or some highly coveted slippers. While we are saddened, we won't see Gran again on this earth, we are rejoicing that she is whole and walking upright again in heaven without that darn cane. Gran, you won't have to clean your glasses so that you can hear better or change those pesky hearing aid batteries ever again. But if we could ask you one more thing, could you please leave the gates of heaven ajar for the rest of us? We sure will miss you! Nina was preceded in death by her husband, Alvis and her son, Bob. She is survived by her daughter, Pam and son, Ken Smith; favorite daughter-in-law, Jan, and two of the best sons-in-law, John Brummel and Jake Vander Wilp; stepdaughter, Jannie; grandchildren, Brett (Rachel) Smith, Shannon (Glenn) Crabtree, Jenni Stout and Jon (Jessica) Brummel; great-grandchildren, Raenen, Caitlyn, Rachel, Evan, Robbie, Riley, Reagan, Nevaeh, Taylor, Jordan, and Jaxson; and many, many nieces and nephews.

STERLING

Margo Jane Sterling, of Lowell, passed away on Wednesday, December 8, 2021 at the age of 84. She was born on March 22, 1937. She was preceded in death by her parents, Vernon Curran and Rosamond Dancer; and her brother, Michael Curran. Margo was a loving wife, mother and grandmother. She is survived by her devoted husband of 65 years, Fay; her children, Rose (Dean) Anderson, James (Judy) Sterling, Annette (Todd) Pearson; grandchildren, Marshall (Tina) Anderson, Garrett Anderson, Aaron (Faith) Sterling, Jacob Sterling, Audrey, Ethan and Brendon Pearson; and great-grandchildren, Dorothy and Clark Anderson and Keller Sterling; her brother, Jerry (Janet) Curran; and sister, Suzy (Jack) Blevins; sisters-in-law, Wilma (Gene) Baldwin, Mildred Jensen; and many nieces and nephews. Margo retired from Amway. Family and friends are invited to attend a Memorial Service at Vergennes Church on December 19 at 3 pm. Visitation with the family will begin at 2 pm.



Live the Life You Want

With Melissa Spino, MA, LPC, CDMS
Life Transitions Therapy, LLC

Handling holiday stress without triggering anxiety

You've probably heard the saying the holidays are "the most wonderful time of the year." While this is true for some, for others the holiday season can increase stress and symptoms of anxiety. When symptoms of stress and anxiety are high it's time to stop, take a deep breath, reassess your plan and regroup.

Tips for working through holiday stress & anxiety

It's best to deal with symptoms before you get to the point of feeling overwhelmed, but if your stress and anxiety are nearing critical levels it's time to stop and regroup before they get out of control or become disabling. Below are some tips to get you back to manageable stress levels.

Adopt the mindset that good is good enough. Things don't have to be perfect. It's tough to get that "Norman Rockwell" holiday in today's world. You don't have to have everything perfectly decorated or prepare a huge holiday meal. Be realistic and do what you can with what you have.

Don't do it all yourself. If you are feeling overwhelmed by stress and anxious feelings reach out and ask for help with holiday plans. I know this can be difficult but it's important to not try and do everything yourself. Why? Because high stress and anxiety can result. Also, high levels of stress and anxiety can have you starting to dread holiday time each year with family and friends.

We like to think we can do it all but it actually takes strength to know when to reach out to others for help. It is not a weakness. Think of yourself like a manager. Look at the tasks to get done, your resources (including human resources) and see what can be delegated. There isn't any reason those participating in the holiday festivities can't help. For instance, instead of making a huge meal yourself, ask people to bring a specific dish to share or beverages and ice. Ask those close to you to help with cleaning and decorating. Make it fun. Have a cleaning/ decorating get together or a

gift-wrapping party. Keep it as simple as possible though, I'm not talking a true "party" but an easy get together for a specific tasks/purpose. If you don't have time to shop in-person shop online (just remember that shipping is typically delayed around the holidays). Now that you have help cleaning, decorating, wrapping, and with food and beverages it takes a lot of the pressure off. The bonus is you get to spend more time with friends and family having fun.

Stick to a realistic budget. I never understood people spending so much for food and gifts that they are still paying off their credit cards months after the holidays end. If food, decorations and gifts cost that much it's time to reevaluate and come up with a realistic budget. As suggested above have others bring food to share. If gifts are getting too expensive try a gift exchange so you don't have to purchase a gift for everyone but just the one person's name you choose. You may also want to set a limit on how much to spend on each person/gift.

