

Community leaders reflect on 2022

Every December, the Ledger asks a random selection of local newsmakers to comment on the events that happened during the previous year, share some of their highlights and reveal a few of their plans and hopes for next year.

Charlie West
Lowell Light and Power General Manager
What would you say were some of the highlights of 2022 in Lowell?

Lowell Light and Power finished 2022, the same as we started 2022; focused on providing our customers with safe, reliably, cost-effective electricity. A lot of 2022 was spent positioning Lowell Light and Power for long-term success. Pieces of our long-term planning included, purchasing a



new bucket truck, which should be delivered in 2026, hired new distribution employees to plan for future retirements, updated our long-term financial plan, and strategically planned for upcoming large distribution system upgrade projects.

What were some of Lowell Light and Power's proudest accomplishments in 2022?

We finished a multi-year, reliability project to convert a large residential section from overhead to underground electric infrastructure. We also expanded our distribution system by serving new phases in two different residential developments, while also planning for a new multi-year reliability and resiliency project for the east side of the Flat River.

The new customer portal, that Lowell Light and Power rolled out at the end of 2021, has been a huge success in 2022. Throughout 2022, our customers expanded their use of the new portal and we have seen portal registrations, autopay enrollment, and paperless billing enrollment grow over the course of the year.

What do you and LL&P have planned for 2023?

Light and Power has started making plans to build a new powerline to the east side of the river to provide additional reliability and resiliency to that side of the river. In the second half of 2023, you will see a new overhead powerline being built down Jackson Street. As part of this project, we will also be pulling in another powerline under the Grand River. In 2022, we developed a new time-of-use residential rate, and we will be rolling out this option to our customers in 2023. This will be an optional rate that will allow customers the opportunity to shift their electric consumption to save on their electric expenses. This will be an attractive rate option for customers who drive electric vehicles. Lowell Light and Power's next solar project will come online in 2023. The next solar project, located near Hart Michigan, will add another renewable resource to our power supply. This new project will build on top of the two existing solar projects and one wind project that are currently part of the power supply.

What are your predictions for Lowell in 2023?

2023 is going to be another great year for Lowell Light and Power. While I do not have a crystal ball to see into 2023, I am sure that Lowell Light and Power will remain committed to being a premier utility with our customers as our focus.

Shannon Witherell
Lowell Area Fire Department Fire Chief
What would you say were some of the highlights of 2022 in Lowell?

We responded to a record number of requests for services in 2022, at nearly 1100. We had a great year for community events and our open house was a great success with a record number attending.

What were some of the Fire Departments proudest accomplishments in 2022?

Our staff worked hard to complete the transition to a EMT licensed department, two years ahead of our original schedule. This transition puts more tools in our tool box and allows us to provide a higher level of customer service to the highest number of our calls for service. We hired our first full-time firefighter and five new part-time, paid on-call



members. We partnered with the Michigan State Fire Marshal's office to provide free smoke and CO alarms to residents in need; we also partnered with Riding for Ryan to provide free bike flags to children, to increase visibility of a child on riding a bike.

What do you and the Fire Department have planned for 2023?

We have the new engine ,one that will go into service in early 2023. We are looking at

a few other ways that we can improve our customer service and response.

What are your predictions for Lowell in 2023?

As for the Fire Department, we are predicting that our calls for services are going to continue to increase. We are going to look at new training plans and programs to better our services, as well as look at other non-emergency services we can provide to our citizens.

Wendie Preiss
Executive Director of Flat River Outreach Ministries (FROM)

Do you have any kind of Holiday Message for the citizens of Lowell?

Lowell has done a remarkable job of showcasing the Christmas spirit. Through generous donations, we were able to serve our community with the Christmas Toy Store and Food Basket programs. Over 200 families will have a Christmas meal and their children will have presents to open Christmas morning.

What would you say were some of the highlights of 2022 in Lowell?

Culver's opening! Our staff and volunteers have enjoyed the custard on several occasions. In addition, Culver's has already proven their partnership in the community with the fundraising support and participation in community activities.

Road improvements in the city have been much appreciated, especially for those with school drop-offs.

Betten Baker updates are impressive along Main Street.

Any predictions for 2023 in Lowell?

Lowell will continue to be a strong community that is generous and caring towards their neighbors.

What were some of your proudest accomplishments in 2022?

Renovation of our Food Pantry Storage area was made possible through generous donations from our community.

Our Farm Market, which launched in late 2021, offers food for sale in the thrift store, at discounted prices. The goal of the program is to help low to medium-income families fill food gaps. In 2022, we sold 3000 pounds of butter, 11,000 apples, and 1700 loaves of bread. This program has been well-received in the community, and we appreciate the participation from the community.

The community bonding around Food Fight (FROM's major fundraising campaign) involved far more social media promoting and activity than past years combined. It was exciting to observe the community rallying together.

What do you have planned for 2023?

Transportation is our focus in 2023. We have partnered with Look Memorial Fund and Betten Baker, with plans to offer transportation in 2023. The scope of availability will be quite narrow in the beginning. We are still working through funding and logistics and will be able to share more in the summer

Michael Burns
Lowell City Manager
What would you say were some of the highlights of 2022 in Lowell?

I would say the City's continued commitment to paving as many streets as we can. This year, we paved eight streets in the City. This is the most that I am aware of, in a year, that has been done in a long time.

What were some of the city's proudest accomplishments in 2022?

We are seeing quite a bit of staff turnover. We have hired and promoted some very quality public servants for our community, who are very committed to it.

What do you and the city have planned for 2023?

The biggest project we have for next year is the Monroe water, sewer and street replacement project. Being this project is financed through the United States Department of Agriculture, it is very tedious and time consuming, having to do all of the tasks we must do to get this project out for bid. We are working very hard to begin this in the spring. We also plan on engineering the same type of work on Washington Street for 2024. In addition, we plan to pave Grindle this summer, and possibly more, depending on how much money we receive from the Marijuana Excise Tax.



Reflecting on 2022, continued page 6



Our leaders look forward to 2023!

Red Arrow

~ WRESTLING

SPORTS

Wrestlers compete in Elite Holiday Tournament

Justin Scott
Sports Reporter

Twelve Lowell wrestlers took on the best of what Ohio and Indiana wrestling had to offer, as they competed at the Brecksville Holiday Tournament on December 29 and 30. Any placement within the tournament is considered impressive, the tournament had several nationally ranked teams including Lowell.

Placing for the Red Arrows were Jackson Blum (second), Jarrett Smith (eighth), Carter Cichocki (fifth), Maddox Simcoe (third), Jared Boone

(fourth), and Carson Crace (fifth).

Simcoe lost his first match in sudden victory and bounced back to win seven consecutive matches to take third place, including a 4-2 victory over a Dundee wrestler in the third place match. In his championship match, Blum ranked 17th nationally, lost to the third ranked wrestler in the nation (Marcus Blaze, Perrysburg). Perrysburg would go on to win the tournament by a comfortable margin. Dundee (MI) took second out of the 45 teams that had wrestlers competing. Boone

scored a big victory over Division 1 no. 3 TJ Bunn, out of Detroit Catholic Central, in his consolation semifinal match.

The B team traveled to Livonia Stevenson where they won the team dual tournament there against A squads. Results were: Lowell 63, Crestwood 12, Lowell 53, Reading 24, Lowell 54, Fowlerville 18, Lowell 51, Stevenson 21, and in the finals, Lowell beat Allen Park 57-18.



