Where do DDA dollars come from?

► More than $3 million in the bank

By Sharon Stone
sstone@tctimes.com; 810-433-6786

Fenton — Have you ever wondered where the Fenton Downtown Development Authority (DDA) gets its funding from? You’re not alone.

As of Nov. 10, the DDA has collected $1,492,355 in tax revenue, $656 in miscellaneous income and $1,520 in interest for 2011. It has also shared $400,000 of its revenue with the city’s general fund for a total revenue of $1,094,531.

Some of the projects the DDA is spending funds in 2011 on include

Spending DDA dollars

► Engineering firm to reveal findings on Tuesday

By Tim Jagielo
tjagielo@tctimes.com; 810-433-6795

Holly — Following a closed session of the Holly Village Council on Tuesday, the litigation involving fired village manager Marsha Powers has been resolved, according to her legal council on Wednesday.

Powers was fired by the former village council in the fall of 2010. She was later reinstated. The lawsuit was filed on Oct. 26, 2010.

“AS I WAS driving into Fenton yesterday, noticing the new welcome signs, I thought to myself, thank goodness it doesn’t say ‘Be Closer’ on it. Visitors would wonder what it means and think we were idiots.”

By William Axford
news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

Michigan’s unemployment rate has finally dipped below 10 percent for the first time in three years. But don’t expect people to start flocking back to the Mitten any time soon.

Top five states with the most job growth 2011

Texas — 117,600 jobs
California — 92,300 jobs
Florida — 85,500 jobs
New York — 69,600 jobs
Massachusetts — 39,700 jobs

Fired manager Marsha Powers lawsuit settled

► Amount of settlement agreement not disclosed

By Tim Jagielo

Holly — A former village manager who was fired in November 2010 has reached a settlement agreement with the village.

Marsha Powers was fired by the village last fall, and filed a lawsuit against the village in October 2010.

Marsha Powers Lawsuit

“Do Fenton’s ‘welcome’ signs meet specs?”

By Sharon Stone

Fenton — The Fenton Downtown Development Authority (DDA) recently entered into a contract with Engineering firm to reveal findings on Tuesday.

“While putting my groceries on the checkout stand at Wal-Mart, a young lady came up to me and said, ‘I’m spreading Christmas cheer and I’m paying for your groceries.’ This amazing person gave me the change and told me to put it in the basket out front. I did. Thank you so much.” — DC

HOT LINE:

Wrapping up for the holidays

Tjyer Holser, 18, wraps gifts for families in need with his mother, Janet Holser, on Thursday at Cyclone Park in Holly. The annual event aids nearly 200 families a year, and is coordinated by Holly Area Youth Assistance (HAYA). HAYA is a community-based prevention organization developed by volunteers who live or work in the greater Holly Area School district community.

Parents of Holly students received a letter from Superintendent Kent Barnes last week, warning them that some local teens were experimenting with synthetic marijuana, marketed as herbal and all-natural incense.

Parents of Holly students received a letter from Superintendent Kent Barnes last week, warning them that some local teens were experimenting with synthetic marijuana, marketed as herbal and all-natural incense.

Parents of Holly students received a letter from Superintendent Kent Barnes last week, warning them that some local teens were experimenting with synthetic marijuana, marketed as herbal and all-natural incense.
Sometimes it's okay to throw rocks at girls.

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It’s holiday shipping crunch time for UPS drivers

➢ 26 million packages to be delivered on Dec. 22

By Tim Jagielo
tjagielo@tctimes.com; 810-433-6795

It’s the busiest time of the year for UPS driver Mike Callard, of Linden. But on Wednesday morning with dozens of stops left, his truck broke down right off of Silver Parkway in Fenton, in the rain. He still delivered four stops on foot, and was soaked by the rain in the process. “Normally I’m not this soaked,” he said with a chuckle.

The last two weeks before Christmas is the busiest time of the year for shipping services like UPS. Their volume increases by 60 percent for the heavy pre-Christmas time, according to Christopher Yohn, a spokesperson for UPS in Michigan. UPS was previously the United Parcel Service, but was named simply UPS in 1975.

SUMMARY
➢ Shipping services such as UPS will see huge increases in volume during the holiday. They prepare by hiring extra staff, and detailed planning.

See UPS DRIVERS on 11A

A cultural experience

➢ Four venues worth checking out in Michigan

There are many cultural events this holiday season in the surrounding area. Here’s a look at a few theaters and event centers around the state worth exploring.

WHITING THEATER
1241 E. Kearsley St., Flint
www.thewhiting.com

Phone: (810) 237-7333

As a 2,000-seat professional performing arts venue, the Whiting Theater has housed some of the biggest talents to come through Flint. Bill Cosby, Pat Benatar, Jeff Daniels and other countless acts have all graced its stages.

