

ABC's
OF LOWELL

page 6

Restless Viking

page 14

Lowell Schools
Board Meeting

page 3

Movie Review

page 4

\$1.00

8 0 4 8 7 9 1 5 3 8 3 2

Christmas Through Lowell roared with success

By Emma Palova
contributing writer

This year's Christmas Through Lowell (CTL) attracted thousands of visitors, from far and near, to the three-day event under the November sun. Shoppers shared that it was difficult to get through the crowds on Main Street, but parking was not an issue.

"It was hard to get anywhere around town on Saturday, but I found parking," said first-time CTL shopper, Julie Vennman, of Wyoming. Vennman found out about the event from a CTL insert and headed to Lowell twice, both on Saturday and Sunday. "It's been nice to see other people's talents," she said. "I've never been to this. I found the homes interesting, especially The Grinch, because I love the Grinch."

The CTL tour is a combination of businesses, organizations, and homes, both in the downtown area and the outlying townships of Lowell and Vergennes. "The homes are nice because there is more room," she said.



The Fairway was busy with shoppers at this year's Christmas Thru Lowell event. Photo courtesy of Christmas thru Lowell facebook page.

"I'll definitely come back next year." According to Vennman, some businesses did not have enough room for strollers. "I found nice variety everywhere," she said. Not too many duplicates.

And certainly, there were not too many duplicates of anything, in multiple-vendor locations, such as the Lowell Area Historical Museum with eight vendors. "This is my fifth year at the museum," said Maxine Shearer. "I love it here." Shearer was stationed in the Native American Exhibit with her Glass Fusion art.

CTL, continued
page 8 & 9

Kuna receives 2023 Outstanding Board of Education Award

The Michigan Association of School Librarians, (MASL), has announced that the 2023 Outstanding Board of Education Award was presented to Laurie Kuna on Thursday, November 2, 2023. Kuna, a Board of Education Member for Lowell Area Schools, was formally recognized at the President's Award Gala during the annual MASL state conference, which was held at the Kensington Hotel in Ann Arbor.

The MASL Outstanding Board of Education Award is given to honor a district school board or board member who has made decisions that indicate consistent and unique school library support.

Kuna was nominated by MASL President-Elect, Christine Beachler, for the award. The Lowell Area Schools, and Beachler, in her role as Library Media Director, have faced a multitude of book challenges in the past three years. Along with these challenges have come heated personal attacks from community members. Beachler cites



MASL President-Elect, Christine Beachler, and 2023 MASL Outstanding Board of Education Award winner, Laurie Kuna.

Kuna,
continued page 2

Lowell Light & Power recognized with National Customer Satisfaction Award

Lowell Light & Power has been recognized by the American Public Power Association (APPA) with a Public Power Customer Satisfaction Award for providing excellent service to Lowell, Michigan. Winners of Public Power Customer Satisfaction Awards are chosen at gold, silver, and bronze levels, based on responses to customer surveys, and are recognized for setting the highest bar in the industry, in terms of engaging, communicating, and servicing their customer's needs. Lowell Light & Power is one of only two in the Nation awarded with Gold level recognition, for an average rating greater than 95 percent across the eight categories:

- Customer service
 - Field personnel
 - Communication
 - Reliability
 - Value
 - Outage response
 - Innovation
 - Overall satisfaction
- "We are in the public power business to serve the people of Lowell," said Charlie West, General Manager. "To be recognized by this community, for our dedication to excellence in this service, is incredibly gratifying. We have an exceptional team here at Lowell Light & Power, from the office to the field."

LL&P,
continued page 2

Beachler awarded the 2023 District Library Director of the Year Award

The Michigan Association of School Librarians,(MASL), has announced that the 2023 District Library Director of the Year Award was presented to Christine Beachler on Thursday, November 2, 2023. Beachler, the Library Media Director for Lowell Area Schools, was formally recognized at the President’s Award Gala during the annual MASL state conference, which

was held at the Kensington Hotel in Ann Arbor. The MASL District Library Director of the Year Award recognizes a school district library media director who provides exemplary leadership and direction to an overall Beachler’s nominator and MASL member, Harry Coffill, stated that Beachler is, “a tireless champion for Lowell school libraries.” In her role as Library

Media Director in Lowell, Christine oversees six district libraries and eight library assistants. She works closely with her colleagues to ensure that curricular and personal needs of readers are met. She serves on multiple committees and boards across the district and also works as an advocate and representative for West Michigan School Libraries. She serves in multiple leadership roles within MASL and is the President-Elect for 2024. Additionally, through the last few years, Beachler has been a prominent voice for First Amendment Rights and the Freedom to Read, having faced a number of book challenges

and personal attacks from community members. The conclusion of Coffill’s nomination summed Beachler’s value perfectly. “Christine’s dedication, advocacy, service, and mentorship show immense dedication to their craft, colleagues, community, students and the Freedom to Read. She is innately qualified to be the District Library Director of the Year.” MASL is a professional organization that has a membership of approximately 400 School Librarians and educators representing hundreds of Michigan school districts, universities and educational programs across Michigan.



2023 MASL District Library Director of the Year winner, Christine Beachler,

LL&P, continued

APPA is the voice of not-for-profit, community-owned utilities that power 2,000 towns and cities nationwide. It represents public power before the federal government to protect the interests of the more than 49 million people that public power utilities serve, and the 96,000 people they employ. APPA advocates and advises on electricity policy, technology, trends, training, and operations. For more information, visit PublicPower.org.



Pictured, from left to right: Megan Mora, Lisa Pape, Julie Stewart, Hillary Fisk, Emily Mackie

THIS AD FOR SALE!

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

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

Call this paper or 800-227-7636

www.cnaads.com



*Kantar Millward Brown, Feb. 2018

NOTICE

VERGENNES TOWNSHIP

Vergennes Township is taking bids for Township Hall lawn care and the Township Cemeteries lawn care services to be performed 2024.

Bids should be received by Wednesday, December 13, 2023, at 3 p.m. to be considered, with the contract to be awarded at the December 18, 2023, 7:00 pm meeting of the board.

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

Shantell Ford
Vergennes Township Clerk

LEGAL NOTICE

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
COUNTY OF KENT

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent’s Estate

CASE NO. and JUDGE
23-213638-DE
Hon. Judge Rose
Court address: 180 Ottawa Ave. NW,
Suite 2500,
Grand Rapids, MI 49503
Court phone no. 616-632-5440

Estate of Robert Lee Boot,
date of birth: 10/19/1958

TO ALL CREDITORS:

NOTICE TO CREDITORS:
The decedent, Robert Lee Boot, died 6/18/23.
Creditors of the decedent

are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Renee Busscher, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 180 Ottawa Ave NW, Ste 2500 Grand Rapids, MI 49503 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

November 20, 2023

Emily K. Sheridan (P84658)
660 Cascade W Pkwy SE
Suite 70
Grand Rapids, MI 49546
616-285-6050

Renee Busscher
3111 146th Ave.
Dorr, MI 49323
616-329-1036

the lowell
ledger

(USPS 453-830)

Published weekly for \$33 a year for zipcodes beginning with 493 or 495; \$44 a year any other zip code.

Deadline for display advertising is Monday at Noon
Deadline for classified advertising is Monday at 5 pm
Jon Jacobs Publisher/Editor
Tammy Janowiak Classified/Accounting/Sales
Jon Jacobs Advertising Sales

(616) 897-9261

email: ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com

Second Class Postage Paid at Lowell, MI

Published every Wednesday

POSTMASTER: Send address change to:
The Lowell Ledger
PO Box 128 • Lowell, MI 49331
www.thelowellledger.com

LAS Board of Ed hears early reading learning strategies presentation

By Michelle Smith
contributing writer

The Lowell Area Schools Board of Education met for its regular meeting, Nov. 13, at the Administrative Offices building. The meeting began with Antonio Casarez’s student council report. Casarez said 2023 Homecoming festivities were dampened by foul weather that prevented the traditional parade and homecoming court walking across the football field. However, the dance was well-attended, as was the high school’s fall theatrical performance, “Trap.” Murray Lake Elementary Principal, Molly Burnett, and K-8 literacy intervention Coordinator, Kyndera Lee, presented LAS reading instruction techniques, currently being implemented in the schools. The techniques focus on phonological awareness, both “explicitly and systematically.” Burnett and Lee said this means reading is taught in a way that is direct and engaging, and builds from a carefully-planned sequence of instruction. Children learn from easier to more difficult tasks, and the more diffi-

reading strategies. Lee said the film uncovered that there are school systems in our nation that do not “support reading.” Kindergarten students are able to read using this approach, as they are learning letter sounds. A child who knows four letters, and the sounds they make, can begin to read words. A child who knows 11 letters and sounds can read simple sentences. This allows students to begin to read almost right away, using the skills they know, as opposed to waiting until they know the sounds for the entire alphabet, Burnett and Lee reported. In the past, pictures were used to help interpret what words are, instead of using phonetic awareness. “We want them to be able to read the words. We don’t want them to rely on pictures to read, so this is kind of a big change,” Burnett said. K-5 students are chosen to receive intervention services through test-score data or teacher recommendation. The reading intervention numbers, and number of employed reading interventionists per elementary school, are as follows:

- Alto Elementary - 105 students (25 percent), 3 interventionists
- Bushnell Elementary - 78 students (27 percent), 3 interventionists
- Cherry Creek Elementary - 106 students (23 percent), 4 interventionists
- Murray Lake Elementary - 97 students (23 percent), 2 interventionists

The Board unanimously approved several action items from the agenda. The 2024 summer tax resolution, the authorization to move forward on the application for the 2024 bond proposal to fund building repairs and improvements, the acceptance of a \$500 gift to be used toward the Fusion Rock Orchestra,

and the purchase of eight ovens to be installed in district food service kitchens, were all approved. Director of Human Resources, Dustin Cichocki, reported he has added a new bus driver to the fleet and hopes to recruit more drivers. Professional development is ongoing for teachers who wish to be eligible for State Continuing Education Clock Hours. This allows teachers the option of being recertified every five years instead of, formerly, returning to school to continue their education. Nurses

we do academically than teach reading and making sure kids can read at high levels,” VanderMeulen said. He said while the district is performing well, there is room to improve. He pointed to the 2023 11th grade SAT scores that had about 83 percent meeting benchmark standards. During the public comments portion of the meeting, retired school teacher, Kim Lum, encouraged teachers to build positive relationships with their students by attending their events, eating lunch with them, and provid-

ing classroom snacks and other items. “Kids need us to show that we care. Doing things for others beyond our jobs. It makes a difference for our hearts and theirs,” Lum said. During his monthly report, Superintendent, Nate Fowler, apologized that the audio and video equipment used to record the Board meeting was not working. Fowler commended Board Vice President, Laurie Kuna, and Library Director, Christine Beachler, for being awarded honors from the Michigan Association of School Librar-

ians. Kuna was recognized with the 2023 Outstanding Board of Education Award. Beachler received the 2023 District Library Director of the Year Award. Fowler reported that the Lowell Middle School construction and renovations are now complete, with the exception of minor projects, including painting and landscaping. He also congratulated the girls golf team and cross country runner, Claire O’Boyle, for qualifying for the state finals competition.



The LAS Board of Education meets Nov. 13, 2023.



