Jim Salzwedel

Council Member Jim Salzwedel, is from Columbus, in a small town north of Madison, about the size as Lowell, but he's been in Michigan since 1968 since 2006. "Even though I was born there," said, "this is definitely my home." He is a Lowell native who grew up on 3rd Street. They have three children, six grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

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

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

During Salzwedel's tenure on the City Council, he's proud of the great start the team has made addressing road repair. Salzwedel has no problem with the prevalence of marijuana dispensaries make the buildings look beautiful, the taxes from the industry pay for the roads, and there has not been a significant spike in crime. As for the fact that there are so many marijuana dispensaries in town, Salzwedel believes that the market will eventually limit them.

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

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

So far, he's always trusted by his peers on the council for his attention to detail, which he explains as a side-effect of working in the security business. His process, however, is simple. He reads the agenda for each meeting, and not every meeting, and he tries to pick out details and questions he believes are relevant to the general public. When the city became interested in purchasing潸ock cameras, Salzwedel went the extra mile — what he calls his "due diligence" — and reached out to contacts at the Wyoming Police Department, who have used them for some time now.

In his next term, Salzwedel wishes to figure out a plan to make the downtown 501C3 addressable, fix the playground at Creekside Park, develop Recreation Park, and find room in the budget for more full-time police officers.

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

Shane was not as concerned with the so-called vulgarity of the Lowell Pride event. Though the event was advertised as family-friendly, the children who attended, did so with the instruction that they are not to tell their children about what they saw. In general, she believes that Pride is an important economic opportunity for the community, and she has LGBTQ+ family members who value having a safe place to live in the Lowell community. Her main concern with the event is the issue of private security instead of the Lowell Police Department.

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

According to gossip, Shane is uninterested in selling Lowell Light & Power, and she met with the utility's general manager, Charlie West, to make this clear. She also believes that the way to go is not to renegotiate because it's not currently working.

"I want you to know that my heart is not in this race for politico's sake," said. "It's fueled by a sense of greatest good our community into the home and a need for a genuine care for the health and well-being of every person who resides here.

Shane's email address is info@sharonshah.info, website is SharonShah,info, and Facebook page is Sharon Shah for Lowell City Council.

Kent District Library asks for millage renewal with a twist

By Griff Yardock contributing writer

Remember to get out and vote on Tuesday, November 7th. One of the important items on the ballot this time will be a millage request from the Kent District Library (KDL). The "twist" in this millage request from them is that they are actually looking for less money than taxpayers. Yes, you read it correctly — the request of 1.11 mills is actually 0.9 percent less than the current millage we are all paying to sustain our library system in Kent County, which includes the Rockford Branch in Lowell and the Alto Library in Alto.

What makes this even easier to vote in favor of is the fact that the slightly higher millage being paid currently will go by as to be knocked off the place until December 31, 2024. However, the KDL has promised to lower the effective rate on January 1, 2024 if the millage effort passes.

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

Those who do not take advantage of the many products and services available at any of the 20 branches, might be thinking, "Well, they should lower the millage rate, no one goes to the library anymore, anyway." Nothing could be further from the truth. KDL saw the addition of more than 7,000 new cardholders last year. They also recorded a stunning increase of their electronic attendance numbers when they added up all of the people who accessed the library through their various programs and outreach.

At this point, it is hard to remember that KDL is not only bigger than just our Lowell and Alto branches. KDL operates twenty-six locations, an Express Library (located in the Grinnell Township HAC with the intention of building a full-time branch in that township soon), a bookmobile, and the main Service Center. In total, KDL has more than 5,000 programs every year, along with a variety of other services, and in case you have not been to the library in a while, we asked District Manager, Jan. "For example, about everything KDL has to offer.

The library offers programs at various times during the week. We offer a Beyond Books Collection, where you can borrow books for different hobbies, cats, dogs, and more. We offer a variety of video games, Nintendo switches, video games, star-gazing binoculars, a nighttime telescope, a portable projector and screen for presentations or family movie nights," she responded. "The "library also provides online digital resources, so everyone has access to our resources, for language learning, Linked In for job skills, Scholastic Tagkables for teachers and homeschoolers, and so much more. Most importantly, the library is not a place in the community where everyone is welcome. You can do research on any topic, like books, GOs, We have a play space for young kids, a teen zone for activities for everyone, and a library for further all people, and it's fun to place to visit and get involved."
ROGERS
Steven Patrick Rogers, age 55 of Lowell, passed away Wednesday, October 11, 2023. He was preceded in death by his brother, Gordon "Donny" Rogers. Steven is survived by his father, Gordon (Nancy) Rogers; mother, Laura Allison; brother, Alex Ellison; sisters, Kathy Corcoran Patricia Ellison; and long time friend Roger Stauffer. Steven had a heart larger than life especially for children and a genuine passion for making a positive impact on their lives. His commitment to spreading joy was evident through his dedicated support of Toys for Tots each Christmas, ensuring that underprivileged children had a reason to smile during the holiday season. He also enjoyed the thrill of football, cars, and car racing, finding joy and excitement in these passions. Steven's infectious enthusiasm and boundless love for both his community and the things he cherished will be deeply missed by his parents and friends. Memorial contributions can be made to Toys for Tots at grand-rapids-mi.toysfortots.org.

