

ABC's
OF LOWELL

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\$1.00



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Lowell turns into wild, wild West for Girls Night Out

By Emma Palova
contributing writer

On a rainy Thursday night in October, gals, ladies, and dames, in Stetsons and dusters, flocked to downtown Lowell, lit with hundreds of lights. The rain didn't stop the jovial atmosphere fit for holiday shopping. Of course, the Stetsons helped keep the hairdos dry. Flannel checkered shirts were the second favorite, after Stetsons and cowboy boots. Staff at shops sported the green "Lowellstone" shirts for \$21, and Lowell was transformed into a wild, wild West for one night.

"Despite the light misting and eventual rain, we were happy to have so many groups of ladies come out to enjoy the Girls' Night Out, Lowellstone event. The Yellowstone-theme was



Photo courtesy of Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce's facebook page.

GNO, continued
page 16

Red Arrow Closet used by many students at LHS

By Aliina Forester
LHS contributing writer

The Red Arrow Closet is a great feature of Lowell High School. They have a wide variety of clothes, shoes, and hygiene supplies for any students who need to access it. Students are able to set-up an appointment to enter the RAC closet with a counselor.

The Red Arrow Closet is a room supplying a wide variety of needed items to students at no-cost. They accept donations of either gift cards or money so they can buy students new clothes that are in fashion. One of the big things the RAC didn't want was to become another thrift store. They didn't want people

showing up with bags of old clothes that students would have to sort through and end-up not wearing.

The Closet started about two years ago and was offered to students who were in need of new clothing in their department. It has evolved and now, not only is for students whose families have financial instability but it's also for those with other situations, such as forgetting a shirt for gym class or spilling something on their shirt, in which case, instead of walking around with that stained shirt on all day, that student can go into the closet, pick something out, and their own shirt will be washed and given back to them at the end of the day.

The Red Arrow Closet also gets used for dress code situations; if a student's outfit doesn't meet the dress code, then that student can go into the Closet and pick something out as a replacement to what they were wearing. Lots of



Shelves of jeans at the Red Arrow Closet.

Closet,
continued page 2

November 2023 City Council election primer

By Justin Tiemeyer
contributing writer

On Tuesday, November 7, 2023, City of Lowell residents are charged with voting in the November 2023 consolidated election. Per Michigan Act 116 of 1954, "the Consolidation of Election Precincts," a consolidated election is any election that is neither a general November election (voting for president, U.S. senators, U.S. representatives, etc.), a primary prior to a general November election, nor any other statewide or federal election. In elections such as this, local leaders may, by resolution, consolidate multiple precincts into one, just as the city council did on Monday, September 5. As a result, all city residents will cast their vote at City Hall.

City residents will vote in the proposal section for a Kent District Library Millage Renewal Proposal and in the nonpartisan

section for three City Council members at large; the seats currently occupied by Mayor Mike DeVore and council members, Jim Salzwedel and Cliff Yankovich. Mayor DeVore and council member Salzwedel are both hoping to continue their tenure on City Council, and they have joined newcomers Eric Bartkus, Jake Davenport, and Sharon Shah on the ballot, in a contest for the three open spots. Council member Cliff Yankovich, by contrast, has chosen not to run for re-election.

The following candidate profiles should prove helpful for readers who are unfamiliar with one or more candidates running for City Council or for those who wonder where each candidate stands on a particular hot topic facing the city in 2023.

Turn to page 8 to meet the candidates for City Council.

Guest Column

Clouds continue to hang over Michigan’s government transparency laws

By Wes Smith,
President MPA Board of Directors
Publisher View Newspaper Group

When there was a change in leadership in Michigan’s legislature earlier this year, hope rose again in the hearts of citizens who want a more transparent state government.

Maybe, it was thought by those citizens, the time has finally come for Michigan to join almost every other state in expecting their legislature and Governor to be subject to our open records law.

Maybe, they thought, adding hope upon hope, new laws would be passed requiring other government officials to respond to records requests in a timely manner without outrageous fees. But, alas, it’s nearly November and there has not been even a small ray of sunshine in our state house or governor’s mansion.

Michigan remains at the bottom-of-the-bottom for government openness among the fifty states. The Center for Public Integrity

gave the Great Lakes State an “F” grade in 2015. In 2020, Michigan ranked 47th out of 50 for anti-corruption measures for public officials according to the Coalition for Integrity.

News reports of former House Speaker Johnson convicted of accepting bribes and Inkster Mayor Wimberly indicted on bribery charges, along with numerous other accounts of unethical behavior on the part of elected officials in our state, illustrate the importance of openness and transparency in government.

In 2022 Michigan voters overwhelmingly supported a ballot initiative to require state elected officials to provide financial disclosure statements. In a recent study, done on behalf of the

Michigan Press Association, there was more data showing Michigan voters want more information about what their elected officials are doing. Nearly 9 out of 10 Michigan adults believe that taxpayers should have access to the meeting calendars of state representatives and their correspondence with outside organizations, as well as the budgets of these office holders.

Leaders from the Michigan Press Association have recently reached out to legislative leaders, and Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer, requesting action with specific amendments to improve the open government climate in our state.

The Michigan Press Association has drafted –

and this newspaper fully supports – the following crucial measures to bolster transparency, accountability, and integrity in Michigan government:

Extending Michigan’s Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) to the executive and legislative branches.

Requiring far more early response to FOIA requests. Citizens and media outlets routinely endure very long and unnecessary delays in obtaining clearly public information from government agencies.

Preventing exorbitant fees for FOIA responses. Michigan transparency is severely restricted by outrageously high fees, public bodies attempt to charge for FOIA responses.

As citizens of

Michigan, you can hold your government accountable. We urge you to contact your legislators and tell them to move forward to improve Michigan’s open government laws to allow taxpayers the access they deserve when it comes to the people’s business. It’s high time to get Michigan out of the basement when it comes to ethics in government. We implore you to act now.

The Michigan Press Association has actively advocated for open government at the local, state and federal level for the better part of 160 years. It is of our mission is to promote transparency for the citizens of Michigan and serve as a watchdog of taxpayer dollars.

Closet, continued



The women’s section of the LHS Red Arrow Closet.

the students who use the closet go to KCTC in the construction program. The Closet provides work boots, pants, and shirts for these students so they can have work-appropriate clothing. They also have scrubs for students who are in the nursing program at KCTC.

As the weather changes, the Closet gets used a lot more because kids can get winter jackets, longer pants, and boots, if needed. And as the seasons change, the Closet will stock-up on what is needed for the upcoming season. Near Christmas, they send out a list of needed items, asking for donations, and then pick one student to receive clothing and necessities as a Christmas gift. During the holiday season, donations are generous, which everyone is so thankful for as the Closet is fully-stocked. However, the Closet needs to be stocked all year-round,

not just around the holidays. They have a Facebook page called “The Arrow Clothing Closet @ Lowell High School” where you can personally message them for donations.

Mrs. Butkus and Mrs. Winter run the Red Arrow Closet. Mrs. Winter organizes all the new donations and makes the Closet easy to access by having sections based on sizes and clothing by season. Mrs Butkus’ transition skills class maintains the Closet to assure it looks welcoming and stays organized after use. To record what they need to stock- up on, they have an inventory sheet that the students write their name and the items they took out, assuring that high-demand articles are restocked. Overall, the Red Arrow Closet is a great resource for our community and our high school for all students to access if they don’t have it at home.

Sen. Albert schedules hours

State Sen. Thomas Albert has scheduled in-district office hours to meet with residents at two locations on Friday, Oct. 27.

The times and locations for the office hours are:

9:30 to 10:30 a.m. at the Lake Odessa Community Library, 1007 Fourth Ave. in Lake Odessa.

11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Biggby Coffee of Lowell, 11826 Fulton St. E. in Lowell.

Office hours are open to district residents to talk about issues related to state government or to request assistance with a state issue. Priority will be given to constituents

seeking to discuss issues that require privacy.

No appointment is necessary, but space may be limited at some locations. Local office hours in other parts of the Senate’s 18th District will be scheduled at a later date. The 18th District includes Barry County and portions of Allegan, Calhoun, Kalamazoo, Kent, and Ionia counties.

Residents unable to attend office hours may contact Albert’s Senate office via email at SenTAlbert@senate.michigan.gov, by calling 517-373-1734 or by calling toll-free at 855-347-8018.

Visit Albert’s website at SenatorThomasAlbert.com for more information.

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Sweets, Cider and Donuts

Decency task force sparks controversy at council meeting

By Justin Tiemeyer
contributing writer

The Lowell City Council met for a regular meeting on Monday, October 16, with all members present, including City Manager, Mike Burns, who had been absent from the previous meeting. The lion's share of the meeting was devoted to discussing the creation of a taskforce to determine standards of decency for public performances at the Riverwalk Stage, a topic on which the city council was divided. Though the wording was generic, it was clear to all participants that this item would not have been added to the agenda, save for the controversy around profanity at 2023 Lowell Pride.

The strongest proponent of establishing clear expectations for

heard language like that from the stage.”

Council member, Jim Salzwedel, also expressed distaste for a flier he saw at the event. It should be noted that this flier was created and distributed by a third party not associated with Pride.

Mayor Mike DeVore and council member, Leah Groves, were staunchly against the establishment of a taskforce and their aimed goal of creating decency parameters. Neither felt comfortable establishing a rule set that clearly targeted Lowell Pride and the LGBTQ+ community.

“To put a policy in place is a dangerous precedent when we live in a litigious society,” Mayor DeVore said, “But I also don’t think that freedom of speech means freedom from consequences either.”

of Cohen V. California. Resident, Parker Liu, also opposed the decency policy. “Pride, in particular, is an opportunity for people to express themselves in a way they’re not able to most of the time, the rest of the year,” Liu said. “These are people in our community.”

Council member, Yankovich, argued that the protection of the Pride performer’s expression is a double-edged sword that also protects those who use derogatory terms for gay people, like those he used to hear in the Dire Straits song, “Money For Nothing.” At the same time, it was unclear why council member, Yankovich, felt the need to speak the explicit term, in question, aloud at a recorded, public meeting.

Council member, Yankovich’s argument falls prey to the logical fallacy



Council Member, Cliff Yankovich, explains that he originally showed interest in creating a decency policy for public, outdoor events because during his many years of attending Lowell concerts, he had never heard language like what he heard at the recent Lowell Pride event

the comment is tasteless and crass, and they would prefer their children not hear it. Though it may not have been council member, Yankovich’s intent, the homophobic term he mentioned has a violent history and is considered hate speech by the American Civil Liberties Union.

The council did not end-up moving forward, with a task force, to establish decency rules for public, outdoor concerts in Lowell.