Murray Lake Principal Molly Burnett presents reading strategies to the Board at the November 2023 meeting.

cult tasks are broken down to be more manageable. “We’re teaching in an order that makes sense and is logical, so kids build on that. I think that’s one of the big changes that we’ve made. Whereas, before, I feel that we taught a lot of the things that may not have been in the best order for kids to fully understand it,” Burnett said. Lee said strategies, that were once only used for reading intervention, are now being used for all new readers. She said this is necessary because only five to 10 percent of kids can “read naturally.” Burnett and Lee credited a documentary called, “The Truth About Reading,” as a motivator to better implement these

continue to train in medical emergency response teams with a recent focus on opioid overdose training, and Crisis Prevention Intervention training has been happening, which focuses on de-escalation strategies to provide non-violent solutions. High school teacher, Jeff Larsen, was recognized for 30 years of teaching in the district. Chief Financial Officer, Sonia Hodge, reported she submitted fiscal year 2023 financial data to the state as required. Director of Curriculum, Dan VanderMeulen, commended all reading and literacy teachers and specialists in the district. “I’m not sure that there is anything more important

What Happens When You Don’t Advertise?

Nothing

...and that’s sad.
Let people know about
your business.
Advertise in The Ledger

Call 616-897-9261 or email classifieds@lowellbuyersguide.com today
and let us help you grow your business, so *something* good will happen.
The Lowell Ledger - keeping local businesses alive
for more than 150 years



Worth the Popcorn?

By Justin Tiemeyer

The Marvels

On Thursday, November 8, a tentative deal was made between the Screen Actors Guild – American Foundation of Television and Radio Artists (SAG-AFTRA) and the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers (AMPTP). The following day, two things happened — SAG-AFTRA ended its 118-day strike, and Disney released the 33rd film in the Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU), titled *The Marvels*, in theaters worldwide. The film trailers presented with *The Marvels* spoke to the momentous occasion. Hollywood was back up and running, studios had begun to put release dates down in ink, and *The Marvels* was a showcase for what lies ahead: *Aquaman* and the

Lost Kingdom, *Ghostbusters: Frozen Empire*, *Kingdom of the Planet of the Apes*, Taika Waititi’s *Next Goal Wins*, *Wish*, and Hayao Miyazaki’s (latest), magnum opus *The Boy and the Heron*. In *The Marvels*, Marvel Studios makes the case that the MCU is back too. Since the conclusion of the Thanos saga in the 2019 film *Avengers: Endgame*, Marvel has been plagued by a number of stops and starts, resulting in what has felt like four years of epilogues to the era of Robert Downey, Jr., Chris Hemsworth, and Chris Evans, or prologues for something else that is yet to come but seems forever out-of-reach. The four-year span was not without its victories—Phase Four

kickstarted a number of fun series and miniseries like *Loki* and *She-Hulk: Attorney At Law* on Disney+, and *Black Panther: Wakanda Forever* (2022), is likely the best MCU film to date—nor were all of the studio’s problems within its control—there’s been a global pandemic, one or two recessions, a writers strike, and an actors strike during that timespan—but four years is a long time to go without a direction. If the film itself was not proof-positive that Marvel’s goal of incorporating *X-Men* and *Fantastic Four* properties into the existing universe, to create a cohesive and exciting future, is within sight, the concluding scene and mid-credits scene definitely were: The MCU is back, and it all starts with *The Marvels*. *The Marvels*, itself, was a touching drama couched within sitcom gimmicks and superhero fight scenes. Carol Danvers (Brie Larson), known as Captain Marvel to some and the Annihilator to others, has been away from the Earth for years, struggling to recapture her lost memories and deal with the consequences of her

actions. Monica Rambeau, played by Teyonah Parris, was a young girl when Danvers first left, and now she’s a woman with incredible light powers, but that does little to wipe away the pain of losing her found-family aunt so long ago. Kamala Khan (Iman Vellani) rounds out the trio as Ms. Marvel, a mutant superhero obsessed with Captain Marvel, who finally gets an opportunity to meet her hero in person. The three have much to say, and much to avoid saying, but all of that is deferred and deflected by a cosmic coincidence that leads to a fight for the fate of the universe. Dar-Benn (Zawe Ashton) is a Kree warrior, armed with Ronan the Accuser’s hammer, and she is angry at Captain Marvel, angry enough to destroy everything that Carol Danvers has ever cared about—which includes a number of planets. As if that were not bad enough, she has the cosmic power to make quantum tunnels that serve as jump points across the galaxy, and one such jump-point inadvertently links Danvers, Rambeau, and Khan through what feels like a cartoon version of quantum entanglement. Not only does this effectively lock the characters in a broom closet and force them to confront their issues with one another, but it leads to some high-quality, venue-changing, phrenetic fight choreography that feels fresh and exciting. Unlike the villains of other recent movies like *Shazam! Fury of the Gods* and *Blue Beetle*, Dar-Benn is not simply some one-dimensional, hubristic woman—her cosmic rampage originates in deep loss, and it is exacerbated by a glimpse of hope. Prior to *The Marvels*, the biggest MCU crossover between the big screen and the small screen was when WandaVision’s Scarlet Witch became the central villain of Doctor Strange in the *Multiverse of Madness*, but Elizabeth Olsen had already played Wanda Maximoff in five big budget films prior to that point. In *The Marvels*, we get a mix of high-quality Disney film acting (Brie Larson), Disney+ premium streaming service acting (Parris), and ABC network television acting (Vellani). This leads to some awkward interactions, but not nearly as many as in *The Falcon* and the *Winter Soldier*, which primarily featured film actors with strong MCU pedigrees. Vellani, in particular, can be forgiven for any shortcomings: her performances as Ms. Marvel in this film, and in the eponymous Disney+ streaming series, are her only film and television credits. Shortcomings like these are few and have only a light impact on a fantastic

film, but a toxic portion of the fanbase has blown them out of proportion to lambast a film they already believed to be the worst MCU film on announcement. An autopsy report of negative reviews of the 2019 film, *Captain Marvel*, suggests that these comments have only a superficial connection to the film itself and a much more substantial connection to Brie Larson’s advocacy

happening to friends, family members, and other loved ones in an ongoing, current conflict. *The Marvels* is the first film in four years where it seems like Disney knows where it is going, and that is saying something, as the studio has yet to announce a comprehensive plan to address its future with actor Jonathan Majors, his character Kang the



promoting gender equality and sexual assault survivor support. It is a bit surprising that Disney did not choose to push the release of *The Marvels* back, because some of the themes of Kree/Skrull war and attempted genocide seemed incredibly close to home compared to the Israel/Palestine conflict currently unfolding. Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has compared the recent Hamas terrorist attack to the September 11 attack on American soil in 2001, and when that happened, a number of projects were canceled, delayed, or changed. *Captain America: Brave New World*, for example, has already been delayed from July 26, 2024 to February 14, 2025, and some have speculated that the announced reshoots are connected to its inclusion of the Israeli superhero Shaba, played by Shira Haas. Compared to *Brave New World*, the Israel/Palestine connection in *The Marvels* is much less direct. As it is, viewers who have a close connection to either Israel or Palestine may find some triggers in this film. That is not to say that *The Marvels* is antisemitic or islamophobic at its core, but rather that some of the victimization within the film could remind viewers of what is currently

Conqueror, and the fact that Disney put all of its eggs in the basket of an actor who was recently accused of domestic violence. Earlier attempts to shake-up the MCU status quo, like jettisoning the comedy aspects of the Ant-Man franchise to make *Ant-Man and the Wasp: Quantumania* an event film, were less than graceful, but the transformation of the Captain Marvel franchise into a gimmicky, rollicking film with a song and dance number, of all things, made for a great cinematic experience. This is perhaps more important than the film’s role as the gateway to the future of the MCU, because whether or not the plot is in the right place, if audiences do not enjoy the film-going experience, it is all for naught. Larson, Parris, and Vellani are charismatic, and their characters Captain Marvel, Professor Marvel (if it sticks), and Ms. Marvel show a lot of love for one another—it is a formula that worked surprisingly well for *Blue Beetle* and all the more for *The Marvels*. Do not listen to the internet trolls; watch *The Marvels*, allow yourself to have fun, and gather your quiet council of friends to discuss your theories about the future of the MCU, because this is a big moment.

business directory

RISNER'S ROOFING & HOME IMPROVEMENT

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

897-4123

Arctic Inc. Heating & Cooling

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

SALES, SERVICE AND INSTALLATION, UPGRADES, NEW HOMES

website: www.HeatingCoolingOnline.com e-mail: info@HeatingCoolingOnline.com

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

INSURED • 20+ YEARS EXPERIENCE

Washers • Dryers • Refrigerators
Garbage Disposals • Stoves
• Dishwashers

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

BILL WHEELER
Certified Public Accountant

W.J. WHEELER

103 Riverside Dr.
Lowell, MI 49331

897-7711

JERRY'S LAWN MAINTENANCE & SNOWPLOWING

- Fall Clean-Up • Spring Cleanup
- Fertilizing • Winterizing of Sprinkling Systems
- Bark • Snowplow Service
- Lawn Maintenance

Over 25 years of experience, insured, referrals upon request

616-822-4168

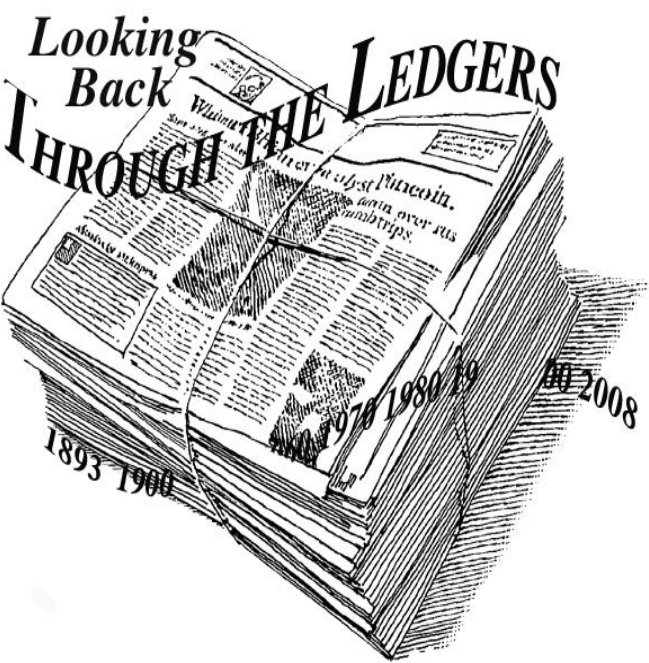
ROGERS NEIGHBORHOOD REALTY

UPSIZE
downsize
RIGHTSIZE

Buy with Confidence,
Sell with Success!

RogersNeighborhoodRealty.com
317 E Main St, Lowell, MI - 616.644.0784

viewpoint



150 years ago
The Lowell Journal
November 19, 1873

Saturday was a busy day in Lowell, if the number of teams in the streets indicate anything. The eating house at the depot has had improvements made. Iron works, all over the country, are reducing output, declaring insolvency or closing. The marshal says to make sure your stoves and pipes and chimneys are in good order, or he will see that they are taken down.

125 years ago
The Lowell Ledger
November 24, 1898

New section in this edition titled, "For Woman and Home. General items of interest for Maids and Matrons. - The Home."
"We feel sorry for our mail carrier these cold days. She has quite a ways to get to Newt Coons's mail box, as it is on the chimney of the Barto school house."
Allie Knee, writing from Camp Meade, Georgia, under date of Nov. 12. He was comfortable in his tent without a coat. Is well and writes in good spirits.
Help is wanted for the family of Alex Denton. Mrs. Denton is very low with cancer and cannot last long. Mrs. Wilkinson recommends the gifts of eatables, old sheets, bundles of soft cloths and clothing.
The campaign expenses of Congressman-elect, Edgar Weeks, of the Seventh district, were \$2,000.