Lowell wrestling B after winning the title in Livonia last week.

~ BASKETBALL

Arrows finish 2022 perfect

By Justin Scott
Sports reporter

Down by six points heading into the fourth quarter, it seemed time may have run out on Lowell's perfect season. A tough road atmosphere, a talented Westfield Prep team at home (who went 21-2 last year), a six point deficit and foul trouble, were plenty of obstacles to overcome, but Lowell pulled it off anyway.

The Red Arrow varsity

girls basketball team stormed back for a 54-50 win over Westfield Prep, in last week's lone game, to finish off the 2022 portion of their schedule at a perfect 7-0. It's the Red Arrows best start since the 2005-2006 season, where the team rattled off 17 wins in a row, eventually finishing the season at 23-2.

Westfield Prep, a charter school from Redford, hosted the holiday tournament. It was the first time both schools had met in any sport. It was also the first time we could compare two presumptive front runners in the OK White. East Grand Rapids and Lowell share Westfield Prep as a common opponent, Lowell

beating them by four, and East Grand Rapids by five. With January 17th's matchup, with the Pioneers looming large, it seems both programs are on a collision course to be highly-ranked heading in.

Piper Risdon, who had picked up three first half fouls, was able to bounce back to lead her team with 25 points and win game MVP honors.

"We battled through it; we got contributions from everybody," Lowell head coach, Heath Kent, told the media after the game, "We talked at halftime, it was going to be a four quarter game we were going to have to grind out, and that's what it was."

The Red Arrows return home to face Northview this Friday in their conference opener. Tip off is slated for 5:30, with the boys game being played after.

~ GYMNASTICS

Gymnastics places second in season opener

By Justin Scott
Sports reporter

Lowell gymnastics left into their season in December with an early quad against Forest Hills United, Rockford, and hosts, Kenowa Hills. The Red Arrows would take second to start off the year, getting scores from a number of gymnasts, to beat Forest Hills and Kenowa Hills.

Ivy McDonald will lead the Lowell team this year

as a returning state placer and keeper of the LHS all-around high-score record, which she broke last season. McDonald led the team with a 9.0 on vault. Julia Meier led the team on floor with an 8.45. Alexis Clark had the team high on bars with an 8.2. She also led on beam with an 8.65. Haley Haywood added a team second place 8.85 on vault, while Krista Jungblut had a

team second finish of 8.4 on floor.

Lowell edged out Forest Hills by two team points; both schools were well above Kenowa Hills, and 12-14 points behind defending state champion, Rockford. The team is home on Wednesday, in a dual with Forest Hills at Runciman, before heading to Rockford for a tournament on Saturday.



Local company sponsors free admission to basketball games

Impact Operations LLC sponsoring free admission to varsity basketball games for Lowell students

The girls (6-0) and boys (3-2) varsity

basketball teams take on the Northview Wildcats at home on Friday, Jan. 6. Tip off is at 5:30 p.m. Local businesses are sponsoring free student admission in an effort to boost connection outside of the classroom. An athletic event is a safe and supervised place for teenagers to come together. It allows schools to focus on the aspect of school pride, supporting classmates and staying connected to each other. Since COVID, teens continue to experience challenges with connecting outside of school that doesn't involve their phones or social media.

By removing ticket admission for students, this changes culture and the school is giving the green light for students to support each other, regardless of the various socio-economic backgrounds. Students become aware of each other when they are supporting each other. The fan knows who is on the team and the player is aware of the fans. This allows for players to have peer support.

Additional dates free admission for Lowell students are Friday, Jan. 13; Friday, Jan. 27 and Friday, Feb. 17.

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Red Arrow

SPORTS



Lexi Howell commits to Alma

By Justin Scott
Sports reporter

As Lowell’s girls basketball team enjoys its success this season, one Lowell senior has been a big part of that, and will be competing at the next level, come 2023-2024. Lexi Howell will be a student and basketball player at Alma College next year.

It seems as if Lowell has a bit of a pipeline to Alma, given their close proximity and numerous sports as a Division 3 NCAA program. Many Lowell students, in the past decade, have gone on to have very successful collegiate careers at Alma.

Howell will also be taking a big step as a first generation college student. She is looking to attend Alma with an Elementary Education

Major, and a possibility of Special Education, as well. Currently, Howell is enrolled in the Teacher Academy program and Kent Career Technical Center (KCTC), in addition to classes at LHS.

“The second that I stepped on campus at Alma, I knew that this was the place that I would end up. The way the gym feels when you walk in is amazing. Everyone is so encouraging of one another, but also pushes each other to be the best they can be,” Howell said of her first impression at Alma. A versatile player at 5’10”, Howell plays a number of positions, including SG, SF, and PF. She committed to Alma back in August.

Alma plays many Michigan teams as a part of

their conference, including Hope, Calvin, Adrian, Olivet, and Kalamazoo College.

“When I started, I had no idea what we were getting into or how the recruitment process worked. But when I talked to Alma coaches, I made sure to let them know that I had never done this before and they all helped me out. After I got through my sophomore year of AAU Basketball, I really opened up with some of the coaches that I was in contact with. There were many relationships that I made along the way,” Howell said of the recruitment process.

“Playing educational sports has also helped me because I wouldn’t be able to play in college if it wasn’t for my four years

on the basketball team. My teammates and coaches mean so much to me and I would never have gotten

here on my own,” Howell concluded.

There’s still seven home games left, for the LHS

girls basketball team to see Howell and her teammates compete for an OK White championship, this season.



Lexi Howell guards an inbounds pass against Jenison.

Lowell High School sports moments of 2022

By Justin Scott
Sports reporter

2022 was good to Lowell High School athletics with plenty of ups and downs, but more of the former. Girls sports teams in particular were able to find significant breakthroughs at the regional level. Here are our top ten moments of 2022, in no particular order.

Girls golf wins regional championship

A dream chased by Lowell girls golf for years was realized this year as Lowell, not only advanced to their first state final since 2006, but won the program’s first regional in school history. The historic nature of the school’s first regional title is impressive enough, but the dramatic unfolding of the day, where Lowell held on for the win by a single stroke, really made this day one to remember.

Boys soccer wins thriller

You don’t win a lot of soccer games when you’re trailing with five seconds to go. Lowell did this year, in what was one of the most exciting finishes to a game in 2022. Lowell had the better of play against Greenville, in their conference tournament game, but it was the Yellow

Jackets who scored first with less than five minutes to play. With five seconds left, Lowell earned a free kick, which Bryce Thompson took on goal, the ball was saved, but the

rebound went straight to Lowell defender Noah VanLaan, who scored. Lowell went on to win the game in penalties.

Cross country wins regional

The girls cross country team pulled their second program title in history, following the girls golf team’s regional title; the cross country team looked impressive as they won the championship held at Portage Central. It would send Lowell to states, where they would cap off the high school careers of several impressive student-athletes. It was Lowell’s first regional title in girls cross country since 1989.

Wrestling wins ninth straight

Wrestling takes their annual spot in the top ten moments of the year list. They make it look easy, but as every other team in Division 2 would tell you, finishing at the top is the dream finish. The Red

LHS wrestling claims their ninth straight state championship.



LHS sports, continued page 7



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LOWELL AREA SCHOOLS

PUBLIC NOTICE OF BOARD OF EDUCATION VACANCY

TO THE ELECTORS OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Lowell Area Schools Board of Education is seeking applications from those persons interested in filling a vacant seat on the Board of Education. The person appointed to this position will serve through certification of the annual Board election in November, 2024.