The seeds of a second controversy were planted early in the meeting when resident, Perry Beachum, endorsed a scathing editorial about the actions of the Lowell City Council and Planning Commission, written by Lowell’s First Look owner and editor, Maryalene LaPonsie. LaPonsie claimwd that a neutered Planning Commission and corrupt City Council are responsible for the publicly unpopular development of the Rollaway building by CopperRock Construction.

Of the board itself, Chambers noted that the team has been together for four to five years, and he thinks they do an extremely good job.

It is worth noting that the Lowell City Council’s involvement in the CopperRock Construction controversy has been limited to two instances; the first being, the approval of a zoning request that would have been uncontroversial, save for CopperRock’s involvement, and the second being, formal legal opposition to CopperRock’s request to vacate Horatio.

The council agreed to sell a retired 2015 police cruiser with the proceeds going toward the purchase of a radar, speed-display

trailer. They also agreed to submit water system improvement estimates to Lowell Charter Township, setting the expectation for a response from the township by December. The next council meeting will take place on Monday, November 6, 2023, at 7:00 pm. Those interested in watching the October 16 meeting can find it on the City of Lowell YouTube channel, @cityoflowell. The agenda can be found at the City of Lowell home page, lowellmi.gov.



Resident, Parker Liu, is concerned that the city’s desire to restrict public expression goes against the most fundamental value of Pride, which is to allow for members of the LGBTQ+ community to express themselves in a safe space.

behavior on the Riverwalk Stage was council member, Cliff Yankovich, a long-time supporter of the local music scene, in general, and the Showboat Sizzlin’ Summer Concert Series, specifically.

“I’m the one that brought it to the foreground,” council member, Yankovich said, “because I had never

City Manager, Mike Burns, was hesitant to take action. Burns noted that no other communities are interested in touching this issue, particularly because of First Amendment concerns, and former Lowell Pride Chair, Nicole Lintemuth, later explained that the Supreme Court prohibited such interference with their decision on the 1971 case

of equivocation,in which an ambiguous word or term, in this case, “vulgar language,” is used in multiple different ways but treated as if it is the same. In the instance of the Pride performer, who used an explicit term to suggest intercourse with a deity, both the word and the context are unthreatening. Opponents may argue that



Mayor Mike DeVore opposes putting a decency policy in place for a number of reasons, not the least being the fact that it invites costly, taxpayer-funded litigation.

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Book Corner

The case of the Mackinac Island killer remains cold

By Emma Palova
Contributing writer

Most of us know Mackinac Island as a lovely romantic destination ‘Up North’ located in the Straits of Mackinaw. We marvel at the Big Mac, five-mile-long, suspended bridge that connects the two Michigan peninsulas between Mackinaw City and St. Ignace, and the high-tailing ferries making their way to the magic Isle.

One million people visit Mackinac Island and cross

of the North Atlantic Ocean, due to strange happenings.

Decorated with awards, the Isle takes pride in its fudge, the Percheron horses, and the Victorian-style of the Inns and B&Bs. Celebrities, and politicians alike, have stayed at the grandiose former railroad Grand Hotel that served as a location for filming Jeannot Szwarc’s *Somewhere in Time*.

As you sip tea and enjoy scones, and the pianist playing in the lobby of the

Search for the Mackinac Island Killer. You know every corner of the island, so it’s not hard to picture where Devil’s Kitchen is. The rock formation is located on the only non-motorized road in Michigan, which is Lake Shore Drive M-185, which circles around the island and leads to British Landing. That was the proximity of the perplexing murder scene, unheard of on the Isle.

A network of trails runs through the island. It’s hard to picture anyone getting lost on the 3.8 square miles of the hilly terrain, also known as Michilimackinac or Big Turtle.

So, what exactly happened on Sunday morning July 24, 1960 on this peaceful Isle? “Well, it depends on who you ask,” said Sadler, in a recent interview about his brand-new book *Grim Paradise: The Cold Case Search for the Mackinac Island Killer*.

Sadler, a retired law enforcement officer of 30 years, penned the story of the murder on The Isle, of a Dearborn widow, Frances Lacey, with amazing detail using autopsy reports, Michigan State Police

reports, and newspaper account, including *Mackinac Island Town Crier* and newspapers.com.

He was inspired to write the story after a paranormal tour of the island five years ago, when the guide mentioned a murder on Mackinac Island in 1960. On that fateful Sunday morning in July, the serenity of the island was shattered by the brutal death of Lacey, whose body was found behind a gated area beyond Devil’s Kitchen.

A massive manhunt for the killer ensued but rendered no results and very few clues leading nowhere. Everyone was a suspect; from the maids at Murray Hotel, where Lacey stayed, to window peeper and dishwasher Paul Strantz, along with the family members who went with Lacey on the fateful vacation to paradise.

“The key is the evidence,” said Sadler, “and what they did with it.” Although there was plenty of evidence at the crime scene, such as Mrs. Lacey’s 6B size shoes and the panties she was strangled with, the lab reports were inconclusive. According to neighbors in Dearborn, widow Lacey led a quiet life and mowed her lawn on a regular basis. Her deceased husband left her and the two adult children an average amount of money, nothing worth killing for.

Sadler writes in the preface to the book:

It’s easy to look back at a police report, that’s over sixty years old, and second-guess the detectives. It’s easy to say, ‘They should have done this’ or ‘They should have done that.’ In reality, given the era, they did exactly what any other detectives would have done. They interviewed a lot of people and they relied on the specific scientific techniques and analyses that were available to them.

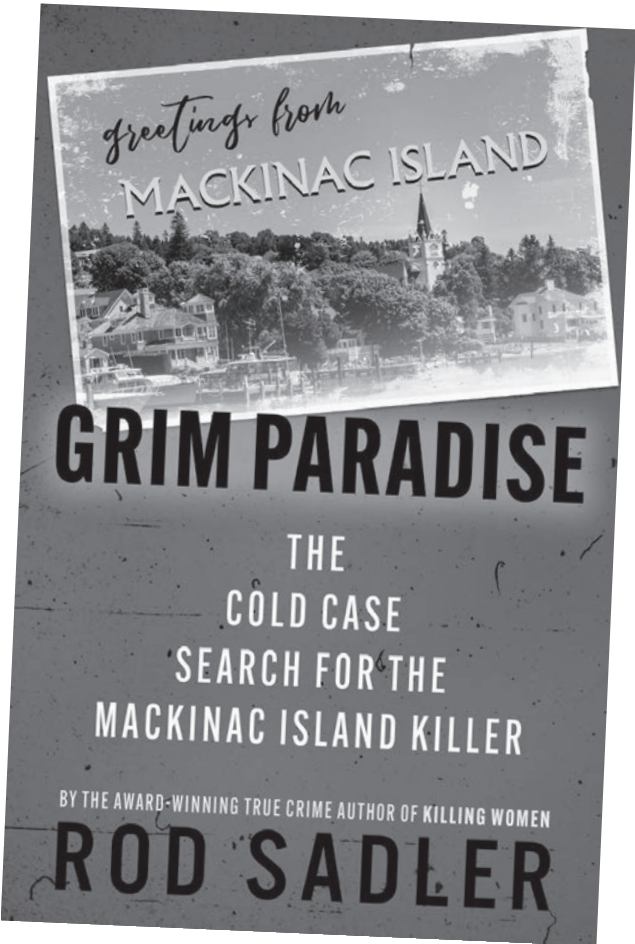
In the twenty-first century, much of the investigation would have been done in exactly the same way. There would

be crime scene photos, measurements, the collection of evidence, interviews, polygraph exams, and scientific analysis of evidence. In the same light, it would also be done much differently.

Autopsy protocols, evidence

then.

Sadler remains hopeful that the cold case could be solved based on advanced DNA technology, much like in the case of the Golden State Killer. Could the same clues solve the mystery? However, some of the evidence is missing



More importantly, though not an exact science, the understanding of the criminal mind is far more in-depth today than it was back then.

~ Author Rod Sadler

the bridge in the destination triangle, which almost reminds me of the Bermuda Triangle in the western part

Grand, you immerse yourself in author, Rod Sadler’s, newest true crime book *Grim Paradise: The Cold Case*

collection and preservation, and forensic analysis have all changed over the last sixty-plus years. More importantly, though not an exact science, the understanding of the criminal mind is far more in-depth today than it was back

or has been unintentionally misplaced or destroyed.

Listen in to the podcast episode for a chance to win a signed copy of the book on <https://emmapalova123.podbean.com>

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college news

Hunter Vanbeek, of Alto, was among nearly 250 students named to Kettering University’s Summer 2023 Dean’s List. Vanbeek is majoring in Mechanical Engineering.

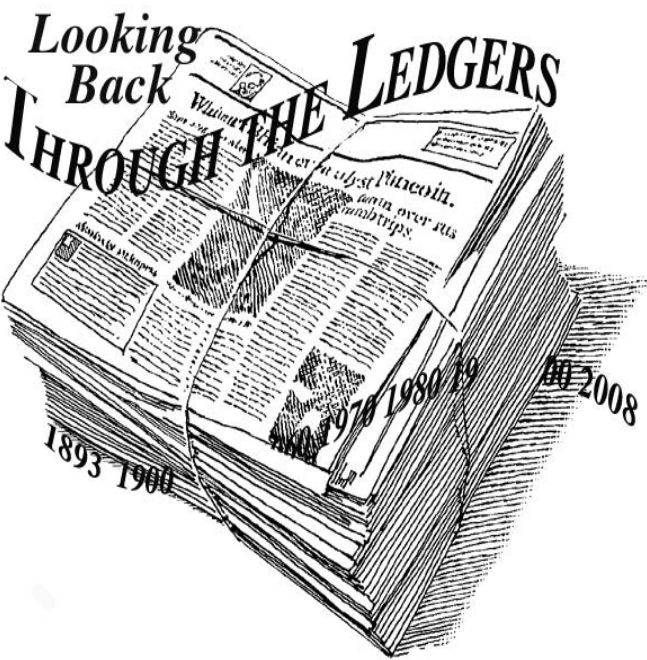
The Dean’s List recognizes overall academic performance based on the student’s term grade point average (GPA). To be eligible for the Dean’s List, students must satisfy the following requirements: be a degree-seeking student with a minimum term

grade point average of 3.5, no grades below B, and a minimum of 16 earned credits for the term.

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viewpoint



150 years ago The Lowell Journal October 22, 1873

The flavor of the apple-worm is excellent this year, and five cents for a glass of new cider is cheap enough.

Miss Nellie Waldron, who was reported only slightly injured in the late railroad accident near this village, has been quite ill for some days. Her injuries were of a more serious character than was at first believed.

The Detroit and Milwaukee Railroad is laying track in spite of financial panic, and expects the Detroit-Holly and Grand Rapids-Ionia sections to be complete next month.

