

Issue February 2018

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Showboat Update

Plans for rebuilding the city icon begin

Last January, the Showboat closed to the public due to reasons concerning safety. Plans are starting to come together to replace the current vessel with a new boat, to be officially named the Lowell Showboat.

A \$1 million grant from the State of Michigan, for the Showboat, was secured by Senator Dave Hildenbrand last year, in addition to \$130,000 raised by Lowell Rotary and \$10,000 through the

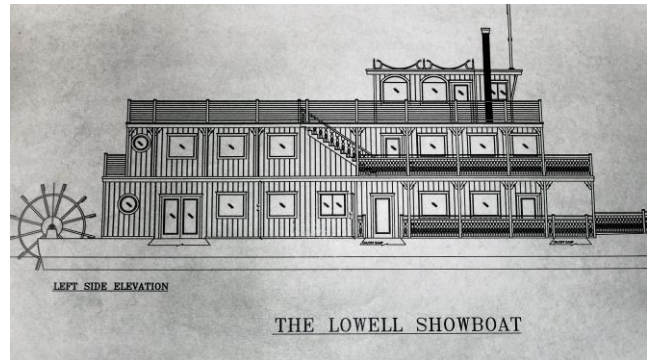
Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce fundraising. Approximately \$1.1 million has been raised so far to fund the rebuilding of the Lowell Showboat. An anticipated \$1.5 million is expected to be needed for building the new boat. Additional fundraising efforts will continue.

A conceptual design (photo above) has been created by the Rebuild the Showboat Committee. Blueprints need to be approved by an engineer, then the search for a builder will begin. The plan drafted by the committee could change slightly once a builder is found.

Currently, it is anticipated the new Showboat will be made of materials allowing for long-term care. The majority of the floor space will be enclosed and protected from the elements. Electricity, heat, and air conditioning will allow for year-round use. Ramps to board the boat and an elevator will allow wider access to the public.

Elements from the current boat will likely not be used in rebuilding as previously thought. Portions of the boat could be auctioned off to help with fundraising efforts. Some components will also be donated to the Lowell Area Historical Museum.

Building of the new boat will take place off site, but assembly will occur in its permanent location. The new boat will float, but will remain stationary. It will take 6 to 9 months to be completed once construction begins.



Senior Neighbors Offers Lunch and Activities

Those 60+, in the Lowell community, are invited to participate in activities and lunch daily during the week at Senior Neighbors. The facility, located at 314 S. Hudson, is open 8:30 am – 2:00 pm Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. Tuesday Hours are 8:30 am – 12:30 pm. Lunch is served at noon each day for a suggested donation of \$2.75.

Keeping active, having fun, offering social activities, and providing useful information to those maturing in age, is the goal of the organization. For more information about activities and programs, call 616-897-5949 or visit www.seniorneighbors.org.

LCTV Grant Applications Due

The Lowell Cable Television fund is currently accepting applications from non-profit organizations to help fund projects, which enhance the quality of life in the area and benefit a broad segment of the community. Applications can be found at City Hall, Englehardt Library, the School Administration building, and our website at www.ci.lowell.mi.us. The following schedule outlines important dates for applications and consideration of the board.

- Feb. 9th - Applications are due
- Feb. 16th - Applications are made available to the Board
- Feb 28th/7:00 pm - Board meets to review and possibly finalize recommended projects
- March 6th/7:00pm - Follow-up meeting if needed

Let it Snow with Englehardt Library

The adult winter reading program at Englehardt Library is underway. Those who read a minimum of six books will receive a mug. If an additional four books are read or listened to, the participant will be entered into a drawing to win an iPad (winner selected from all KDL branches).

The winter reading program ends Saturday, March 31.

Reading progress can be tracked online or on paper by picking up a form at the branch or downloading one online. February is for library lovers! Patrons can enter to win a book basket. The drawing will take

February Meetings

Feb. 3	at 8:00 am	Coffee with Council
Feb. 5	at 5:50 pm	Committee of the Whole
	at 7:00 pm	Lowell City Council Meeting
Feb. 8	at 12:00 pm	Downtown Development Authority
	at 6:00 pm	Lowell Light & Power Board
Feb. 12	at 12:00 pm	Arbor Board
	at 3:30 pm	Fire Authority
	at 7:00 pm	Planning Commission
Feb. 14	at 6:00 pm	Lowell Area Recreation Authority
	at 7:00 pm	Airport Board
Feb. 20	at 6:00 pm	Parks and Recreation Commission
	at 7:00 pm	Lowell City Council Meeting
Feb. 27	at 6:00 pm	Historic District Commission

place at the end of the month. All books available for sale in the Book Nook are half off throughout February.

Lowell Area Chamber's Annual Awards

This year's awards will be handed out February 15th to the following recipients.

Person of the Year Award

Betsy Davidson

Business Appreciation Award

Greenridge Realty

Best Business to Watch

GlessBoards and Painted Turtle Hard Cider

Most Promising New Business

Mi Hometown Furnishings

Non-Profit Spotlight

LowellArts

Brick Awards

Arrowhead Golf Course, Big Boiler Brewing, Curtis Laundry & Dry Cleaners, Poultry Management Systems, and Ronda Auto Center

Notice of Public Review

The Parks and Recreation Commission has issued a draft of their five year Recreation Master Plan for public review. A public hearing regarding the plan will take place Tuesday, February 20th during the City Council Meeting.

The Lowell Area Recreation Authority has also issued a draft Recreation Plan for a 30 day public review. A public hearing will take place in late February.

Copies of both of these documents are available online at the city website, at City Hall and Englehardt Library.

Litehouse Job Openings

Litehouse currently has positions open for their Lowell Facility. If you are interested in learning about possible career opportunities at Litehouse, please go to www.litehousefoods.com/careers. Litehouse prides itself on being a 100% Employee Owned Company.