

## Annual Santa Parade is Saturday, Dec. 3

Christmas lights illuminate the night at our Annual Santa Parade. Lighted floats and entries cruise down Main Street while people snap photos of the colorful, bright submissions. The parade wraps up a day of holiday activities on December 3, in Lowell, that includes an art and craft holiday sale, a pancake supper, a book sale, a live nativity, Rudolph's Craft Workshop, Santa visits on the Lowell Showboat VI and Hot Chocolate and Cookies in the Chamber.

The parade is the highlight of the day-long festivities, and the holiday entries light up the darkness. Spectators line the downtown streets to watch entries featuring floats, bands, and more. Liz Baker, Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce Executive Director says, "The 2022 theme is Christmas Toyland."

The parade begins on Riverside Drive, heading east on Main Street and ending at the Lowell United Methodist Church. First, second and third prizes for theme and decorations will



Santa and Mrs. Claus will be in Lowell for the Annual Santa Parade this Saturday. Photo courtesy of Bruce Doll.

be awarded to the different entries. The float entries are allowed to decorate in any manner they interpret the annual theme. Participants will be creative on their floats with lights, music, decorations, etc. The top ten

entries will be featured on Facebook for the People's Choice award, where the community chooses their favorite.

Baker says, "Everyone who enters the parade gets into the spirit. The school

bands who perform even wear lights on their hats and often decorate their instruments." The parade starts at 6 pm sharp, so be sure to find your special place along Main Street. The deadline is November

23 for those interested in entering a float. There is no charge, but participants do need to fill out an application by going to discoverlowell.org or call the Chamber at (616) 897-9161.



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## Christmas Holiday Party set for Dec. 10 at the Fallasburg one-room schoolhouse

By Emma Palova  
contributing writer

The annual Christmas party, at the one-room schoolhouse in the historic

village of Fallasburg, is back after a two-year hiatus in its old-fashioned traditional format with music, food, and fun, set

for Dec. 10. For the first time, the covered bridge will be decorated with white lights, garland, and wreaths, in conjunction with the Kent

County Road Commission.

"We're returning in-full with everything everyone has enjoyed in the past," said Craig Fonger, Fallasburg Historical Society (FHS) president. "Normalcy is what's new. Covid had stymied our plans in 2020 and 2021, so we look forward to having a great party that everyone is familiar with."

The Hawks and Owls will once again take the floor at the schoolhouse, along with some great chilies, made by the board members, and additional munchies. However, if you wish to bring a holiday signature dish, you're more than welcome to do so. Beer and wine will be available.

One of the major changes is that instead of the bonfire at the field, there will be a campfire near the

schoolhouse for people to warm-up and exchange holiday cheer. A new high-tech heating system, thanks to a grant from the Lowell Community Fund, will warm-up the schoolhouse. The system was installed by Evert Bek & team from Arctic Heating and Cooling of Lowell. "We invite the whole community to join us," said Fonger. "A special thank you to proprietor Evert Bek."

Among the highlights of the event will be a local artist, who will draw a Christmas scene on the chalkboard. The holiday party has been one of the FHS's signature fundraising events. A donation of \$20 per person, or \$45 for more



The schoolhouse is decked out for Christmas. Photo courtesy of Craig Fonger.

Party, continued page 2

50¢





# Lowell Education Foundation approves over \$27,000 in grants for Lowell Area Schools

Lowell Education Foundation (LEF) assists teachers across the Lowell Area Schools (LAS) district who seek creative and innovative ideas to help their students be successful. This past October, LEF met to review \$55,000 worth of grant requests from LAS teachers and support staff. The Foundation granted over \$27,000 worth of the

requests, thanks, in part, to the generosity of LEF donors.

Grants approved in October included: Ninja Wall Challenge Course for Alto Elementary, Makey Makey-An Invention Kit for Everyone, and Make-It, Take-It Math Workshops that will help with Math interventions at all LAS elementary schools.

Carmen Tawney is the elementary math coordinator who is working with teachers across the district to develop enrichment activities to support the math curriculum. "These activities are all hands-on and require a variety of manipulatives and organizational storage for student use," says Tawney. These kits will provide students across the district with the opportunity to be working independently.

The money distributed this year is the largest amount in the Foundation's history, granted to enhance innovative learning for students in the district. "Reviewing grant requests is never an easy task and this year was no exception. The work our district teachers are doing to encourage learning is evident in each request. We're proud to help teachers enhance the learning experience for



Make-It, Take-It Kits were funded by a grant from Lowell Education Foundation.



Carmen Tawney distributing math manipulatives from the grant received from Lowell Education Foundation.

all students," says Shelly MacNaughton, LEF Chair.

Funding for grants each year is established through the Grand Rapids

Community Foundation, as well as private donations. Those who would like to donate to LEF can set-up a monthly contribution or a

one-time gift by following this link:<https://interland3.donorperfect.net/weblink/weblink.aspx?name=E350348&id=3>

## Party, continued

than three people, is requested. "We hope that many of the society's longtime friends and supporters will come back and make this the memorable holiday event it has always been," Fonger said.

The FHS is looking forward to welcoming new people who were introduced to the society at the Fallasburg Village Celebration in July 2022, as well as those who have yet to discover what this village has to offer.

Make this a part of your holiday traditions. The party will usher in the holidays on Dec. 10 at 6pm, at the one-room schoolhouse.

## Social Security and scam awareness

Social Security imposter scams are widespread across the United States. Scammers use targeted, sophisticated tactics to deceive you into providing sensitive information or money.

Social Security's Office of the Inspector General (OIG) has received reports of scammers creating fake versions of the identification badges most federal employees use to gain access to federal buildings. The scammers may text or email photos of the fake badges to convince potential victims of their legitimacy. These badges use government

symbols, words, and even names and photos of real people, which are available on government websites or through internet searches.

If you receive a suspicious letter, text, email, or call, hang up or do not respond. We want you to know how to identify a scammer and avoid becoming victims.

We will NEVER: Text or email images of an employee's official

**Social Security, continued page 12**

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP BOARD

The Lowell Charter Township Board will hold a public hearing to consider Ordinance No. 08-2022. This Ordinance will protect the health, safety, and general welfare of the Township Residents by preventing damage, clutter, and any obstruction on Township owned property.

The hearing will be as follows:

The hearing will be as follows:

WHEN: MONDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2022

TIME: 7:00 P.M.

WHERE: LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP HALL

2910 ALDEN NASH AVENUE SE

LOWELL, MI 49331

Any person is welcome to attend the meeting and offer comments regarding this request. Information on the proposed request is available for review at the Lowell Charter Township Offices, 2910 Alden Nash Avenue, SE, Lowell, MI. 49331 during normal office hours on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday or by calling 897-7600.

Materials pertaining to this request may be reviewed on the Township web site at [www.lowelltpw.org](http://www.lowelltpw.org) five days before the meeting.

Monica Burtt, Clerk  
Lowell Charter Township Board

### NOTICE VERGENNES TOWNSHIP

69 Lincoln Lake Ave NE, Lowell  
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Vergennes Township is accepting applications for the following Board and Commission positions; Board of Review, including alternates, Planning Commission, Zoning Board of Appeals, LARA citizen representative and Construction Board of Appeals.

Application forms and a summary of job descriptions may be obtained on the township website [www.vergennestwp.org](http://www.vergennestwp.org) (left column 'Quick Links' click on 'forms and applications' then 'Application to Boards, Commissions & Committees'), by emailing the clerk at [clerk@vergennestwp.org](mailto:clerk@vergennestwp.org), or at the township offices located at 69 Lincoln Lake Ave NE, Lowell, MI 49331.