A scientist in France discovers that hydrogen is made of two elements, hydrogen and “abaron,” which is weightless and will not burn. This will make possible strong metallic airships that won’t explode.

125 years ago The Lowell Ledger October 27, 1898

The November election will have a proposal to build a county insane asylum. The state asylum at Kalamazoo is used by Kent County now.

The Ledger has run, for several weeks, a listing of the candidates for office of the Union Silver Ticket, in the editorial column.

Lowell needs a bridge over the Flat River for its school children.

The proposed extension of the Lowell and Hastings Railroad may go through Fallasburg, which will save money on right-of-way. Besides, Alton folks seem indifferent to the railroad.

The editor warns correspondents that visits between neighbors are not news; use a four-mile limit and state where visitors reside.

100 years ago The Lowell Ledger October 25, 1923

Lowell Specialty Co. has orders for 11,200 hand sprayers, among others.

Lowell citizens join with Ionia in supporting M-16 through the towns, not running through open country. Still to be heard from, according to Michigan Commerce Secy Bierce: the Association of Commerce and Wholesalers of Grand Rapids.

The local pigskin tossers journeyed to Rockford Friday and taught the high school boys there how to play football. Lowell outclassed its opponents in every way and came off at the big end of a 32-0 score.

75 years ago The Lowell Ledger October 28, 1948

Lowell has 1,678 registered voters.

Five proposals for constitutional amendments, another for holding a constitutional convention, presidential, state and local ballots, will delay election results next Tuesday as the paper ballots are counted.

Military funeral services were held on October 28 for Gerald James Ellis, who was the first Lowell boy to give his life for his country in World War II.

Lowell High Football Sportlights features: Bob Hand, Gerald Wittenback and Amos Sterzick.

50 years ago Lowell Ledger Suburban Life October 25, 1973

Parking ordinances are in force again for completed streets of the sewer project.

The police cope with a flood of calls about stolen bicycles.

Lowell is proud that Gerald R. Ford was named Vice President by President Nixon on October 11, in the wake of Spiro Agnew’s resignation.

Margaret Reynolds is named Lowell High School’s homecoming queen for 1973.

Gasoline consumption in the United States in 1972 hit an all-time high of 102 billion gallons, according to the American Petroleum Institute.

25 years ago The Lowell Ledger October 28, 1998

The rezoning of developer Richard Anderson’s property (730 Godfrey) at the Lowell Planning Commission meeting, from R-1 to R-2, not only set well with the commission but also appeased neighbors and Anderson, making for a win-win-win situation.

Michael Nosko could begin construction on his Maplewood Square, which is two fourplex apartments at the southeast corner of Sibley and Ridgeview.

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outdoors

trails

Dave Stegehuis

Walking along roadways today is a dangerous activity. At the same time, finding open spaces available to the public is becoming more difficult. Fortunately, public awareness for the need to find places to safely recreate has risen. The result is that state and local governments, as well as citizen groups, have sponsored the development of extensive trail systems.

Michigan has trail networks to accommodate motor sports, cycling, equestrian, walking, and hiking activities. Walking trails are useful to the most people because walking and running don’t require special gear or expensive equipment. Anyone who is able, can do it.

Trails come in a variety of features. Some are pathways through dense woods and open fields, where one can tread on leaves and pine needles, and there is the possibility of observing wildlife in a natural setting. Other trails may take one through urban areas, on hard surface walkways, leading to commercial locations. Many trails fall somewhere in between by winding through quiet neighborhoods and parkland.

Walkers can choose to travel short loops, which fit into a busy schedule or accommodate physical limitations. The more adventurous may hike or jog routes that extend across country for miles. The Lowell area offers the option of short walks with the dog or hiking to more distant destinations. Jump on the North Country Trail and head for the east coast of the U.S., or trek west to North Dakota, from the trail headquarters in Lowell. Most folks explore sections in between.

Walking is recommended for getting the exercise needed for better physical health. Walking also contributes to one’s emotional well-being and general mental health.

Seek out trails near home, so you can regularly get out for fresh air and exercise. Taking the dog, or inviting a partner to join you, will help to keep you consistent. Even an occasional hike or walk is worth the time and effort.

Someone has taken a lot of time, work, and money to establish these trails, so get out-and-about and take advantage of your good fortune.

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.

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Kent District Library programs at Alto Branch, 6071 Linfield Ave SE. For additional information call 616-784-2007.

At Your Local Library

Storytime

Monday, 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: Under the Sea

Wednesday, Nov. 8, 4-5 pm. Calling all merfolk, seafolk and mariners! Take a dive with some ocean-themed STEAM activities. For ages 5-10.

Learn Beginning Skills for Hand Sewing

Tuesday, Nov. 14, 6:30 - 7:30 pm. Complete a Friendship Star quilt block while learning hand sewing skills that transfer to mending and other endeavors in this fun and easy sewing introduction. Space is limited; first come, first served. Doors open 15 minutes before the program begins and you may save one seat for a friend. For ages 18+

All Aboard! Book Club

Thursday, Nov. 16, 10:30 - 11:30 am. Join a fun, informal discussion of great books. This month, we’ll discuss *The Boys in the Boat* by Daniel Brown. For ages 18+

Teddy Bear Check-Up

Saturday, Nov. 18, 10 - 11 am. Bring your favorite teddy bear or other stuffed animal to a check-up visit where you’re the doctor! With eye charts, stethoscopes and even band-aids for boo boos, your stuffie will be healthy and happy by the time they leave. For ages 0-5.

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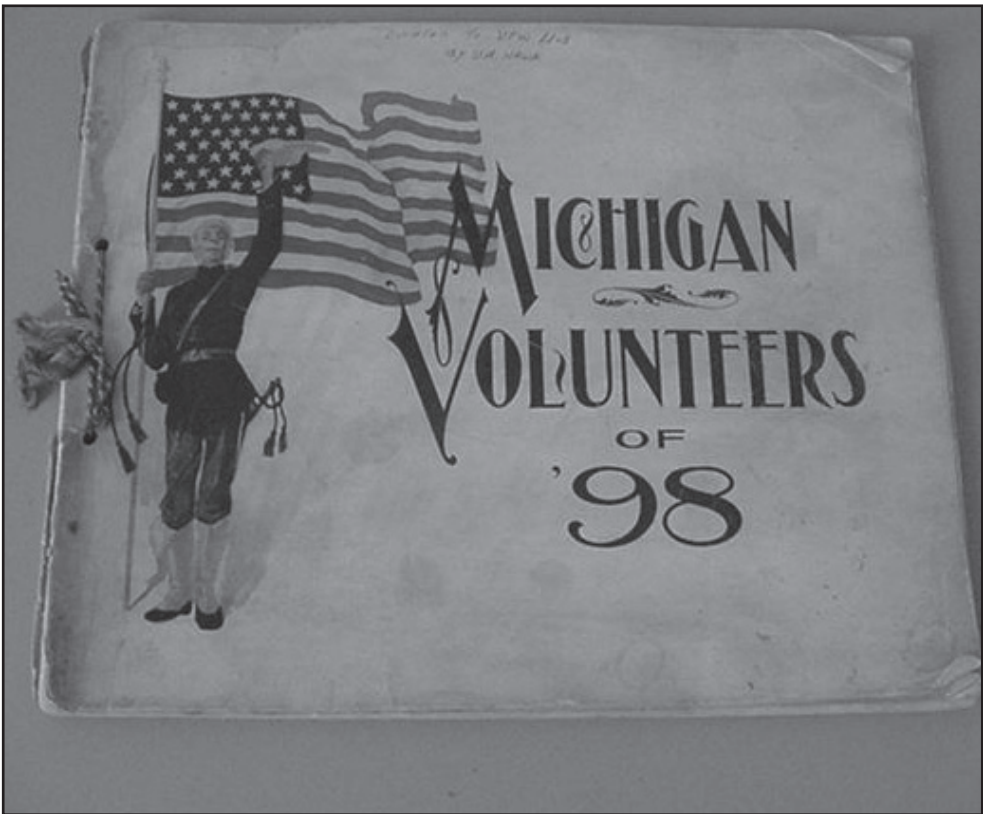
ABCs of Lowell history

The ABCs of Lowell History is back for another round. This popular series explores a wide variety of topics in Lowell area history, in weekly online articles. Information provided by the Lowell Area Historical Museum

V is for Veterans of the Spanish American War

Fourteen Lowell area residents fought in the Spanish American War. As announced in the Lowell Ledger on May 19, 1898, “The following boys went with the Sons of Veterans organization to Island Lake to be mustered in and drilled for active service: Clarence E. Long, Will E. McCarty, Walter Gibson, Sherman Reynolds, Ulman Hawk, Charles Dickerson, Hayes Rolf and Bert Fenning. The following went to Ionia to join the 34th Regiment there: John Clark, Harvey Gibson, Myron Rice, Jay Gibbs, and Onie Wingate. The volunteers were sent off from the G.A.R. Hall by the Lowell Military Band, the pupils of the village schools, many veterans, and citizens. They were escorted to the depot to the inspiring strains of “Hail Columbia.” Here the band played “The Star-Spangled Banner” while the school children sang. Three cheers were given for the Stars and Stripes and three more for the boys who were going to war; there were tearful hand shakings, sad adieus and expressions of good will and hope, then the conductor called “All Aboard” and the Lowell boys were off to the war.”

What was it like for



these boys from Lowell? Today, it is possible to peek into those battle lines through the words of these boys themselves. Both Clarence Long and Robert Jones wrote letters to the newspaper, their family and friends that have been preserved.

May 31, 1898 – Camp Alger, VA, from Serg’t Clarence E. Long, Co L, 33d Mich Inf:

Clarence explained how the camp at Island Lake straightened many boys out who thought the army would be a ‘circus.’ Upon arriving at Camp Alger in Virginia, they realized there was no camp, they had to cut down the timber to make the camp. At the time of writing, they had cleared five acres and had a marching ground, and they were beginning to feel at home. There were 22,000 men in the camp. The water was so bad they had to boil

it. In addition, an attempt was made to poison the water supply. Thankfully, the men involved were caught, but one was killed while being captured and another hanged himself. The remaining suspects were being held under guard. Clarence stated that he doesn’t know where they will be headed next or when, but that the Lowell boys in his unit are all in his tent and they are getting along well.

An undated letter, published in early June of 1898, Tampa Florida from Robert L.C. Jones, of the 32nd Michigan Volunteers:

Robert described how the unit left Island Lake on May 19th and went to Detroit, and then south. They received a rousing reception in Cincinnati; the people there blew whistles and rang bells for half an hour! They arrived at the Florida camp and the Michigan boys were shocked that at

noon it was 110 degrees in the shade. They expected to move to Cuba in a few days. The only water available for them to drink was warm. The trip was rough on them. They were on the train from Thursday night until Monday morning, off the train twice for 20 minutes of exercise. That was 86 hours of constant riding. He promised the hometown people he would continue writing.