Applicants must live in the Lowell Area School District.

Interested persons are requested to submit a letter of interest and a resume that describes the applicant's background and qualifications. Letters should be addressed to:

Lowell Area Schools

Board of Education

300 High Street

Lowell, MI 49331

All applications must be received at the address above by 3:00 p.m., January 18, 2023.

Patrick D. Nugent

Board of Education Secretary

outdoors

be aware

Dave Stegehuis

For a long time in the history of our country, exploiting our vast natural resources for profit was accepted as business as usual. This attitude has not completely disappeared but has been called out and addressed.

In more recent times, individuals, private organizations, and even governmental entities recognize the need to conserve and protect our environment and natural resources. We all have opportunities to get involved at some level.

There are a very large and effective private organizations that promote the conservation of wildlife and the habitat necessary

for their survival. Many of these groups focus on a particular species, like waterfowl, elk, birds, deer, or turkeys. Others promote caring for wild, natural places, in general. What they all have in common is protecting and expanding habitat for wild creatures, which also creates a more healthy environment for people. These organizations need workers to develop and implement programs to further their cause. One can also participate by providing funds to support the activities. Often donations result in the doner receiving a regularly issued publication detailing what is being done as well as interesting related stories.

We can be active in conservation efforts in our daily lives. Developing environmentally friendly habits like conserving energy and recycling waste can add up if we all do it. Supporting wildlife can begin in our own backyard by creating habitat for wildlife. Plant flower gardens, trees, and shrubs. Establish brush piles and maintain bird feeders. Creating open spaces for grasses and wildflowers provide insects and nesting cover for birds and other wildlife as well as habitat for pollinators. Owners of larger parcels of land can explore sustainable timber harvesting. Conservation districts will provide assistance for managing private land.

Living in harmony with nature in modern times with all of the problems and distractions we face will not be easy. But if we are aware of the challenges, we can make informed decisions and take action to maintain our natural heritage for us and future generations. Stay aware and be involved.

Lowell Showboat Garden Club to host community winter sowing workshop

Start off the new year by learning a new skill! The Lowell Showboat Garden Club (LSGC) is hosting a hands-on educational event on winter sowing. Winter sowing is great way to participate in gardening activities during the coldest months of the year and to prepare for spring planting. Whether you are new to gardening or an experienced gardener, you may attend the winter sowing workshop on Monday, January 16, 2023, at 6:30 pm. The event will take place at the fellowship hall of the Lowell United Methodist Church, located at 621 East Main Street.

The workshop will be led by avid gardener and LSGC member, Stacey Spencer. Participants will learn winter sowing strategies and each will prepare a miniature greenhouse to take home. There is no cost, and all materials will be provided; however, participants may want to bring a clean gallon-size plastic jug, scissors, and seeds of choice. So the Club can aptly prepare, participants are encouraged to RSVP by Monday, January 9, to Spencer at csspencers@gmail.com.

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This New Year, learn about Social Security online

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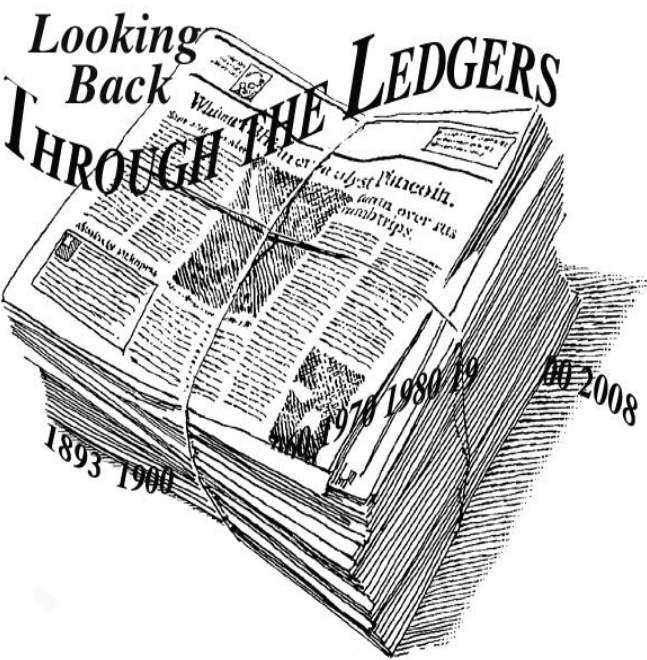
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JANUARY SCHEDULE
Karen Tintori, Unto the Daughters, Jan. 2
Ingar Rudholm, Book Marketing, Jan. 6
Marion Volkman, Life Skills, Jan. 13
Donna Neumann, I Want a Birthday Party, Jan. 20
Leslie Cieplechowicz, Detroit Revealed, Jan. 27

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Hillary Hatch is the Public Affairs Specialist for West Michigan. You can write her c/o Social Security Administration, 3045 Knapp NE, Grand Rapids MI 49525 or via email at hillary.hatch@ssa.gov

viewpoint



125 years ago The Lowell Ledger January 6, 1898

The Ledger is now prepared to accept good, green hard wood on subscription and will allow \$1.00 per cord for all delivered during the month of January. After receiving a year's supply, no more will be accepted. So take advantage of the sleighing and deliver at once. Friends of the Ledger will confer a favor by calling the attention of their neighbors to this offer.

Joseph Lindley, the pioneer shoe dealer of Ionia, was found dead in bed.

Mrs. M. E. Casey, who was shot four times by her husband at Alpena, is recovering. She says her husband was engaged in counterfeiting, and it was the fact that she knew too much that led to the shooting.

Merritt D. Lyon, a young farmer near Mulliken, was arrested on the charge of betraying his 15-year-old sister-in-law, Almira Osmun.

100 years ago The Lowell Ledger January 11, 1923

The Junior High has a new set of encyclopedias, which are proving very popular. They are written in language suitable to be of great interest to Junior High school pupils. Many facts are pictured so as to make them more easily understand. The first defeat of the season was met by the girls basket ball team last Friday night at Lakeview. The final score being 35 to 16, after a hard fought game.

Wednesday evening, as Frank Hunter was sitting quietly alone reading, the door opened and thirty of his neighbors and friends walked in to remind him of another birthday. He was surely surprised. At twelve o'clock, a lovely supper was served. A beautiful pink and white birthday cake with candles was passed. The evening was spent with games and visiting. All had one of their usual good times.

There is lots of sickness around in this neck of the woods. Some call it flu, some grippe, and some say it is just a darned bad cold. Whatever it is, it's no respecter of persons for young and old, homely or handsome, have to take a turn at it.

75 years ago The Lowell Ledger January 8, 1948

Public Act No. 317 of the Michigan State Legislature, 1947 session provides that husband and wife may

share their income as a device to reduce Federal Income Tax. The law became effective July 1, 1947. Income-sharing is mandatory under the law, unless both husband and wife declare in writing, each to the other, that they do not wish to do so.

Martin Kooiman, Jr., 12-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Martin Kooiman, is in the Osteopathic hospital where he underwent an appendectomy last week. They hope to bring him home sometime this week.

Dell Ford returned to his work for the Lowell Lumber Co., Monday, after a 10-day absence caused by a fall, when a ladder slipped on the ice with him.

