



Issue August 2017

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Historically Pleasing

Historic District Commission Helps Maintain Downtown

The Historic District Commission (HDC) was established in 1996. The group oversees permit applications and grant applications for buildings within Lowell's historic district. Due to their age, buildings in the historic district need frequent repair, upkeep, and maintenance. These grants help preserve the historic look of the downtown area and add economic value by helping property owners keep buildings looking nice.

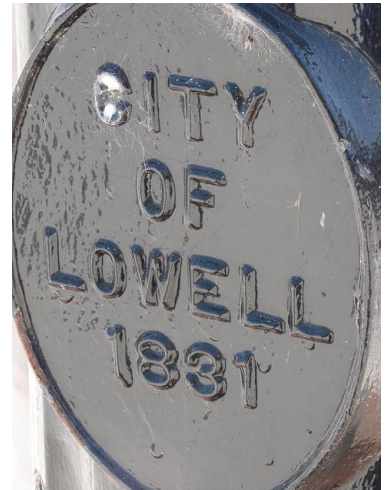
Building owners wishing to change the exterior of a building must submit a permit application and receive approval from the board before any work begins.

Following design guidelines the board ensures buildings in the district can be updated while keeping basic designs and colors from their history.

The HDC applies for funds from the Lowell Area Community Fund whenever they are low on funds. Applications are due in April, August, and December of each year. Typically \$50,000 is requested when applying. In April, they received \$25,000. Monies received are then used to help those occupying buildings in the historic district with repair and upkeep of building exteriors. With many property owners taking advantage of available grant money the commission will apply for additional funding in August.

Property owners are able to request grant money from the HDC any time throughout the year. If approved 30% of the project cost will be paid for by the committee. Every couple of years, property owners receive letters offering 50% summer grants not to exceed \$5,000.

During their July meeting, the HDC approved new signage for headquarters of the North Country Trail. The sign will indicate the group is part of the National Park Service and hang from an existing pole along the sidewalk. The group also approved store front renovations for Rookies. Grant applications for painting were approved for three businesses and one for painting and brick repair.



Curfew Ordinance

The city has rules when it comes to how late minors can be out each night. Parents can help by reviewing the curfew ordinance (#13-197).

A person shall not loiter, congregate, remain in or upon any street for the hours listed below:

- a. Persons 11 years old and under: 9:30pm-6am
- b. Persons 15 years old and under: 10pm-6am
- c. Persons 16 years old and under: 11pm-6am
- d. Exceptions:
 - a. When accompanied by a parent or legal guardian
 - b. When returning home by the most direct route from a school, church, or community activity within 30 min of the termination of the event
 - c. When going to or returning from lawful employment by the most direct route and with 30 minutes before or after the employment
 - d. In cases of an emergency

Consequences of a curfew violation: Parents called to pick up the kids. The kids can be petitioned into juvenile court for the violation

August Concert to Raise Funds to Rebuild the Showboat

The Summer Concert Series will wind down in August. A special Friday concert will end the season.

On Friday, August 25 from 6pm-10pm the Lowell Showboat Sizzlin’ Summer Concert stage will be the focal point for the evening’s entertainment. The Preservers, Josh Rose, Time Hungry, Upstage Crew, and Alive & Well and The Adams Family: Together will perform.

The concert is free of charge however donations will be collected for efforts to rebuild the Showboat. Concessions will be available and a beer and cocktail garden will be open. Both will offer items from Lowell eateries and breweries.

Pink Arrow Community Day

This year’s Pink Arrow t-shirt will be revealed for the first time on Thursday, August 17 from 10am-7pm. Stop by the Farmers’ Market and stay for the performance by Olivia Manville & the Aquatic Troupe starting at 7pm.

The day’s events will take place along the Riverwalk. Come and enjoy a free lunch or dinner off the grill. There will be activities for kids and health activities. The Cabus will give

away ice cream for the first 300 people. Afterward it will be \$2 while supplies last.

Michigan Blood will donate \$10 to Gilda’s Club of Lowell for every person who signs up to give blood during Community Day. New this year Betty Ford Breast Care Services will perform mammograms for qualified patients. Call 616-267-2626 to schedule an appointment.

And of course don’t forget to purchase your Pink Arrow t-shirt. It’s your ticket to the game happening Friday, September 8.

Early Start to the School Year

This summer will be a little shorter for those who attend Lowell Area Schools. August 22 is the first day of school for students across the district.

If you have an elementary school student don’t forget to shop local for your supplies! Springrove Variety has all of the lists and items gathered for easy shopping.

Make the start of the 2017-18 school year a great one!

Helping History

On Friday, August 18 from 6pm-9pm the Lowell Area Historical Museum will hold their annual Summer Fest.

Spend the evening touring the museum grounds while enjoying food and drink. Beer, wine, and cider from local favorites including New Union Brewery, Big Boiler Brewing, Gravel Bottom, and Painted Turtle Hard Cider.

Tickets are \$40 and include food and drinks. Call the museum at 616-897-7688 for more information.

Kent County Youth Fair

This year’s fair is “raising the steaks” from August 7-12. Come out and enjoy pig races, dog agility, the free entertainment tent, animal judging, tractor pulls, Ninjas on the Move course, fair food, carnival rides, and much more.

New this year is FairTRADE, where different cards are earned by participating in activities in the Ag Adventure Barn. Cards

will have information about the character on the card as well as educational facts. If you’re able to collect enough cards and points they can be redeemed for a FairTRADE t-shirt.

August Meetings	
Aug. 5, 8:00 a.m.	Coffee with Council
Aug. 7, 5:30 p.m.	Committee of the Whole Meeting
7:00 p.m.	Lowell City Council Meeting
Aug. 9, 6:00 p.m.	Lowell Area Recreation Authority
6:00 p.m.	Lowell Light & Power Board
7:00 p.m.	Airport Board
Aug. 10, 12:00 p.m.	Downtown Development Authority
Aug. 14, 3:30 p.m.	Lowell Area Fire Authority
6:30 p.m.	Special Planning Commission Meeting
7:00 p.m.	Planning Commission
Aug. 15, 6:00 p.m.	Parks & Recreation Commission
Aug. 21, 7:00 p.m.	Lowell City Council Meeting