See VENUES on 13A

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www.Adv-llc.com

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Thoughtful gifts for your special lady

Ah yes, the sounds of Christmas. They’re everywhere. The slap of punches being exchanged over parking spots at the mall. The screaming of terrified toddlers forced to sit on the lap of a giant, bearded man in a red suit whose breath smells like whiskey and cigarettes. The ripping of clothes as two women battle in the aisle of Toys R Us over the last Xia-Xia Hermit Crab. And expletives and F-bombs echoing through the neighborhood as frustrated fathers battle the elements to decorate their homes with tiny electric lights manufactured in third-world countries by pre-school children whose homes don’t actually have electricity. And Christmas traditions — for instance, the Christmas tree. Festive families trudge into the freezing forest and chop down a perfectly good evergreen tree and drag it home in order to attempt to make it stand upright in their living room as a symbol of... well, no one really knows. This is a tradition invented by the Germans who, not surprisingly, also invented the ‘I Bet You Can’t’ giant beer stein.

But, I digress. The most cherished of Christmas traditions is the exchanging of gifts. Nothing says ‘I love you’ more than a thoughtful, useful, and meaningful gift. But, according to the American Association of People Who Wonder Why Broccoli Doesn’t Come In A Can, nine out of 10 men don’t buy thoughtful, useful, or meaningful gifts. So, for those men who still haven’t finished their holiday shopping, I have compiled some thoughtful, useful and meaningful gift suggestions guaranteed to light the fire of your special lady.

**Banana Guard™** — A sturdy plastic container designed to allow the safe transport and/or storage of individual bananas. Perfect for lunch boxes or purses. Multiple perforations for proper ventilation and a sturdy theft-proof locking mechanism. Available (yellow only) from www.bananaguard.com. Only $9.99.

**The RotoCone™** — No more ice cream droppings on your clothes or car seats! Reusable polystyrene simulated cone holds up to three large scoops of your favorite flavor. Patented roto-technology rotates the ice cream in the cone for you at any one of three variable turn speeds. Available at www.rotocone.com. Only $34.99 plus shipping.

**Pedestrian Turn Signals™** —

### Twin wires, each with a powerful (tongue-in-cheek) one amp light, fit snugly around your ears. Use the remote control to signal which car you want to blink, or use both to indicate braking. Perfect for the walker or jogger in your family. Available at www.takefnpix.com. Only $5.95.

**Mona Lisa Spouse™** — (King’s favorite) Imagine your wife’s face seamlessly transformed onto a genuine replica of the real Mona Lisa. Same size as the original, beautifully framed (genuine poly-wood) and ready to hang over the fireplace. Available at www.wynnadavinci.com. Only $34.99 plus shipping.

Trust me, if you go with one of the above suggestions, you are going to have one happy little lady on Christmas morning. From everyone at the Tri-County Times, Merry Christmas.

Compiled by Angel Rynearson, Intern

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**What’s the most memorable concert you’ve ever attended?**

“Maroon Five; I took my 18-year-old cousin to see it and it was her first concert.” — Kathy Perry, Grand Blanc

“My most memorable concert was when my son played in the Linden High School band. They sounded phenomenal.” — Deasee Muldoon, Linden

“It was the ‘Rolling Stones,’ Mick Jagger was so full of energy and everyone was so into the music.” — Kelli Brendle, Fenton

“Aerosmith, I am a big fan and it’s always cool to see the band you love live in concert.” — Paul Johnson, Fenton

“The Who, I was surprised how good they were after all these years.” — Cathy Davis, Grand Blanc

“Seeing REO Speedwagon brought back so many memories for me.” — Linda Josephson, Fenton
Rose Township supervisor says good-bye

Leaves with no regrets

By Tim Jagielo
tjagielo@tctimes.com; 810-433-6795

After more than 20 years of public service, Rose Township Supervisor Alison Kalcec said her last township board meeting was a fitting final meeting place — a fitting final meeting place also wrapping up a contentious and expensive project that Kalcec helped bring to fruition.

The office is one of her most important achievements, said Kalcec, along with the warning sirens that have begun to be installed. Kalcec is proud of the North Oakland County Fire Authority (NOCFA) which she helped develop as a NOCFA board member for 15 years. “I feel pretty good about it.”

Kalcec said when she first started working for the township all of the records were kept in her home. Now, everything is in the updated township office. “Overall, as a community, we’ve centralized all the services without any debt or any increase in taxes, and I think that’s pretty huge,” she said.

Kalcec was the supervisor for three years, and the clerk in Rose Township for 12 years. She worked for the village of Holly before that. She said she will continue with a couple part-time book-keeping jobs, and may even dust off her viola and join the Fenton Community Orchestra. “I got grandkids I’d like to spend some time with,” she said.

Resident Jan Koop said she is sad to see Kalcec go. “It’s a great loss for the township,” she said. “She was here for all the right reasons.”

Kalcec said she will miss interacting with the community members the most.

Summary

Wednesday marked the end of a career of public service for Rose Township Supervisor Alison Kalcec, as she submitted her resignation in November. Glen Noble has been appointed as supervisor until November 2012.

“It’s a great loss for the township. She was here for all the right reasons.”

Jan Koop
Rose Township resident

Board appoints interim supervisor

By Tim Jagielo
tjagielo@tctimes.com; 810-433-6795

Rose Twp. — The Rose Township Board of Trustees appointed long-time community member Glen Noble to serve as interim supervisor. The former supervisor, Alison Kalcec, resigned from the position in November. Noble will fill the remainder of Kalcec’s term beginning in January, to November 2012. Noble would then have to run for the supervisor position in the regular election if he chooses.