50 years ago Lowell Ledger Suburban Life January 4, 1973

The heavy rains, mild weather, and fluffy snow have caused the Grand River to near the flooding stage, and Main Street merchants to get roof repairs.

The steeple of the First Congregational church of Lowell can be seen over the treetops of Union Park... and so got the history. Now, known as Richards Park, the tree-lined area of beauty has been replaced with a ball diamond, swing sets, and a few picnic tables.

The city's new ice-skating rink near the waster water plant will be maintained by the DPW.

Police chief Barry Emmons reminds Lowell citizens of the laws regarding door-to-door sales persons, especially their asking City Hall for permission to solicit.

25 years ago The Lowell Ledger January 7, 1998

Jonathan V. DenHouter, a senior at Lowell High School and the son of Leonard and Kathryn DenHouter, achieved the rank of Eagle Scout, the highest rank in the Boy Scouts of America.

Courtney Baker is the recipient of the dairy and conservation county awards throughout he Kent County 4-H program. She is the daughter of Burt and Karen Baker of Lowell.

For safety's sake, the Lowell City Council decided to create a foot path from Foreman Road to Creekside Park.

Forest Hills Central and Lowell High School partner up with the boys' swim team and gymnastics. FHC opened up it's boys' swim team to Lowell after just 9 Rangers came out for swimming in 1998. Eight Red Arrows will join the team. Lowell has made its gymnastics equipment available to FHC for practice. The Rangers practice four nights a week. On days in which their practice time is the same as Lowell's, the two schools alternative gymnasiums.

to the editor

Letter writer opinions are their own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of this publication.

Urgent need for a Pet Urgent Care

Dear Editor,

Lowell is very lucky; we now have an urgent-care facility. I have used it 3 times in the past 6 months. Now we need a pet urgent-care facility. The Christmas weekend was totally unusual, with blizzard conditions, high winds and white-outs. Of course, one of my dogs decided that the day before Christmas Eve, she would be sick with a stomach disorder. Since she is 14 months old and eats all things within paw reach, I thought that maybe that was the problem. The emergency vet, located north of here, told me to drive in at 3am, no one in the office at that time, of course not, no one in their right mind was out. Well, I was! I got as far as Cascade Road and decided that I might become a statistic for nuts, out in a blizzard. I came hack home. The next day they called and told us to come up. We got to the emergency vet and the receptionist told me there was a 2 to 6 hour wait, and to leave the dog. No

way! My son and I brought her home. Three nights in a row I was awakened by cries and a mess. This was a four day weekend (unusual); I followed the boiled rice and hamburg plan and got nowhere.

Monday morning, much to my prayers, Family Friends opened. I called at 7 and my dog was on the table at 7:20. You see, every doctors office, vets, etc., were referring to urgent cares. Staff overwhelmed, short-staffed, people staying home, these were emergency road conditions. I do feel sorry for them, but when they make an appointment for you and tell you to come right up, I didn't expect to leave my dog for a 2 to 6 hour wait. Last year, it was a mid-week night, my Westie became seriously ill and I was instructed to take the dog to this same emergency-care facility. Same thing,

**Letter, continued
page 10**

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. We have a 500-word limit.

**Letters can be sent to emailed to
ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com
Deadline is noon on Mondays**

Reflecting on 2022, continued

Liz Baker
Lowell Area Chamber
of Commerce Executive Director

Do you have any kind of Holiday Message for the citizens of Lowell?

I would like to wish our entire community a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year.

What would you say were some of the highlights of 2022 in Lowell?



2022 brought an outstanding Summer Concert line-up, as we celebrated our 20th year. Other highlights included the Riverwalk Festival; it was a perfect weekend to enjoy all the festivities that the festival has to offer.

Any predictions for 2023 in Lowell?

My hopes are the economy will improve and that our community will continue support for Shop

Local initiatives. Keeping our downtown thriving is the key to a diverse and well-rounded community.

What were some of your proudest accomplishments in 2022?

For me personally, Christmas Festivities, Santa Night-time Parade and Santa Visits are events that make us take a step back from all the hustle bustle to truly enjoy the spirit of the season. Our parade was a beautiful display of lighted floats from creative organizations, businesses and families. The Santa visits bring families back year after year to continue their own traditions. It is a proud moment to see this all come together and know how many hands it takes to make it happen.

What do you have planned for 2023?

The Chamber will stay on track with their normal activities and events. We look forward to introducing a new Executive Director, as well as a new Office Manager.

Lorain Smalligan
LowellArts, Executive Director

Do you have any kind of Holiday Message for the citizens of Lowell?

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays from LowellArts! Wishing everyone lots of love, joy, and happiness with their loved ones. We are so proud to be a part of the Lowell community and want to thank everyone, familiar and new, for supporting the arts in our town.

What would you say were some of the highlights of 2022 in Lowell?

It is great to see the downtown businesses continuing to expand and grow – especially with the variety of dining experiences and support for the arts. Another year of successful, fun events and festivals – Riverwalk Festival, Lowell Pride, Fallasburg Arts Festival, and more!

Any predictions for 2023 in Lowell?

More art, music, theatre and classes!

What were some of your proudest accomplishments in 2022?

LowellArts Theatre has expanded, drawing in new and diverse directors and actors. The LowellArts gallery exhibition, WordView, focused on the collaboration of visual arts and the written word, allowing writers and artists

to create together. This gave LowellArts the opportunity to display work from many new artists. LowellArts partnered with Artists Creating Together (ACT) and Lowell Area Schools Special Education Department to bring ACT’s Creative Cube (40-foot-long re-imagined yellow race trailer) to the parking lot behind LowellArts. Students participated in textile art-making and hands-on drumming activities, learning new artist skills and collaborating with their fellow classmates.

What do you have planned for 2023?

Six gallery exhibitions, including the West Michigan Art Competition and the holiday Artist Market; four theatre productions, including *The Whale* by Samuel D. Hunter, which was recently adapted into a movie, starring Brendan Fraser; another wonderful summer at the Lowell Showboat Sizzlin’ Summer Concerts. Bringing back Gallery Concerts in LowellArts beautiful gallery and continuation of the weekend Fallasburg Arts Festival in September.

Nate Fowler
Lowell Area Schools Superintendent

Do you have any kind of Holiday Message for the citizens of Lowell?

Thank you for the opportunity to wish the Lowell community, Happy Holidays, as we wrap up 2022 and look forward to 2023.



What would you say were some of the highlights of 2022 in Lowell?

The most exciting part of 2022 has been the return of traditional routines and traditions to the school experience. It is so much fun to see the smiling faces of students and staff at all of our buildings. The work that our teachers, support staff, and administrators have

done during the pandemic have allowed our students to continue to learn at high levels. We see these achievements in the classroom, on stage, in competition and in the community.

Any predictions for 2023 in Lowell?

In 2023, Lowell Area Schools’ students are going to continue to demonstrate great character and continue to learn in ways that help them reach their full potential. I’m proud of the team we have at LAS that worked so hard to preserve opportunities for our students during the pandemic. It has certainly been stressful at times, but whether we look at test scores or other measures of success, our students are showing great resiliency.

What do you have planned for 2023?

One thing that I am excited about is the grand opening of the completely renovated Lowell Middle School in August, 2023, after starting construction in the fall of 2020. I’m excited to share this space with the community. I hope that everyone will help us celebrate the opening to see what a great environment we have for our middle school students to learn. It is a beautiful school.