100 years ago
The Lowell Ledger
November 22, 1923

The Lowell footballers defeated Sparta on the local field, Friday afternoon, in a very loosely played and uninteresting game. Very few people turned out to see the game, due to the fact that it was raining most of the time.
It was a false report that Mrs. Isadore Lamberton was taken to Traverse City. She did not like it at the Solders' Home in Grand Rapids and was brought back to her home. Her son, Don, wanted her home and said he would take good care of her. That is right, Don, you won't have but one mother and be good to her and the Lord will reward you for it.

75 years ago
The Lowell Ledger
November 25, 1948

Keats, Vining, Kent County Agricultural agent for 27 years retires.
The Michigan Conservation Department's new trout stamps, issued for the first time early this year, are very popular among stamp collectors.
In spite of both powers using feet-and-inches measuring, Great Britain and the U.S. are still working on standardizing tool sizes, e.g., nuts fitting bolts.
Michigan Bell reports the biggest tourist season ever, as measured by long-distance calls, to and from resort areas.

50 years ago
Lowell Ledger Suburban Life
November 22, 1973

Lowell businesses turn down thermostats, change operating hours, insulate and install storm windows to save electricity in the power crunch.
The November election for City Council members got only 154 voters out, from a pool of 1,575 registered - less than 10%.
Residents living near the high school protest numbers of students smoking, littering and trespassing and interfering with traffic.
The Lowell Community Center on Grand River Drive asks for volunteers.

25 years ago
The Lowell Ledger
November 18, 1998

The findings of the ice skating facilities feasibility study were described as disappointing and not enlightening. Lowell Charter Township decided against mass participation in this year's gypsy moth spraying program. The board voted down the township's previously-approved spray contract.
Mike Jansma is the winner of the Ledger's First Buck contest. Jansma brought in his seven-point buck at 8:50 am Sunday. Joel Anderson was second to arrive, at 9:40 am, with a six-point, 150-pound buck.



to the editor

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

Dear Lowell Community,
The holidays are approaching and I'd like to make a suggestion to Lowell residents and others concerning a gift for those who may have everything -- or even as a great stocking stuffer! Consider a subscription to one of the few, still existing, local papers--our very own *Lowell Ledger*!
Many other local printed papers have gone out-of-business, but I think the *Lowell Ledger* has even improved over the past few years. They have a number of wonderful contributing writers (many local names you may recognize) who report on multiple subjects and share anything, from movie, book and local restaurant reviews and information about other local businesses, to travelogues, very thought provoking political insights and perspectives, Lowell history and multiple other subjects, as well as the local news, events, sports, business ads/information and obituaries. This makes a great gift for the person who has everything, former Lowellites/Lowellians who might still be interested in what is happening here in our wonderful community, college and university students away from home or just friends who might be interested in your local area. A surprise gift envelope in the mail, or in a stocking, or just attached to another gift, would be a great add on.

We are so fortunate here in Lowell to still have our own local paper, keeping us up-to-date on events and news right here in town, especially those who still like a physical paper they can enjoy. An added plus is, you would be supporting a great, long-time, local business and helping to keep all of us informed on what's happening around town. Have a great holiday and shop local businesses for your holiday gift ideas. Best wishes to all for a safe and happy holiday season and a blessed year ahead.
Peggy Covert
Lowell

We love to hear from you!



The Lowell Ledger welcomes letters to the editor from readers, but there are a few conditions that must be met before they will be published.
The requirements are:
• All letters must be signed by the writer, with address and phone number provided for verification. All that will be printed is the writer's name and community of residence. We do not publish anonymous letters, and names will be withheld at the editor's discretion for compelling reasons only.
• Letters that contain statements that are libelous or slanderous will not be published.
• All letters are subject to editing for style, grammar and sense.
• Letters that serve as testimonials for or criticisms of businesses will not be accepted.
• Letters serving the function of "cards of thanks" will not be accepted unless there is a compelling public interest, which will be determined by the editor.
• Letters that include attacks of a personal nature will not be published or will be edited heavily.
• "Crossfire" letters between the same two people on one issue will be limited to one for each writer.
• In an effort to keep opinions varied, there is a limit of one letter per person per month.
• We prefer letters to be printed legibly or typed, double-spaced. We have a 500-word limit.

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



At Your Local Library

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

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.

Loose Parts Play

Fridays, beginning Dec. 1, 10 - 11 am. Give your young child’s imagination room to grow through open-ended play with a variety of manipulative materials. For ages 0-5.

Card Crafting

Tuesday, Dec. 12, 6:30 - 7:30 pm. Explore the art of card-making, as we delve into various themes and designs, providing inspiration for your personalized creations. Discover a multitude of artistic techniques, with a focus on collaging materials and embellishments, in a supportive, inspiring environment. *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 adults 18+

Kids Zone

Wednesday, Dec. 13, 4-5 pm. It’s a special time for fun, interactive programs just for school kids! Join our KDL Kids Zone programs for crafts, storytime, games and other activities. For ages 5-10.

Ready for Reindeer!

Saturday, Dec. 16, 10 - 11 am. Traveling all the way from the North Pole (via Rooftop Landing Reindeer Farms), live reindeer will be visiting the library. Dress warmly for this outdoor program, and don’t forget the camera! For all ages.

All Aboard! Book Club

Thursday, Dec. 21, 10:30 - 11:30 am. Join a fun, informal discussion of great books. This month, we’ll discuss *Save Me the Plums* by Ruth Reichl. For adults 18+

All Aboard! Book Club

Friday, December 22, 10-11 am. Give your young child’s imagination room to grow through open-ended play with a variety of manipulative materials. For ages 0-5.

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

Z is for Zoom Around County Roads

As Michigan’s population and the production of automobiles expanded, so did the need for a planned network of longer distance, stronger built roads. The Michigan Legislature created the Michigan State Highway Department and provided funding assistance to counties and townships for road construction, according to statewide standards. In 1909, the Legislature passed the County Road Act, permitting Michigan counties, by vote of its residents, to create a county road commission and



1923 Annual Report Grand River Bridge. Courtesy of the Kent County Road Commission.

network of county roads. In 1911, voters approved the creation of the Kent County Road Commission. Three men were appointed to be the first Road Commissioners of Kent County. They were Alvah W. Brown of Grand

Rapids, Dexter G. Look of Lowell and C. A. Bloomer of Sparta.

When planning roads, a large concern of the county was connecting communities. Local roads had been built in communities, but many times, there wasn’t a good connection to outside areas, forcing drivers to go miles out of their way. The county also worked with the state to establish and reorganize the state trunk lines.

The following examples, from early annual reports of the Kent County Road Commission, show the local projects to connect communities and build state trunk lines, or highways.

1922 – The county connected Hudson Street south through Lowell Township to the south line of Section 26. The new road was called the ‘South Lowell Road’ and is today’s Segwun Ave. In 1923, a

traffic census from August 9 - September 26, showed that the average daily traffic on this new stretch of the South Lowell Road was 6 horse-drawn vehicles and 471 motor passenger cars and 23 trucks. The census points out that 11 of those cars were foreign.

1925 - the annual report stated that the 14 miles of concrete pavement of the new route of M-16 (later US-16 and today’s Cascade Road) “is, no doubt, the most important State Trunk Line pavement ever constructed in Kent County.” It was built in 1924, but three sections have required ongoing work. This included a 150-foot section near the intersection of M-16 and the ‘South Lowell Road’ (Cascade and Segwun), because of a sink hole. A connecting project

ABCs, continued next page



1931 County Street signs. Courtesy of the Kent County Road Commission.

area churches

Riverside Fellowship of Seventh-day Adventists

"Praying and studying together"
Saturday service begins at 10:30 AM

10300 Vergennes St. SE, Lowell
616-987-0267
www.lowellsda.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

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
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN to ADULTS

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

LOWELL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

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

happy birthday



NOVEMBER 23

Trisha Propst, Sherri Vezino, Gregory Duiven, Mike Harding, McKinsie Rice, Dave Thompson.

NOVEMBER 24

Sabra Nicole Kinsley, Ryan Moore, Jenny Decker, Heather French.

NOVEMBER 25

Pat Vezino, Amy Swift, Shawn Ayres Hazel, Megan Hewitt, Lorri Myers.

NOVEMBER 26

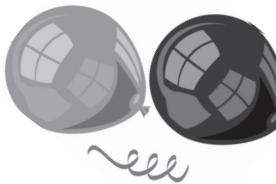
Josie Emmette, John Erickson.

NOVEMBER 27

Bonnie Vezino, Kim Harding, Marty Chambers, Chad Uzarski, Elizabeth Spies, Heather Burrows, Aaron Rittersdorf, Josh Spencer, Aiden Malone.

NOVEMBER 28

Shelly Hildenbrand, Lee Miller.



ABCs, continued

for the year was ‘Lowell - Moseley Road’ (today’s Lincoln Lake Avenue). This was to begin at the previously improved road north of Lowell, and then northward, for five miles to Moseley. It was described by the Road Commission that “this stretch of road is very rough and hilly and involves some difficult engineering and construction work.”

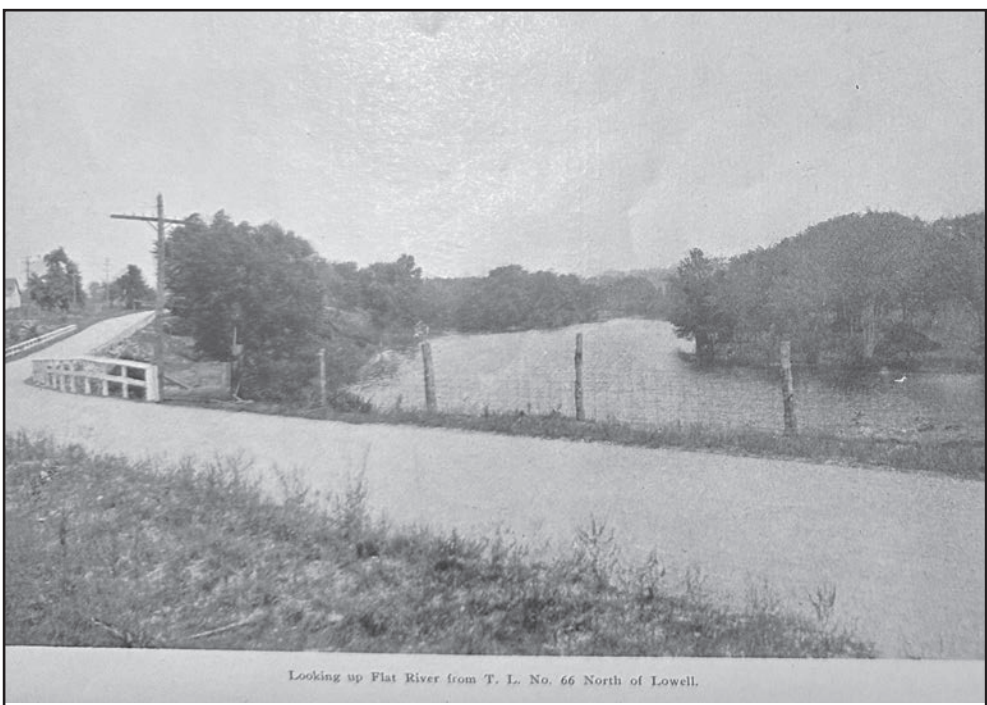
1926 and 1927 reported that today’s 5 Mile Rd was extended past Parnell to connect to Lincoln Lake, and today’s 4 Mile Rd was built connecting Murray Lake to Moseley.