July 9, 1898 - Siboney, Cuba by Sergt Clarence E. Long, Co L, 33d Mich. Vol. Inf:

Clarence describes how they were involved in the attack on a small town behind Fort Morro, and at the same time, the rest of the army attacked Santiago. Two of the men in their company were killed

ABCs, continued
page 12

area churches

CALVARY CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH OF LOWELL

897-7060
Pastor Ryan Landt
1151 West Main Street, Lowell, MI
Website: calvarylowell.org
Morning Worship.....10:00 AM
Weekly Prayer Meeting - Mondays 7 PM
Barrier-Free

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
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897-5938
www.lowellumc.com • Barrier Free Entrance
WORSHIP
Traditional Service: 9 am
Contemporary Service: 10:30 am
Sr. Pastor - Brad Brillhart

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

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

865 Lincoln Lake SE • lowellucc.org
Pastor Shannon Jammal-Hollemans
Worship Service - Sundays 10 AM
Open Table (No-cost meal)
Thursdays 5:00 - 6:30 PM
Open & Affirming • LGBTQ+ Inclusive
616-897-5906

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF LOWELL

CHRIST-CENTERED, KINGDOM-FOCUSED HOMES
2275 West Main Street - (Barrier Free)
897-7168 • www.fbc Lowell.org
Pastor Jon Pickens • Lead Pastor
Pastor Andrew Bolkcom • Pastor of Discipleship
SUNDAY WORSHIP.....9:30 AM (Nursery provided)
LIFE GROUPS 11:00 AM (Nursery-Adult)
Awana (K-5 during school year) Wednesday, 6:15 PM

happy birthday



OCTOBER 25

Diane Pretzel,
Bill Ellison, Amanda Stoutjesdyk.

OCTOBER 26

Ray Jones, Mike Ray, Kait Cummings, Joe Wilczewski, Thomas Cook.

OCTOBER 27

George Cook, Tim VanLaan, Tracey Johnson, Judy Purdy.

OCTOBER 28

Aaron Stencel, Bonnie Essich, Debbie Stoutjesdyk.

OCTOBER 29

Tammy Barber, Al Mulder, Jared Spencer, John

Butler Jr., Jeremy Drake, Valerie Stuewe.

OCTOBER 30

Jeremiah Russo, Joseph Russo, Justin Wilczewski.

OCTOBER 31

Bob Richter, Connor Duiven, Larry Taunt, Thomas Alberts, Patricia VanSickle.

NOVEMBER 1

Walt Batt, Abbot Kastanek, Brenda Lea Owen, Suzanne Olin, Anthony Kiedis, John Luc Richmond.

Alto's American Legion building is home to three separate Veterans Organizations

By Justin Tiemeyer
contributing writer

At the corner of Kirby Street and Linfield Avenue, in downtown Alto, a large white building sits, unassuming, its stand-out feature, a flagpole featuring Old Glory in her traditional red, white, and blue. This is the American Legion Post 528 headquarters. Just about everybody in town knows about it, even if folks only know it as “that place next to Alto Bar,” but fewer understand what happens in its halls, and fewer still understand the extent of its mission.

Mike Larkin is the Legion Commander of the Alto American Legion. A veteran himself of the Vietnam War—Legion membership requires service in the United States Armed Forces, after all—Larkin was an inactive Legion member for years. It was not until he sold Larkin's Restaurant, in nearby Lowell, that he stepped-up into active membership and leadership within the Legion. Most current members of the Legion are older veterans who served in Vietnam or Korea, but Larkin is interested in getting the word out to peacetime veterans, Gulf War veterans, Afghanistan veterans, and veterans of the second Iraq war, as well. “One of our biggest things is trying to get more active younger members,” Larkin said.

The American Legion is one of three nonprofits housed in the big, white building at Kirby and Linfield. It is joined by both the Sons of the American Legion, whose members are sons or grandsons of veterans, and the Auxiliary, whose members are either parents, grandparents, spouses, children, grandchildren, or siblings of veterans or active service members.

Kelly Holst is the commander of the Alto Chapter of the Sons of the American Legion, and he is welcome within the organization because of his father and grandfather's commitment to the Armed

Forces. The Legion, itself, has a lot of latitude to support veterans in any way they see fit, and Holst notes that the Sons of the American Legion have similar freedom when it comes to the veterans programs they support, as well. “Sometimes being a Son is just being a good listener,” Holst said.

In addition to contributing to the support of the Legion's bar, kitchen, and general premises, the Legion and Sons raise money to support local veterans with their immediate needs, like helping someone find a place to rent after his house had burned down, sending someone on a trip to Arlington with the help of Talons Out Honor Flight, paying heat, electricity, or water bills, providing a headstone for someone who has passed, or cleaning up at the cemetery.

The Auxiliary, on the other hand, was founded in 1919 as more of a traditional nonprofit organization whose members assist with the American Legion, and, as such, its fundraising campaigns are more proactive than the reactive work the Legion and Sons tend to do. Nancy Stroosnyder is the President and membership chair for the Alto Auxiliary.

“Our Auxiliary has kind of evolved and organized many different programs that we actively support,” Stroosnyder said, but like other Auxiliaries nationwide, Alto's post was established to help veterans, families, active military, and also the community.

The Auxiliary runs a number of fundraisers throughout the year. There is bingo on Tuesdays, various raffles, two dinners a month, and a yearly golf outing. Stroosnyder oversees a number of projects, as well, from shipping snacks, crossword puzzles, and hygiene products to active service members, to donating school supplies to nearby Alto Elementary, to supporting a number of veteran organizations, like Tunnel the Towers, which provides mortgage-free homes to veterans and first

responders.

For many veterans, the Legion is simply a place to talk to one another about things that other people around them may never understand. The Sons of the American Legion have a chaplain present at the post, allowing veterans to work through balancing their faith with their experiences. For others in need of counseling or aid, the Auxiliary is happy to refer them to appropriate programs through the Veterans Administration and other organizations.

Members of one post of the American Legion can go to any other Legion post within the United States, which is especially helpful for retired folks who choose to live out of an RV in their later years. Legion members gain access to a member-only bar where they and their guests can drink beers and mixed drinks, so long as a Legion member makes the purchase.

“It's a very positive organization,” Holst said. “It's good for the soul. It makes you feel good that



American Legion 01: The American Legion Post 528 headquarters at the corner of Kirby Street and Linfield Avenue, in downtown Alto

you're doing something to support them.”

Those interested in joining either the Legion, Sons, or Auxiliary need only request an application from the Legion post. Once submitted, applications are researched to verify active service, veteran status, or connection to a veteran

or active soldier. Legion meetings are held on the first Monday of the month, Auxiliary meetings on the second, and Sons on the third. Every other month, the three organizations hold what they call a “family meeting,” where anyone from the three entities can get together and talk.

Though many events are open to the public, there are a number that require membership. However, even though the draft ended in 1973, it is still difficult to find anyone too far removed from a veteran or active soldier, and Larkin, Holst, and Stroosnyder are happy to welcome new members.

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Veterans Day
Tribute

The Ledger, along with local businesses, will be saluting area Veterans in the Nov. 8 edition.

If you would like to spotlight a Veteran living in our area, please mail, email or bring their picture, along with their name, branch of service and years served, and your name and phone number to:
The Lowell Ledger, PO Box 128 • Lowell, MI 49331
They may also be emailed to: ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com

If the Veteran you want to honor was in last year, we still have their photo. No need to resubmit.

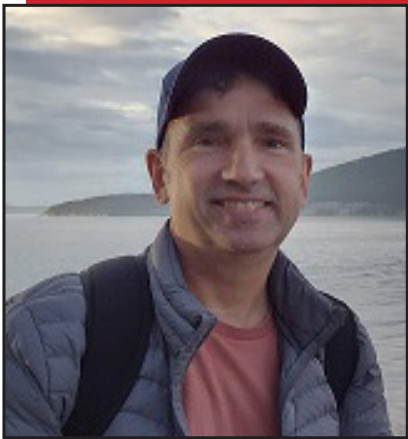
Deadline for photo submission is Thursday, Nov. 2 by 4 pm
You, or the Veteran you are honoring, must be from the Lowell area.

the lowell ledger

105 N. Broadway, Lowell
616-897-9261

MEET THE CANDIDATES

Candidate's Corner



Eric Bartkus

Eric Bartkus was born in Pasadena, California. He, his wife Beryl, and their daughters, Erin and Amy, moved to Lowell Township, via Mentor, Ohio, in 1997. The Bartkuses run two local businesses, Bartkus Engineering and Ability Weavers, both on Main Street in Lowell, and the half-way point between them is Lowell City Hall. Bartkus has lived in the upstairs apartment over Ability Weavers since 2019, and this has made it easier for him to attend the vast majority of Lowell City Council meetings for some time now.

Though Bartkus earned bachelor and master degrees in mechanical engineering and has worked as an engineer for decades, he took an interest in special needs advocacy in the early 1990s, when his oldest daughter, Erin, was diagnosed with autism. In 2016, after Erin had finished school at the age of 26, Eric and Beryl started Ability Weavers, which he describes as “a social enterprise that trains and employs adults, including those with special needs.” Bartkus has volunteered thousands of hours at Ability Weavers, where

he supports a team of 26 skilled weavers, who have created over 2500 rugs and at least 10,000 towels for sale, all over the country.

Running for city council is Bartkus’s way of giving back to the community that has supported Ability Weavers so thoroughly, and he considers it his calling to represent the will of the citizens to the best of his ability. Bartkus does not side with any particular party; instead, he wishes to be an open-minded team-player who works out the details to help all citizens and businesses, regardless of their own affiliation. This is familiar territory for Bartkus. As an engineer, he often holds brainstorming meetings, where all ideas are considered without critique, before the team chooses the best idea and works to make it successful. This is a model he believes will work well for the city.

Bartkus would like to see more teamwork between the City of Lowell, Vergennes Township, and Lowell Township, regarding the area’s water needs, having learned that the City of Indianapolis saw huge success from uniting all of the suburbs and planning as a team. Because of what he describes as “tremendous housing growth” in Lowell Township, Bartkus admits that upgrades to the water system need to be made, but he is against raising water rates to pay for them at a time when people are struggling with high prices for everything.