Township Trustee David Gordon said Noble was chosen because he has a better-rounded career of experience than the other applicants.

Noble said he brings 50 years of experience, as a consulting engineer for public civil works projects. His biggest challenge will be getting up to speed with the operations of the township, especially the financial operations. “I’m a problem solver,” he said.

Noble said he expects he will be available for open-office hours in the second or third week of January 2012.
Changes beginning at post office

Processing centers across the state expected to be phased out by spring 2012

By William Axford
awxford@tricitytimes.com (908) 433-6792

Tri-county area residents may experience a delay in the delivery of their mail starting in January 2012. Mail from the Flint Post Office processing center — the biggest postal facility in the area — will now be sorted at the Pontiac processing center.

According to a Flint-area American Postal Workers Union, the move may delay mail delivered in the tri-county area by a few days. All mail that begins with a 484 or 485 zip code will be sorted at the Pontiac processing center before being sent to prospective postal offices. The post master at the Fenton Post Office declined to comment on how the changes would affect Fenton residents.

The move is expected to save the U.S. Postal Service nearly $6.5 million annually, and comes during declining profits and high operating costs. By May 15 of 2012, the U.S. Postal Service is tentatively planning to close the biggest processing centers around the state including Detroit, Lansing, Saginaw, Jackson and Kalamazoo.

“The U.S. Postal Service must reduce its operating costs by $20 billion by 2015 in order to return to profitability,” said David Williams, vice president of Network Operations, in a press release. The proposed closures could cost more than 1,000 jobs across the state.

In the fall, the postal service began studying 252 out of 487 mail-processing locations for possible closure. The effort to consolidate resources will also affect overall operations. First-class mail may switch from two-day delivery or three-day delivery.

Under the postal service’s proposed new standards of operation, next-day delivery for parcels can only be achieved if it is mailed from a major processing center.

Owner, Goin’ Postal of Fenton Lucy Valeriano said she does not expect much of an impact to her business or the shipping of items, even if major processing locations are closing down across the state.

“This is going to give other carriers the chance to offer their services to the community,” Valeriano said. “Before, when you mailed something in Michigan, you could pretty much expect to have it the next day. Now you may have to wait a few days for it.”

Valeriano said the postal service excels at sending items that are smaller such as cards and when there isn’t a rush to receive items. Valeriano said sending smaller items through the postal service is cheaper than using third-party delivery companies.

According to Valeriano, once an item reaches 15 pounds or more, shipping rates from Fed Ex are cheaper than the postal service. Delivery companies also offer more options when shipping an item, such as tracking numbers and two-day delivery.

“Fed Ex doesn’t hold a package overnight if you pay for two-day delivery,” Valeriano said. “If it’s going anywhere in Michigan, good chance it’ll there the next day.”

The Linden post office is located at 215 South Main St. Holly’s is located at 108 W. Maple St. All of the local post offices are scheduled to remain in operation.

Proposed changes to the Postal Service

• Elimination of next-day delivery, unless a package is mailed from a processing center. First-class mail will now include two-day or three-day delivery instead of next-day delivery.

• Mail that begins with a 484 or 485 zip code will be sorted at the Pontiac processing center before being mailed to prospective post offices.

• Nation wide, the Postal Service is considering closing up to 252 out of 487 mail-processing locations. Many large locations across Michigan are also being considered.
Fenton police and fire departments responded to a head-on automobile crash at Owen Road and Silver Parkway at 8:20 a.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 14. A 77-year-old Fenton woman was driving her Chevy Malibu eastbound on Owen Road. As she started to turn north onto Silver Parkway she drove into the path of a westbound Dodge Ram truck, driven by a 34-year-old Holly Township woman. Both women were lone occupants in their vehicles and both were seat belted. STAT EMS arrived on scene to treat the women, who complained of injuries. An ambulance transported the Holly Township woman to Genesys Health Park in Grand Blanc Township and the Fenton woman’s husband arrived and said he would transport his wife to the hospital. Both vehicles were towed from the scene. The Fenton woman was ticketed for failing to yield.

Fenton MAN’S CREDIT CARD USED IN CALIFORNIA
At 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 13, a 41-year-old Fenton man reported to Fenton police that he had two fraudulent transactions on this credit card account, one for $43 and one for $39. His bank informed him that the transactions occurred in California. He cancelled his account and was told by the bank he would not be responsible for the two transactions.

FENTON WOMAN TICKETED FOR HEAD-ON CRASH
Fenton police and fire departments responded to a head-on automobile crash at Owen Road and Silver Parkway at 8:20 a.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 14. A 77-year-old Fenton woman was driving her Chevy Malibu eastbound on Owen Road. As she started to turn north onto Silver Parkway she drove into the path of a westbound Dodge Ram truck, driven by a 34-year-old Holly Township woman. Both women were lone occupants in their vehicles and both were seat belted. STAT EMS arrived on scene to treat the women, who complained of injuries. An ambulance transported the Holly Township woman to Genesys Health Park in Grand Blanc Township and the Fenton woman’s husband arrived and said he would transport his wife to the hospital. Both vehicles were towed from the scene. The Fenton woman was ticketed for failing to yield.