1928 saw the construction of M-21, affecting the daily lives of so many. The old gravel road between Ada and Lowell was considered one of the most heavily traveled roads in the county.

1929 road projects continued from 1928, including a road, titled the ‘Flat River-Moseley Road’, that went through sections 23, 14, and 13 of Vergennes Township. It was to provide an entrance to the new county park, Fallasburg Park. It was a little confusing though, as it did not go to Moseley, at that point. In addition, the ‘Fallasburg Bridge Road’ was constructed. It went from the covered bridge, along the south side of the park, westward to the ‘Lowell-Lincoln Lake Road.’ About this road, it was said, “drive over this mile of road once and you will be sure to come again to make certain that you haven’t missed anything the first time.” South of Lowell, the ‘South Lowell River Road’ (Grand River Drive today) began. It lay almost parallel to the Grand Trunk Railroad, at the foot of the hills, just south of the tracks. It would connect Ada to Lowell and was predicted to be one of the most scenic roads in Kent County.

As stated in some of the examples above, the Lowell area has some beautiful landscapes and therefore, beautiful roads. The Kent County Road Commission has a program designating ‘Natural Beauty’ roads. Of the 39.59 miles of Natural Beauty roads, 11.42 miles are in Lowell and Vergennes townships. There are 21 townships in Kent County, and two of those have more than a quarter of the Natural Beauty roads.

A later project that affected the Lowell area was the creation of M-91 and rerouting of M-66. Historically, the original route of M-66 began at M-16 in Lowell. Then M-66 continued northeasterly (leaving/exiting Lowell on present-day Flat River Dr) to Belding, then northerly through Greenville and Langston, ending at M-46 near Lakeview. When M-91



1923 Annual Report Flat River from today’s Flat River Drive, former T.L. 66. Courtesy of the Kent County Road Commission.

was created, M-66 was moved to its present-day route. Today, the Kent County Road Commission has grown to become the second largest road commission in Michigan with a network that spans nearly 2,000 miles of both rural and urban roadways. Street Sign - 1931 County Street signs



Financial Focus

With Christopher C. Godbold

Edward Jones

Serving Individuals Investors Since 1871

What should you do with ‘side gig’ money?

As you know, the gig economy has been booming over the past several years. If you’re thinking of using your skills to take on a side gig, what should you do with the money you’ll make?

There’s no one right answer for everyone, and the decisions you make should be based on your individual situation. And, of course, you may simply need the extra income to support your lifestyle and pay the bills. But if you already have your cash-flow in good shape, and you have some freedom with your gig money, consider these suggestions:

- Contribute more to your IRA. If you couldn’t afford to contribute the maximum amount to your IRA, you may find it easier to do so when you have additional money coming in from a side gig. For the 2023 tax year, you can put in up to \$6,500 to a traditional or Roth IRA, or \$7,500 if you’re 50 or older. (Starting in 2024, this extra \$1,000 “catch-up” contribution amount may be indexed for inflation.) The amount you can contribute to a Roth IRA is reduced, and eventually eliminated, at certain income levels.
- Look for new investment opportunities. If you’re already maxing out your IRA, you might be able to find other investment possibilities for your side-gig money. For example, if you have young children,

perhaps you could use some of the money to invest in a 529 education savings plan. A 529 plan offers potential tax advantages and can be used for college, qualified trade school programs, and possibly some K-12 expenses. Please keep in mind that potential tax advantages will vary from state to state.

- Build an emergency fund. Life is full of unexpected events — and some can be quite expensive. What if you needed a major car repair or required a medical procedure that wasn’t totally covered by your health insurance? Would you have the cash available to pay these bills? If not, would you be forced to dip into your IRA or 401(k)? This might not be a good move, as it could incur taxes and penalties, and

deprive you of resources you might eventually need for retirement. That’s why you might want to use your gig earnings to help fund an emergency fund containing several months’ worth of living expenses, with the money kept in a liquid, low-risk account. To avoid being tempted to dip into your emergency fund, you may want to keep it separate from your daily spending accounts.

- Pay down debts. Most of us will always carry some debts, but we can usually find ways to include the bigger ones — mortgage, car payments and so on — into our monthly budgets. It’s often the smaller debt payments, frequently associated with high-interest-rate credit cards, that cause us the most trouble, in terms of affecting

our cash flow. If you can use some of your side-gig money to pay down these types of debts, you could possibly ease some of the financial stress you might be feeling. And instead of directing money to pay for things you purchased in the past, you could use the funds to invest for your future.

As we’ve seen, your side-gig money could open several promising windows of opportunity — so take a look through all of them.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor.

Edward Jones, Member SIPC

Eat. Shop. Explore.
LOCAL

MAST INSULATION
SPRAY FOAM
Closed or Open Cell
or Blown-In Fiberglass
Roy Mast • 517-652-9119
2501 N. Ionia Rd., Vermontville

When it comes to Life, the **EXPERIENCE MATTERS.**

Call **Mark Johnson** today!
(616) 940-8181
MarkJohnsonAgency.com
6151 28th St. SE, Ste. 10,
Grand Rapids

FARM BUREAU INSURANCE

A Company

Got a Great Local News Story?

Tell us about it today!

Call or email the Lowell Ledger Crew!

Phone: 616-897-9261

email: ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com

CTL, continued

Photos courtesy of Christmas thru Lowell facebook page, unless noted



Lori Baldwin with Lowki Soaps. Photo by Emma Palova.



New vendor with sun-catchers. Photo by Emma Palova.

This was the third year for Dave and Cammy Thornton of Addieland Candles, also at the museum, and their first year in the special exhibit Robert & Ernest Graham Room with displays dedicated to the famous Lowell architect. Addieland sold-out of most of their candles, mainly, the Fraser fir scent.

The Old Theater (TOT) hosted 17 diverse vendors, including Incredibly Crafted with Christin Sheahan of Caledonia, who works to bring awareness to getting stuck in negative patterns and isolation, and teaches people how to rewire their nervous system.

“When we experience intense emotions or traumatic events, our bodies create chemicals and peptides to survive them,” Sheahan said.

Located on the stage for the first time this year, was Lowell photographer, Bruce Doll of Images of Vision, with calendars, postcards,

framed photographs, and a digital screen depicting photography scenes from the Greater Lowell area. “It was so much fun meeting people who follow me on Facebook,” he said, cracking a joke. “They would walk up, look at the pictures and say to me ‘Are you Bruce?’ I think I will get a tee shirt that says, ‘Yes, I am Bruce.’”

Doll loved the venue, “David and Lisa worked hard to make it perfect for the vendors. Many people were impressed with the event and wished their town had something like it.” Also on the stage was Emilie Rue with Custom Tumblers. “Christmas Through Lowell (CTL) enchanted The Old Theater, turning it into an illuminated artisanal haven,” said co-owner David Reed. “This hallmark event not only introduced many to The Old Theater but also shared its rich history, inviting newcomers to be part of its promising future.”

Highlights included

customers returning for standout freeze-dried snacks, Doll’s vibrant photos on the stage, and Julie’s affordable, colorful pottery, thrilling ceramics enthusiasts. Leaflet’s bouquets left the venue in the hands of smiling shoppers. “As we look forward to next year, we anticipate building on these successes, potentially adding more vendors to enhance the event’s flow and continue supporting artisans in our community,” Reed said.

Red Barn Market featured eight vendors, including Earth Stories Jewelry with Mary and Mike Lacy. “The atmosphere at Red Barn is so friendly and welcoming,” Mary Lacy said. “All the vendors are super nice and helpful. I love meeting new people and like to hear their stories about rock-collecting. Children are especially fascinated with various stones and rocks, so we sell

\$1 and \$2 polished stones for them.”

Chamber Director, Shannon Kennedy, estimated the number of guests going through CTL well over 10,000, based on vendor feedback. “Only a half-day into the event, several homes reported the need to start pulling from their back stock and replenishing their displays on Friday afternoon. From there, it only got crazier.”

Kennedy worked her first year as the new Chamber Director and enjoyed being behind the scenes to see things from a different perspective. “I am proud of the Lowell community and everyone who has worked so hard to build this event into what it is today. Christmas Through Lowell is truly a wonderful experience - for shoppers, vendors, and local businesses, alike. I’m already looking forward to our 2024 event,” she said.



Starlight Farms with Gale Hunt and Geneen Hunt. Photo by Emma Palova.

Lowell Area Historical Museum, decked out for Christmas. Photo by Emma Palova.



Bruce Doll of Images of Vision. Photo by Emma Palova.



Co-owner of TOT Lisa Reed. Photo by Emma Palova.



Indelibly Crafted with Christin Sheahan. Photo by Emma Palova.



Book Corner

The Canary Girls

By Jennifer Chiaverini
Historical Fiction

By Alison Yarger
Having read *Mrs. Lincoln's Dressmaker*, by Chiaverini, and enjoying the history, I assumed her writing about "munitionettes" would also take me in - and it did. Such brave women I've been reading about in so many historical novels lately.

Early in WWI, the Great War, men left Britain's factories in droves to enlist. Struggling to keep up production, arsenals hired women to build the weapons the military urgently needed. "Be the Girl Behind the Man Behind the Gun," the recruitment posters beckoned.

Thousands of women—cooks, maids, shopgirls, and housewives—answered their nation's call. These "munitionettes" worked grueling shifts, often seven days a week, handling TNT and other explosives with little protective gear.

Among them is 19 year-old former housemaid, April Tipton. Impressed by her friend Marjorie's descriptions of higher wages, plentiful meals, and comfortable lodgings, she takes a job at Thornshire Arsenal near London, filling shells in the Danger Building—difficult, dangerous, and absolutely essential work.

Joining them is Lucy Dempsey, wife of Daniel Dempsey, Olympic gold medalist and star forward of Tottenham Hotspur. With Daniel away serving in the Footballers' Battalion, Lucy resolves to do her bit to hasten the end of the war. When her coworkers learn she is a footballer's wife, they invite her to join the arsenal ladies' football club, the Thornshire Canaries.

The Canaries soon acquire an unexpected fan in the boss's wife, Helen Purcell, who is deeply troubled by reports that Danger Building workers suffer from serious, unexplained illnesses. One

common symptom, the lurid yellow hue of their skin, earns them the nickname "Canary Girls." Suspecting a connection between the Canary Girls' maladies and the chemicals they handle, Helen joins the arsenal administration as their staunchest, though often unappreciated, advocate.

The football pitch is the one place where class distinctions and fears for their men fall away. As the war grinds on and tragedy takes its toll, the Canary Girls persist, despite the dangers; proud to serve, determined to outlive the war and rejoice in victory and peace.

Similar in fashion to *The Poisoner's Handbook*, (which was, far and away, telling about the usage of chemicals when nobody knew the dire side effects), this book goes into much more detail, of course, about the extreme health hazards the women experienced from the exposure to chemicals without proper safety precautions. It also outlined, after such dedication and hard work, how the women lost their jobs when the soldiers returned.