Lisa Plank
Lowell Area Historical Museum
Executive Director

Do you have any kind of Holiday Message for the citizens of Lowell?

The Lowell Area Historical Museum and I would like to wish everyone a safe, happy and healthy holiday season and New Year.

What would you say were some of the highlights of 2022 in Lowell?

2022 saw a return to what felt like a normal year in Lowell. It was wonderful to be able to attend activities at the many local organizations in our community. Lowell has a wealth of great programs offered by organizations, including the Museum, Lowell Arts, the Chamber of Commerce, the Wittenbach Center, Fallasburg Historical Society and so many more. The schools were able to resume the plays, concerts and sports events that also bring the community

together. Seeing the community gather for events again was wonderful.

Any predictions for 2023 in Lowell?

2023, I don’t have any predictions. I hope for the continued vibrancy of the community and opportunity to continue sharing Lowell’s history.

What were some of your proudest accomplishments in 2022?

In 2022, the Museum was able to resume all of the in-person programming that we offer. The Museum offers many programs for our local schools. These include tours for 1st and 2nd graders. Second graders also do the Grandma’s Trunk program,

which explores immigration, and Pioneer Maple Syrup, which we collaborate with the Wittenbach-Wege Center to offer. Third graders attend programs on Native American Life, The Fur Trade, Pioneer Farming and the Immersion Program. Fourth graders receive a Michigan History Program, also in collaboration with the Wittenbach -Wege Center.

In addition to the school programs, the Museum presented four public speaker programs, continued our ABCs of Lowell History program and introduced the weekly “Along Main Street” history series, looking at each building in the Historic District.

The Lowell Area Historical endeavors to not only preserve Lowell area history, but to find engaging ways to present that history. Through programming, exhibits, and local collaborations we are keeping our history alive and relevant.

What do you have planned for 2023?

The Museum has a wonderful speaker series planned for 2023. In January, Tim Alfson, the Captain of the Edwin H. Gott, will share what working on a freighter, on the Great Lakes, is like. In March, Katelyn VerMerris, of the Zeeland Historical Museum, will examine the experiences of west Michigan women in the workforce during World War I. In April, Adam Oster, from the Library of Michigan, will discuss Michigan Country Poor Farm history. In September, Museum staff and volunteers will present the stories of local residents through a cemetery tour. In October, Eric Hemenway, from the Little Traverse Bands of Ottawa Indians, will present the history of the Michigan Ottawa in the French and Indian War, Revolutionary War and the War of 1812. All events are open to the public. For dates and times, please visit the Museum website or follow us on social media.

Tierra Bieneman
Senior Neighbors
Lowell Center Coordinator

What would you say were some of the highlights of 2022 in Lowell?

Some of the highlights of 2022 in Lowell were the new restaurants that opened and all of the great year-around events the Chamber puts on; the parades, the festivals, Expo, KCYF, school events, concerts, and Santa on the showboat are a few of the highlights over the last year.

What were some of your (organization’s) proudest accomplishments in 2022?



I get the privilege of running the Lowell Senior Neighbors Center, and I also began managing Schneider Manor last November, as well. For this older population, who were truly isolated during the Covid season, it was such an

LHS sports, continued

Arrows coasted to their ninth straight state championship. Lowell added three individual champions to conclude another dream season. Lowell has won their last three state championship matches by scores of 50-6, 59-7, and 53-4.

Playing for a cause

Lowell continued their tradition of having plenty of honoree games, where an important cause was played for. In these games, funds are raised for certain charitable causes, and in many, honorees are part of the festivities. Of course Pink Arrow is well-known with cheer, football, volleyball, and soccer all participating. Other sports have done their own over the years! Some events from 2022 include: Pink

29th, which was previously held by Kelsey Teft. The new record is 36.55.

Girls bowling wins conference title

By the narrowest of margins, the girls bowling team came away with the OK White conference championship. It was just



Girls cross country team wins regional title.



Cheer, football, volleyball and soccer all participate in Pink Arrow Pride festivities.

Arrow, Lowell lacrosse's military salute, gymnastics' military salute, Lowell soccer's alumni game, and that's just to name a few.

Football's duel with Zeeland West

The playoff committee dealt the Red Arrow football team a punishing draw in the first round, pitting Lowell against Zeeland West in a road game. Lowell didn't back down, and on the contrary, played one of their best games of the season, going toe-to-toe with the Dux for 48 minutes at Zeeland stadium. Back-and-forth both teams went with Zeeland eventually coming out on top.

Ivy McDonald breaks all-around record

Lowell gymnastics has been around since the 1970's, so when a record falls, it's certainly a big deal. Ivy McDonald broke the school's all-time all-around record on January

two pins that separated Lowell from Byron Center, but in the end, it was Lowell that won it. Four Lowell girls led the effort with top ten finishes. Those were Courtney Witten, fourth; Amelia Wells, sixth; Savannah Escobedo, eighth, and Haylie Beers, tenth.

Track double school records fall

In one of Lowell's oldest sports, when a track & field record falls it's a big moment. Annika Sandman captured a new school record in the 3200, beating her own school record. Josh Rau broke a school record in the 300m hurdles that was 38 years old, previously held by Rob King.

Ski keeps building

The Lowell ski team had to basically start over, after years of dormancy, and has enjoyed plenty of success since then. Lowell had three all-regionals and three state placers last year, while seeing growth amongst younger team members.



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We're Local - Like You!

Reflecting on 2022, continued

accomplishment to gather again in-person and enjoy activities with one another again. At Senior Neighbors, we had the most normal year at the Center that we have had in three years, so for us that was a huge accomplishment. They enjoyed many activities and outings together over the last year, along with a nutritious meal together each day which is a huge accomplishment for most who live alone.

Over at Schneider Manor, they started up their monthly potlucks again, along with monthly coffee gatherings and have enjoyed gathering together again.

We also were able to have the Alto 5th Graders come in December to hand out goody bags and perform a music concert for the residents, which they had not had in two years. Seeing the seniors gather in-person together, in community, has been such a highlight, as they look so forward to coming and gathering with one another in our own little communities.

What do you and/or your organization have planned for 2023?

Lowell Senior Neighbors is going to plan more activities and outings, to try and continue to gain more people back attending the Center. The attendance has been affected over the last few years with everything, so we need

to get our newsletters and information about what we have to offer back out in the community so that older adults know what we have to offer and how great it is for them to gather with others, to eat and do activities to keep active and help stay younger!

Schneider Manor will continue to be a great asset to this Lowell Community by offering seniors affordable living; there truly is not another place like it that I am aware of, so we are very blessed to have this in our community. I plan to make 2023 another great year with our family and friends. I look forward to watching and cheering on our kids playing sports, coaching volleyball at the middle school, our lambs being born on our hobby farm, the kids showing their pigs and sheep at the KCYF, camping, water sports, traveling, making great memories with my family and friends, as well as being honored to work and learn from our older adults in this great Lowell Community, each day.

What are your predictions for Lowell in 2023?

I really don't like to make predictions about anything in life because it is nearly impossible to do, but my predictions for Lowell in 2023 is that we will have more homes and people moving into this great community, and Lowell will continue to grow and thrive. I hope for this

community to continue to grow and be a destination for people to come and enjoy. Our schools are very good, and we have great teachers and leadership within our schools, so I look forward to seeing the students thrive academically and in all of the great extracurricular activities that we have to offer our students. I look forward to seeing our athletic teams succeed, as we have some of the best sports teams around that compete at very high levels in a very competitive conference. Lowell is truly a great community and we love being a part of this great community.