St. John break-in suspect bound over to circuit court
Criminal cases against Charles Sawade Jr., 19, of Holly, were bound over to Genesee County Circuit Court. The teen was arrested on suspicion of breaking into St. John Church and other buildings on church property in November, as well as Gerych’s Distinctive Flowers & Gifts. He was initially charged with seven counts of breaking and entering with intent to steal, but the charges were amended to two counts of breaking and entering during his district court preliminary hearing. A cash surety bond of $7,500 was ordered on each count. Fenton police located Sawade on Nov. 17 at a residence in Fenton, based on evidence recovered from Gerych’s.

Fenton Vision Center offers a vision therapy program specifically designed to help resolve visual problems that interfere with reading, learning, and educational instruction. All vision therapy sessions are run on site at Fenton Vision Center Therapy Clinic. For more information regarding vision therapy, see our website at www.fentonVISIONcenter.com or call us at 810-629-3070.
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HOT LINE CONTINUED
WAKE UP PEOPLE. Another term with Obama will mean the end to our constitutional rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, the beginning of an economist’s dictatorship, where 1984 is a fact, not a book of fiction.

IN REGARDS TO the Hot line about the older generation saving us from speaking German and working on Japanese plantations. Looks to me like Congress and our trade laws are going to have us working on a China plantation in the future.

THE PROPER THING for Fenton to be closer to is, my bumper. Everyone should get away from my bumper, be a little more distant, I am tired of everyone riding up my rear. Let’s all be closer in a different way. Everybody, just slow down.

TO THE PERSON who compared President Obama to Abraham Lincoln, we really have to get this medical marijuana under control because obviously people are abusing it. It’s out of control and needs to be tightened up a little bit.

REGARDING THE HOT line about the Linden High School band director being like a coach, not sure about this one. When you don’t allow students to audition for a band, it’s not fair to all students in the program. It was 17 years ago when I auditioned, that was fair.

YOU CAN ONLY charge so much for an ordinary high school, 25, maybe 50 cents, unless you paint it blue and give it a fancy name. That’s what this is all about, folks. As soon as you say ‘green’, it costs more.

THE AD IN Wednesday’s paper saying the dollars spent at Amazon.com never returns to the local community is false. Many in this community rely on the income we make as eBay and Amazon Marketplace sellers. Thanks for inadver-tently shooting the local economy in the foot with your uninformed advertising.

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UPS DRIVERS
Continued from Page 3A
2003. The company earned $17.1 billion in the third quarter of 2011.

To meet the holiday demand in December, UPS added 55,000 part-time, seasonal workers. They are divided among the warehouse for sorting, and the trucks themselves. Some help the drivers on the route, and others are seasonal route drivers.

On Wednesday, Callard worked with his son, who is a seasonal worker. “He knows how to take orders from me,” he joked.

Yohn said that historically, the busy season is from September through December, but online ordering has compressed that time into the two weeks before Christmas, culminating into the busiest day of the year, which they project to be Dec 22, where 26 million packages will be delivered company wide. Almost 700,000 will be delivered across Michigan during the peak time, instead of the usual 402,000.

During this busy time, “package car” drivers, like Callard, see their route volume double, which adds at least a couple hours of work to their day, depending on the route. Callard said a daily average is 130 deliveries, but on Wednesday, he delivered 237 packages. The packages weigh around 30 pounds on average. He works smart, using all the tools at his disposal including safety training to avoid injury.

At age 47, Callard said safety is important, and he has had a helper for the last two weeks. The helper delivers the packages. He keeps the packages organized on his truck. “It’s sort of organized chaos,” he said.

“It changes a lot with weather,” he said. Fair weather helps the planes land on time, and the trucks roll on time.

Callard delivered packages along Owen Road to Linden Road, with stops along Silver Parkway. Most of his customers are residential, and a third is commercial. “I love my job,” he said. “I couldn’t sit in the office all day. My truck is my office.”

There are multiple deadlines for packages through the day, so logistical planning is very important. “There’s no GPS to tell me where I’m going. I know where I’m going. I’ve been in this area for 14 years,” he said.

Callard is one of nine drivers in the Linden and Fenton area. During the holidays, he tries to be discreet when delivering large packages to homes that are obviously a kid’s toy. “You don’t want to ruin any little kid’s Christmas,” he said. “It takes a little extra time, but they always appreciate it.”

Callard takes a small vacation after the holiday rush. “I’m just looking forward to Christmas to be with my family too,” he said. “If we have good weather the next eight days, I’m going to be a happy man.”
Blue Oval Certification is recognition of the high level of customer satisfaction achieved by the dealership with every purchase, lease, and service experience.
This stage. If you’re a student, be sure to check in on the Whiting Theater Student Rush deals, which offer discounts for shows to those still in school.

**Upcoming events:**

A Christmas Carol — Now through Dec. 24. $16 adults, $14 seniors and teens, $12 children.

The Wizard of Oz — Jan. 14 at 3 and 8 p.m. $23 and up, $12 for students.