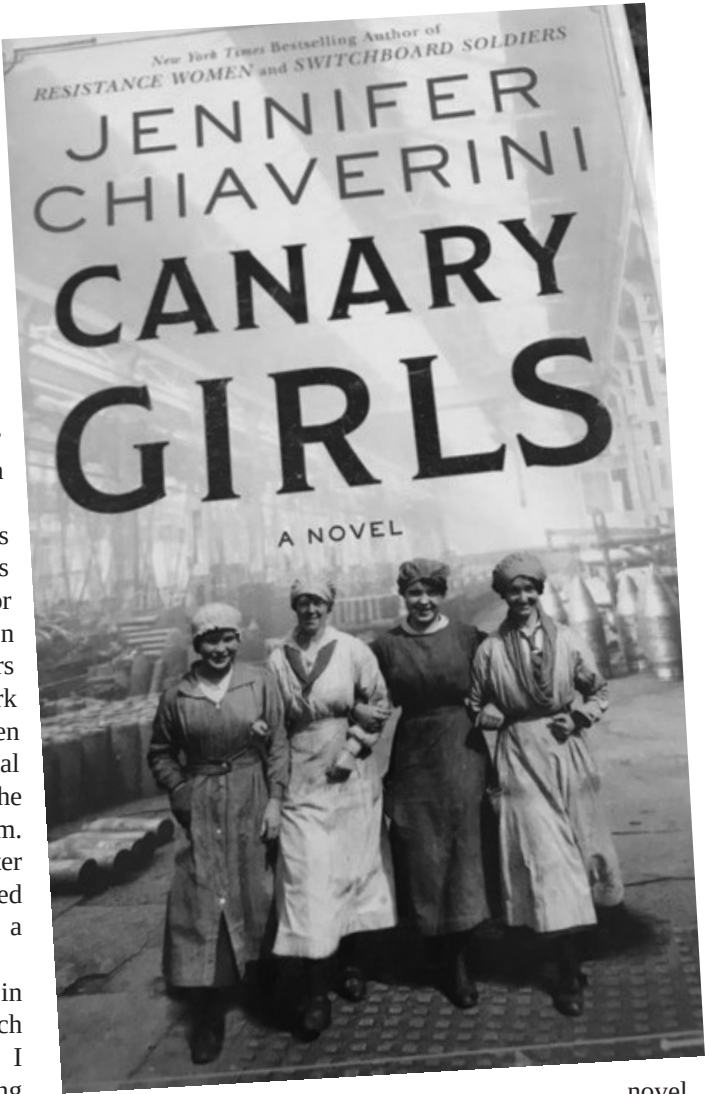
Our history in the US is packed full of brave women who stepped up to

the calling when asked – and the Canary Girls certainly did their part. Many of these women felt an obligation to help manufacture arsenal for the military, since their sons, brothers and husbands were on the front lines fighting the German soldiers. They assumed if they kept "the boys" flush in bullets, they could win the war quickly, getting their men home sooner.

Working long hours together, these ladies became like family for one another. They even spent non-working hours together. Their hard work and dedication - even when work became detrimental to their health- changed the way society viewed them. This garnered them greater freedom and fostered a strong backing for a woman's right to vote.

There is value in this novel, due to its rich historical content, but I found myself skimming pages containing no dialogue. (This happens frequently when I'm reading any books, whether historical fiction or not.)

Bringing this aspect of history to life was fascinating in the portrayal



of the brave and unforgettable women who risked their lives in service to their country, and skillfully entwined into a heart wrenching and captivating

novel. While portions of the book dragged a bit, this is a great work of historical fiction that everyone, especially women, should read. I'd give this 4 out of 5 stars.

outdoors

wildlife friends

Dave Stegehuis

Humans have always had a close relationship with birds and animals. Domesticated animals have partnered with people to provide labor for building, farming, and transportation. Livestock and poultry are major sources of food to sustain our lives. Cats and dogs, particularly, are a source of companionship for families and individuals.

We also share the earth with a large community of wild creatures. Most human societies recognize and appreciate the value of birds and animals. Zoos introduce a variety of wildlife to those who may not have the opportunity to meet the creatures in their natural habitat. Sanctuaries shelter wildlife from harm to increase the chances to survive and reproduce. Most wildlife are on their own and rely on conservation-minded people to look out for their welfare. As individuals, we need to be aware of how our behavior can affect wildlife. If enough of us get on the same page, we can make a difference in wildlife sustainability.

Sometimes people can get too involved with wildlife. With the advent of social media, people are able to share a lot of information with a lot of other people fast. Serious bird watchers,

and those interested in birds, have created a media phenomenon described as celebrity birds. When a rare bird is sighted, the time and location is posted on the internet. Large numbers of observers may congregate in the area and disrupt the life cycle of the bird.

When viewing wildlife of any kind, it is wise to keep your distance and try not to disturb the creature. Becoming too friendly with wildlife can be detrimental to the animal and to people. Assuming a baby bird or animal is an orphan and taking it in is usually not a good idea. The mother is probably nearby. Your actions could jeopardize the infant's life. Feeding wildlife without professional advice is not recommended and in some places is illegal. An animal that loses fear of humans often pays with its life. Feeding backyard birds should be done after doing some research.

Nuisance animals are often cast as villains and are harshly treated. If you have unwanted guests on your property, chances are, food is available somewhere. If there is nothing to eat, animals will not waste their time and will look elsewhere.

When dealing with wildlife, use your heart and your mind so we can all remain friends.

Local Advertising

That Works as Hard as You Do



Schedule your one-on-one consultation with an advertising expert today to learn more about the opportunities for your business.

the lowell ledger

616-897-9261 • ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com

LEGAL NOTICE

PUBLICATION OF NOTICE OF HEARING STATE OF MICHIGAN

The Probate Court for the County of Kent in the matter of Robert Perne, Guardianship File No. 23-214,285-GA.

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS including his siblings: Tom Perne and Kim Perne and any unknown children, siblings, and other heirs whose address(es) is/are unknown and whose interest in the matter may be barred or affected by the following:

TAKE NOTICE: A hearing will be held on December 27, 2023 at 1:30 p.m. at Kent Co. Probate Court, 180 Ottawa NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503 Courtroom 9D and via Zoom before Judge Avery D. Rose (P77757) for the following purpose: Appointment of a Guardian.

Dated: November 18, 2023

Adult Protective Services, DHHS, Petitioner, 121 Martin Luther King Jr St. SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49507 (616) 258-1182.

VAN ESSEN AND ASSOCIATES PLLC, Attys. for Petitioner by Amanda Van Essen Wirth (P75001) 109 E. Main St. Ste. 11, Zeeland, MI 49464 Phone (616) 633-0196

Bartkus, DeVore, and Salzwedel win Lowell City Council election

By Justin Tiemeyer
contributing writer

The recent election on Tuesday, November 7, was a consolidated election, which, according to Michigan election law, means that many areas have a reduced number of precincts, in response to fewer choices on the ballot and lower voter turnout during similar previous elections. Since there were not any decisions on the ballot for state or federal offices or ordinances, the Lowell City Council voted to consolidate the city’s two precincts into one at the Monday, September 4, city council meeting. On the ballot in the City of Lowell were a Kent District Library (KDL) millage



Mike DeVore

renewal request and a hotly contested city council election. In Lowell Charter Township and Vergennes Township, the only decision on the ballot was whether or not to approve the library millage.

Five candidates — Eric Bartkus, Jake Davenport, Mike DeVore, Jim Salzwedel, and Sharon Shah — vied for three council spots, those currently occupied by Mayor DeVore, council member Salzwedel, and council member Cliff Yankovich, who chose

not to run for re-election. The campaigns of these candidates spanned social media platforms, public meetings, and the lawns of local residents, with some neighbors commenting that they have never seen so many signs for a city council election. The election drew 24.08% of registered voters in Lowell, and the results were as follows:

Eric Bartkus - 554 votes
Jake Davenport - 314 votes
Michael DeVore - 473 votes
James Salzwedel - 426 votes
Sharon Shah - 254 votes

Per city election ordinance, the two receiving the most votes, Bartkus and DeVore, shall be elected to a four year term, and the third candidate with the most votes, Salzwedel, shall be elected to a two year term. During the first meeting of the council in January, which will likely fall on Tuesday, January 2, due to New Year’s Day falling on a Monday, the new council will meet to elect one of its members to the office of Mayor and one to the office of Mayor Pro Tem. Council member Yankovich will still serve out the rest of his term, through December.

Bartkus, who won by a commanding majority, offered the following statement to the *Lowell Ledger*: “I am very pleased that Lowell voters chose me as one of their city council representatives! I am honored to join a top-

notch, dedicated group that is working for the best interests of the citizens. My 21 Promises to the citizens will guide me and be at the front of my notebook at each meeting. I am sincerely devoted to helping each and every Lowell citizen. As I stated early on, I will work hard on the details so that citizens can enjoy living and working in our great city. The leadership and decision-making of Mike DeVore and Jim Salzwedel have been very good over the years, and I am glad they are returning to help the city. There are a number of challenges ahead (roads, water system, finances), and their experience will be invaluable. Sharon Shah and Jake Davenport ran excellent campaigns and would have been good council members. It was great that voters had a number of qualified people to choose from. Thank you again for adding me! As I stated at the top of my website, ‘I am prepared to give it my all for the next 4 years’, and I will! Speaking of my website, you can read a detailed explanation of my promises and why I ran for council at ericbartkus.com. I will keep this site up-to-date with my take on city and council news. There is also a place to comment or ask questions. Thank you to the people that helped my campaign, including yard signs, mailing my Promises postcard, and talking. Thanks again to all the voters that have placed their trust in me. All the best, Eric Bartkus.”

Incumbent

Mayor DeVore wrote: “I’m ecstatic with the results and want to thank every person who came to the polls. Voting is important in every election. I look forward to continue working hard for another 4 years to make Lowell the place to be.”

Incumbent council member Salzwedel kept it short and sweet: “I would like to thank the citizens of Lowell for their continuing support, which allows me to serve them on the council. I am looking forward to serving the next two years.”

Davenport, who was unable to secure enough votes to join the council, issued the following statement: “This election process has been one of ups and downs, and I do not walk away from tonight with any regrets. I wanted this to work out in my favor, and I worked tirelessly to try and make that happen. Despite this not being the outcome I worked for, prayed for, and hoped for, just know that I respect the decision of our community and the direction they chose to go. Thank you so much to Mike DeVore, Jim Salzwedel, Eric Bartkus, and Sharon Shah for stepping up to try and lead our community. Despite the outcome being



Eric Bartkus

less than favorable, know that I intend to keep working to make our community a better place for all. Thanks again to everyone who came out to support me tonight. It was not our night, but my mission remains the same: helping people solve problems and making our community better. God still has great things ahead for me personally and for our city.”

Shah, who also will not be joining the council in 2024, issued the following statement on her candidate Facebook page the day of the election: “Today marks the end of my city council campaign journey, and I couldn’t be more excited. I want to reflect on the incredible power of community and personal growth. This campaign has been a transformative experience, helping me break free from old patterns and discover my true worth beyond achievements. I’ve learned that I am valuable, chosen, and redeemed by God’s grace, and you are too! I believe in the importance of being a good steward of life, love, and community. Everyone has the potential to make a difference and stand up for their beliefs. No one should be treated poorly, and I’m committed to spreading kindness and compassion. Regardless of the election outcome, this is just the beginning of my journey to create a brighter, more connected community and support a healthier future for all.”