Deadline for application submission is Thursday, December 14, 2022 @ 12 p.m. Applicants will be considered at the December 19, 2022, meeting of the Vergennes Township Board.

Shantell Ford  
Vergennes Township Clerk

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# City Council discusses a police car purchase, EMS contract and parks and recreation plan at latest meeting

By Jake Bates  
contributing writer

The Lowell City Council met on Nov. 21 to discuss issues facing the city. The meeting lasted 46 minutes, in total, with a police car purchase, the Rockford EMS contract, mowing bids, and a draft parks and recreation plan on the agenda.

For citizen discussion, Lowell resident, Perry Beachum, took the podium to request the city council to consider removing the piles of dirt with contaminants in the soil at the Front Street property, even though Lowell is meeting its due-care obligations that the state of Michigan has laid-out. Beachum said, "It needs to be removed...I know the price is approximately \$225,000. I'd like to see the council move forward and get an actual price on that."

Lowell Police Chief, Christopher Hurst, took the podium next to formally request the funds allocated

for the purchase of a new police cruiser at \$62,000 be reallocated to the purchase of a used cruiser instead for a price of \$51,315. The motion passed unanimously. City Council member, Cliff Yankovich, spoke after the vote, "I just want to put it on the record that the price of used vehicles is wack. In case someone in the city is thinking [we're spending too much on a used vehicle]."

For the next topic, City Manager, Michael Burns, explained that the Rockford Ambulance contract expired on Sept. 30th. A representative for Rockford Ambulance took the podium to answer questions regarding call volume and manpower, "At the end of 2021, we had 1439 [calls] in the Lowell area...and this year, we are trending about 75 more than that. As far as staffing goes, we have added additional resources." Rockford ambulance has added another truck and



staff to accommodate the increased number of calls. The motion to renew the contract with Rockford Ambulance for five years passed unanimously.

Daniel Czarnecki took the podium to discuss the mowing bids for years 2022-2025. The current contract for mowing city properties has expired. Manszewski Landscaping has been the company Lowell has been using for

several years. Czarnecki put out requests for bids to seven companies and only three of those companies submitted bids. Czarnecki explained, "[Manszewski Landscaping] was the low bid again at \$42,600." The motion to accept the new lawn mowing contract with Manszewski Landscaping passed unanimously.

Czarnecki stayed at the podium to discuss the draft parks and recreation plan

for 2022-2027. Czarnecki covered a variety of topics in the draft and some of the conversations they've had with locals. In a brief provided to city council, Czarnecki clarified that there is currently no action required by city council.

There were multiple complaints put forward about the recent construction on Gee Drive. Burns addressed this towards the end of the meeting, "What

was determined was that the contractor rolled the asphalt too quick. The contractor recognized that the work was not the best of quality. They do plan on coming back in the spring." Burns further explained that as the snow plows go over Gee Drive, these issues may diminish. The city will continue to monitor this issue as it progresses.

## Ninth year of Treasures for Troops a success

It's year number nine for "Treasures for Troops" collecting items on behalf of Blue Star Mothers Chapter #188 of Ionia, Montcalm, and Kent Counties, and WION is proud of the results.

WION's broadcast week was November 14th through 18th, with broadcasts from the Village Market of Muir, Young Chevrolet-Buick-GMC of Ionia, and the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce. The results are quite impressive, considering the past two years of Covid and this year's unimpressive economic conditions. The

Blue Star Mothers and volunteers met on Sunday, November 20th...sorted, boxed and prepared 233 boxes to go to deployed Servicemen and Women in all branches of our country's military. Boxes are packed with donations collected in this yearly event, and include letters, cards, and notes from Saranac, Ionia, Lowell students, Ionia area residents, and others. The Ionia Moose Lodge hosted the storage, sorting, and boxing of donations, which were prepared for mailing from the Saranac Post Office. Young Chevrolet, Buick, GMC was the

sponsor, as they have been each year of the drive.

233 boxes are going out to active military members deployed far from home. The boxes will be a surprise to most recipients, however, some addresses were provided to the Blue Star Mothers by families and friends of the deployed. Major donations for postage were received from Reurink Roofing & Siding Sales of Ionia, and Herbruck's of Ionia, with many individual monetary donations from WION listeners, advertisers, and the public in Ionia and Kent Counties. The Lowell High School

Radio WRWW-92.3FM and Lowell Schools contributed to the drive as well.

The Lakewood United Methodist Church Youth Group of Lake Odessa held their yearly special drive for our project and donated what was (for them) a record amount of items during the boxing on Sunday the 20th.

Brenda King-Gibson of Ionia, Kent & Montcalm Counties Blue Star Mothers Chapter 188 reemphasized the importance of small town participation: "We could not have done this pack for one year without our local communities, let alone, nine amazing years.

Each and every year, so many hands and hearts touch each and every box we send. As always this is a true testament to our small towns and local communities. We are incredibly blessed by the outpouring of generosity." Jim Carlyle, WION's owner and mid-morning co-host commented: "Now in our 9th year of hosting this drive and organizing some of its' efforts, we're proud of our listeners, our local organizations, schools, and businesses for the results! It's amazing, given the way people now have to watch their expenses this year, how

much all of our surrounding area came together for this cause. It's an effort that year after year, brings communities together as one. We're very proud at what locally-owned radio and community can do, working together."

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**The Menu: Disturbed Chef has a bone to pick**

by Bill Lee  
contributing writer

You may have heard some recent buzz about the movie *"The Menu,"* starring Ralph Fiennes and Ann Taylor-Joy. The buzz is well-deserved, as *"The Menu,"* written by Seth Reiss and Will Tracy and directed by Mark Mylod, is one of the more unique and darkly satirical plots you will ever see. In essence, satire is a form of comedy that exposes and ridicules the flaws of a person, system, or concept in order to make a point. Examples

of satirical movies include *"American Beauty," "The Truman Show,"* and *"Don't Look Up"* – all of which are comedic in nature, but also unmask some of the hypocritical characteristics of human beings. Although the genre has been around for hundreds of years, English writer, Jonathan Swift, perfected the art with stories like *"Gulliver's Travels"* and *"A Modest Proposal"* in the early 1700s. *"A Modest Proposal"* was just that: a "serious" proposal on how to rid England of an overpopulated poverty class,

particularly the Irish, at the time. "A young healthy child well-nursed, is, at a year old, a most delicious nourishing and wholesome food, whether stewed, roasted, baked, or boiled; and I make no doubt that it will equally serve in a fricassee, or a ragot." Yes, eating children would solve the problem.

Although *"The Menu"* does not involve the concept of eating human beings, it does take a similar approach: how does one teach the elite class a lesson about giving more and taking less? The answer comes in the form of world-famous Chef Justin Slowick (played by Fiennes) and known worshipfully, as Chef, by his staff and patrons. There is considerable mystery behind Chef. The only thing we know is that for most of his working life, Chef has only served the rich and famous and has been preparing and serving exquisite meals for years to those who can afford it.