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At Your Local Library

Scrabble for Seniors

Fridays from 1-3 pm. Sit down and enjoy a word game, unplugged, with other fans. For 18+ and skill levels welcome!

Storytime

Mondays, 10:30 - 11:30 am. Nurture your child’s love of books and build early literacy skills through stories, rhymes, music and movement. For ages 0-5.

KDL Lab Experience

Wednesday, January 11, 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.

All Aboard Book Club

Thursday, January 12, 10:30 - 11:30 am. Join a fun, informal discussion of great books. This month, we’ll discuss *The Church Builder* by A.L. Shields. For ages 18+

KDaLE: Home-brew 101

Thursday, January 12, 6:30 - 7:30 pm. In this introductory class, you will learn about equipment and best practices. Walk out feeling confident in your ability to produce a decent product to share with friends. For adults 21+



GROW YOUR COMMUNITY

Shop Local

ABCs of Lowell history

Address: 306 E. Main
Date Built: 1908
Owner: J. H. Hamilton
1st business:
Lowell Granite and Marble Works,
J. H. Hamilton

J. C. Hare, who had worked as a marble cutter since 1859, officially founded Lowell Marble Works in 1873. It was first located one block to the east, then west of the river, next across the street where Flat River Cottage was, then in today’s Canfield Plumbing & Heating Building. Finally in 1884, J. C. Hare moved Lowell Marble Works to this location in the Old Wooden Row.

In 1889, Hare took on a partner, Charles Kisor. Kisor purchased the company in 1890, partnering with A. P. Ayres to form Kisor & Ayres Marble & Granite.

Joseph Hamilton purchased the business in 1895 but on July 11, 1907, his building was destroyed

by fire. Hamilton rebuilt on the same lot. His new cement block building was completed in February, 1908. However, while Hamilton and his friends were moving the heavy memorial stones into the new building, one fell on Hamilton’s ankle and leg, crushing them to the bone. Hamilton died in 1911. His company continued, under the management of Lee Walker as The Lowell Granite and Marble Works, J. H. Hamilton Estate, from 1911 to 1918.

In 1918, Lee Walker organized a stock company to operate the business. In 1928, H. J. Englehardt was President; Lee Walker, Vice President; and Springett, Secretary/Treasurer. In Dec. 1928, Springett retired and Englehardt bought Springett’s entire stock. Englehardt became active in the management.

Harold Englehardt purchased the remainder of The Lowell Granite



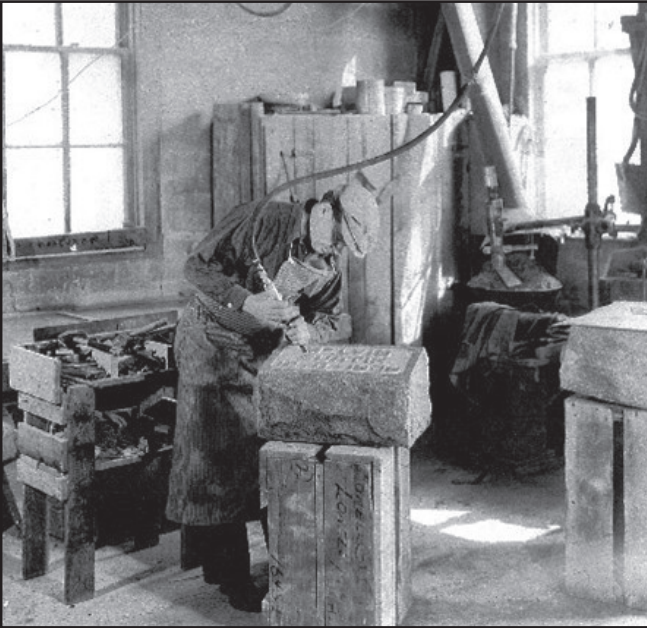
Exterior of The Lowell Granite Co. during the 1930s. This site has been used by Marble & Granite works since 1884 and is today the oldest monument company in Western Michigan.

Company in 1930. It was here that he developed many close relationships by comforting families during a time of loss of a loved one. Homeless individuals, stepping off the train that passed behind the business, frequently visited him. While Harold never offered these individuals money, he would send them across the street to Lou Racine’s restaurant for a hot meal. He would “settle up” with the restaurant for the meal tabs on a weekly basis. In 1959, the Granite Company building was extensively remodeled; eighty tons of split-face granite were used to cover the exterior. Upon completion, a 100th year anniversary celebration of the business was held.

In 1960, when Englehardt accepted the position of President of the State Savings Bank, he turned the management of

the Granite Company over to Judd Wilterink who had been a long-time employee. Judson Wilterink, purchased the business in 1972. His sons, Jeff and John, purchased it in 1989 and then added a two-story cement block commercial warehouse in 1990. In 2011, Jeff and Wendy Wilterink bought John out. John King purchased the business on January 1, 2020, with Jeff staying on until April, 2023. King also owns West Michigan Burial Vault of Muskegon.

There were originally two buildings west of The Granite Company. The buildings were damaged in the 1907 fire but fixed up and used as a Second-hand shop until after 1929. About 1910 or 1911, Bill Metz owned the Lowell Cigar Shop upstairs above the Second-hand shop.



At work making the monument of Melvin Curtis, 1870-1936.

area churches

Riverside Fellowship of Seventh-day Adventists

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10300 Vergennes St. SE, Lowell
616-987-0567
www.lowellriverside.com
Pastor Darrel le Roux

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(Missouri Synod)
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www.gslc.church

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897-7060

Pastor Ryan Landt

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Website: calvarylowell.org

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Weekly Prayer Meeting - Mondays 7 PM
Barrier-Free

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402 Amity Street • 616-897-9820

Website: www.stmarylowell.com

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LIFE GROUPS.....11:00 AM (Nursery-Adult)
Awana (K-5 during school year) **Wednesday, 6:15 PM**

happy birthday



JANUARY 5

Ryan Sauber, Craig Carpenter, Genie Southwick, Jody Ann Young.

JANUARY 9

Jordan Potter, Helena Guastavino, Zvonko Andelkovic.

JANUARY 6

Bob Kinsley, Bobbi Jo Young, Terri Stuckey, Norann DeLoof.

JANUARY 10

Mary Jo Vezino, Jared Felling, Mike Barnes, Logan M. Eidenier, Chase Anderson, Gage Soyka.

JANUARY 7

Lois Seese, Bob Leyman, Karen Cummings, Troy Dilly.

JANUARY 11

Katie Plutschouw, Ian Blodger, Marian Guastavino.

JANUARY 8

Ron Stanford, Cheryl Emmette.



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misc.

TOPS (TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY) WEEKLY MEETINGS - Tuesdays, 6:30 pm at Schneider Manor Community Room, 725 Bowes Rd., Lowell. Cost \$37 per year and \$5 per month... start losing weight TODAY

ATTN LOWELL WIDOWS - We have a widows luncheon on the last Friday of each month. Starts promptly at 1 pm. All are welcome. Questions on location, call Elaine 616-856-8022 or Jenn at 616-490-9970.