The millage proposed by KDL is a request to renew, for the next 15 years, the existing millage at a rate of 1.1 mills. The request



James Salzwedel

is actually lower than the previous millage, prompting council member Yankovich to describe it as “a no-brainer.” Still, as national political conflict infects local elections, some were worried that the millage may not pass. Election day results suggest that those fears were unfounded, as the millage received 55,975 yes votes compared to 16,803 no. According to a statement from KDL following the successful millage campaign, “The millage will generate \$26.6 million in its first year, covering the expense of physical and digital collections, employees, programs and events, tech tutoring and other library services, rent and other expenses.” Many KDL employees identify themselves as “stewards of taxpayer dollars”, showing great reverence for the voters who make their services possible, and the voters certainly showed up for KDL during the November consolidated election. The KDL millage renewal proposal drew 21.04% of 347,487 registered voters across 139 consolidated precincts, and 77 percent of those voters approved of the millage.

LEGAL NOTICE

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
COUNTY OF KENT

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent’s Estate

CASE NO. and JUDGE
23-214296-DE
Hon. Judge David M.
Murkowski
Court address: 180 Ottawa
Avenue NW, Suite 2500,
Grand Rapids, MI 49503
Court Phone no.
616-632-5440

Estate of Allan W. Cox IV,
Date of birth: July 1, 1983

TO ALL CREDITORS:

NOTICE TO CREDITORS:
The decedent, Allan W.
Cox IV, died 9/27/23.
Creditors of the decedent

are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Heather Fox, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 180 Ottawa Ave NW, Ste 2500 Grand Rapids, MI 49503 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

November 20, 2023

Emily K. Sheridan (P84658)
660 Cascade W. Pkwy SE
Suite 70
Grand Rapids, MI 49546
616-285-6050

Heather W. Fox
2002 New York Drive
Altadena, CA 91001
818-480-0606

LEGAL NOTICE

PUBLICATION OF NOTICE
OF HEARING STATE OF
MICHIGAN

The Probate Court for
the County of Kent In the
matter of
Roger Gwidt,
Guardianship File
No. 23-214,278-GA,
Conservatorship File No.
23-214,279-CA.

TO ALL INTERESTED
PERSONS including
his children and heirs
whose address(es) is/
are unknown and whose
interest in the matter may
be barred or affected by
the following:

TAKE NOTICE: A hearing
will be held on January 19,
2024, at 9:00 A.M. at Kent
Co. Probate Court, 180
Ottawa NW, Grand Rapids,

MI 49503 Courtroom 9C
in person and via Zoom
before Judge David M.
Murkowski (P35026) for
the following purpose:
Appointment of a Guardian
and Appointment of a
Conservator.

Dated: November 18, 2023

Adult Protective Services,
DHHS, Petitioner,
121 Martin Luther King Jr SE,
Grand Rapids, MI 49507
(616) 401-7113.

VAN ESSEN AND
ASSOCIATES PLLC,
Attys. for Petitioner by
Amanda VanEssen Wirth
(P75001)
109 E. Main St.
Suite 11,
Zeeland, MI 49464
Phone (616) 633-0196

LEGAL NOTICE

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
COUNTY OF KENT

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent’s Estate

CASE NO. and JUDGE
23-213200-DE
Hon. Judge Rose
Court address:
180 Ottawa Avenue NW,
Suite 2500,
Grand Rapids, MI 49503
Court Phone no.
616-632-5440

Estate of Sherri Lou
Johnson, date of birth:
5/18/1955

TO ALL CREDITORS:

NOTICE TO CREDITORS:
The decedent, Sherri Lou
Johnson, died 12/19/22.
Creditors of the decedent

are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Thomas E. Lane, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 180 Ottawa Ave NW, Ste 2500 Grand Rapids, MI 49503 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

November 20, 2023

Emily K. Sheridan (P84658)
660 Cascade W. Pkwy SE
Suite 70
Grand Rapids, MI 49546
616-285-6050

Thomas E. Lane
660 Cascade W Pkwy SE
Suite 70
Grand Rapids, MI 49546
616-648-6983



Live the Life You Want

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

You are complete, just as you are

I often hear others say they are searching for something. Their other half, the successful career, a nice house, a family, and even their life purpose. They are convinced that finding one or more of these things will make them feel complete and fulfilled. It's like a check list and once completed there will be a feeling of being whole, happy, and content. I think this mindset is part human nature and part societal norms. I think the main reason we have this feeling of being incomplete is because we have not fully accepted who we are. We are not a puzzle that needs pieces to be complete. So, if you feel incomplete maybe you need to work on self-awareness and self-acceptance.

Self-acceptance

So, what is self-acceptance? It's accepting every part of you fully,

including any believed strengths, flaws, limitations, and abilities. It's moving away from is "something wrong with me" to "I have behaviors that don't work for me so I will work to change them." At the core of self-acceptance is accepting, without harsh judgement, yourself, your feelings, along with your perceived strengths and weaknesses. Most, if not all of us, have felt joy, happiness, awe, fear, anger, sadness, doubt, etc. It's part of being human, so work to accept them all. We are imperfectly perfect. Self-acceptance doesn't mean we stop learning, growing, and changing. It just means you accept all parts of you as you are, right now in this moment. Even when you are not feeling okay, are struggling, or are in distress ,you still know you are complete and whole. Trust that you are doing the best that you can in any

given moment even when it turns out you went down a path you prefer to not travel. You can always change paths. It's the challenging times that highlight our strengths and show us we won't break. Grief and sadness are part of life but it also shows a person's caring nature, compassion, love, and empathy. If you didn't have these traits, you would not feel sad or grieve. So, self-acceptance and self-awareness are intertwined.

Self-awareness

So, how do we know if we are self-aware? Self-reflection is a good start but

don't get stuck in the "why" of an issue. During this process, having an "ah ha" moment is helpful so we know "why" we continue to make choices that are not the best for us. But falling into the "why" trap can leave us struggling to dig out and we get nowhere but frustrated. Instead, focus on solutions and not the "problem". Veer away from focusing on "why" questions and change to "what questions". For example, let's say through self-reflection/self-awareness, you realize that you continue to choose the same type of partner over and over. It's not an ideal partner

for you. So, finding the root cause is helpful but you don't want to get stuck on the reason why you do this. Instead, focus on what you can do to change it. Reflect on "what you want in a partner" or in a relationship, and "what you will do to get there." "What changes do you need to make." You can't change the past or how you got to where you are but you can accept it and move on. So, focus instead on what you can do and what you can change. When we are self-aware, we also tend to see ourselves and others more clearly. We often become more accepting, compassionate, forgiving,

and less judgmental toward ourselves and others.

Takeaway

You are whole just as you are. If you are not happy or content, then work on self-awareness and self-acceptance. It may result in a much more peaceful existence when you no longer feel pressured to chase something that you were not missing. If you can't get the desired results on your own, find a supportive therapist to help. I hope you find this info helpful but it's not intended to provide advice, diagnose, or treat. Be safe and well!

New surface water values for two additional PFAS chemicals

The Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) has announced that it has established new water quality values (WQVs) for the PFAS compounds, Perfluorohexanesulfonic Acid (PFHxS) and Perfluorononanoic Acid (PFNA). PFHxS and PFNA are members of the larger group of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS).

The new WQVs are the latest to be added to the state's existing list of three PFAS compounds for which values have been established, bringing the total to five. WQVs are designed to protect the designated uses of Michigan's surface waters, including protections for aquatic life and public health.

The agency's Water Resources Division (WRD) determined that sufficient data was available to generate human health WQVs for both PFHxS and PFNA. Following the risk assessment method provided in Rule 323.1057 (Rule 57),

a PFHxS concentration of 210 parts per trillion (ppt; or nanograms per liter) and PFNA concentration of 30 ppt was set for surface water. Concentrations of 59 ppt for PFHxS and 19 ppt for PFNA were established for surface water, specifically protected as a drinking water source.

Aquatic life values for PFHxS and PFNA are currently under development. For PFAS, human health WQVs are significantly lower when compared to aquatic life values and provide a more conservative endpoint with the overall goal of protecting public health. Therefore, the decision was made to move forward with publication of the human health WQVs for PFHxS and PFNA, while the aquatic life values are still being prepared.

The Rule 57 Water Quality Values for Select PFAS (listed in nanograms per liter, which is equivalent to parts per trillion) are listin in the graph.

Water-quality values define the maximum concentration of a chemical

that can be in Michigan's surface waters (lakes, rivers, streams, etc.) without adversely impacting aquatic life, recreational activities, fish consumption, and other beneficial uses. They are also used to help determine limits for discharging pollutants from water treatment plants, industrial and commercial facilities, and other regulated entities.

The human health WQVs are not the same as the PFAS Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs), which apply to drinking water systems. The Michigan PFAS MCLs are intended to apply to public

water systems, protect people from excessive exposure to PFAS substances from the ingestion of finished drinking water, and were derived using methodologies equivalent to the Safe Drinking Water Act.

EGLE will continue to monitor ongoing actions taken by U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and other state agencies related to PFAS. As the science and understanding of PFAS continues to evolve, WRD may issue further updates to Rule 57 PFAS to be protective of both human and environmental health.

PFAS	HNV* (drinking) (µg/L)	HNV* (nondrinking) (µg/L)	FCV* (µg/L)	AMV* (µg/L)	FAV* (µg/L)
PFOS	11	12	140,000	780,000	1,600,000
PFOA	66	170	880,000	7,700,000	15,000,000
PFBS	8,300	670,000	24,000,000	120,000,000	240,000,000
PFHxS**	59	210	-	-	-
PFNA**	19	30	-	-	-
*Human Noncancer Value (HNV), Final Chronic Value (FCV), Aquatic Maximum Value (AMV), Final Acute Value (FAV)					
** New Water Quality Values					
(-) Aquatic Life Values for PFHxS and PFNA are currently under development					

LEGAL NOTICE

STATE OF MICHIGAN PROBATE COURT COUNTY OF KENT

NOTICE TO CREDITORS Decedent's Estate

CASE NO. and JUDGE
23-214282-DE
Court address: 180
Ottawa, NW, Suite 2500,
Grand Rapids, MI 49503
Court Phone no. 616-632-
5440

Estate of Lorrie Baker,
date of birth: 3-17-1951

TO ALL CREDITORS:

NOTICE TO CREDITORS:
The decedent, Lorrie
Baker, died 9-29-2023.
Creditors of the decedent

**are notified that all claims
against the estate will
be forever barred unless
presented to Kevin Baker,
personal representative,
or to both the probate
court at 180 Ottawa Ave
NW, Ste 2500 Grand
Rapids, MI 49503 and the
personal representative
within 4 months after the
date of publication of this
notice.**

November 15, 2023

John D. Mitus (P31244)
410 Bridge Street NW
Grand Rapids, MI 49504
616-774-4001

Kevin Baker
4914 Pine Island Drive
Comstock Park, MI 49321

LEGAL NOTICE

PUBLICATION OF NOTICE OF HEARING STATE OF MICHIGAN

The Probate Court for the
County of Kent

In the matter of Dennis
Murphy, Guardianship
File No. 23-214,239-GA,
Conservatorship File No.
23-214,240-CA.

**TO ALL INTERESTED
PERSONS** including his
daughter, Elisa and any
other children and heirs
whose address(es) is/
are unknown and whose
interest in the matter may
be barred or affected by
the following:

TAKE NOTICE: A hearing
will be held on December
28, 2023, at 9:00 A.M.
at Kent Co. Probate

Court, 180 Ottawa NW,
Grand Rapids, MI 49503
Courtroom 9C in person
and via Zoom before
Judge David M. Murkowski
(P35026) for the following
purpose: Appointment of a
Guardian and Appointment
of a Conservator.