Rain — A Tribute to the Beatles — Feb. 8 and 9, 7:30 p.m. $20 and up.

**Directions:** Take U.S. 23 North, which will merge onto I-75 North. Take exit 117A to merge onto I-69 East toward Port Huron. Take exit 137 to merge onto I-475 North toward Saginaw. Take exit 8A toward Longway Boulevard and then merge onto Chavez Drive. Take a slight right onto 5th Avenue, then the first right onto Forest Street. Turn left at East Kearsley Street.

**FOX THEATRE**

2211 Woodward Ave., Detroit www.theatredetroit.net Phone: (313) 471-6611 Built in 1928, as the first movie palace in the world with a sound system for films, the Fox Theatre has evolved into the iconic stage for Detroit’s cultural scene. From Berry Gordy hosting Christmas shows featuring Motown stars to “Americanism Week” every Memorial Day, the Fox Theatre has delighted Michigan residents for nearly 100 years.

**Upcoming events:**

Karen Newman: Christmas Eve on Woodward Avenue — Dec. 21, 7:30 p.m. $48.50.


**Directions:** Head east on Main Street and continue on Grange Hall Road. Merge onto I-75 South. Take exit 52 toward Mack Avenue and then merge onto Chrysler Drive / I-75 Frontage Road. Turn right onto Mack Avenue and then left onto Woodward Avenue.

**WHARTON CENTER**

320 Wharton Center, East Lansing www.whartoncenter.com Phone: (517) 353-1982 Located at the campus of Michigan State University, the Wharton Center is Michigan’s largest performing arts venue with four different stages. Broadway shows, orchestras, dance ensembles and popular musicians are frequent acts brought to the Wharton Center.

**Upcoming events:**

MasterWorks 3: Beethoven’s Eroica — Jan. 7, 7:15 p.m. $15 to $45.

Million Dollar Quartet — Jan. 10 – 15, times vary by date. $25 and up.

Moscow Festival Ballet: Swan Lake — Jan. 20, 8 p.m. $25 to $38.

**Directions:** Take U.S. 23 North and merge onto I-75 North. Take exit 117A to merge onto I-69 West toward Lansing. Take exit 94 toward I-69 Bus/E Lansing and then merge onto East Saginaw Street. Turn left onto North Hagadorn Road, right at East Shaw Lane and then left onto Wilson Road.

**DOW EVENT CENTER**

303 Johnston St., Saginaw www.doweventcenter.com Since its formation in 1972, the Dow Event Center has undergone numerous transformations and owners. The center has featured everything from sporting events to entertainment to educational experiences.

**Upcoming events:**

Saginaw Spirit OHL Hockey — Dec. 28 and 31. 7:11 p.m. $15.

Bridal World 2012 — Jan. 7, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. $6.

The Harlem Globetrotters — Jan. 25, 7 p.m. $25.85 and up.

**Directions:** Take U.S. 23 North and merge onto I-75 North. Take exit 149B to merge onto M-46 W/E Holland Road toward Buena Vista. Turn right onto East Genesee Avenue, right onto North Washington Avenue and then the second right onto Fitzhugh Street/Symphony Lane.

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**TRI-COUNTY TIMES**

**Sunday, December 18, 2011**

**13A**

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**VENUES**

Continued from Page 3A

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**WEB AD**
The Downtown Development Authority district includes certain areas of downtown Fenton, the majority of businesses on Owen Road and Silver Parkway.

“Traditionally, you have had DDA property taxes, and other city property taxes for the downtown area,” said Burns. “This year, we will be leveraging DDA funds for the downtown area, and a commitment to be more aggressive with the money we have.”

The DDA’s Silver Center property is a key part of its mission, and Burns said the DDA hopes to capture a five-year lease for the property.

“Very soon, we will have a lease agreement with a large downtown employer,” Burns said. “This is one of the ways we will leverage downtown.”

The DDA is also working with the state’s economic development office to assist small businesses.

Non-homestead properties (businesses) pay an additional 18 mills, or $9.1345 mills, based on taxable value. This amount includes millages for the city, county, Mott Community College, parks, Bishop Airport, sheriff’s paramedics, seniors, library, MTA and schools.

For properties located within the established DDA district, the DDA captures 22.8216 mills of either the 41.1345 mills or 59.1345 mills depending on whether the property is residential or commercial, said Burns. Most properties are commercial. The DDA also captures millage rates on any new investment, such as that on Silver Parkway, since the DDA was established in 1993.

“This is one of the reasons why the DDA is so well funded,” said Burns. “There’s never been a tax increase with the DDA.”

Mike Burns
Fenton DDA director
SYNTHETIC MARIJUANA
Continued from Front Page

Young people have been ingesting, inhaling or smoking the incense and Barnes warned that this practice is “beyond idiotic,” especially after one teen’s experience nearly cost a life.

The Holly Police Department, along with the Holly Community Coalition, is looking into the matter.

This scenario is not unique to Holly. Three previously healthy Texas teens had heart attacks after smoking the “legal high” products sold under names such as K2 and Spice, according to an article on WebMD.

This same thing could happen to local teens if they don’t heed the warnings issued by the U.S. Government Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA).