Don't isolate yourself. Instead, reach out to people close to you and talk about your feelings. If you don't have time to get together in person then video chat, call or text.

Remember "no" is a complete sentence. There is only so much time in a day, so you have to plan it out efficiently during the busy holiday season to keep stress and anxiety at manageable levels. Those that care about

you will understand when you say "No, thank you" to some activities. If you try to say yes to everything your anxiety symptoms may shut you down if you become too overwhelmed with commitments. You can also start to feel resentful toward others even though you are the one that said yes. Practice is key to becoming comfortable with saying "no."

Make time for yourself. Even if you have a huge "to-do" list it's crucial to take time for you. Eat healthy, get good sleep, meditate, take a long bath, take a nap, read a book or exercise. The point is to take the time and do something you enjoy and that's just for you.

Create a plan. Once you have utilized all your resources as discussed in the section "Don't do it all yourself," create a plan. Map out your days for shopping, cleaning, cooking, wrapping gifts, taking time for you and connecting with friends and family. You may even want to have an extra gift card or two on hand for any unexpected gift delays or unexpected guests.

After trying these suggestions if you find yourself still struggling with holiday stress and anxiety it may be time to seek out help from a counselor. I hope you find this information helpful but it is not intended to diagnose or treat. I hope everyone stays safe, healthy and has wonderful holiday season and Happy New Year!

JUST CAN'T BELIEVE WHAT YOU'RE READING ON THE INTERNET?



BEWARE of online bloggers and wannabe news sources that can publish whatever they please without repercussions.

MOST ARE JUST LETTING OFF STEAM OR WORSE, HAVE A PURPOSE THAT IS NOT DISCLOSED OR A HIDDEN AGENDA.

Be sure your news source puts their readers first, is audited and is a member of the Michigan Press Association.



the lowell
ledger

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE MASTER PLAN HEARING LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP

In accordance with Public Act 33 of 2008, as amended, the Lowell Charter Township Planning Commission will hold a public hearing to consider comments on the proposed 2022 Master Plan. This proposed Plan is an update of the 2014 Master Plan and is intended to serve as a guide to the future development of the Township. The draft Plan contains information about existing land use, demographics of the Township, analysis of land use issues, recommendations for future land use, goals and objectives, and recommendations to implement the Plan. The hearing will be held as follows:

WHEN: MONDAY, JANUARY 10, 2022
TIME: 7:00 P.M.
WHERE: LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP HALL
2910 ALDEN NASH AVENUE SE
LOWELL, MI 49331

The proposed 2022 Master Plan is 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 proposed Plan may also be viewed on the Township web site at www.twp.lowell.mi.us.

Scott Edwards, Secretary
Lowell Charter Township
Planning Commission

FUN PAGE

SUDOKU

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

Level: Intermediate

Here's How It Works:

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

GIFTING TIME WORD SEARCH

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

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

Puzzle solutions on page 13

GIFTING TIME WORD SEARCH

BAGGED
 BOXES
 CARING
 CHILDREN
 CLOTHING

FAMILY FRIENDS GIFT

HIDDEN
 HOBBIES
 INTERESTS
 LIST
 PRESENT

PURCHASE RECIPIENT

SANTA
 SECRET
 TAPE
 TECHNOLOGY
 TISSUE PAPER
 TOYS

WRAPPING

Guess Who?

I am a boxer born in the Philippines on December 17, 1978. I had to drop out of school at age 16 to help support my family. I became the first eight-division world champion. I go by the nickname "Pac-Man."

Answer: Manny Pacquiao

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to shopping.

T R L E I A

| | | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| | | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|

Answer: Retail

| | | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 8 | | | 9 | | | 10 | |
| 11 | | | | | 12 | | |
| 13 | | | 14 | | 15 | | |
| 16 | | | | | 17 | | |
| 18 | | | | 19 | 20 | | |
| | | | 21 | | | 22 | |
| | | | 23 | | | 24 | |
| | | 25 | | | | | |
| | | 27 | | | 28 | | |
| | 34 | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| 36 | | | | | | 37 | |
| | | | | | | | |
| 38 | | | | | | 39 | |
| | | | | | | | |
| 40 | | | | | | 41 | |
| | | | | | | | |
| 42 | | | | | | | 43 |