Bartkus is a strong proponent of Lowell Area Schools, as Keith Boeve’s special needs class has been a highlight of his daughter Erin’s life. Not only would Bartkus like Lowell Pride to continue following the controversy of the past year’s event, but in his list of 21 Promises, he details a commitment to exploring sources of seed money, keeping fees reasonable, and approving city space and road closures in order to encourage more organizers to host events in Lowell in the future. Bartkus enjoys the road construction and building renovations made possible, due to the prevalence of marijuana dispensaries in Lowell, and he warns that limiting their numbers is an invitation for expensive lawsuits that taxpayers would have to foot-the-bill for. Bartkus is also interested in clarifying street repair, pension-liability financing plans, and zoning requirements for housing developments, so they make more sense to the average citizen.

For more on Bartkus’s 21 Promises, readers may access his website at EricBartkus.com.

Candidate's Corner



Jake Davenport

Jake Davenport is a Lowell native, who graduated from Lowell High School in 2013. During that time, Davenport was an active member of Boy Scout Troop 102, which he continues to support to this day as Assistant Scoutmaster. Since graduation, he has earned a bachelor’s degree in political science and has been working as a district representative for Congressman, John Moolenaar, of Michigan’s second congressional district. While Moolenaar is on capitol hill, Davenport interacts with constituents directly, across 20 counties, through ribbon-cuttings, ground-breakings, and other public events. If elected to city council, Davenport will balance both vocations, as he is used to a busy schedule just working for the congressman. He sees serving this an opportunity to give back to the community who made him who he is.

Davenport has run for city council during every election cycle since 2017, and the experience has taught him many lessons. First and foremost, among them, is listening to understand, not just listening to respond. Davenport works for a Republican Congressman, which means that it is no secret what his own political affiliation is, but he wishes to serve what he calls “a very purple community,” with an even mix of Republicans and Democrats, and moreover, he is discouraged by the “us and them” mentality that has

developed in Lowell and across the nation. For Davenport, serving on city council means that you focus not on politics but on people.

As a product of Lowell Area Schools, Davenport opposes those who demonize the school system. Davenport loved his education in Lowell and mentioned orchestra teacher, Wendy Tenney, by name as a huge influence in his life. Tenney led both the middle school and high school orchestra, so Davenport had her as his cello teacher for seven consecutive years. In seventh and eighth grade, Lowell schools was the place where Davenport developed his passion for political science that led him to his current career. Davenport is a firm supporter of the educators who have found themselves under fire at many school board meetings, believing that the community needs to stop pointing fingers and start solving problems.

Infrastructure is Davenport’s number one concern. Having attended every city council meeting, for a while now, Davenport is well-versed in the water struggles facing both the City of Lowell and Lowell Charter Township, which stem from a water agreement signed by both parties in 1992. For Davenport, it is clear that the system needs an upgrade, but it is unclear who will pay for it, and Davenport believes the water agreement needs to be renegotiated to make sure the township covers its fair share of expenses. As for road infrastructure, Davenport loves what the contributions from marijuana dispensaries have provided. His problem comes from how this money is allotted, because a disproportionate amount of money is distributed by the state to major streets, leaving local streets in the lurch.

Davenport wishes to build stronger relationships between city, state, and federal officials, grow the economy by strengthening the city’s relationship with the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce, support law enforcement, and introduce more affordable housing into the community. He supports the right to peaceful assembly for both Lowell Pride supporters and Bible Believers Church protestors but struggles with what he describes as “vulgarity at the event.” In general, Davenport describes himself as a big-picture person who wishes to cut through divisions and get things done for the community he loves.

Candidate's Corner



Mike DeVore

Mayor Mike DeVore was born and raised in Michigan. He originally moved to Lowell in 2001 with the intention of staying for six months to a year, but he fell in love with the community and never left. He has two children, an older daughter and a younger son, who is currently in eleventh grade at Lowell High School and Kent Career Technical Center. Mayor DeVore, himself, graduated from Wyoming Park High School and later attended both the Firefighter Academy and the EMS Program. This coming year, Mayor DeVore will celebrate 15 years with the Lowell Area Fire Department and 10 years with the American Medical Response Ambulance Company. Mayor DeVore recently suffered the passing of his father, who attended every city council meeting and every public event. His father was everything to him: the reason he lives in Lowell, the reason he has such a passion to give back, and the driving force behind everything he does. Even in his absence, Mayor DeVore seeks another term on city council in order to make his father proud of his oldest son.

During his tenure on Lowell’s City Council, Mayor DeVore has served the community with the idea that his role is not a political position but an opportunity to serve the community who has given him so much. He is not charged with serving one political party or interest group but with representing all citizens of all political affiliations. During his time on City Council, Mayor DeVore is proud of getting rid of the Biodigester and giving its neighbors a quality-of-life improvement, pushing to protect the North Washington property and add it to the park system, and supporting the police and fire departments, public works, and Lowell Light & Power.

Mayor DeVore believes that the water-rationing issue, facing the City of Lowell and Lowell Charter Township, should have been resolved already. He describes the 1992 water contract, binding the two entities, as “antiquated,” and he believes that City of Lowell ratepayers are being held hostage by the fact that Lowell Township leadership is unwilling to foot the bill for system expansion to serve their residents.

Regarding Lowell Area Schools, Mayor DeVore said, “We have amazing schools, teachers, and administrators in this district. I fully support each of them and the school board members who give their time and energy to serve this community. The constant and unnecessary efforts to undermine them, often with little truth, is a detriment to the work they do and to the students they serve. Teachers should teach, and students should learn. Any time and effort the teachers, administration, and school board have to frivolously direct elsewhere, takes away from that.”

Mayor DeVore appreciates the revenue generated from allowing marijuana dispensaries to operate in Lowell, as alternative methods of generating revenue, such as a city income tax, failed to gain any traction with the community. Not only does this revenue fix long-neglected city streets, but the marijuana dispensaries have renovated old, rundown buildings, of which there would be many more without their help. One of Mayor DeVore’s highest priorities for his next term is to continue with the city’s comprehensive street plan, which would not be possible without marijuana dispensary-generated revenue. He fully supports Lowell Pride events in 2024 and beyond, intends to continue discussions with the township about a joint splash pad, and wishes to work toward upgrading Scout Park and the old fairgrounds, as well.



Candidate's Corner



Jim Salzwedel

Council Member, Jim Salzwedel, is from Columbus, Wisconsin, a small town north of Madison, about the same size as Lowell, but he’s been in Michigan since 1968 and Lowell since 2006. “Even though I was born there,” Salzwedel said, “this is definitely my home.”

His wife, Lynette, is a Lowell native who grew up on Monroe Street. They have three children, six grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

Salzwedel attended Forest Hills High School, which is now Forest Hills Central, before working in the home security business as a technician, the head of the service department, project manager, and director of sales. Finally, on January 1, Salzwedel retired.

Salzwedel has always been involved in the community. When his children were younger, he was a Little League coach, and later he coached high school athletics at Wyoming/Kelloggsville. When he started seriously considering a council run, he approached Mayor Jim Hodges for advice. Hodges suggested that Salzwedel show-up to all of the city council meetings and join a committee. Salzwedel followed this advice and found himself appointed to the Planning Commission, and quickly, he was elected to Lowell City Council, where he became the liaison to Lowell Light & Power.

During Salzwedel’s tenure on the City Council, he’s

proud of the great start the team has made addressing road repair. Salzwedel has no problem with the prevalence of marijuana dispensaries as; a result, the companies make the buildings look beautiful, the taxes from the industry pay for the roads, and there has not been a significant uptick in crime. As for the fact that there are so many marijuana dispensaries in town, Salzwedel believes that the market will eventually limit them.

One of the reasons Salzwedel seeks re-election is because many of the city’s biggest concerns require time and consistency. For example, Salzwedel still has a number of ideas for solving the water crisis between the City of Lowell and Lowell Township. Unfortunately, there are no broad-stroke solutions. The water agreement needs to be restructured, the Township, which accounts for 90 percent of the growth within the system, needs to pay for more and talks need to continue, possibly evolving into a joint-water authority.

Salzwedel is a supporter of Lowell Pride, and he has been present to approve every single permit they have submitted. In response to the claims of profanity at the event, Salzwedel pointed to the city’s attorney, who is looking to write-up a contract for behavior expectations at public, outdoor events. Salzwedel’s main concern is the proper balance between freedom of speech and limiting profanity, because the worst thing the city could do would be to interfere with the Constitutional rights of those who attend the event.

Salzwedel is trusted by his peers on the council for his attention to detail, which he explains as a side-effect of working in the security business. His process, however, is simple. He reads the agenda for each meeting, and accompanying documents, multiple times, and he tries to pick out details and questions he believes are relevant to the general public. When the city became interested in purchasing Flock cameras, Salzwedel went the extra mile — what he calls his “due diligence” — and reached out to contacts at the Wyoming Police Department, who have used them for some time now.

In his next term, Salzwedel wishes to figure out a plan to make the Showboat 501(c)3 self-sustaining, fix the playground at Creekside Park, develop Recreation Park, and find room in the budget for more full-time police officers.

Candidate's Corner



Sharon Shah

Sharon Shah grew up in Caledonia and moved to Lowell about a decade ago. She currently lives next to the middle school with her daughter and teenage fashionista, Olivia Cooley. Shah spent several years doing nursing and physical therapy, and she’s currently in the middle of a career change. Her ultimate goal is to become a stamping architect, the final seal of approval to determine if the blueprints for a building are safe to build. Shah also volunteers as a mentor at Cherry Creek Elementary through Kids Hope USA, and she’s a receptionist at Alpha Care Center. As needed, she works as a child car seat-safety inspector, and she distributes state-funded car seats to people in need. “I have a servant’s heart,” Shah said, “and I love people.”

Shah wishes to serve on city council because she’s in a healthy spot in her life, and she wants to make herself available as a role model for children. In the current political climate, Shah worries that groups are doing all of the talking, thereby drowning out individual voices, and she wants to make it clear to everybody in the community that their voices matter. As such, she wants to be a part of a city council that is open, tolerant, and respectful, one that celebrates people’s differences.

Many in the community have aligned Shah with Stefanie

Boone, who has been vocal in her opposition to a number of educators and administrators in Lowell Area Schools. Shah is not active with the school board, and her only interactions with Boone are via her role as administrator of the Lowell MI Community Chatter Facebook group. Shah notes that both she and Boone are “Bible-believing Christians,” but contrary to Boone, Shah supports the efforts of educators who have worked to make the school safe and inclusive for LGBTQ+ youth.

Shah was not as concerned with the so-called vulgarity of the Lowell Pride event. Though the event was advertised as family-friendly, the children who attended, did so with their parents or adult chaperones, who are capable of talking to their children about what they see. In general, she believes Lowell Pride is an important economic opportunity for the community, and she has LGBTQ+ family members who value having a safe place like this in the Lowell community. Her main concern with the event is its use of private security instead of the Lowell Police Department.