All three of the 16-year-old Texas boys survived, reported Colin Kane, MD, and colleagues at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center.

The teens obtained and smoked the K2 products in separate incidents. “They certainly did damage to their hearts,” Kane, a pediatric cardiologist, reported to WebMD. “Hopefully there will be no long-term health implications, just a scare. But time will tell.”

What some teens and most parents don’t realize is that the synthetic compounds found in these incense products can produce the same effects as marijuana. What’s worse is that an active ingredient in some of these products has been classified as a Schedule 1 narcotic in Michigan, and illegal.

These incense products, such as K2 or Posh Spice, are a mixture of herbs and spices that are typically sprayed with a synthetic compound chemically similar to THC, the psychoactive ingredients in marijuana.

K2 Incense is commonly purchased at gas stations, party stores and over the Internet. The colorful graphics on the small packages target young people. It is often marketed as incense or “fake weed.”

Psychological effects are similar to those of marijuana and can include paranoia, panic attacks, and giddiness. Physiological effects of K2 include increased heart rate and increase of blood pressure. There have been no reported deaths by overdose.

Officer Thomas Cole, of the Fenton Police Department, has been working with the Flint Area Narcotics Group (FANG). He is becoming very familiar with these new incense products. Fenton police have a couple of pending cases from the summer, when two local retailers sold K2 Incense and Posh Party USA, another brand of incense to undercover police after a concerned parent notified police that their child had obtained some of the product. To his knowledge, these two retailers no longer offer these products.

Cole said the packages look innocent enough, and the contents are intended to be used as an incense, however, the kids buying this product are using it as a replacement for marijuana.

Recent Michigan legislation has ruled that the active ingredient, JWH-250, which is found in some of the incense products, is now a Schedule 1 controlled substance and therefore illegal in Michigan. If someone was involved with an automobile crash or traffic stop and their blood was found to contain JWH-250, Cole said they could be issued a court appearance ticket for possession of marijuana.

If a person is found guilty of selling an incense containing JWH-250, they face a felony of delivery of a Schedule 1 narcotic.

If parents find unopened or empty packages of these incense products, Cole urges them to talk to their children and warn them of the dangers and consequences. A call to the local police department is also recommended. To his understanding, schools are treating these products the same as if the student had traditional marijuana in their possession.

“This is brand new to us,” said Cole. “Police are just now running into it.” He added that his pending cases are the first ones for the Genesee County Prosecutor’s Office. “We’re in a learning process on how to deal with it,” he said.

According to Real2Incense.com, there are some restrictions for purchasing and using K2 Incense from their website.

People must be at least 18 to purchase the product. The company labels its packages with the warning, K2 Incense is not for human consumption and under no circumstances should someone ingest it.

SPEND IT HERE. KEEP IT HERE.
SHOP LOCAL.
INVEST IN YOUR COMMUNITY.

Be the “LIFE” of the party...
Be a DESIGNATED DRIVER!
Have a Safe & Happy Holiday!

From Fenton Veterinary Clinic
14115 N. Fenton Rd., Fenton
810-629-1564
Weekdays 8am - 5:30pm • Sat. 8am-12 noon

Have you shopped Goodwill lately?

We have the brands you want at prices that will shock you!
Happy Holidays
From My Family to Yours

John, Jennifer, Christian, Rocco & Dahlia Wentworth

Thank You to All of Our Clients for Your Continued Trust & Support.
You Have Helped Make 2011 Our Best Year Yet & We Look Forward to Helping
Many More Families Achieve their Real Estate Goals throughout 2012!
From My Family to yours, HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

WentworthWaterfront.com

Lake Ponemah - $175,000
Lake Ponemah - $199,900
Lobdell Lake - $299,000
Lake Fenton - $429,999

Lake Fenton - $329,900
Taylor Lake - $159,900
Lake Shannon - $549,000
Lobdell Lake - $659,000

Lake Fenton - $349,900
Lake Shinanguag - $432,900
Lake Fenton - $499,999
Pine Lake - $270' Frontage

- 70' Frontage on Channel to Lake Ponemah. 3 Beds, 2 Baths, 924 Sq. Ft. Sandy Beach & 2 Car Garage
- 60' Frontage, 3 Bedrooms, 2 Baths, 3 Car Garage, Sauna & More!
- 108' Frontage, Over 3,000 Sq. Ft. with Finished Walkout, Sandy Beach!
- 4,200 Sq. Ft., 3 Bedrooms, Lots of Upgrades, 1st Floor Master, Large Kitchen
- 60' Frontage w/2800 Sq. Ft. w/Finished Walkout, 3 Bedrooms, 3 Baths. Beautiful!
- Cozy Cottage w/92' Frontage, 1300 Sq. Ft., 2 Bedrooms, 2 Bathrooms - Unique Interior!
- 147' Frontage on Lake Fenton, 2560 Sq. Ft. with 3 Bedrooms, 2.5 Baths - Gorgeous Views!
- Over 700' Frontage & 3 Acres, 4 Bedrooms, 4 Bathrooms, Finished Walkout & Great Views!
- 70' Frontage on Margaret Drive! 2820 Sq. Ft., 4 Bedrooms, 3.5 Baths

Save

- 2 Issues $29
- 4 Issues $48
- 8 Issues $80
- 1 Issue $19
- 2 Issues $29
- 4 Issues $48
- 8 Issues $80

810-629-8194

WEDNESDAY DEADLINES
Display Ads: 3 p.m. Monday
Line Ads: Noon Tuesday
SUNDAY DEADLINES
Display Ads: 3 p.m. Wednesday
Line Ads: Noon Thursday
810-629-8194

TIMES CLASSIFIEDS
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Friday, December 16, 2011
PAGE 16A
DENTAL ASSISTANT: warm, caring, energetic, experienced. RDA preferred. Fax resume to Dr. Rachor. 810-629-5493.