Dated: November 18, 2023

Adult Protective Services,
DHHS, Petitioner,
121 Martin Luther King Jr SE,
Grand Rapids, MI 49507
(616) 258-1182.

VAN ESSEN AND
ASSOCIATES PLLC,
Attys. for Petitioner
by Amanda VanEssen
Wirth (P75001)
109 E. Main St. Suite 11,
Zeeland, MI 49464
Phone (616) 633-0196.

STATE OF MICHIGAN PROBATE COURT COUNTY OF KENT

NOTICE TO CREDITORS Decedent's Estate

CASE NO. and JUDGE
23-213,311-DE
Court address: 180 Ottawa,
NW, Suite 2500, Grand
Rapids, MI 49503
Court Phone no. 616-632-
5440

Estate of Cheryl Rae
DeYoung, Date of birth:
9-16-1945

TO ALL CREDITORS:

NOTICE TO CREDITORS:
The decedent, Cheryl
Rae DeYoung, died 11-
8-22. Creditors of the
decedent are notified

that all claims against
the estate will be forever
barred unless presented
to Cynthia Sager, personal
representative, or to
both the probate court at
180 Ottawa Ave NW, Ste
2500 Grand Rapids, MI
49503 and the personal
representative within 4
months after the date of
publication of this notice.

November 15, 2023

Jennifer M. Racine
(P69709)
2905 Wilson Ave. SW,
Suite 214C
Grandville, MI 49418
616-530-2332

Cynthia Sager
218 Banberry North
Lansing, MI 48906
989-295-0972

LEGAL NOTICE

STATE OF MICHIGAN PROBATE COURT COUNTY OF KENT

NOTICE TO CREDITORS Decedent's Estate

CASE NO. and JUDGE
23-213640-DE
Hon. Judge Rose
Court address: 180 Ottawa
Ave. NW,
Suite 2500,
Grand Rapids, MI 49503
Court phone no. 616-632-
5440

TO ALL CREDITORS:

Estate of Carol Jo Boot,
date of birth: 2/7/1959

NOTICE TO CREDITORS:
The decedent, Carol
Jo Boot, died 6/18/23.
Creditors of the decedent

**are notified that all claims
against the estate will
be forever barred unless
presented to Renee
Busscher, personal
representative, or to
both the probate court at
180 Ottawa Ave NW, Ste
2500 Grand Rapids, MI
49503 and the personal
representative within 4
months after the date of
publication of this notice.**

November 20, 2023

Emily K. Sheridan (P84658)
660 Cascade W Pkwy SE
Suite 70
Grand Rapids, MI 49546
616-285-6050

Renee Busscher
3111 146th Ave.
Dorr, MI 49323
616-329-1036

LEGAL NOTICE

office hours:
Mon.-Thurs. 8 a.m.- 4 p.m.
Closed Fri., Sat. & Sun.

classifieds

for sale

2007 FORD FREESTYLE - 6 passenger, interior & body in great shape, everything works. Asking \$3,500, has 111,000 miles. Call 616-818-9363, Lowell.

NEWSPAPER END ROLLS AVAILABLE AT THE BUYERS GUIDE - Many uses, table cover, art projects, packaging, etc. Usually \$6 - \$9 each. Stop by & grab one today! 105 N. Broadway.

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

for rent

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

PRICELESS STORAGE - Indoor/outdoor. 2 loctions in Lowell. Rent online at www.mypricelessstorage.com or call 616-558-2900.^{TFN}

HALL FOR RENT - Lowell Veteran's Center, 3100 Alden Nash. Newly remodeled, smoke-free, private, great location & great rate! www.VFW8303.org. Jan., Feb, March & April Veterans Potluck at 2 pm on the 2nd Sunday of the month. Call John at 299-0486 or 897-8303.^{TFN EOW}

Subscribe NOW!

Fast & convenient right over the phone with a credit card!

the lowell ledger

897-9261



help wanted

Architectural Designers sought by Woda Cooper Companies Inc. in Grand Rapids, MI to design typical 1-to-3-bedroom units under supervision. Also, participates in Schematic Design and Design Development. Must have relevant education. Send 2 resumes & cover letter to Paige Woda, 500 S Front St, Flr 10, Columbus, OH 43215 REF#8773.013.

BECOME A DIETARY MANAGER in eight months - online program offered by the Tennessee College of Applied Technology at Elizabethton. Details @ www.tcatelizabethton.edu, or email lisa.blackburn@tcatelizabethton.edu

INSERTING CREW MEMBER NEEDED - Part-time Wednesday or Thursday and Friday. Hours are very flexible, but Friday from 7:30 am until about noon is required. Duties include: stuffing inserts into the Buyers Guide. You will be standing for long periods of time & lifting 25 lbs. frequently. Must be at least 18 years old. Stop by the Buyers Guide office to fill out an application. 105 N. Broadway, Lowell. Position available immediately.

misc.

The bathroom of your dreams for as little as \$149/month! BCI Bath & Shower. Many options available. Quality materials & professional installation. Senior & Military Discounts Available. Limited Time Offer - FREE virtual in-home consultation now and SAVE 15%! Call Today! 1-877-957-1264

NEED IT PRINTED?

FROM

SIGNS & BANNERS to BUSINESS CARDS & BOOKLETS and everything in between!!!

CONTACT

Lowell

Litho & Printing

616.897.9261

FOR INFORMATION OR AN ESTIMATE!

LOWELL LITHO

Your Hometown Printer

misc.

Richard & Phyllis (Chaterdon) Bieri are celebrating 70 years of marriage at Schneider Manor. Their family is hosting an Open House Sunday Dec, 3 from 2-4 pm. Your presence will be a treasured gift.

N6 TOWING IS HOLDING A VEHICLE AUCTION - on 11/29/23 at 10 am for abandoned vehicles at 6312 W. Clarksville Rd, Clarksville MI 48815.

Eliminate gutter cleaning forever! LeafFilter, the most advanced debris-blocking gutter protection. Schedule a FREE LeafFilter estimate today. 15% off Entire Purchase. 10% Senior & Military Discounts. Call 1-866-495-1709

Replace your roof with the best looking and longest lasting material steel from Erie Metal Roofs! Three styles and multiple colors available. Guaranteed to last a lifetime! Limited Time Offer 50% off installation + Additional 10% off install (for military, health workers & 1st responders.) Call Erie Metal Roofs: 1-866-718-3124

services

SCANNING SERVICE - Do you need something scanned & emailed? The Buyers Guide now offers this service! Price is \$1 for the first sheet & 50¢ for each additional sheet. Stop by 105 N. Broadway, Mon. - Thurs., 8 - 4 p.m. Ph. 897-9555 with any questions

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

ZOOLAND DAYCARE - has openings for childcare. Call or text for info. 616-308-0195.

WHEN IN AN ACCIDENT - YOU CAN CHOOSE WHO TOWS YOUR VEHICLE - Request J&K Roadwide Service, 616-690-0983. Towing, tire change, jump starts, fuel delivery.

coming events

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

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

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

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. Enter 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 various places for lunch or dinner most Mondays. All are welcome. Questions on location, call Elaine 616-856-8022 for more information.



PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

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

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

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



The Restless Viking
The World Less Traveled
With Chuck & Martha Hayden
www.restless-viking.com

~ Fly Swatter Collection

by Martha Hayden

A collection of fly swatters?!? I haven't given these tools much thought, but when Chuck, my husband, and I entered the Kalamazoo Valley Museum, we were captivated by the display of fly swatters! Some hung from the ceiling in front of three glass cases filled with

the dead fly!" With her rich Dutch accent, she added, "Ever since that moment I was focused on fly swatters." "Splat! The BUZZ About Fly swatters" is on display at the Kalamazoo Valley Museum until Janu-



... did her collection come to Kalamazoo? Iza's connection to Kalamazoo native,



Iza van Riemsdijk, collector of fly swatters. Photo Credit: Kalamazoo Valley Museum.

many styles of these pest controllers. The display featured a woman, Iza van Riemsdijk. This was her collection! Questions bubbled inside me. Why had she started collecting fly swatters? Was she from Kalamazoo? How many are there? I needed to investigate.

How Did Iza begin her collection

On a trip to Japan in 1989, Iza van Riemsdijk had been enthralled by a "soft pink fly swatter in the shape of a butterfly." It had "a little bow tie and a little pincer made of two tiny little wings in the handle." Iza van Riemsdijk had shared with the Kalamazoo Valley Museum staff. "You can pick up the fly," Iza had explained the pincers. "Japanese are very hygienic. Don't touch

ary 7th, 2023. Chuck and I had happened upon the exhibition while we'd been filming a video about Arcadia Creek. Boy, curiosities pop up around every corner!

Iza's collection "It started as a hobby, then a challenge and in the end, it resulted in a unique and very colorful collection." Her vast collection of 3,200 swatters has been accumulated from all over the globe. In the Netherlands a fly swatter is called a "vliegenmepper." In Scandinavian areas "fluesmekker" is the name of the tool and in Germany it's called a, "fliegenklatsche." Iza's oldest "vliegenmepper" is dated back to 1920. But, if Iza is from The Netherlands, how

Elisabeth (Liz) Rohs, had lived as an exchange student with Iza and her family in 1966. Their strong friendship has kept them connected over the decades. They have frequently visited one another. Liz had explained, "Everywhere we went, we looked for fly swatters. It's just a funny thing to go into odd stores and look for fly swatters." On one of Liz's trips to the Netherlands, she had witnessed an amazing display of her friend's fly swatters at a local museum. When Liz returned home she had contacted the Kalamazoo Valley Museum and organized the exhibition of her friend's fly swatters for 2019. Pandemic circumstances had caused the exhibit to be postponed. Recently, after years of waiting, it was fi-



Older flyswatters had been made from animal tails and horse hair. (Left). (Right) Various styles of fly swatters were standing proudly at the museum.

nally time for Iza and her husband, Nico, to bring the collection to the states. This wasn't an easy task . . .

Getting through customs

Iza and her husband, Nico, had traveled from the Netherlands, bringing 1,250 swatters, I learned from a Second Wave article. Nico had raised his brow about going through customs. "'Well, 1,250 fly swatters,' and they asked us, 'Can you give the country of origin of each fly swatter?' Well, we didn't do that, it's impossible," He told Fran Dwight.

Then the officials inspected the flywhisks made from African and South American animals' tails. "What animals are they from?" I imagine an officer cocking an eyebrow. "Not ones from endangered species?" After some time, Iza and Nico along with their collection of fly swatters, were allowed to pass through. "It gave a little delay," Nico had nodded.

Iza had said, "The Kalamazoo Valley Museum will be famous. It will be famous in the Netherlands because I am the first Dutch woman going with fly swatters to the United States!"

and "The Fly Bat." Over a half million had been sold. In 1905 Samuel Crumbine, secretary of the Kansas Board of Health, had attended a baseball game and heard the fans cheering, "SWAT THE FLY!" He used the slogan on his health campaign posters against the "unwelcomed guests"; flies.

North American Health Campaigns

Soon other states adopted the slogan, "SWAT THE FLY." The term "fly swatter" had become a household name.

As I continued clicking on links about flies, I was stunned to read about a 1912 Toronto fly swatting competition by their health department. The \$200 prize money would be distributed among the top contenders, during the summer contest.