The movie opens with a young couple, Margo (played by Taylor-Joy) and Tyler (played delectably by Nicholas Hoult) walking to

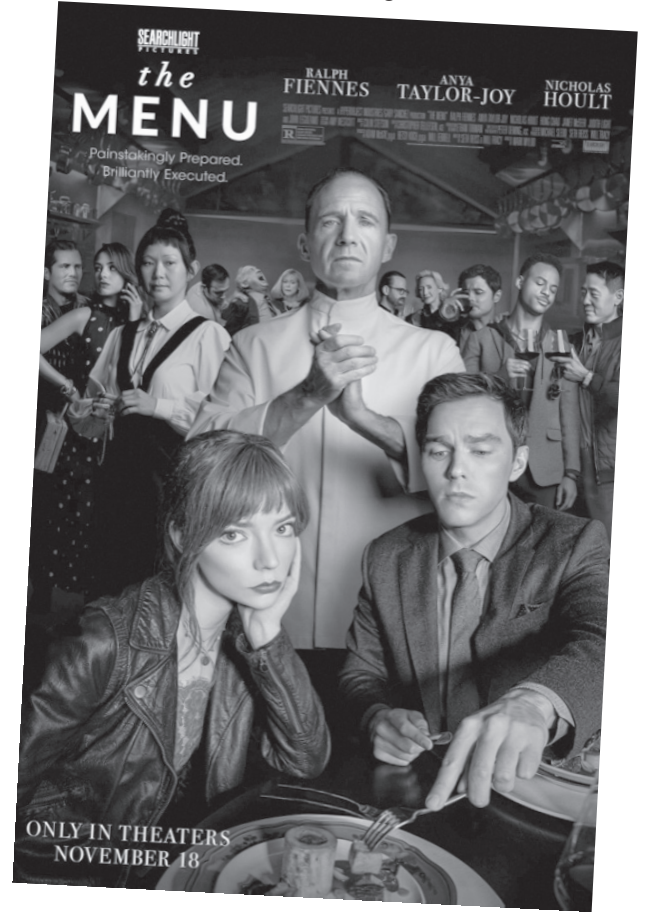
a yacht that will take them to Hawthorne Island, not too far from the mainland, where their host, Chef, will cook a very pricey, 7-course meal for them and about a dozen other rich patrons. The groups of people include three young business men, a couple in their sixties, a movie star and his girlfriend, a famous food critic and her male partner, and Margo and Tyler. As the characters walk to board the yacht, there are subtle undertones of aggression between all the characters, including the hostess Elsa, played stoically-well by actress Hong Chau.

They reach the island and enter the exclusive restaurant, meeting Chef's assistant cooks and preparers, who are all busy in the kitchen in an open-concept cooking/dining area. As they prepare the first course, oysters with algae, we begin to see that there is something unusual about the menu, about these cooks, about Chef, and about the customers themselves. The relationship between Chef and his assistants seems oddly cultish as they bark, "Yes Chef!" in unison, and stand at attention when he asks a question. The tension is palpable.

With each course served, new clues are dropped about the characters. These are not your typical customers. The second course begins with Chef pontificating about bread. "Bread is food for the common man... you will not eat bread," he tells his infuriated patrons. At this point, Chef introduces his mother, who is sitting quietly in a drunken state

at a table by herself, and then he tells a vivid story of his horrible childhood. Both his customers and the movie audience begin to ask themselves, "What in the hell is going on here?" – a question that continues to be asked as the movie

progresses. From there, the courses served become more outrageous and even savage to a point, where the customers begin to question the authenticity of everything presented to them. Is this real? they ask. Eventually, they begin to see that they symbolize something more to Chef: his ungrateful clientele over the years. "I was fooled into thinking I can satisfy those who can't be satisfied,"



authentic unlike the other characters, and is a key to unlocking his intentions. Overall, *"The Menu,"* itself, has its own weaknesses. There is plenty of moralizing about the lower/serving class verses the elite/consuming class. The plot is overly cynical; the characters are mainly static and not developed; and the finale of the seventh and last course is particularly unrealistic, as it is outrageous. But like great satires, that is not the point. We know these concepts are unrealistic, but it's the themes that are important here. Reiss and Tracy, the writers, are hoping you question some areas of weakness in our society and even within ourselves. Are you a "giver" or a "taker"? Have you lost your way in life, like the characters have, including Chef, succumbing to selfish ambitions? Fortunately, Chef and the other transgressors in the room finally have an opportunity to see the light, in more ways than one.

*"The Menu"* will be unlike any other movie you'll see this year, and you'll have fun watching it. It will shock you, make you think, keep you guessing, and even make you laugh – even if it might be a sinister snicker. Fiennes, Taylor-Joy, and the other actors really shine in their roles. For a little something different, go see this movie. I highly recommend *"The Menu"* and give it 4 out of 5 popcorn kernels.



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**DECEMBER SCHEDULE**

- Steve Boughton, Francesco Takes Flight, Dec. 2
- Janet Vormittag, Cat Women of West Michigan, Dec. 9
- Herman Hunter, The Wizard's Stone, Dec. 16
- Karen Tintori, The Daughters, Dec. 23
- Carol Nickles, Thumbfire Desire, Dec. 30

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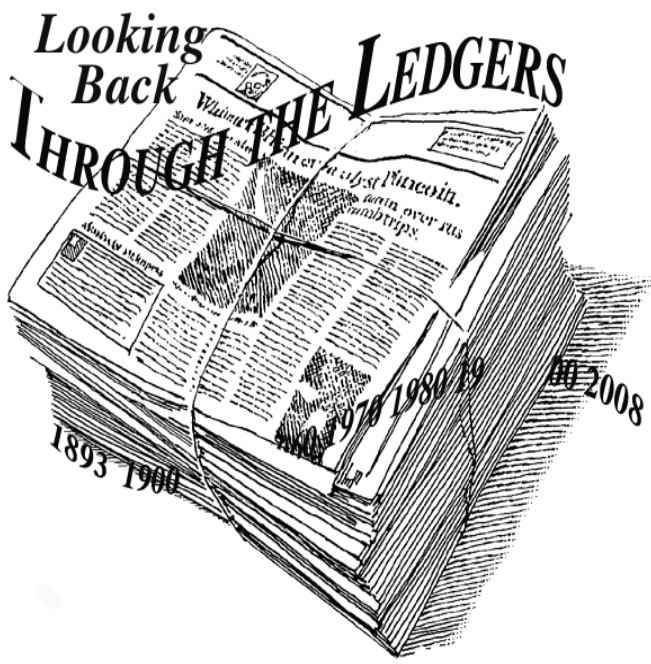
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# viewpoint



## 125 years ago The Lowell Ledger December 2, 1897

Old John Eaton is in trouble again; this time his den was destroyed by fire. The cleansing event took place last Thursday night, while the old man was in Grand Rapids. When he returned and found his Burroughs gone, he insisted on taking up high residence with Frank May, until Supervisor White and Deputy Morse made him pay his board bill and move on.

Frank B. Simmons borrowed \$20 from a chattel mortgage shark, at the rate of \$2 a month. After receiving \$20, the shark assigned his claim to another shark, who, after he, too, had received more than the original claim assigned to a third party. The three sharks together bled Simmons for \$76; then No. 3 threatened to foreclose on all Simmon's property, except the clothes he wore. Simmons went to the law, had the mortgage canceled, and recovered \$25 and costs.

## 100 years ago The Lowell Ledger December 7, 1922

The annual roll-call of the American Red Cross occurs this year from December 1 to 16, inclusive, and the membership fee of \$1.00 is solicited from each and every one for the maintenance of the splendid work of this great organization, which contributed so greatly to the relief of suffering in the World War, and will keep on functioning for the good of all who need its ministrations, just as long as the American public will support it.