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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obituaries



PURSLEY

Albert “Al” Joseph Pursley, age 78 of Grand Haven, formally of Lowell, passed away at his home on December 21, 2022. He was preceded in death by his wife of over 30 years, Sandy; parents, Gerald Pursley and Marjorie Totten; brother, Jack; sister, Beverly; and grandson, Patrick. He is survived by his life partner, Pat Marcotte; children, John (Wendy) Pursley, Kari (Todd) Wood, Kristina (Steve) Shannon, Jan (Bill) O'Donnell; grandchildren, Tara, Seana, Amanda, Daniel, Kristin, Elizabeth, Hannah, Jonathan, Mary (Justin), Caitlin (Josh), Michael; great-grandchildren, Logan, Raya, Nova, Delia, Will; brothers, Thomas and Dean; sister, Geraldine Schultz; sister-in-law, Pat (Ron) Shumaker; and many nieces and nephews. Al served in the US Navy and retired from Steelcase where co-workers knew him best as “The Fox”. For many years he was a member of the West Michigan Bluegrass Association and a founding member of Steam Powered Bluegrass Band where he played and traveled to many festivals all over Michigan and Indiana. Al enjoyed spending time with his family and was excited when he and his son would compete in Bass tournaments. He was a 50-year “Friend of Bill W.” Al will be missed by many. A celebration of life will take place later in January, please refer to <https://www.gerstfuneralhomes.com/> for service updates. Memorial contributions may be made to the Cancer Society, 129 Jefferson Ave SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49503, or Children Advocacy Center of Ottawa County, 12525 Union St., Holland, MI 49424.





BABCOCK

After a short, difficult battle with pancreatic cancer, Steven T. Babcock passed away peacefully at the age of 66, the evening of December 29, 2022. Steve was a loving and caring husband, father and grandfather. He was a loyal fan of the Detroit Red Wings and Michigan State University. He enjoyed golf, billiards, photography, and in later years, woodworking. He was preceded in death by his brothers, David and Ronny Babcock; and sister Jeannette Babcock. Steve will be missed by his wife of 6 years Janero Babcock; sons, Chad (Lia Spaniolo) Babcock, Jason Babcock and stepson, Nick Hakeem. Brothers, Terry (Paula) Babcock, Doug (Cheryl) Babcock; sister Sharon Derby; and grandchildren, Oren and Emilia Babcock, along with family and friends. A Celebration of Life will be held at 11:00 am on January 7 at Evergreen Church, 10501 Settlewood Dr. SE, Lowell, MI 49331. Visitation and a luncheon to follow. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to The Arbor Day Foundation or The National Pancreatic Cancer Foundation.

WEEKS

Errolyn J. Weeks, age 83 of Lowell passed away at home on December 29, 2022. She is survived by her husband of 65 years, Lyle Weeks, children: Laurie (Anne Hale) Weeks of Placitas, NM, Louise Weeks of Portland, MI, Stephen (Suzann) Weeks of Freeport, MI, Susan (Dean) Anderson of Brookville, OH, seven grandchildren, eight great grandchildren and many friends she considered family. She will be missed by one and all.

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MCLELLAN

Selma “Sally” McLellan, age 91 of Lowell, Michigan, passed away on Tuesday, December 27, 2022. Selma was born on August 15, 1931, in Detroit, Michigan to Merbrok (Nora Sight) and Harry Mehmed, both from Turkey. Selma was preceded in death by her husband of 61 years, Clifton George McLellan; her mother and father; brothers, Peter Sight and Emery Hassan; and son-in-law, Robert Zink. Selma was a stay-at-home mother who always said her greatest accomplishment was her four children: Coleen McLellan, Loreen Zink, Clifton (Beth) McLellan, and Marie (Robert) Kutzli. She was a creative gardener, a brilliant artist, played and enjoyed the violin, loved to laugh with friends and family, and deeply loved the Lord. Selma was dearly loved by her eight grandchildren, Jeanie Kutzli, Brian Sroka, Bobby Zink, Betty Zink, Phillip McLellan, Laura Hejnal, Spencer McLellan, and Nathan Morelli. Selma also had five Visitation and funeral were held at Impact Church, 11840 Fulton St. E, Lowell, MI on Tuesday, January 3, 2023. Visitation from 9:00-11:00 am, with funeral directly after. Selma was put to rest next to her husband at United Memorial Gardens, Plymouth, MI the following day. Memorial contributions may be made to Alzheimer's Association, <https://www.alz.org/gmc> or Emmanuel Hospice, <https://emmanuelhospice.org/donate/>





RUSE

Andrew Dale Ruse, age 68, of Six Lakes, passed away December 29, 2022. He was born October 11, 1954, in Lakeview, Michigan. He worked for HS Die and Engineering in Standale for many years as a Foreman. He also ran his own Tree Farm and Landscaping Company – Ruse's Tree Farm. Andrew was an avid outdoorsman, enjoying hunting and fishing, especially with his grandchildren. Surviving are his children; Kristi McQueen of Saranac, Charlotte (Miso) Glavan of Orleans, Jamie (Roger) DeYoung of Lowell and Nick Ruse of Lowell. Grandchildren; Heaven, Angelica, Haily, Gaje, Linkin, Azlynn, Breann, Isis and William. Brother, Larry (Joy) Peterle of Clarksville; sisters, June (Jerry) Rednour of Grand Rapids and Deba Jean of Grand Rapids. Significant other, Pamela Lanker. He was preceded in death by his parents, Fred and June Loveland and brother, Woody Loveland. Funeral Services were held at the Lake Funeral Home in Saranac on Monday, January 2, 2023. Visitation was held at the funeral home on Monday from 11 am until the time of services. Interment to take place in Orleans Cemetery. Online condolences may be made at www.lakefuneralhomes.com





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BACKSTROM

Francis M. Backstrom, aged 84, of South Carolina, formerly of Lowell, passed away peacefully December 28, 2022, with her children by her side. Francis was born May 26,1938 to Oscar and Ruth Backstrom. She was preceded in death by her parents; stepmother, Lucille; brother-in-law, Donald Videan; and son-in-law, Michael Bergy. Francis is survived by her siblings, Margaret Videan, Arthur Backstrom, Ellie Herrington, and Cleo Doyon (Jane); her loving children, Martin (Renee) Kooiman, Jr., Mary Fry, Marlene (Mark) Clark, Amy (Kenneth) Stuart, Diane (Dale) Chiles, Susan (Jay) Block, Sally (James) Hoornstra, 29 grandchildren; 28 great-grandchildren; many nieces and nephews; and special friend, Andy Bolden. Francis worked for Kropf Orchards before moving to Florida where she worked and retired from Walt Disney World. Francis loved a good cup coffee and conversation, sewing, working in her flower garden, travel and the beauty/meaning of Christmas. Francis and her family attended Alton Bible Church for many years. She found comfort and courage through her daily devotions and reading her Bible. A private funeral service will be held, with Pastor Ron Tuinstra officiating. Interment Alton Bible Cemetery, Lowell. Memorial contributions may be made to Hospice Care of one's choice.





Letters, continued

leave him for a 4-hour wait. I brought him home and almost lost him. Now, Family Friends has a wonderful urgent-care, but again, as other places, until Monday, not open and they were referring us to the same place. I don't know how it works if you are not an established patient or client. I am happy to say that I feel Poppy is on the mend. Her tummy was x-rayed, she was examined, given medication and probiotics. If a dog could smile, today she is doing so. I feel very lucky that they opened, and the doctors and staff were very nice. There is another emergency-care called Blue Pearl. I was told that they were not open, but in lock-down. No one knew what that meant. Did the animals open the cages and hold the staff at scalpel length? Well, we have progressed to have a human urgent care facility. Hopefully, someone in medicine will consider the fact that this side of town desperately needs an animal urgent-care facility.