LARKIN
Josephine (Josie) Larkin, born on May 22, 1946, in Terrasini, Sicily, passed away peacefully on October 17, 2023, surrounded by her loved ones. She graduated from Catholic Central High School in 1964. Josie was a beloved wife, mother, sister, grandmother, great grandmother & friend. Josie leaves behind the love of her life, Stephen Larkin, they had 57 wonderful years together. She also leaves behind her daughters, Patricia (Dave Pearce) and Julia (Richard) Dodge; her grandchildren, Steven (Gabbii) Krause, Brittany Larkin, Dylan Dodge, Rachel Dodge, John Pearce, Melanie Peare, Dennis Pearce; and great grandchildren, Amiyah, Bailey, Lines, Brody & Gianna. Josie always made it a priority to be there for her friends & family. Whether it was Sunday dinners, the kids sporting events, class reunions, or birthday parties, she was happy to be there supporting her loved ones. She enjoyed traveling with her husband Steve, seeing many countries and fabulous locations around the world. She was the backbone of the family-owned restaurant for many years, preparing delicious food. Not only did she cook restaurant, but she also especially enjoyed cooking for family. She also loved watching movies, reading books, going to the beach, going to the casino, but most of all, she loved spending quality time with her friends and family. She was a lover and supporter of all animals, especially cats, and she leaves behind her newest baby kitty Cannoli, whom she loved. In Josie’s own words, she had “a great life, a great love, and great family.” She will be missed by so many. Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 11 am on November 3, 2023 at Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Catholic Church, 0360 Belmont Ave NE, Belmont, MI 49006, with visitation at 10 am. A luncheon will follow Mass.

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

July 28, 1898
Clarence tells Lowell readers that hometown boy, Maurice Lang, was in the hospital but had lost track of him. Other than Lang, he says all of the Lowell boys are well. September 8, 1898, brought the news all of Lowell had been waiting to hear. "Soldier Boys Home" the headline shouted.

Lowell rejoiced as none of the hometown boys had been lost in the war. Businesses decorated in red, white and blue, and all the people turned out in hundreds to greet the returning heroes as the Lowell & Hastings train arrived. There was music by the band, firing of guns and shouts of the people. Four were on the train, Clarence Long, Hayes Rolf, Bert Fennig and Sherman Reynolds. Ullman Hawk had arrived home 60 days before quite sick. Nonetheless, he greeted the others and shared in the reception. The band led the way to Island Park, south of Main Street, and an impromptu program was carried out. There was patriotic music, speeches, and then, despite the weakened state of the soldiers, the people proceeded to shake all of their hands. Morris Lang and Charles Dickenson were in the hospital but were expected home soon. Robert Jones from the 32nd regiment was ill in a Detroit hospital.

Many of these new veterans participated in groups such as the American Legion and the United Spanish War Veterans Camps, continuing to serve and support their fellow veterans and preserve the memories of their service in this little-known war.

KDL Millage, continued

Lowell staff works to tailor the offerings here, based on responses and interest expressed by area residents. The best way to familiarize yourself with everything available at the Englehardt branch, as well as all the other locations, is to spend some time at the website: www.KDL.org. Lardie continued, "The Beyond Books Collection is extremely popular with our patrons. The most checked-out item is the Verizon WiFi Hotspots. These allow people without internet to have access in their homes for up to four months. Another desirable item is the PerkPass. This pass allows limited, free visits to various venues, such as Fredrick Meijer Gardens, Grand Rapids Art Museum, the Children’s Museum and even the YMCA."

To recap: you can become a member of KDL for free. Once you are a member, you can take advantage of a myriad of services, devices, and even visits to some of the area’s great museums, for free. To further sweeten the pot, once you are a card-carrying member of KDL, you can receive emails that will update you on programs and events. You can also make your voice heard by letting KDL know what type of interests you and your family enjoy and would love to see at your favorite local branch.

We asked Lardie to provide us with some numbers, regarding the Lowell branch as your favorite method to According to him, in 2022, Englehardt/ Lowell patrons checked-out 164,297 physical items, 53,226 digital items like movies and ebooks. In-person program attendance is setting new records, with 4,456 people attending in-person programs so far this year—that’s 44 percent more than attended in all of 2022. There was a total of 61,890 in-person visits last year.

Hopefully, what you have read here will dispel any thought that the taxpayers who support the KDL library system are not getting a return on their investment. Even in this highly digital age, without dependence on screens of every kind, the demand for what the libraries offer is on the rise from year-to-year. If you have any further questions about the millage, please call the Lowell branch at your favorite method to access the internet and go to www.kdl.org/millage.