The fair opens tonight. We are all set to show you a wonderful time. The train arrived today with our wild animals and Ringling Brothers have promised us a couple of their best clowns.

There is much corn husking being done in this vicinity, this very fine weather.

The reptile moonshine received a severe black eye in Grand Rapids last week, and it is to be hoped that those engaged in the business will take warning and quit, while the quitting is good.

## 75 years ago The Lowell Ledger December 4, 1947

Bruce Walter severely injured two fingers in the chain drive on a coal loader on Wednesday, noon of last week. The fingers were repairs and set in time so

he could get at the turkey on Thursday.

Acting Postmaster, Mabel H. Bibbler, informs us Lowell has been graded another City Carrier; William G. Dawson has accepted this position from our Civil Service Register and will deliver all parcel post daily, including Saturday, besides doing substitute work for the regular carrier.

Frank Stephens and Fred Gramer were busy the past week trying to locate the person, or persons, who broke into Wepman's store on the bridge and got away with hunting clothes, gloves and other clothing items.

Charles Hunn, who lives on the Lincoln Lake Road, was in town Monday morning proudly displaying a nine-point buck, which he brought from Cheboygan County last Friday morning.

Mrs. Lee Bryant returned from the north with a fine 10-pt. buck. Ed Clark also got a nice buck. Fewer people are feasting on venison this year.

## 50 years ago Lowell Ledger Suburban Life November 30, 1972

The Annual Christmas Parade will usher in the Yule season and bring Santa Claus to town this Saturday. Dick Roth and Arnie DeLoof, co-chairmen of the 1972 parade, report that the entries are trickling in to make this a nice way to start off the Yule season in Lowell.

Sheriff, Ron Parson, urges all homeowners to be sure their house numbers are clearly visible from the roadway. Law enforcement agencies have been having difficulty finding addresses of homes to which they were sent.

The Jr. Hi-Y is a club that conducts service projects held in their school and community. Citizenship and service to one's fellowman are part of this program, open to boys in grades six through eight. Al Eckman is the Jr. Hi-Y Club advisor.

Brian Odell, 14, bagged a six-point buck on opening day around 10 a.m., north of Lowell. Jim VanPortfliet shot a ten-point buck near Baldwin on opening day.

Marcia Alderink has been named the Lowell High School recipient of the D.A.R. Good Citizen award for this school year. Marcia's selection is based on leadership, service, dependability and patriotism.

## 25 years ago The Lowell Ledger December 3, 1997

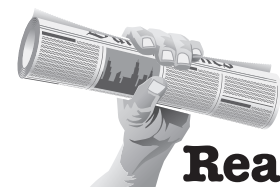
Lowell's annual Christmas Parade will unwrap this season's holiday spirit. The parade begins at 10 a.m. Following the parade, children can have pictures taken with Santa at Larkin's The Other Place. Parents can also take time to browse through the different craft booths.

Legal and professional planners will be in attendance at a Jan. 5 Vergennes Township Planning Commission meeting, to provide opinions, concerns and questions residents have about the proposal of a home-based business ordinance.

Nine Lowell football players received post-season recognition; they are: T.J. Thayer, Steve LanLaan, Chris Wieland, Nate Schoen, Kevin Tennis, Brian Bellechasses, Jeff Aloft, Tim VanLaan and Kevin Condon.

Following the recommendation of the Lowell Township Planning Commission, the township board approved the rezoning of approximately 60 acres of land at Foreman Road and Cumberland Avenue. With the rezoning, the acreage will change from low-density to medium-density residential.

Students from Lowell High School joined nearly 700 other young people from 85 schools for the 12 annual SADD-Michigan State Conference, held Nov. 8 through 10, at Shanty Creek Resort near Bellaire.



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The requirements are:

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- 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. We have a 500-word limit.

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## At Your Local Library

Kent District Library programs at Englehardt Branch, 200 N. Monroe St. For additional information call 616-784-2007.

### Teen Zone

Mondays, 3 - 4 pm. Teen-only fun for you and your friends at the library! Stop by for activities that may include board games, food and more. For teens 11-17.

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Fridays from 1-3 pm. American Mahjongg, a game of skill, strategy and calculation. All skill levels welcome.

### Friends of the Library Book Sale

Saturday, Dec. 3, 10 am - 5 pm. There will be bargains galore at the Friends of the Library's Used Book Sale.

### Open Craft Lab

Saturday, Dec. 3, 1-3 pm. Stop in and try something new or bring in your own project! New projects will be introduced monthly. All previous projects will be available while supplies last. For adults 18+

### KDL Lab Experience

Wednesday, Dec. 7, 4-5 pm. Drop in and allow children to think creatively, tinker, explore and collaborate while engaging in a variety of hands-on activities based on STEM concepts. For ages 5-10.

### Night Owls Book Discussion

Wednesday, Dec. 7, 6:30 - 7:30 pm. Join a fun, informal discussion of great books. This month, we'll discuss This Is How It Always Is by Laurie Frankel. For adults 18+

### Teen Zone

Thursday, Dec. 8, 3-4 pm. Teen-only fun for you and your friends at the library! Stop by for activities that may include board games, food and more. For ages 11-17.

# ABCs of Lowell history

The Lowell Area Historical Museum is introducing a new weekly series. Each week we will explore the history of one of the buildings in the downtown Historic District.

**Address: 319 E. Main**  
**Date Built: 1911**

**Owner: Dr. J. P. Draper**  
**1st owner: Dr. Draper's**  
**Stand-in barn for horses**

This building was built in 1911 to be Dr. J. P. Draper's 10c Stand-In Barn for horses, in association with his Veterinary Hospital and blacksmith shop next door. Customers could leave their horses in this barn while they shopped or worked in town for the day, or if the horse needed shoeing, it could wait its turn in the stand-in barn. However, transportation methods soon changed; horses were out, automobiles were in. Percy Gregory had a Buick Garage here in 1915, followed by Arthur Clark's Buick garage. It became Bennett & Sons in 1919, who were experts in electrical and battery service. Earl Hunter's Star garage was here in 1925 when Frank A. Gould



The one-story building on the right is 319 E. Main. Gould's Garage used both 317 and 319 East Main from 1925 to 1944; Peter Speerstra bought the buildings and kept the "Gould's Garage" name until he moved out in 1954.

purchased the building for his Overland, Dodge and Plymouth Sales and Service. Graham Brothers also sold their trucks from here in 1928. In 1944, Gould sold the business and building to Peter Speerstra who kept the "Gould's Garage" name and sold Dodge and Plymouth cars.

The building was purchased by Richard Bancroft and George Dey in 1954. They opened the



Lowell Engineering expansion, 1974

Lowell Model Shop to manufacture small tools, jigs, dies and die models. This became Lowell Engineering Corp in 1959. In 1965, they had 30-35 employees and were manufacturing automotive and appliance parts. They expanded by constructing the steel frame building adjoining to the east (321 E. Main) in 1974. In 1980, they moved to a larger facility in Alto.