CLUES ACROSS

- You fry food in it
- Pesky insect
- Gets older
- ___ Dern, actress
- Uncouth man
- One who sulks
- Napoleon's king of Naples
- One who swims underwater
- Make amends
- Expressions
- Document format
- What a beaver makes
- Limb
- Photograph
- Golf score
- Moroccan mountain range
- Wrinkled dog breed: Shar ___
- 20th century sex symbol
- Remedy for all diseases

CLUES DOWN

- Town in central Brazil
- Large burrowing rodent
- Nerve cell
- Estimating
- Bakers use it
- Regions
- Small lake
- Environmentalist nun
- More kookie
- Announce officially
- Israeli city ___ Aviv
- Title given to friar

- Inches per minute (abbr.)
- Buildings
- Pouch
- They steal on the high seas
- It's mightier than the sword
- Going off on a tangent
- Monetary unit
- Young woman
- Type of bulb
- Type of drug (abbr.)
- City opposite Dusseldorf
- Animal disease
- Martini necessities
- Elude
- La ___: Buenos Aires capital
- An oft-enduring symbol

5 Reasons to Decline to Sign the School Board Recall Petitions

1) Lowell Taxpayers foot the bill.

- The special election must be paid for out of the school's general fund.
- The estimated cost of a special election is \$10,000.
- The general fund typically supports facilities, staff, transportation, classroom equipment and supplies.

2) There are NO specific allegations against any of the three board members to support a recall.

- Nugent, Blough and Curtis all have deep multi-generational ties to the Lowell Community. Without a specific concern, their commitment to the students and school system shouldn't be in question.
- Expensive recalls should be utilized only when a board member demonstrates clear wrongdoing such as criminality or misconduct which prevents the body from performing duties entrusted to them by voters.

3) SIX MONTHS!

- The time between a divisive & expensive recall special election and the election when their terms end and they'll be required to run again is six months.
- If you believe the current board isn't up to the task, vote for their challengers in November 2022 and save Lowell taxpayers expensive special election costs.

4) Children benefit when adults model effective approaches to conflict resolution.

- Attempts to remove school board members via recall are not unique to Lowell; they're happening nationwide in a coordinated effort to undermine trust in public education.
- Bringing national issues and agendas to a non-partisan school board is a distraction that prevents our board from addressing matters that affect our children every day.

5) This is not about transparency; the recall group got answers, just not ones they like.

- Boards of Education have powers and limitations when it comes to their role in decision-making. Their duty is to represent all students, not just the loudest voices.
- Unsatisfied with a response from an administrator or board member? Get involved! Volunteer for a committee or in your child's classroom, or run for a seat on the school board. These positions have little to no monetary benefit to you and invite scrutiny and critique, but we work together for what is best for LAS students!

Nick and Amy Gless
Jack and Nancy Misner
John Forsberg and Morgan Jarema
Keegan and Bisera Riordan
Erin and Derek Foltz
Nicole and Dustin Lintemuth
Heather Cooper
Paula and Lee Patterson
Olivia Geiger
Michael Smith
Mildred Sheppard
Darrell Baughman
Brian Baughman
Sue and Dave Clements
Diane Titche
Scott and Shelly MacNaughton
Diane MacNaughton
Sharon McFall
Bridget Gless
Tony and Sharon Ellison
Jim and Cheryl Blodgett
Caitlin and Casey Butler

Sarah Meckl
Megan Getz
Dan and Becky Martin
Amanita Fahrni
Keana Fahrni
Mary Carmichael
Janet and George Fabis
Nancy Richter
Anna Mainero
Robin and Greg Briggs
Ray and Beth Wolfe
Emily Liley
Barbara Montgomery
Kelly Lester
Aimee McCombs and Rich Curtis
Al Eckman
Ann Dimmick and Carl Rife
Eric and Rita Lundstrom
Bob and Gay Pfaller
Rick and Jodie Seese
Peggy Idema
Bill and Lori Ingraham

Dale and Karen Latva
Kim Fife
Shannon Hanley
Bob and Lanie Rice
Perry and Teresa Beachum
Roger and Diane LaWarre
Jim and Chris Hodges
Greg Canfield
Kelsey Koewers
Trudy Cahoon
Zach Beachum
Becky Osborne
Flora Jean Beachum
Lacey and Lucien Charboneau
Lou and Mary Dudeck
Andy and Lyndsey Graham
Jim and Paula Harden
Josh and Leslie McCracken
Scott and Amanda McDowell
Dale and Jan Hanson
Dave and Kelly Powell
Dr. Tracy and Paul Lixie