Shah believes the marijuana dispensaries in Lowell are an important economic opportunity for the community. While they have helped curb appeal of commercial real estate, with no observable negative effects on the community, Shah has noticed that there is a stigma for some residents associated with the smell of marijuana, which she believes could be easily resolved if people ate edibles rather than smoking.

Contrary to gossip, Shah is uninterested in selling Lowell Light & Power, and she met with the utility’s general manager, Charlie West, to make this clear. She also believes that the water plan needs to be renegotiated because it’s not currently working.

“I want you to know that my heart is not in this race for politics’ sake,” Shah said. “It’s fueled by a deep sense of gratitude for the incredible community we call home, and a genuine care for the health and well-being of every person who resides here.”

Shah’s email address is info@sharonshah.info, website is Sharonshah.info, and Facebook page is Sharon Shah for Lowell City Council.

Kent District Library asks for millage renewal with a twist

By Cliff Yankovich
contributing writer

Remember to get out and vote on Tuesday, November 7th. One of the important items on the ballot this time will be a millage request from the Kent District Library (KDL). The “twist” in this millage request from them is that they are actually looking for less money from taxpayers. Yes, you read that correctly – the request of 1.1 mills is actually 10.9 percent less than the current millage we are all paying to sustain our library system in Kent County, which includes the Englehardt Branch in Lowell and the Alto Library in Alto.

What makes this even easier to vote in favor of is the fact that the slightly higher millage being paid currently was voted by us to be in place until December 31, 2024. However, the KDL Board has committed to lowering the effective rate on January 1, 2024 if the millage effort passes.

“KDL is able to lower its millage because we are a part of a thriving and growing community where new taxable real estate has produced more revenue,” said KDL Board Chair Andy Erlewein. “As good stewards of taxpayer dollars, we want to lock-in savings for residents now.”

Those who do not take advantage of the many products and services available at any of the 20 branches, might be thinking, “Well, they should lower the millage rate, no one goes to the library anymore, anyway.” Nothing could be further from the truth. KDL saw the addition of more than twenty thousand (20,395) new card holders last year. They also recorded a stunning increase of 61 percent in attendance numbers when they added up all of the people who interacted with KDL through their various programs and outreaches.

At this point, it is helpful to remember that KDL is much bigger than just our Lowell and Alto branches. KDL operates

twenty locations, an Express Library (located in the Grattan Township Hall with the intention of building a full time branch in that township soon), a bookmobile, and the main Service Center. In total, KDL hosts more than 5,600 programs every year, along with a variety of other services.

In case you have not been to the library in a while, we asked District Manager, Kurt Lardie, about everything KDL has to offer.

“The library offers programs at various times during the week. We offer a Beyond Books Collection, where you can borrow camping equipment, games, Nintendo switches, video games, star-gazing binoculars, a portable tire inflator, a portable projector and screen for presentations or family movie nights,” he responded. “The library also provides online digital resources, such as Rosetta Stone, for language learning, Linked In Learning for job skills, Scholastic Teachables for teachers and homeschoolers, and so much more. Most importantly, the library is a place in the community where everyone is welcome. You can use study rooms, computers, books, CD’s. We have a play space for young kids, a teen zone and activities for everyone. KDL is here to further all people, and it’s a fun place to visit and get involved!”

Obviously, the libraries we have in Kent County are no longer just loaning books and CD’s out to patrons. Some of the programs offered, like the very popular Storytime for kids, are available at all locations (FYI – the Lowell branch hosts three storytime programs every week.) Other programs are chosen by staff members, with the input from library patrons at the various branches, to offer at their particular location. The

KDL Millage continued page 12



Red Arrow

- FOOTBALL

SPORTS

Football earns fifth-straight playoff appearance

By Justin Scott
sporters reporter

Going into senior night, Lowell’s spot in the Division 3 playoff spot was assured. The team had hoped a win would give them an optimal matchup in the playoffs, bumping their playoff points, and ideally, an easier opponent. Instead, they drew one of the top-ten teams in the state, regardless of Division, and a conference opponent, Forest Hills Central.

It continues a bad luck

streak with playoff draws, Lowell getting Zeeland West last year and Muskegon the year before. It was going to be a tough draw, either way, for Lowell, slotted against Division 3 No. 1, FHC or Division 3 No. 4, Mount Pleasant.

As the team with the 18th most playoff points, a matchup, based on true competitiveness, would have paired them with the 15, Zeeland West. The pairing does a disservice to the OK White, one of the

strongest conferences in the state. Playoff football means seeing new opponents, testing your team against the best from across the state, so Lowell fans might be frustrated to see an opponent they’re all too familiar with.

The winner gets Mt. Pleasant or Northview in the second round. Of course, one of football’s great sayings, “It’s hard to beat the same team twice,” that’s what FHC will try to do on Friday, when the Red Arrows travel to FHC.

The Rangers won the first game in a lopsided, but weird, football game in the driving rain. Early on, the weather doesn’t look to be a significant factor.

Lowell comes into the game with confidence, churning out a season high 63 point output in a 63-35 win over Grand Rapids Christian, on senior night. Lowell honored an impressive 23 senior football players during the pre-game festivities.

Both teams traded

scores early, with Lowell scoring on their first play from scrimmage on a 61 yard touchdown pass to Ben Gaskin. Both squads would trade scores again before Lowell forced the Eagles into a 4th and 22. Lowell took advantage of the great field position and ran it in for a 21-14 lead and starting three-for-three on scoring drives.

Field position was the name of the game for the Red Arrows, who would get GRC into another 4th

and long punting from their own endzone and giving Lowell great starting field position. Heading into the half, Lowell led 33-21, and on another rainy fall night, the Lowell offense proved unstoppable as Lowell cruised to a 63-35 victory.

The Red Arrows are 6-3 on the season, heading into the playoffs.

Same as it ever was

By Bill Lee

(Kind of)

The babbling, blabbering
drivel of American sports

I love watching sports, particularly football. And now that I am a Michigander, I love Big 10 football and of course, the Lions. Years ago, I used to listen to sports radio and watch ESPN for the highlights of the games, but there is so much mindless chit-chat that I struggle with it now. For the last ten years (at least), ESPN, in particular, has become a soap opera. Whatever the flavor of the day/week/month is, leave it to ESPN to talk about it until a new flavor arrives. Aaron Rodgers decided not to get his Covid vaccine, and boy, we viewers got every angle forever. Tiger Woods had a car accident. Let the speculation begin and the story never ends. Is Tom Brady coming out of retirement? Maybe, so let’s talk about it for a couple of weeks. When he did come out of retirement, ESPN had golden fodder for another

month.

I get it. Like the 24-hour news channels, these people need content. Let’s get four to six people on a panel and unpack the latest story of the day. I can see them in the back production rooms planning out each show. How are we going to fill up 45 minutes of sports talk? ESPN has reached some all-time lows, as the hosts like to spend ample amounts of time talking about Taylor Swift and her relationship with football player, Travis Kelce, among other scintillating topics. I guess someone must be enjoying these conversations as ratings do not lie.

Can’t people just watch the games anymore and not have an opinion about every play, every athlete/coach decision, and every loss? Or even more, express that opinion on a podcast? There is a multi-million dollar industry that answers that

question quite easily. In fact, they will help you with your opinion. I don’t get it. Is this a sign that I’m getting old?

Recently, I decided it was my time to give my own opinion. I was driving back from Grand Rapids and listening to Sports Talk Radio Channel 96.1, and I noticed that they had changed major networks from ESPN to Fox Sports. Basically, 96.1 has Michigan radio personalities during parts of the listening day, like Anthony Bellino from the East Side in the mornings and Bill “Huge” Simonson, here from the West Side, in the afternoons. In between, they will play national radio shows from ESPN, and now Fox Sports, to fill in the rest of the radio day. I like listening to Bellino and Simonson, as they will express their informed opinions on Michigan professional, college, and high school sports. In fact, last March, Bill Simonson helped with a cancer fundraising benefit for Doak Dean, right on the Lowell Showboat. Good stuff. Those guys are solid. But the national guys... that is a different story. If I have to listen to Mike Greenberg, ESPN talk show personality,

talk about the NY Jets or Taylor Swift one more time...

After about a week of listening to the Fox Sports programs, I pulled my car into a parking lot and called 96.1.

“Is this 96.1?” I asked.

“Yes.”

“Did you guys recently change from ESPN to Fox Sports?”

“We did. Just last week.”

“Well, I never really make calls like this but I wanted to say thank you. ESPN has gone off the rails and Fox does a better job of talking about sports. That’s it. Thank you.”

“You’re welcome. I’ll let some people know.”

My wife, God bless her, calls her local and state governmental representatives to express her beliefs about important issues of our world – gun policy, women’s rights, injustice. She is a real American who cares about important issues. Me? What do I call someone about? Sports. Kind of sad, I guess.

But anyway... back to the (not so real) issues. Sports entertainment has changed with all the social media platforms, and now,

any random Joe who wants to start a podcast or website, can. Hey, more power to them. If people are going to listen to them, then I guess that’s okay.

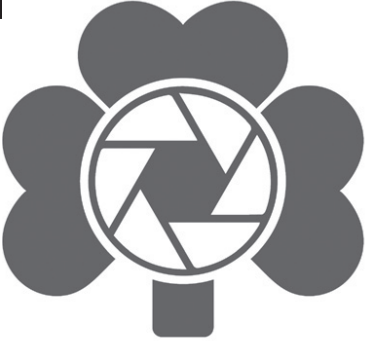
Things started to change a couple of years ago when Peyton and Eli Manning began a Monday night football split-screen live podcast of the game on ESPN 2. Watch the game with them in their living room or watch it the regular way on ESPN. Their way became quite popular.

Here’s the rub... we are a mimic society. Now lots of football games – college and pro – are being broadcast in the same manner, WITHOUT a choice. Last week, I tried to watch a Top 25-Ranked college football game and ESPN had a split-screen, with four announcers standing on the sideline on one screen, and the actual game on the other screen. I tried, but honestly, had no interest in listening to the four sports personalities talk about the game, rather than watch the game itself. I had to turn the channel.

Now everybody has a podcast or a sports show; even players who are in season have their own

podcasts. Micah Parsons, a player for the Dallas Cowboys, has a popular podcast and talks about the game he just played, among other things. The University of Colorado - a football team that has gained some exposure because of its head coach, former professional player and Hall of Famer, Deion Sanders - has at least one player with a popular podcast. I don’t begrudge these players for doing this. I just wonder who listens to them and why do they care? This new landscape both agitates me and befuddles me. Like soap operas, all in good fun, I guess.

In the end, it is the American Way. Supply and demand. Supply and demand. Clearly, the demand for this type of entertainment is wanted, and all these players and commentators are supplying. It’s the age-old saying that “If you don’t like it, then don’t listen or watch it.” I have choice. And I choose to watch without the soap operas of podcasting, X feeds, or Bleacher Report and other sports talk feeds. Just watch baby!