Central States Machinery Sales and

Precision Grinding was here in the early 1980s; Lowell Auto Body & L. A. Trim were here from 1985-2004. Bennett Funeral Coaches was here briefly. Then in 2008, 319 E. Main was remodeled into the showroom for All Weather Seal which specializes in window and door sales and installation. They also deal in roofing, attic venting, gutter installation, and siding. Lowell Engineering, 1961



Percy Gregory's Buick Garage, 1915

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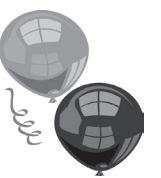
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# area churches

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897-7060  
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Website: calvarylowell.org  
Morning Worship..... 10:00 AM  
Weekly Prayer Meeting - Mondays ....7 PM  
Barrier-Free

# happy birthday



## Riverside Fellowship of Seventh-day Adventists

"Praying and studying together"  
Saturday service begins at 10:30 AM  
10300 Vergennes St. SE, Lowell  
616-987-0567  
www.lowellriverside.com  
Pastor Darrel le Roux

## GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

10305 Bluewater Highway  
(Missouri Synod)  
Halfway between Lowell & Saranac on M-21  
Sunday Services - 10:30 am  
www.gslc.church  
Richard Boshoven, 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 3:30-4:30 pm  
Prayer & Adoration: Wednesdays 9 am to 4:45 pm  
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN TO ADULTS

### DECEMBER 1

Travis Briggs, Nate Schoen, Deb Anchors, Denny Brenk II, Joyce Watrous.

### DECEMBER 5

Christopher Vickers.

### DECEMBER 6

Katie Blough, Kristopher Vezino, Maria Blough, Christopher DeBold, Marc Wernet.

### DECEMBER 2

Chelsey Treglia, Kari Bergy, Karly Batt, Olivia Starkweather.

### DECEMBER 7

Jennifer Berry, Jeni Buck.

### DECEMBER 3

Chris Chambers, Christine Gillies, Amanda Sterzick, Richard Kline, Jennifer Kovacs.

### DECEMBER 4

Tennille Bryant, Autumn French, Casey French.



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Pastor Alyssa Anten  
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897-7168 • www.fbclowell.org  
Pastor Jon Pickens • Lead Pastor  
Pastor Andrew Bolkcom • Pastor of Discipleship  
Christi Swain • Director of Children's Ministries  
SUNDAY WORSHIP.....9:30 AM (Nursery provided)  
LIFE GROUPS .....11:00 AM (Nursery-Adult)  
Awana (K-5 during school year) Wednesday, 6:15 PM

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





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www.restless-viking.com

~ Fort Wilkins Restoration

Fort Wilkins, already one hundred years old in 1939, had been crumbling at the tip of the Keweenaw Peninsula. This fort was brought back to life with Donald W. Dow leading the team. The captivating story of Donald W. Dow and the restoration of Fort Wilkins gave me a better insight into understanding the word, "dedication."

Donald's smile spoke to me when I saw him featured in one of the restored buildings at Fort Wilkins. I needed to know more!

Join Chuck and I, as we stroll through Fort Wilkins, soaking up the history, while being mindful of the dedicated work it had taken Donald W. Dow and his crew to preserve these relics.

**Why Was Fort Wilkins Built?**

Following the Treaty of Washington in 1836, where the natives signed-over their rights to the Upper Peninsula and surrounding areas, Douglass Houghton, a geologist, was sent on an

expedition. His discovery of copper was the catalyst for the Copper Rush.

I asked myself, "How did Douglass Houghton survive without a bug shirt?" In my opinion, previous generations carried a depth of determination that is rarely seen today.

**The Copper Rush**

"Miners are flocking to Lake Superior copper mines in vast numbers." The Democratic Free Press reported on June 5, 1845 "The shores of Keweenaw Point were whitened with tents."

Fort Wilkins had been built in 1844 as a law enforcement agency to help keep peace for the copper mining area. However, this didn't appear to be necessary. When the Mexican-American War started two years later, troops were sent south abandoning Fort Wilkins. The fort was reopened for a



short time in 1867, following the Civil War, but closed again in 1870.

By 1923 Fort Wilkins was named a state park, but had fallen into disrepair. The upkeep started at a slow pace, then in the 1930's, 'The Depression' dominated our country.

Donald W. Dow, a charismatic teacher, was enticed by the opportunity to breathe life back into the nearly one-hundred-year-old fort. The Works Progress Administration (WPA), a federal program to rebuild the economy by assigning work projects, provide laborers who lived nearby in mining villages: Ahmeek and Mohawk.

**Donald W. Dow, Sr.**

Donald W. Dow, Sr. was hired by the Michigan Department of Conservation to manage the restoration. Donald, his wife, Violette, and their two children, Donald Jr. and Violette, lived at the fort for nine years during the project. This was longer than any soldier had ever lived at the fort.

Marveling at his decade of dedication, I wanted to learn about Mr. Dow and read every sign around the room inside the reconstructed building.

Violette E. Dow, his wife, had been interviewed in 1961. "We had watched the buildings being restored to their original state as near as possible. . . The workmen who

restored the Fort became our children's pals."

"These men were hard workers." stated Donald W. Dow Sr. "A lot of them were crippled with arthritis from working in the mines, but they were skilled – skilled with an ax."

This squad worked in all seasons from 1939–1948. Dow recalled, "By the time the fellows got down here (from the villages of Ahmeek and Mohawk), riding in these

the way they were. . . He had been a blacksmith for the mines."

**The Mystery Of "Frank" The Prisoner**

The carved name, "Frank D. Pratt" was discovered inside a cell door during renovations. Donald W. Dow and the WPA workers were curious and conducted some research. "Frank" had been a 22-year-old bookkeeper from Hartford, CT. He'd joined

**Fort Wilkins Today**

Globally, our country is quite young, so holding our history close is vital to understanding our journey as a nation. Donald W. Dow, his family, and the WPA workers hold my highest regard. Their dedication to preserving history has kept this 179-year-old fort alive. We are afforded the opportunity to absorb



Almost a century ago this man, Donald W. Dow Sr., dedicated a full decade of his family's lives to restoring Fort Wilkins. (1939-1948).

trucks with just a canvas top ... they were frozen. It took them an hour or so to warm up so they could start working."

**The Works Progress Administration (WPA)**

With a 20 percent unemployment rate in 1935, President Roosevelt started, "The Works Progress Administration" (WPA), which was designed to bring dignity back to our country and heal the economy by putting people back to work following The Depression.

The WPA crews cut timber, peeled bark and hewed logs by hand—often using the same methods that soldiers had used almost one hundred years earlier.

**Then and Now**

Carpenter and blacksmith shops were set-up on site to duplicate original fixtures. Donald W. Dow had said, "Our blacksmith was such a skilled person. He could replace the shutter hardware and duplicate them exactly

the army during the Civil War. After being wounded in Petersburg, Virginia, he had arrived at Fort Wilkins by the steamship, Ironsides.

According to the Captain Kenelm Robbins' log of the steamship Ironsides, "Private Frank D. Pratt did become so intoxicated as to be unfit to perform the duties of a Sentinel." A 'sentinel' offers stability and guidance to others.

The mystery remains as to how Frank had obtained

knowledge of this area through all our senses.

Visiting Fort Wilkins today is like transcending centuries. I encourage you to make the trek to the Keweenaw Peninsula. Stay tuned for more articles featuring this region, rich with history.

Fort Wilkins is a State Park, open year-round, with modern camping facilities.

Resources  
Fort Wilkins Historic State Park signage around the property.  
<https://www.nps.gov/places/fort-wilkins-historic-state-park.htm>



The Dow children, Don Jr. and Violette, spent their formative years living at Fort Wilkins as their father oversaw the renovations and navigated the book work. Photo Credit: Fort Wilkins State Park



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Red Arrow

- HOCKEY

## SPORTS

## Scots slow down Rangers in third period of home opener

Brett Bremer  
contributing writer

In a five and a half minute span, in the middle of the second period, the Forest Hills Rangers turned a 5-2 lead into a 9-2 lead at Kentwood Ice Arena.