Janet Twesten
Lowell



Michigan FACTS

Dearborn, Michigan wasn't always a city. The city was cut from Dearborn Township. Dearborn was incorporated as a city in 1927. Prior to that the area was Dearbornville Village, which itself had come from Dearborn Township. In 1928 the city merged with neighboring Fordson but retained the name of Dearborn.

Dearborn is often regarded as the home of automotive baron, Henry Ford. Henry, Clara, and Edsel Ford moved to Dearbornville in 1916, many years before it would become a city. Henry was actually born in Greenfield Township in 1863. A little more than a decade later, that township no longer existed, as it had been annexed by Detroit and Highland Park. Ford, founder of Ford Motor Company, would later start the Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village in honor of his birthplace.

FUN PAGE

SUDOKU

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

Level: Beginner

Here’s How It Works:

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

CONQUER CLUTTER WORD SEARCH

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

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

Puzzle solutions
on page 9

CONQUER CLUTTER
WORD SEARCH

CABINET
CATEGORY
CLEANING
CLOSET

CLUTTER
COLLECT
COORDINATE
DISARRAY
DISTRIBUTE
DONATION
GARBAGE

GROUP
HOARD
LABEL
LEAD
LISTS
MESS
MOBILIZE

ORDER
ORGANIZE
PLANNING
SCHEDULE
SHELVING
SORT

Guess Who?

I am a singer born in Boston on January 1, 1995. I became a star through my Twitter and YouTube social media channels. I post vlogs and music videos, and have been doing so since 2011. My real name is Moriah.

Answer: Poppy

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to organization.

L F D E R O

--	--	--	--	--	--

Answer: Folder

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
39	40				41				42	
43				44					45	
46			47						48	
49									50	
	51								52	

CLUES ACROSS

1. Basics
4. Swiss river
7. Constrictor snake
8. Building occupied by monks
10. Discount
12. Deal a blow to
13. Relating to the ear
14. Thyrotropin
16. Loud, unpleasant noise
17. Large intestines
19. Move with a curving trajectory
20. Witnesses
21. You need both to live
25. Dash
26. Network
27. Dig
29. C. European river
30. Supplement with difficulty
31. Corporate executive
32. Carroll O’Connor’s onscreen wife
39. No variation
41. Airborne (abbr.)
42. “Heidi” author
43. Affirmative

CLUES DOWN

44. Pie _ _ _ mode
45. W. Asian country
46. Grotesque or bizarre
48. Delicacy (archaic)
49. Textile
50. Denial
51. Electronic data processing
52. Attempt
1. Engulf
2. Waterside hotel
3. Printed cotton fabric
4. Defensive nuclear weapon
5. One who follows the rules
6. Lace up once more
8. Fire byproduct
9. Hankerings
11. Outer
14. One-time aerospace firm
15. Seafood
18. Commercial
19. Epoxy hardener (abbr.)
20. Samoan monetary unit
22. Type of gland

23. Arrest
24. Check
27. Past participle of be
28. Alias
29. A major division of geological time
31. Kids programming channel (abbr.)
32. Joked
33. Helps little firms
34. Roman numeral 50
35. Impressive in size or scope
36. Domineering leader
37. A person who delivers a speech
38. One after 89
39. Young hawk
40. The scene of any event or action
44. A team’s best pitcher
47. Integrated data processing

Michigan’s population fell slightly in 2022



Michigan’s population was estimated at 10,034,113 as of July 1, down 3,400 from 2021’s estimate and 43,200 from the 2020 population of 10,077,325.

As a percentage, Michigan’s loss was the 17th most in the nation. New York had the biggest drop, losing nearly 1 percent of its population — over 180,000 people.

Florida led the nation, growing 1.9 percent in 2022, adding 416,000 people to more than 22 million.

the state since 2020.) Overall, the U.S. population grew by 1.2 million people to 333.2 million, the Census estimated.

The estimates show that the Sun Belt continues to attract people from much of the country, with Florida, Texas, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Georgia and Arizona adding nearly 1 million people combined in the year.

Meanwhile, Maryland, Louisiana, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Illinois and California combined for a nearly 1 million person loss to other states.

economists anticipate declines over the next few years before modest increases, with the state peaking at about 10.5 million in 25 years.

With an aging population and without substantial growth, it could be a big problem for the state’s employers, said Don Grimes, a regional economic specialist with U-M who estimates the state will consistently have more deaths than births by 2050.

“Firms are going to have an extraordinarily hard time finding workers,” Grimes said at a recent economic conference. “We’re going to have a population growth problem.”

The estimates are through July 1 and that should mean that, barring a surge of COVID-19 cases and deaths, the impact of the pandemic should fall even more next year.

Over 64 percent of this year’s COVID-19 nearly 9,000 deaths occurred before July.



Michigan was the only state to lose population from 2000 to 2010, but gained from 2010 to 2020. Shutterstock photo.

Michigan population declines slightly to 10,034,113

Michigan’s decline appeared to be driven by COVID-19, with the state recording 12,500 more deaths than births in 2022. (Overall, the virus has killed more than 40,000 people in

Michigan was the only state to lose population from 2000 to 2010 but gained from 2010 to 2020, rising above 10 million people.

Estimates from University of Michigan

Michigan selected as pilot site for national efforts in child welfare reforms

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) has been selected as one of

eight pilot sites nationally to participate in a federal project. The project will help child welfare systems better engage with children and youth and make reforms that will benefit the children and families they serve.

MDHHS will partner with the national Quality Improvement Center on Engaging Youth in Finding Permanency. Established in 2021, the center is expected to bring about systemic changes in how child welfare professionals authentically engage children and youth, as reflected in intentional shifts in policy, practice and culture within the pilot sites.

In particular, MDHHS hopes to empower youth to provide more input on finding them a permanent home — either through reunification with their families or adoption, if it’s not safe for them to return home.

“MDHHS’ Children’s Services Agency is committed to engaging and collaborating with families to ensure child safety, permanency, and well-being,” said Demetrius Starling, executive director of the agency. “Being a Quality Improvement Center on Engaging Youth pilot site is an incredible opportunity to help staff promote and support authentic engagement and empowerment of children and youth. This work will be a catalyst for producing system-wide change that will benefit the families we serve in Michigan.”

Through September 2026, MDHHS will receive

support and resources from the Quality Improvement Center on Engaging Youth in Finding Permanency, which is funded through a federal grant provided by the Children’s Bureau, Administration for Children and Families of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Michigan will receive funding, resources and technical assistance for the next four years for this project. The goal is to embrace the voice of youth in all aspects of the system of care.

The seven other sites selected so far are Hawaii, Montana, Nebraska, Rhode Island, Indiana, the Oklahoma Southern Plains Consortium and the Yakama Nation.

Along with the other pilot sites, MDHHS will work in partnership with the Quality Improvement Center on Engaging Youth during the next four years to:

Identify, implement and evaluate a program model for authentic child and youth engagement.

Implement additional child welfare training and coaching for the child welfare workforce, including MDHHS staff.

Identify and implement systemic changes.

Partner with courts to implement a training for court professionals and staff.

The counties participating in the project as intervention sites are Mecosta, Monroe, Muskegon, and Oakland. Outcomes for children in the pilot locations will be compared with outcomes for children in other counties that are not pilot locations.

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