SHAMROCK
PHOTOGRAPHY

By Justin Scott

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Red Arrow

- GOLF

SPORTS

Golfers earn best season finish since 1990's

By Justin Scott
sports reporter

On an autumn Sunday after the conclusion of the state championships the day before, sophomore, Elyse Veldman, could be found at the driving range, working on her game.

That sort of dedication is what state championship programs are built on. It's the kind of dedication that led Farmington Mercy to their second straight state title, even when their best player didn't play day two.

The Lowell girls golf team earned a top-ten finish in the state, over the weekend, in the MHSAA Girls Golf Division 2 State Finals. It was the best finish for a Red Arrow girls golf program since the early 1990's and improved upon last year's state final appearance.

The Red Arrow five was composed of five non-seniors and Lowell loses only one senior this year to graduation, so the program is already eying a shot at improving upon this years finish.

Great season for the

Red Arrows; finished in the top-ten in the state, this past weekend at the State Finals; great season and a very bright future.

The golf program put out the following through their Facebook page:

"Elle Sluss competed in her third state championship, Leah Krieger, Elyse Veldman and Hannah Flickinger competed in their second state championship, and freshman Kaila Richards competed in her first. All will be back next year along with the promising futures of sophomores - Ava McCormick, Avery Krieger, Mia Kinney, and Andrea Plantz.

We do have to say bye to Senior Ellery Ostrander. We will miss Ellery's contributions to the team on the course, but more importantly, off the course. Her support and dedication has always been appreciated by her coaches and teammates."

Lowell shot a 360 day one and saw a 20 stroke improvement on day two,

with a 340 for a combined tournament score of 700.

Mercy shot a 636, and was followed by Detroit Catholic League rival, Cranbrook Kingswood in a distant second with 653. Kingswood, opted to move up a division from Division 3, an option done recently by lower enrollment schools who dominate a specific division, over time, and believe that even by opting up, they can still win a state title. Programs who believe opting-up will take them out of title contention, will generally not make the move. Mason rounded-out the contenders at 657. The next pack at 678 were St. Joe, Forest Hills Eastern, and Forest Hills Central. Dexter (681) and Gull Lake (691) rounded out the teams that topped Lowell. The Red Arrows beat a group of schools with a lot of wrestling fire power; Petoskey, GP South, DeWitt, Midland, Sturgis, St. Johns, Gibraltar Carlson, Tecumseh, and New Boston Huron.

Sluss led Lowell with an 84 on day one and



Lowell earned a top-ten finish at the state tournament this weekend.

turned in an eight stroke improvement for a 76 on day two, no easy feat given the cold weather, championship tees, and challenge of a course that is Forest Akers East.

Veldman wasn't far

behind, turning in a 168, going 86-82. Leah Krieger also cracked the 80's and joined the day two improvement club going 90-83.

In a two-day tournament, improving on day two is pretty normal; the more you play a course, the easier it becomes in the early going before plateauing. A freshman was Lowell's four, a consistent 100-100 from Kaila Richards over two days.

Hannah Flickinger had an eight stroke improvement over two days, going 107-99 as Lowell's final golfer.

Coopersville's Lauren Davis won the individual state title in division one, going 70-70 and taking the championship by a comfortable eight strokes after finishing fifth last year.

Sluss tied for 16th to be Lowell's top finisher, 18th when tiebreakers were included. All of Lowell's golfers finished top 100.

Head Coach, Josh Bruwer, said of the team's performance, "This was such a great group to coach and I loved every moment of the season. The effort they put in each practice is something I'll never forget. I loved how we competed and forged each other, but when it was time to come together and pull for each other, everyone was ten toes down for the team. I'm excited to continue to watch this group grow as we only lose one senior. I know these kids will get after it over the winter and continue to improve. I can't wait to see what they accomplish next season,"

Harriers regular season comes to an end

Submitted by Coach Clay VanderWarf

Lowell boys cross country team wrapped up the regular season on a beautiful day at Riverside Park, with a sixth place finish in the OK White Conference final, last Wednesday. Grand Rapids Christian was crowned champion with 49 points, followed by East Grand Rapids, 56 points, and Forest Hills Central at 70 points.

Cooper Byrne and Marshall Huhn were 22nd and 24th, with times of 16.59 and 17.19. They were joined by Mason Saylor and Drew Swayze, with places of 39th and 42nd, good for 17.42 and 17.47. Colin Stawasz completed the score with a 43d place at 17.49. Paul Fowler and Wyatt Remar rounded out the varsity lineup with times of 18.19 and 18.42.

The Red Arrows will compete next Friday in regional competition at Portage West Middle School.

Picture right; Marshall Huhn placed 24th with a time of 17.19 at the OK White Conference final held last Saturday at Riverside Park.



Ladies finish season at Riverside Park



Submitted by Coach Paul Judd

Perfect conditions and a fast Riverside Park course greeted the OK White teams as they raced for that final time at the OK White Conference Championship. Lowell finished sixth in the meet and sixth overall, which saw Christian, the number No 1 ranked team in D2, take home top team honors for the day and the season. EGR and FHC rounded-out the top three teams.

Claire O'Boyle and Evie Deur led the Arrows up front, finishing in 21st and 24th with times of 20:04PR

and 20:25SB. Both girls went out hard and should both break the elusive 20:00 mark next week at regionals. Olivia Lothian and Brooklyn Jackson continued their tears as they both laid down PR's of 21:14 and 21:58, which were good for a 42nd and 55th place. Audrey Latchaw closed-out the scoring with a 66th-place finish, running 22:15. Completing the varsity team was Jadyn Young and Veronica Tapia, finishing in 89th and 98th, respectively.

The Arrows are off unit October 27th at the MHSAA Regional 3 meet.

TRACK COACHES NEEDED

Lowell High School is looking to add two coaches to the staff starting in 2024.

Shot Put and Discus coach to work with both genders. The coach will be responsible for practice, including both skill and time in weight room.

Sprints/Relay coach to work with both genders. This position will be responsible for practice schedule and developing line-ups.

If interested please call Paul Judd at 616-481-8600 or email pjudd@rpionline.com

obituaries

ROGERS

Steven Patrick Rogers, age 55 of Lowell, passed away Wednesday, October 11, 2023. He was preceded in death by his brother, Gordon “Donny” Rogers. Steven is survived by his father, Gordon (Nancy) Rogers; mother, Laura Ellison; brother, Alex Ellison; sisters, Kathy Corcoran Patricia Ellison; and long time friend Roger Stauffer.



Steven had a heart larger than life especially for children and a genuine passion for making a positive impact on their lives. His commitment to spreading joy was evident through his dedicated support of Toys for Tots each Christmas, ensuring that underprivileged children had a reason to smile

during the holiday season. He also enjoyed the thrill of football, cars, and car racing, finding joy and excitement in these passions. Stevens’ infectious enthusiasm and boundless love for both his community and the things he cherished will be deeply missed by his parents and friends. Memorial contributions can be made to Toys for Tots at [grand-rapids-mi.toysfortots.org](https://www.michigan.gov/mvh/support/make-a-gift).



HARJU

Vernon John Harju, age 71 of Lowell, passed away Monday, October 16, 2023. He was preceded in death by his parents, Nestor and Irene Harju; brothers, Earl Junttonen, Calvin Junttonen; sisters Violet Kuusisto and Lois Rintala; brothers-in-law Bruce Smith, Wester Rintala; sister-in-law, Maryann Junttonen. Vernon is survived by his wife of 50 years, Donna Harju; children, Derek (Dulce) Harju, Brittany (Tony) Quint; sisters, Laurian (Ron) Osantowski, Neldine Smith; grandchildren, Maxima, Malia Harju, Nicholas Quint; father-in-law and mother-in-law, Donald and Elizabeth Charter; and many nieces and nephews.



Vernon served his country with unwavering commitment for 11 years in the US Navy as a dedicated hospital corpsman. Following his military career, he continued to make a significant impact on the lives of others during his 12 years at Trinity Health St. Mary’s Hospital. Vernon’s passion extended beyond his professional life, he found joy in the art of woodworking and the meticulous art of refinishing furniture. He cherished spending time with his grandchildren and cheering for the Red Wings, a team that he loved. Vernon’s legacy of service, craftsmanship, and love for his favorite hockey team will be cherished and remembered by all who had the privilege of knowing him. Visitation will be held from 2-4pm on Saturday, October 21, 2023, at Roth-Gerst Chapel, 305 N. Hudson, Lowell, Michigan, 49331. Memorial contributions can be made to Michigan Veteran Homes, <https://www.michigan.gov/mvh/support/make-a-gift>.



LARKIN

Josephine (Josie) Larkin, born on May 22, 1946, in Terrasini, Sicily, passed away peacefully on October 17, 2023, surrounded by her loved ones. She graduated from Catholic Central High School in 1964. Josie was a beloved wife, mother, sister, grandmother, great grandmother & friend. Josie leaves behind the love of her life, Stephen Larkin, they had 57 wonderful years together. She also leaves behind her daughters, Patricia (Dave Pearce) Larkin, Julia (Richard) Dodge; her grandchildren, Steven (Gabbi) Krause, Brittany Larkin, Dylan Dodge, Rachel Dodge, John Pearce, Melanie Peare, Dennis Pearce; and great grandchildren, Amiyah, Bailey, Lexis, Brody &



Gianna. Josie always made it a priority to be there for her friends & family. Whether it was Sunday dinners, the kids sporting events, class reunions, or birthday parties, she was happy to be there supporting her loved ones. She enjoyed traveling with her husband Steve, seeing many countries and fabulous locations around the world. She was the backbone of the family-owned restaurant for many years, preparing delicious food. Not only did she cook at the restaurant, but she also especially enjoyed cooking for family. She also loved watching movies, reading books, going to the beach, going to the casino, but most of all, she loved spending quality time with her friends and family. She was a lover and supporter of all animals, especially cats, and she leaves behind her newest baby kitty Cannoli, whom she loved. In Josie’s own words, she “had a great life, a great love, and great family”. She will be missed by so many. Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 11 am on November 3, 2023 at Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Catholic Church, 6390 Belmont Ave NE, Belmont, MI 49306, with visitation at 10 am. A luncheon will follow Mass.