The Fighting Scots managed to fight their way to the finish, that would end-up as the final score in the home-opener for the Caledonia varsity hockey team, Wednesday evening in Kentwood.

Senior forward, Sammy Mielock, had three goals and three assists for the Rangers, finishing off his hat trick by firing the puck past Fighting Scot goalkeeper, Finn White, from the left circle, with 6:39 to go in the second period.

Mielock also scored the game's first goal, eight minutes into the contest.

Caledonia answered that goal with an unassisted goal by Drew Farstvedt, less than two minutes later,

as the two teams were back and forth up and down the ice early on.

Mielock scored a pair of goals 11 seconds apart, with about four minutes to play in that opening period, to put the Rangers in control. A goal by Nolan Timmer put the Rangers up 4-1, with 2:32 to play in the first period, and that is where the period would end.

A quick goal by Owen Barber pushed the Ranger



Caledonia forward, Drew Farstvedt, moves the puck through the neutral zone as Forest Hills Central's, Owen Barber (5) and Sammy Mielock (10), keep an eye on him during their contest at Kentwood Ice Arena Wednesday, Nov. 23. (Photo by Brett Bremer)



New Caledonia Varsity Hockey Coach, Jeremy Bultema, directs his team during its contest with visiting Forest Hills Central at Kentwood Ice Arena Wednesday, Nov. 23. The Rangers took a 9-2 win in the Scots' home opener. (Photo by Brett Bremer)

lead to 5-1, a minute into the second period.

This time, the Scots answered a minute later, with a power play goal by Logan Himes. Himes was assisted by Alex Skibinski and Zach Schneider.

White took over in goal for the Scots, replacing

starter Sam Hoag, late in the first period.

Barber and Michael Hazard both finished the game, with two goals for the Rangers. Timmer and Rocco had one each. Rocco Gonzalez and Gibby Grendel had two assists, each for FHC.

The Scots will get another shot at the Rangers soon, visiting FHC at Patterson, Sunday, Dec. 4. It's a busy weekend ahead for Caledonia. The Scots will host Reeths-Puffer Friday, Dec. 2, and then go on the road to face Northview, Dec. 3.

## Lowell winter sports get underway

By Justin Scott  
sports reporter

Another trimester means it's time for a new round of sports teams to start their seasons, as the fall sports season came to a close in the last several weeks.

The Red Arrows will be represented in winter sports by the same teams as last year. Two co-op teams, boys swim & dive with Caledonia and South Christian, as well as hockey, co-oped with Middleville TK and Caledonia. Drew Bierlein

and Harmon Esch will be the Lowell student-athletes on the hockey team. Ruben Baker and Corey Sandman will be on the CLS swim & dive team from Lowell.

Lowell will also be competing in wrestling, gymnastics, boys basketball, girls basketball, boys skiing, girls skiing, and competitive cheer. Consistency in coaching positions will be beneficial for these latter teams as all return either the head coach or key members of their coaching staffs.

For many, the wrestling team's run at a tenth straight state championship will take center stage, but there are plenty of interesting

storylines. The girls basketball team returns a majority of their team from a 15-8 run last year, girls bowling will look to defend their conference championship from last year, and competitive cheer and gymnastics have goals of returning to state competition. The girls basketball team is at home on Thursday against East Lansing.

All full LHS sports schedules can be found at the school's athletics website, redarrowsports.com. We'll have full previews for each LHS sports team starting in next week's Lowell Ledger edition.

## LHS fall sports all-conference student athletes



Ben Bromley, boys cross country; Carson Crace, football; Patrick DeVost, boys tennis; Aidan Fitzpatrick, football; David Foster, boys soccer; Ethan Krieger, football; Connor Lixie, football; Aubriegh Oswald, volleyball; Jackson Reisbig, football; Piper Risdon, volleyball; Annika Sandman, girls cross country; Katrina Sandman, girls cross country; Elle Sluss, girls golf.

GO TEAM GO!

Starting this week, all Lowell High School sports that are broadcast, can be heard from [michigansportsradio.com](http://michigansportsradio.com)



# FUN PAGE

## SUDOKU

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

Level: Intermediate

### Here's How It Works:

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

Puzzle solutions on page 11

## Guess Who?

I am an actor born in Missouri on November 29, 1964. I appeared in such TV series as "Fame" and "L.A. Law" before moving on to films. I won an Academy Award in 2004. In recent years, I joined the Marvel Universe opposite Robert Downey, Jr.

Answer: Don Cheadle

# ADOPTION WORD SEARCH

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

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

- |                                     |   |                                     |                                       |
|-------------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| ADOPTION WORD SEARCH                | BIRTH PARENT CHILDREN                                 | FINALIZED FOSTER HOME STUDY         | PLACEMENTS PROSPECTIVE                |
| ADOPTION AGENCY ASSISTANCE ATTORNEY | CLOSED CONFIDENTIALITY CONSULTANT DISSOLUTION DOSSIER | KINSHIP LICENSED OPEN ORGANIZATIONS | RELINQUISHMENT SCREENING SEALED TRIAD |

## WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to adoption.

Y P L A P

--	--	--	--	--

Answer: Apply

			1	2	3		4	5	6		7	8	9		
			10				11				12				
13	14						15				16			17	18
19						20			21	22					
23									24						
			25						26						
27	28	29							30				31	32	33
34												35			
36				37	38	39	40		41	42	43	44			
			45						46						
47	48	49							50				51	52	53
54									55						
56								57	58				59		
			60						61				62		
			63						64				65		

- |  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| <p>CLUES ACROSS</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Single Lens Reflex</li> <li>People of southern Benin</li> <li>One who is learned (abbr.)</li> <li>Neckwear</li> <li>Solid water</li> <li>A way to work the soil</li> <li>Inspiring</li> <li>Pick up</li> <li>It wakes you up</li> <li>Parcel</li> <li>Popular dog breed</li> <li>Lets out a sigh</li> <li>Embedded into the surface</li> <li>Hard liquors</li> <li>One from Scotland</li> <li>Satisfy</li> <li>Used to introduce a contrasting statement</li> <li>Antidepressant drug type (abbr.)</li> <li>Similar</li> <li>Winged horse</li> <li>Soft drink maker</li> <li>One who doesn't live up to expectations</li> <li>Nursemaid</li> <li>Inheritor</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hot, often dusty wind</li> <li>Serves as an introduction</li> <li>Earned top billing</li> <li>Mansion</li> <li>A partner to a carrot</li> <li>War-horse</li> <li>Midway between northeast and east</li> <li>It checks the heartbeat</li> <li>Aquatic salamander</li> <li>CNN's founder</li> <li>Being precisely suitable and right</li> <li>Strongly alkaline solution</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Finds out about</li> <li>Unusual</li> <li>Small European viper</li> <li>Indicates before</li> <li>Birth swine</li> <li>7</li> <li>Useful keyboard key</li> <li>Letter of the Greek alphabet</li> <li>Edible mollusk</li> <li>Stitched up</li> <li>Utilized</li> <li>___ in tradition</li> <li>A way to get through</li> <li>Let off</li> <li>Fashionable source of shade</li> <li>In due time</li> <li>Printing speed</li> <li>A major division of geological time</li> <li>Nocturnal, cat-like mammal</li> <li>___ de la ___</li> <li>After B</li> <li>Unusual</li> <li>Former money of the EU</li> </ol> |
| <p>CLUES DOWN</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pinochle trick</li> <li>A system of connections</li> <li>Emblems of royalty</li> <li>Work with a soft hand</li> <li>Plant cultivated in Peru</li> <li>A timid man</li> <li>Lacking intellectual depth</li> <li>A way to order</li> <li>Intoxicating</li> <li>Mimic</li> <li>Surfers use it</li> <li>Small Eurasian deer</li> <li>Popular Miller beer</li> </ol>   |  |   |