As one of ten children, 15 year old, Beatrice White, had hoped to use the funds for music lessons. She diligently baited the flies with a piece of liver tucked inside a box, which had a cloth, doused in insect powder, laid over it. She had caught over 500,000 flies and won first prize of \$50.00. Nearby, Elva Baill, had collected over 200,000 flies from a manure pile and earned

Other methods of capturing a fly The Tanglefoot Company, based in Grand Rapids, had developed sticky fly tape, which trapped the pests. Check out Chuck's YouTube video on our website: www.restless-vickiing.com

A few have taken the stance that killing flies is wrong and have developed live traps so the bugs can be set free in outdoor surrounds. In fact, a live trap was exactly what The White House was sent, following President Obama's infamous 'Hand-Slap Killing' of a fly which had happened on live television in 2009.

The President kills a fly

During a CNBC interview, President Obama killed a fly with his bare hands, triumphantly exclaiming, "I got the sucker!" PETA was less gleeful, calling it a public "execution" and sending the White House a device that traps flies so that they may be set free.

Pondering

Flies and their nemesis, fly swatters, have both survived this awkward duality for more than a century. It's been a curious journey div-



Iza and Nico van Riemsdijk. Photo Credit: Second Wave Southwest Michigan.

Fly swatter History – Flabellum Pharaohs, about 3,000 years ago, used animal tails called 'Heka,' 'Ekhakha' or 'Flabellum', to swat at flies. The name 'Flabellum' had referred to the celestial ox who carried special power. These ox-tail tools had only been used by royalty.

How did the fly swatter earn its name?

In the early 1900's, Robert R. Montgomery, who had lived in Decatur, Illinois, had patented the modern day "fly killer." The netting was the key. It permitted airflow as the "fly killer" was whipped at the enemy insect. "It kills without crushing" and "soils nothing" was the 1901 Ladies' Home Journal advertisement. These devices were soon marketed as "King Fly Killers"

second place, \$20.00. I am sitting here cringing at the thought of kids picking flies off poison-covered liver and a mounding manure pile. I'm also curious about the remaining \$130.00 and how it had been distributed. Beatrice did report that her father had, sadly, taken charge of her prize money.

The patent gets improved

After having produced over a half million King Flykillers, the United States Wire Mat Company, headed by John L. Bennett, purchased the patent in 1903 and improved the design. By stitching around the perimeter of the netting, the weight and durability had increased. Plus, the swatter was found to have more of a 'snap' when used.

ing into the realm. Thank you for coming along! Iza has sparked curiosity in all of us. Each fly swatter holds a story, as does the history of defeating the pesky bugs. Thank you, Iza van Riemsdijk, for sharing your passion and your collection! Your life-long friendship with Liz is precious and a model for us all. Liz, thank you for organizing this exhibition! It will be at Kalamazoo Valley Museum until January 7th. Check it out!

Resources : The New York Times article 2012 "Who Made The Fly swatter?" By Hope Reeves Second Wave Southwest Michigan article, by Fran Dwight, published on Thursday, July 20, 2023 Wire Cloth website From The Thing: Fly swatter 1912 Competition article

FUN PAGE

SUDOKU

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

Level: Advanced

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!

TURKEY DAY WORD SEARCH

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

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

Puzzle solutions
on page 13

TURKEY DAY
WORD SEARCH

APPLE PIE
BISCUITS
BRINE
CASSEROLE

CIDER
CORNBREAD
CORNUCOPIA
DINNER
ENTERTAIN
FAMILY
FRIENDS

FULL
GRACIOUS
GRATITUDE
GRAVY
GREEN BEANS
HOLIDAY
MEAL

OVEN
SOUP
STUFFING
THANKSGIVING
TURKEY
YAMS

Guess Who?

I am an actress born in Washington, DC on November 24, 1978. As a child I appeared in a TV commercial for Cheerios. I gained fame playing a doctor on a popular show, which earned me a Primetime Emmy Award. I also have been in many different movies, particularly rom-coms.

Answer: Katherine Heigl

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

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to Thanksgiving.

A R T O S

--	--	--	--	--

Answer: Roast

- CLUES ACROSS
1. Nocturnal S. American rodent

5. Requesting

11. Give temporarily

12. Happiness

16. Military branch

17. -, denotes past

18. Middle Eastern city

19. Air hostesses

24. Partner to Pa

25. Percussion instrument

26. Popular computers

27. Decrease light

28. Valley in the Osh Region

29. "To ___ his own"

30. Absence of difficulty

31. Notice announcing intended marriage read out in church

33. Trims by cutting

34. Impact

38. Military member

39. A French river

40. Member of prehistoric people in Mexico

43. Messenger ribonucleic acid

44. Musician Clapton

45. Greek sophist

49. Largest English dictionary (abbr.)

50. Narrow valley
51. A way to disentangle

53. Indicates not an issue (abbr.)

54. Recommending

56. Genus of legumes

58. Friend to Larry and Curly

59. Off-Broadway theater award

60. Fencers

63. Small Eurasian deer

64. Denoting passerine birds

65. Separate by category
- CLUES DOWN
1. Colorless fluid part of blood

2. Of a main artery

3. Photographic equipment

4. Confirms a point

5. Developed over time

6. Not the leader

7. ___ Lang (country singer)

8. Adults need one

9. Nests of pheasants

10. Antelopes

13. One quintillion bytes (abbr.)

14. Japanese three-stringed lute

15. Type of cat

20. Cools your home

21. The ancient Egyptian sun god

22. Pouches
23. Trigraph

27. Form of Persian spoken in Afghanistan

29. ___ route

30. Body part

31. Bridge building degree

32. Indicates position

33. Political action committee

34. Tasty snack

35. Part of a quadruped

36. Locate

37. Pitching statistic

38. Of I

40. City in Utah

41. Football players in the trenches

42. Hammer is one

44. A "nightmarish" street

45. Performers

46. Slang for cut or scrape

47. More breathable

48. Most slick

50. Provokes

51. Home to college's Flyers

52. Sodium

54. Large fish of mackerel family

55. Zero

57. ___ and behold

61. The Palmetto State

62. Popular Tom Cruise movie franchise (abbr.)

Michigan may bring back its blue and black, retro cool, license plates



“Water-Winter Wonderland” not your thing? Legislation pending in the Michigan Senate would resurrect two other classic license plate options for drivers to choose from along with more modern designs.

The legislation, sponsored by Sen. Mallory McMorrow, D-Royal Oak, would bring back the longstanding blue “Great Lakes” plate that was issued from 1983 to 2007, as well as a shorter-lived black “Great Lake State” plate used from 1979 to 1983.

The effort builds off of the release of 1960s-inspired “Water-Winter Wonderland” plates, based on the maize and blue models issued to all Michigan drivers between 1965 and 1968. They have sold more than 1.1 million since their re-release in 2022, McMorrow told lawmakers Tuesday.

Drivers can get the “Water-Winter Wonderland” plates for the same price as other standard options, \$5 plus the cost of annual registration fees. Other collector plate options include an additional charge that benefits universities, nonprofits or American veterans, depending on the plate.

Under McMorrow’s bill, introduced in coordination with Michigan’s Department of State, the two new legacy

plates would cost \$100 — and instead of donating the extra money to a cause, the funds would go to the Michigan Transportation Fund for road repairs.

McMorrow said the proposal would create “a unique way for drivers to accessorize their car, celebrate our car culture and help us fix our roads by generating potentially millions of dollars of additional revenue without raising taxes.”

McMorrow told lawmakers that she’d be willing to negotiate the \$100 fee to maximize the number of drivers who would make the switch. But she said it’s a hot topic among her constituents.

“I’ve had countless conversations with car enthusiasts over the past few years who saw this bill in the news and want to know, more than anything else we’re working on: ‘When can I get the blue plate?’” she said.

Sen. Ed McBroom, R-Vulcan, suggested during the hearing that the state could take an alternative route: bring the blue plate back for good as the standard plate option.

“I’m just saying, why not keep the specialty plates whatever they want, but do away with the other state standard plates and just go back to this plate?” he asked.

Michigan’s Department of State could incur additional costs if the proposed legacy registration

plates were approved, according to an analysis from the nonpartisan Senate Fiscal Agency. The agency also noted it’s not clear what exactly the money could be used for once it hit the Michigan Transportation Fund.

The legislation remains pending before the Senate Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, and would need to pass both the Senate and House and be signed by Gov. Gretchen Whitmer to become law.



Michigan drivers could once again get the longstanding blue “Great Lakes” plate that was issued from 1983 to 2007 or the black “Great Lake State” plate used from 1979 to 1983. (Courtesy)

5 fun facts about the month of November

Americans celebrate Thanksgiving each November, thus kicking off a holiday season that lasts until January 1. Though many see November as the start to a festive time of year, there’s even more interesting and fun facts about the eleventh month of the year.

1. Like various other months on the calendar, November has something of a misleading name. November gets its name from the Latin word “novem,” which means “nine.” But today November is the eleventh month of the year. So is November a misnomer? Not exactly. November was the ninth month on the early Roman calendar. However, when the Gregorian calendar

was adopted and the Julian calendar was abandoned, November kept its name if not its spot in the monthly pecking order. Hence, November is still known as “November” even though it’s now the eleventh month of the year and not the ninth.

2. If October goes out with ghouls and goblins on Halloween, which is celebrated on October 31, November begins a little more piously. That’s because November 1 is All Saints’ Day, a Christian solemnity, or feast day, that honors of the saints of the Christian church.

3. November is a significant month in world history. On November 11, 1918, at 5:45 a.m., an armistice was signed between the Allied Powers and Germany at Compiègne, France. The signing of the armistice ended hostilities on the Western Front, thus putting an end to World War I, which had begun more than four years earlier. The signing of the armistice ultimately led to the observance of Armistice Day on November 11,

1919. Armistice Day was subsequently renamed Remembrance Day and Americans celebrate Veterans Day on November 11. Both Remembrance Day and Veterans Day honor military personnel who

a symbol of honor and strength.

5. Upon his inauguration as President of the United States in 2021, Joe Biden became the sixth U.S. president with a November birthday. That



November 11, 1918 Armistice ends World War I. Photo courtesy of thenation.com

served honorably in times of war, conflict and peace.

4. Topaz is the traditional birthstone of November. According to the Farmer’s Almanac, the ancient Greeks believed topaz could make anyone who wore it invisible. Though that idea no longer holds water, topaz remains

tied November with July as the months with the most presidential birthdays. In addition to President Biden, Presidents James K. Polk, Zachary Taylor, Franklin Pierce, James A. Garfield, and Warren G. Harding were all born in November.

christmas toy store
& food basket

FROM
FLAT RIVER
OUTREACH MINISTRIES

This free program at FROM (Flat River Outreach Ministries) provides families an opportunity to shop for new presents for their children (infant -18 years old) and a Christmas meal with all the fixings.

Register
November 1 - December 1
(QR Code, Online or by phone)

www.fromlowell.org/christmas-distribution
616-897-8260

This opportunity is open to those living in the Lowell Area School District. Learn more online or by phone.

spread
christmas joy

Donate new toys and gifts for the free Christmas Toy Store event at FROM (Flat River Outreach Ministries)

Please drop all gifts off by December 6 to FROM!

FROM
FLAT RIVER
OUTREACH MINISTRIES

11535 Fulton St E
Lowell, MI 49331
fromlowell.org

Stop by our office to grab a Christmas Tree tag, OR shop our Amazon Wishlist by visiting: <https://a.co/cfYu2QV>