INSURANCE CUSTOMER SERVICE help wanted for large P&C/benefits agency. Experience preferred. Please send resume to dmiller@bbmich.com.


Are you looking for a New Team? We are hiring experienced Real Estate Associates. Call 810-433-6794.


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Free Heat & Hot Water
Limited Availability
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Located in Beautiful Fenton, MI
Easy Expressway Access, you are 10 minutes away from everything!
www.georgetownparkapartments.com

SUNDAY SUDOKU

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SUNDAY SUDOKU ANSWERS

1 2 6 3 7 4 5 9 8
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SUNDAY JUMBLE

Jumbles: Bulgy Tryst Double Female
How to relax completely—RESTFULLY

WEDNESDAY SUDOKU

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WEDNESDAY JUMBLE

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18, 2011

PUBLIC NOTICE

CITY OF LINDEN
GENESEE COUNTY, MICHIGAN

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that any person or persons removing personal property from a residential or commercial premises and placing said personal property in the front lawn or street right-of-way in violation of Chapter 8.04 of the City of Linden Municipal Code as a result of a foreclosure or eviction proceeding is guilty of a misdemeanor.

TAKING FURTHER NOTICE that any personal property so deposited in the front lawn or street right-of-way constitutes a public nuisance. The City of Linden will take immediate action to abate the nuisance. Any costs or expenses incurred by the City of Linden will be charged as a special assessment against the subject and placed upon the tax rolls for collection.

CITY OF LINDEN

By: Martha A. Donnelly, City Clerk

INVITATION TO BID

DEMOLITION OF A RESIDENTIAL BUILDING
CITY OF FENTON

LOCATION OF STRUCTURE TO BE REMOVED: 603 Main Street, Fenton MI 48430

The City of Fenton, Michigan will receive sealed bids at the City Clerk’s Office, 301 South Leroy Street, Fenton, Michigan 48430-2196 for demolition of a residential building for the City of Fenton until January 19, 2012 at 11:00 a.m. See photos & Bid Spec. www.cityoffenton.org.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at that time in the conference room of the City of Fenton Office, 301 South Leroy Street, Fenton, Michigan. Bids should be submitted in sealed envelopes plainly marked “DEMOLITION OF A RESIDENTIAL BUILDING – CITY OF FENTON.”

Bids are being solicited only from responsible and established bidders known to be experienced and regularly engaged in the work of demolition, particularly demolition of residential buildings and removal of demolition debris to appropriate disposal sites. Satisfactory evidence that the bidder has the necessary capital, equipment and personnel to do the work may be required.

Proposal forms and specifications are on file for the inspection of bidders at the City of Fenton City Office, 301 South Leroy Street and copies may be obtained by qualified bidders. Sealed proposals must be submitted on the bid forms furnished by the City.

The City Council reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to accept any bid, or portion thereof, which, in their opinion, is most advantageous to the City.

N. Bradley Hissong
Zoning/Building Administrator
Sunday Sudoku

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

ACROSS
1 Composer Schubert
2 "Nom de plume"
3 Theatrical
4 Exhibition
5 Play off base?
6 Make ou the mine-shaft
7 "God's Little" (aka Mimi)
8 Louise's "Victory"
9 English fash-ion show host
10 "The Almá"
author
11 Kitchen utensil
12 Arboride animal
13 Jail
14 Trombone bending
15 Took a shot at
16 Sable
17 Chinese geysite
18 "Ligita" author
19 Conductor
20 Thurlow of "Final Analysis"
21 "Free of the staple"
22 Pocket wy.
23 Make who's
24 Drives and "drives"
25 "El Warner"
26 Beasty film
27 "End of the Line"
28 "Length of the Eyes"
29 "Back in Black"
30 "Curly"
31 "Power"
32 "Wolly"
33 "7th Row - My"
34 "Dashi"
35 "Nurse"
36 "11th Road"
37 "Dool"
38 "74th Street"
39 "White"
40 "New Year"
41 "1960"
42 "Run for the 100"
43 "Wizards"
44 "Superman"
45 "Mission"
46 "Lunch"
47 "Art"
48 "Windy"
49 "Play"
50 "Dinner"
51 "The Kitchen"
52 "Floor"
53 "Canyon"
54 "Homes"
55 "Window"
56 "Sky"
57 "Window"
58 "Work"
59 "Entry"
60 "Canyon"
61 "Shoemaker"
62 "Him"
63 "Wall"
64 "Random"
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DOWN
1 "The Four"
2 "The Expect"
3 "Sweetheart"
4 "Teeth"
5 "Night"
6 "Landing"
7 "Bridge"
8 "Chicken"
9 "Maid"
10 "Shaggy"
11 "Hand"
12 "Feet"
13 "Hearth"
14 "In" (as well)
15 "Part of Frost"
16 "Cologne"
17 "Parade"
18 "Small shot"
19 "One of the Stones"
20 "Island"
21 "Like"
22 "Best"
23 "Dispute"
24 "Bible"
25 "The"
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30 "Meat"
31 "Sister"
32 "Sister"
33 "Mr."
34 "Hammer"
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Fenton Lake near - one month FREE! 1 and 2 bedroom, semi-furnished, nice, no pets. $375 up. 810-629-8894, 610-964-3472, 810-725-6887.