# obituaries

## STROUSE

Ray Strouse, age 78 of Lowell, passed away Friday, November 25, 2022. He was preceded in death by his parents, Vernon and Lura Strouse; sisters, Kay Menzel, and Joy Shattuck; and niece, Stephanie Strouse. Ray is survived by his wife, Joyce Strouse; children, Kim (Laurie Molitor) Strouse, Tonya Mixon, Brad (Kristina) Strouse, Stacey (Chad) Scholten; grandson, Trey Mixon; brothers, Joe (Sherry) Strouse, Mike (Gloria) Organek; nieces and nephews, Eric, Buck, Ta, Brian & Heather, and David. Retiring after 31 years with General Motors, Ray soon jumped back into work life as the successful owner-operator of Whites Bridge Wood Heat for Woodmaster Outdoor Wood Furnaces. Not long after getting Whites Bridge Heat up and running, Ray soon

earned Woodmaster's award for being the number one dealer in the USA. He was a wonderful, loving husband and father. He truly cherished his children. Ray and Joyce loved to travel the country on their bikes. Ray was a Harley Davidson enthusiast and was a devoted rider. In his younger years, he was an all-around sportsman, he enjoyed hunting and fishing. Ray also loved to golf and bowl. He enjoyed supporting the Lowell Red Arrows Football team on Friday nights with Brad. A celebration of life will be announced at a later date. In lieu of flowers his family asks to please consider donating to the American Heart Association@heart.org



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## RAAB

Elizabeth Ann Raab, age 71 of Lowell, passed away on November 26, 2022. She was preceded in death by her parents, Edward and Joyce Stormzand; and life partner, Jim Momber. She is survived by her children, Tera (Tom) Cooley, Tricia (Bill) McGovern, Trent (Julie) Raab; grandchildren, Patrick, Michael, Travis, Nicholas, Kaitlin, Garrett, Sophia, Ryan, Savannah, Skyli, and Sydney; 3 great-grandchildren; brother, Edward (Lisa) Stormzand; sister, Elaine Gregersen; and several nieces and nephews. Liz was a dedicated nurse for years. Her greatest love was being with her family. She enjoyed fishing with Jim and in her free time, spending time with her donkeys. Visitation will be held 4-7 PM, Wednesday, November 30, 2022, at Roth-Gerst Chapel, 305 N. Hudson St., Lowell, MI 49331. Funeral services will be held at 11 AM, Thursday, December 1, 2022, at Lowell United Methodist Church, 621 E. Main St., Lowell, MI 49331, with visitation one hour prior. Rev. Brad Brillhart officiating. Interment Oakwood Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to West Michigan Hospice, 318 E. Main St., Lowell, MI 49331, or Flat River Outreach Ministries (FROM), 11535 Fulton St. E, Lowell, MI 49331.



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## Dealing with difficult people

This can be a wonderful time of year, as many spend more time with family and friends. Attending or hosting holiday events or gatherings increases the possibility of being around individuals you may find difficult or challenging, and for some, this can lead to "holiday dread". Don't let the possibility of difficult interactions add stress to, or spoil, your holidays. Instead, arm yourself with tools to handle situations with those you find challenging.

### Tips for difficult interactions

If you haven't used one of the below suggestions, it may feel unnatural at first, but the more you use a communication technique, the more natural it will begin to feel. Also, be aware that when dealing with a difficult person, the fear response part of your brain (fight-flight-freeze part) will activate and this is normal. There is also no "one-size-fits-all" way of communicating. So, be flexible, aware of your own response, and figure out the best method for dealing with each individual and their unique communication style.

### Stay calm (verbal de-escalation)

When a situation is emotionally charged, it's easy to get caught up in the heat of the moment. Monitor your breathing and if needed, take some slow, deep breaths. Try to focus and stay in the moment.

### Avoid judgment

You don't know what is going on with the other person. If a person is acting frustrated, angry, or hostile, this typically comes from pain, feeling vulnerable, fearful, or hurt. So, try not to judge when you don't know all the details.

### Listen to understand (verbal de-escalation)

Listening is key when communicating with someone being unreasonable or behaving inappropriately. If you are focused on coming up with a response, this is debate-mode and won't help to change the situation. The other person needs to feel acknowledged and heard. Listen, to try and understand underlying meanings and really focus on what the other person is trying to say.

### Tamp down a defensive response

If someone is verbally attacking you, it's natural to want to defend yourself. But when someone is emotionally charged, it just adds fuel to the fire. The situation is seldom really about you even when it's directed your way.

### Don't make demands

Telling someone to stop it or "calm down" typically has the opposite result. Instead, ask what the person is upset about and really listen, allowing them to talk it out.

### Use helpful empathy

Avoid saying "I

understand," or smiling as these typically make things worse. Try saying things like "tell me more so I can better understand" or "I'm here and listening," etc. Smiling or using humor can sometimes come across as mocking, dismissing feelings, or belittling so it's best to avoid both. Sometimes humor works well but it can be risky.

### Be respectful even when the other person isn't

If the person is behaving badly toward you, avoid communicating in an angry and disrespectful way in response as it will just make things worse. Avoid talking over top of the person and wait for a chance to speak. Take the high road, and remain tolerant and respectful.

### Set boundaries

Sometimes you may have to be assertive and let the person know that their communication toward you is not okay. It's fine to say "please don't talk to me like that" or "It's not okay for you to talk to me that way" in a calm but firm voice. Also, set a time boundary. Don't allow these types of interactions to take up too much of your time.

### Trust your gut

If your instincts say this situation is getting out of control, be smart and safe. Look for a way out of the conversation, for assistance from others, or politely excuse yourself and walk away before things get out-of-control.

Remember that there is no one-size-fits-all response for every situation. So, while these tips are often effective at de-escalating difficult situations, every person is unique and may respond differently.

Interaction with difficult people and situations can be emotionally exhausting. So, practice good self-care. You can do this by talking with someone you trust about what happened and processing it. Your fight or flight response was most likely triggered, so work to rid your body of the excess adrenaline. You can do this through exercise or walking, if physically appropriate for you. Don't forget to give yourself credit for getting through a tough situation. This article is not meant to treat or diagnose. I hope everyone stays safe and healthy. Have a wonderful holiday season!

## Social Security, continued

government identification.

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Threaten you with arrest or other legal action unless you immediately pay a fine or fee.

Require payment by retail gift card, wire transfer, internet currency, or cash by mail.

Promise a benefit increase or other assistance in exchange for payment.

Send "official" letters or reports containing your personal information via email.

We only send text messages if you have opted-in to receive texts from us, and only in limited situations, including the following:

When you have subscribed to receive updates and notifications by text.

As part of our enhanced security when accessing your personal my Social Security account.

If you owe money to us, we will mail you a letter with payment options and appeal rights.

We encourage you to report suspected Social Security imposter scams — and other Social Security fraud — to the OIG's website at [oig.ssa.gov/report](http://oig.ssa.gov/report). You may read our previous Social Security fraud advisories at [oig.ssa.gov/news-releases/](http://oig.ssa.gov/news-releases/). Please share this information with your friends and family to help spread awareness about Social Security imposter scams.