ABCs, continued

and several injured by a masked battery hidden in the hills to control the approaching troops. While their company sustained these losses, it could have been much worse had they been in with the attack on Santiago. He describes the losses, taking the city of Santiago, as very severe. On the third day, he was on scout duty when he saw the Spanish fleet make their dash out of the harbor. He saw the naval battle and the destruction of the entire fleet. He assures the hometown readers that the Lowell boys, though some have had narrow escapes,

are well and feeling good. July 28, 1898 - Santiago, Cuba, from Sergt. Clarence E. Long, Co. L. 33 Mich. Vol. Inf: Clarence tells Lowell readers that hometown boy, Maurice Lang, was in the hospital but had lost track of him. Other than Lang, he says all of the Lowell boys are well. September 8, 1898, brought the news all of Lowell had been waiting to hear. “Soldier Boys Home” the headlines shouted. Lowell rejoiced as none of the hometown boys had been lost in the war. Businesses decorated in red, white and

blue, and all the people turned out in hundreds to greet the returning heroes as the Lowell & Hastings train arrived. There was music by the band, firing of guns and shouts of the people. Four were on the train, Clarence Long, Hayes Rolf, Bert Fenning and Sherman Reynolds. Ullman Hawk had arrived home a few days before, quite sick. Nonetheless, he greeted the others and shared in the reception. The band led the way to Island Park, south of Main Street, and an impromptu program was carried out. There was patriotic

music, speeches, and then, despite the weakened state of the soldiers, the people proceeded to shake all of their hands. Morris Lang and Charles Dickerson were in the hospital but were expected home soon. Robert Jones from the 32nd regiment was ill in a Detroit hospital. Many of these new veterans participated in groups such as the American Legion and the United Spanish War Veterans Camps, continuing to serve and support their fellow veterans and preserve the memories of their service in this little-known war.

KDL Millage, continued

Lowell staff works to tailor the offerings here, based on responses and interest expressed from area residents. The best way to familiarize yourself with everything available at the Englehardt branch, as well as all the other locations, is to spend some time at the website: www.KDL.org. Lardie continued, “The Beyond Books Collection is extremely popular with our patrons. The most

checked-out item is the Verizon WiFi Hotspots. These allow people without internet to have access in their homes for up to four months. Another desirable item is the PerkPass. This pass allows limited, free visits to various venues, such as Fredrick Meijer Gardens, Grand Rapids Art Museum, the Children’s Museum and even the YMCA.” To recap: you can become a member of KDL

for free. Once you are a member, you can take advantage of a myriad of services, devices, and even visits to some of the area’s great museums, for free. To further sweeten the pot, once you are a card-carrying member of KDL, you can receive emails that will update you on programs and events. You can also make your voice heard by letting KDL know what type of interests you and your family enjoy and would love to see at your favorite local branch. We asked Lardie to provide us with some numbers, regarding the Lowell branch. According to him, in 2022, Englehardt/Lowell patrons checked-out 164,296 physical

items, 53,236 digital items like movies and eBooks. In-person program attendance is setting new records, with 4,456 people attending in-person programs so far this year – that’s 44 percent more than attended in all of 2022. There was a total of 61,890 in-person visits last year. Hopefully, what you have read here will dispel any thought that the taxpayers who support the KDL library system are not getting a return on their investment. Even in this highly digital age, without dependence on screens of every kind, the demand for what the libraries offer is on the rise from year-to-year. If you have any further questions about the millage, grab your favorite method to access the internet and go to www.kdl.org/millage.



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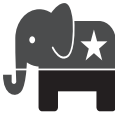
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TOPS(TAKEOFFPOUNDS SENSIBLY) WEEKLY MEETINGS - Tuesdays, 6:30 pm at Schneider Manor Community Room, 725 Bowes Rd., Lowell. Cost \$37 per year and \$5 per month...start losing weight TODAY

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

AL-NON IN PERSON MEETINGS - are held at the FROM Building, 11535 Fulton E. on Fridays at 10 am in the Lowell Serenity Club Room and Tuesdays at 7 pm in Room 21. En-ter through the southeast parking lot door. Al-Anon principles can help those affected by someone's problem drinking. There are no dues or fees. For more info call 616-987-6587.

ATTN LOWELL WIDOWS - We are meeting at vari-ous places for lunch or dinner most Mondays. All are welcome. Questions on location, call Elaine 616-856-8022 for more information.

AUXILIARY BINGO - Every Tuesday, 1-5 pm. Doors open at noon. Public wel-come! Must be 18 or older. Food & beverages avail-able. Hard cards & chips format. 25¢ per card per game. No up front buy in required. Alto American Legion Post 528. License A22680.

PROUD
TO BE
LOCAL

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

	S	O	N	S				H	A	R	T	
O	P	E	N	E	D			C	E	L	I	A
M	I	D	W	E	E	K		S	A	R	C	O
S	R	I		D	E	C	E	L	E	R	A	T
K	A	P	H		T	A	R	E	S		O	S
	L	A	O	S		L	I	E	U		T	U
			L	O	O	S		S	P	R	E	E
				K	O	A	N		S	A	L	T
		S	A	T	R	A	P		S	O	R	A
	S	C	H		D	I	A	S		N	A	M
O	C	A			I	L	I	A	C		D	E
C	O	N	T	I	N	E	N	T	A	L		R
A	U	D	I	T	E	D		E	R	E	M	I
S	T	A	K	E	S			S	A	U	C	E
	S	L	I	M					P	T	A	S

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

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

Care Resources announces expansion, begins construction of \$7.1 million facility in Lowell

Care Resources, a community-based program for people 55 years and older, has begun construction of a \$7.1 million facility in Lowell that will allow the organization to serve up to 125 more participants and create approximately 30 jobs.

Approved by Lowell Township, the 16,500-square-foot building is being constructed on nearly 3.4 acres of property at 11730 Fulton St. SE. It will be the organization's second location in West Michigan providing affordable medical care of-the-art rehabilitation/therapy gym, a full-service medical clinic, medication dispensing room and several participant activity areas both indoors and outside to promote socialization, build community and offer respite to caregivers.

Located on a wooded lot, the site will feature ample greenspace for participants to enjoy in a secured area, and much of the building will feature natural light to bring the outdoors in.

Care Resources plans to open the new site by fall 2024. The nonprofit expects



Organization's second location to increase service capacity, bring new jobs

and home health services to eligible older adults.

Care Resources offers a wide range of services to promote healthy and independent living while working to prevent nursing home placement. The new facility will feature a state-of-the-art rehabilitation/therapy gym, a full-service medical clinic, medication dispensing room and several participant activity areas both indoors and outside to promote socialization, build community and offer respite to caregivers.

to hire approximately 30 new team members in direct participant care to staff the new facility. Pinnacle Construction Group is serving as the general contractor and AMDG Architects, Inc. is the architect of record for the project.

"Our new Lowell location will allow Care Resources to expand services and outreach in West Michigan," Chief Executive Officer Tracey McKnight said. "We are grateful to be able to offer wrap-around supportive services that promote independence, dignity and a high quality of life to more in our community. With this expansion, we remain committed to offering the best care, service and quality for older adults who wish to age in place."

Care Resources

currently employs a team of 192 full- and part-time employees focused on the needs of participants and their families. From its Grand Rapids location at 4150 Kalamazoo Ave. SE, the organization provides a day center and clinic, medical care and home health services annually to nearly 400 participants in Kent County and portions of Allegan, Barry, Ionia and Ottawa counties.

"Our new site in Lowell will be perfectly positioned to serve participants in the east side of our growing service area, including northern Kent, Ionia and Barry counties," Chief Operating Officer Tom Muszynski said. "Existing participants from this area will be able to spend less time traveling to receive our services and more time working toward their health and wellness goals with our interdisciplinary team."

Care Resources is a Program of All-inclusive

Care for the Elderly, or PACE®, which is funded by Medicare and Medicaid. The program utilizes a holistic approach, creating a team to work with participants and families to develop a comprehensive care plan unique to the physical, mental, emotional and social needs of each participant.

Participants are at the center of all services, which include primary and home care, rehabilitation, prescription medicine, day center and clinic, medical specialists, nutrition services, transportation and social services.

Care Resources also provides home health services, including family and caregiver support, home care services and rehab and durable medical equipment, such as walkers, wheelchairs, oxygen and diabetic testing supplies. Telehealth and telemonitoring technology complement the wrap-

around supportive services to keep participants living safely at home.

Established in 2006, Care Resources is a nonprofit partnership between Holland Home, Reliance Community Care Partners, Dominican Sisters-Grand Rapids, University of Michigan Health-West and Pine Rest Christian Mental Health Services.

About Care Resources

Care Resources is a community-based program for people 55 years or older that promotes healthy, independent living and helps prevent nursing home placement. The Care Resources team of healthcare professionals works with older adults and their families to develop a comprehensive care plan — helping participants to make medical decisions every step of the way. For more information, visit CareResources.org.

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*Kantar Millward Brown, Feb. 2018

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FUN PAGE

SUDOKU

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

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!

Guess Who?

I am a singer born in California on October 25, 1984. I am the daughter of two pastors who discouraged listening to pop music. Despite that, I became a successful pop singer and later an “American Idol” judge.

Answer: Katy Perry

	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			

KITCHEN & BATH WORD SEARCH

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

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

Puzzle solutions
on page 13

KITCHEN & BATH
WORD SEARCH

BATHROOM
CLEANLINESS
ESSENTIAL
FAUCET

FIXTURES
GATHER
GRANITE
HUMIDITY
ISLAND
KITCHEN
MAT

MICROWAVE
OVEN
REFRIGERATOR
REMODEL
SHOWER
SINK
TABLE

TILES
TOILET
VANITY

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to bathrooms.

W L O T E

--	--	--	--	--

Answer: Towel

CLUES ACROSS

- Male children
- Robert Wagner series “Hart to __”
- Unfolded
- Digestive disease
- Wednesday
- Malignant tumor
- Conscientious investment strategy (abbr.)
- Slowed
- Letter of the Semitic abjads
- Weights of cars without fuel
- Former CIA
- Asian country
- Instead
- Ancient Egyptian King
- Privies
- Shopping trips
- Paradoxical anecdote
- It’s on the table
- Ancient Persia ruler
- Small American rail
- File extension
- Days (Spanish)
- Everyone has one
- South American plant

CLUES DOWN

- About ilium
- Vanished American hoopster Bison
- A type of breakfast
- Uncooked
- Examined
- Christian recluse
- Strong posts
- Some are for pasta
- Skinny
- School-based organizations
- Ringlet
- Type of complex
- Midway between north and northwest
- It becomes something bigger
- German courtesy title
- Genus of birds
- Marked by public disorder
- Least aggressive
- Russian city
- Insect repellent
- Interruptions
- Scoundrels
- 1,000 calories
- What one does overnight
- Dwarf planet
- Pipe
- Black powdery substance
- Set of four
- Canned fishes
- North Carolina college
- Secured
- A disgraceful event
- Physical suffering
- The home of the free
- Some are boys
- Satisfy
- Makes very happy
- South American plants
- Modes of transportation
- Female sheep
- Type of torch
- Piece of merchandise
- Jump over
- Wife of Amun

