



May 2016

### City Council

Jeff Altoft, Mayor  
Mike DeVore, Mayor Pro Tem  
James Hodges, Councilmember  
Jeff Phillips, Councilmember  
Alan Teelander, Councilmember

### City Hall

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### Police Department

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### Police Chief

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## Fly on in Lowell Airport's FBO is taking off

In late 2014, a new airport manager came on board with a fresh perspective and new ideas. Since then, the Lowell Airport has continued to grow.

Casey Brown is no stranger to the Lowell flying community. He grew up in Lowell and has been involved with the airport community since he was approximately 10 years old. Now, Brown serves as Airport Manager for the airport owned and operated by the City of Lowell.

Under Brown's leadership, the airport has expanded and is flourishing. The flying community is very down-to-earth, social, supportive and ready to fly anywhere just for the fun of it. The community really makes the airport, since it runs primarily with volunteers. If something needs to be done, a group will always pitch in to make it happen. This helps keep costs down and allows the airport to remain self-sustaining.

Revenue is generated from rental of hangar space, sales of items and fuel, services and events. No taxpayer revenue is needed for the operation of the airport. Our volunteers, including Brown, make that possible.

With the social nature of the flying community, Brown brought the annual Fall Fly-In back to Lowell. Last fall saw the first fly-in here in many years. There were 49 airplanes and more than 300 people served for the pancake breakfast. It was a

wonderful community awareness and fundraising event, which will be repeated in the months and years to come. Keep an eye on the Community Calendar for details.



This year a new Fixed Base Operator was brought on board to serve the local flying public. Larry Bauer has more than 20 years experience as a mechanic at the Sparta airport. He can work on a wide variety of aircraft to help the local flying community. In fact, he has become a draw for pilots from other airports, including Sparta, that come here to have him maintain and repair their aircraft.

"Bauer is a great guy with an amazing attitude to help others. He is a real asset to the Lowell Airport and we are lucky the timing worked out nicely to bring him on board," said Brown.

The best part about the success of the Lowell Airport is the impact it has on the community as a whole. Local pilots, transient pilots and folks flying in from other communities make their way into town for dinner, events and shopping before they return to the skies. This helps our local businesses improving our community for all of us.

Thank you, Casey and Larry, for bringing your hard work, positive approach and clientele to our community. Both of you and the Lowell Airport are assets we need to get to know better.

## Orange Barrels come & go

Great news! By the time you read this, the MDOT sidewalk project should be complete with just a few exceptions. This project is just one more step to make Lowell an even more walkable community for all of our residents and visitors.

Main at Hudson is getting a right turn lane added to the eastbound lanes. This includes utility work as well, so it will take a couple more weeks.

Utility work is involved with projects at Main and Washington, S. Monroe, N. Monroe, Riverside and at the crosswalk near the river. These projects are expected to be completed by mid-May.

Finally, the Main Street “mill & fill” project happening at night should be done in mid-May in the downtown section. This project stretches from the county line to Valley Vista.

The best part is that the downtown section should be done well before the Memorial Day holiday. The parade will go on as planned followed by a memorial service at the cemetery. If you have questions, call City Hall.

## Celebrate with a bang!

With warm weather come outdoor celebrations. At times, those celebrations happen with fireworks.

In the City of Lowell, the current ordinance limits personal use of fireworks to holidays, the day prior and the day following a holiday. This totals 30 days each year. If you are using firecrackers, cones and other items outside of the specified days, you are in violation of the ordinance. So celebrate those holidays, just remember the limits. Your neighbors will appreciate your courtesies.

## Pedal power!

Bicycling season is here and lots of folks are hitting the streets

for fun, fitness and commuting. This is a great time for a refresher on the rules.

In Michigan, bicycles have all the same rights and responsibilities of the road as a motor vehicle. State law requires bicycles to follow all the rules of the road. This includes stopping at all stop signs and stop lights, signaling turns, and passing only when it is safe to do so. Bicycles can ride side-by-side in the road and do not have to yield the road to traffic from behind.

City ordinance prohibits bicycles from using the public sidewalk. This applies in neighborhoods, at intersections and along Main Street.

Cars, trucks and motorcycles need to remember that bicycles have a right to the road and should be treated like any other vehicle. Even where a bike lane is available, a bicyclist still has the right to use the road.

A few tips that can help the season pass safely: Drivers, keep your eyes open for even the smallest vehicles on the road. Bicyclists, pay attention to what is happening around you, because even if you are right, in a collision you lose.

A little courtesy can make a difference. Drivers, don't ride closer to a bicycle than you would if it were your loved one was on that bike. Bicyclists, realize that you are blocking traffic and look for opportunities to remedy the situation.

Enjoy the season and pedal on!

## Be the change!

If you want to get involved and make a difference in your community, we need volunteers. There is one opening on a board.

- Lowell Light & Power Board

If you are interested in getting involved, contact City Hall.



### May Meetings

May 2, 7:00 p.m. City Council  
May 4, 4:00 p.m. Look Fund Committee  
May 5, 12:00 p.m. Downtown Development Authority  
May 9, 12:00 p.m. Arbor Board  
3:30 p.m. Fire Authority  
7:00 p.m. City Planning Commission  
May 11, 4:00 p.m. Look Fun Committee  
6:00 p.m. Lowell Area Recreation Authority  
7:00 p.m. Airport Board  
May 12, 12:00 p.m. Downtown Development Authority  
6:00 p.m. Lowell Light & Power Board  
May 16, 3:30 p.m. Fire Authority  
7:00 p.m. City Council  
May 17, 6:00 p.m. Parks & Recreation Authority  
May 18, 4:00 p.m. Look Fund Committee  
May 24, 6:00 p.m. Lowell Historic District Commission