## NOTICE VERGENNES TOWNSHIP

Vergennes Township is taking bids for Township Hall lawn care and the Township Cemeteries lawn care services to be performed 2023.

Bids should be received by Wednesday, December 14, 2022, at 3 p.m. to be considered, with the contract to be awarded at the December 19, 2022, 7:00 pm meeting of the board.

More information can be found at <https://vergennestwp.org/public-notices/> or the township offices ~ 69 Lincoln Lake Ave NE, PO Box 208, Lowell, MI 49331. Hours are Mondays and Wednesdays 9am to 3pm, and Thursdays 9am - noon. Phone number is 897-5671, or email [clerk@vergennestwp.org](mailto:clerk@vergennestwp.org).

Shantell Ford  
Vergennes Township Clerk



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sales

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MRS. CLAUS ANNUAL BAZAAR AND CRAFT SHOW - 100 Booths. Saturday, December 3, 2016, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Ionia Middle School, 438 Union Street and Lincoln Avenue (M21, 4 blocks east of M66). FREE ADMISSION. Door Prizes all day. Sponsored by the Ionia County Commission on Aging.

misc.

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ATTN LOWELL WIDOWS - We have started widows coffee time Monday mornings at 9:30 at Keisers, west side. Questions call Jenn at 616-490-9970.

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15x15 grid of numbers for a puzzle solution.

Finalized crossword puzzle solution text: F I N A L I Z E D A O C H I L D R E N D L T K G F O S T E R Z Q A L D C A P A Y S S S Z Z K E T Z D B H T N M C Z K D D R H O M E S T U D Y V B A T T O R N E Y A S F D E L A E S P U V O S I S P N B Z L N V H M V K P R O S P E C T I V E O Z C O N F I D E N T I A L I T Y K Q R A M N H G B B I Z L I C E N S E D Y P I S S T T R I A D V Z D T H M K N Q H A D S S T F U G P Q A C O N S U L T A N T Z K I S L O H B H P L A C E M E N T S G V I S Q B P L N O R G A N I Z A T I O N S N T O L E I S M A P K Y H R E I S S O D S A T A N S B I R T H P A R E N T B A O H N A G L C P I V C L O S E D O P H C P I C F E B R F K T I D O Y N D K V O H S P E K N O I T P O D A D I R V F O Q F E O O B C T N E M H S I U Q N I L E R U C V T M Y R S B U B A O T P G N I N E E R C S Q R N C Z N O I T U L O S S I D L F M C E



## Book Corner

### *Endless Summer: Stories from Days That Last Forever*

By Elin Hilderbrand

By Alison Yarger  
Contributing writer

So, not to be confused with *The Endless Summer*, *Endless Summer* is a book full of short stories set in and around Nantucket, from the late 60s to the mid-80s. But I'll deviate for a moment. The *Endless Summer* was a famous poster that many of us in the 60s loved – in hues of bright pink and vibrant orange, featuring the silhouette of a surfer, it was many young Michiganders "dream" to be in California, surfing.

But the intriguing part of this whole poster was that it illuminated; front and center, my roommate, Suzie Johnston's, and my, Stephens College dorm room in 1968. The poster featured a silhouetted Fred

Hemmings, an amazingly famous surfer. Fast forward a few years and my roomie ended up marrying Fred! Yes, she was from Hawaii, as was Fred. And speaking of Suzie, her daughter, Kauai Hemmings, is the



author of *The Descendents*, a book I reviewed a few years ago. It was also made into a movie, which was amazingly successful, featuring George Clooney! Okay, enough about *The Endless Summer*!

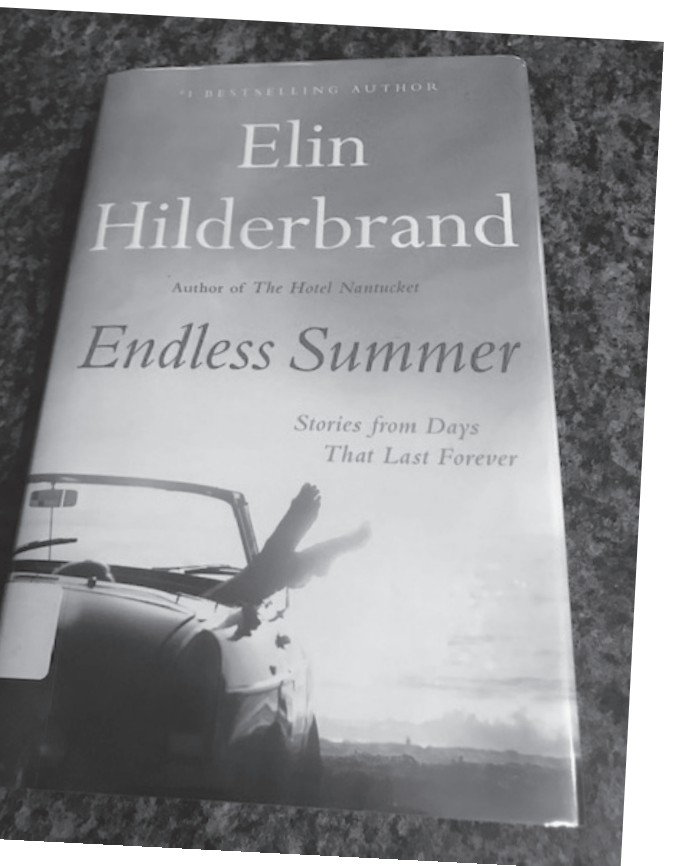
*Endless Summer*, the book, was terrific. Normally, I don't choose books from the library that are a compilation of short stories, but this I had heard was pretty good. And, when it's set during a time sans computers, cell phones, etc., it's enjoyable to relate to. Each and every story was fun, crazy, a bit irrationally poignant, yet totally believable.

And the names of the characters were "so" east coast Nantucket – extended family names, such as Hadley, Drummond, Clendennon, Winbury, Featherleigh – and, of course, all of these characters were graduates of ivy league schools, and most held high positions in either law

firms or fashion in New York City or were business moguls and entrepreneurs.

The bulk of these nine stories featured the extremely wealthy (I mean really, who else can afford to live on this tiny, isolated island of Nantucket off Cape Cod, Massachusetts, right?) individuals who had "summer homes" on the island, with extended vacations, fabulous internships, or were just taking "time off" their whirlwind careers. Nantucket, in the late 1800s, used to be the whaling capital of the world and now has evolved into an enormously vibrant, yet beautiful, hamlet for the affluent.

It's nearly impossible to explain each story within this volume. The *Surfing Lesson*, *Summer of '79* and *The Tailgate* were quite possibly my favorite stories – but *The Workshop* also resonated with me. Of course, the "snob" factor echoed in each story, but that's what made each plausible and fun. It's sort of like when my



grandmother watched her soap operas in the 50s and 60s – she said that these "stories" transported her to a world of fantasy and dream.

Having read several of Hilderbrand's books, all set in the Nantucket area, where she lives, this was a different breed of story. If you haven't read her books, which definitely take you away from the here and now, I would try them. They all, including *Endless*

*Summer*, are a bit romance, a tad daring, and a little fantasy. Before each story in this collection, was a letter of introduction, outlining how/why Hilderbrand wrote about each novella.

I would recommend this book of short stories for anyone, but predominately, females, and I'd give this 4 out of 5 stars.

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