Holly - one month FREE! Ranch apartments, fireplaces, front yards, front door parking, private entry, pet friendly, central location. Call for move in specials! 248-634-3300.

Linden - 1 bedroom, dishwasher. Quiet subdivision on private lake. No pets. $400. 810-923-0274.

Village of Holly

Notice is hereby given

That the Village of Holly Village Council has Scheduled a Public Hearing for:

DATE: January 10, 2012
TIME: 7:00 PM
PLACE: Village of Holly Council Chambers
315 S. Broad
Holly, MI 48442

FOR: Discussion on Water Works Building located at Water Works Park and other related matters.

Cathrene A. Behrens
Clerk/Treasurer
VILLAGE OF HOLLY

RESIDENTIAL COMMERCIAL
- Repair Work
- Expert Installation
- 20 Years Experience

ASK ABOUT OUR LABOR ONLY CHARGE!
Both parents on site. $750-Adorable, ready for Christmas!

LOST SMALL JOHN DEERE batteries, great shape. $2,700. Please call 810-735-5910.

www.tctimes.com
FORCLOSURE NOTICE This firm is a debt collector employed by our client, Fifth Third Bank, and is acting in a debt collector capacity. Any information obtained will be used for the purpose of collecting the debt owed to Fifth Third Bank. If you are in the State of Michigan, please contact our office at (248) 844-5123. Under MCL 600.3241a(c), whichever is later. Dated: 12/11/2011. Potestivo & Associates, P.C. 811 South Main Street, Suite 212, Flint, MI 48507. (248) 844-5123. Our File No: 11-53736. Mortgagee Attorneys: Potestivo & Associates, P.C. 811 South Main Street, Suite 212, Flint, MI 48507. (248) 844-5123. Our File No: 11-53736. Mortgagee, dated November 24, 2011. Said mortgage was assigned to: ABN AMRO Mortgage Group Corr, 335 North Michigan Avenue, Chicago, IL 60601, and recorded March 21, 2003 in Genesee County Records, Michigan, in Instrument # 200303110023337. Fifty-One Thousand Three Hundred Seventy-Four Dollars and Nineteen Cents ($51,374.19) including interest due from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a(c), whichever is later. Dated: 12/14/2011. Fannie Mae. Mortgages, dated: 12/25/2011, 01/01/2012.If you are in the State of Michigan, please contact our office at (248) 844-5123. Under MCL 600.3241a(c), whichever is later. Dated: 12/14/2011. CitiMortgage Recycle, 600 North Michigan Avenue, Chicago, IL 60654. The borrower has previously agreed to modify the mortgage loan under section 303(a), 303(d), and 303(c) in no event will the terms of the modified mortgage agreement under MCL 600.3205b and MCL 600.3205c be modified. Notice is hereby given that the mortgage loan will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public vendue, Sixty-Three Dollars and Twenty-Seven Cents ($63.27) including interest due from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a(c), whichever is later. Dated: 12/18/2011. Wells Fargo Home Mortgage. Potestivo & Associates, P.C. 811 South Main Street, Suite 212, Flint, MI 48507. (248) 844-5123. Our File No: 11-53736. Mortgages, dated: 12/25/2011, 01/01/2012. If you are in the State of Michigan, please contact our office at (248) 844-5123. Under MCL 600.3241a(c), whichever is later. Dated: 12/18/2011. Wells Fargo Home Mortgage. Potestivo & Associates, P.C. 811 South Main Street, Suite 212, Flint, MI 48507. (248) 844-5123. Our File No: 11-53736. Mortgages, dated: 12/25/2011, 01/01/2012. If you are in the State of Michigan, please contact our office at (248) 844-5123. Under MCL 600.3241a(c), whichever is later. Dated: 12/18/2011. Wells Fargo Home Mortgage. Potestivo & Associates, P.C. 811 South Main Street, Suite 212, Flint, MI 48507. (248) 844-5123. Our File No: 11-53736. Mortgages, dated: 12/25/2011, 01/01/2012. If you are in the State of Michigan, please contact our office at (248) 844-5123. Under MCL 600.3241a(c), whichever is later. Dated: 12/14/2011. CitiMortgage, 1100 East Woodrow Avenue, Burton, MI 48509. The borrower has previously agreed to modify the mortgage loan under section 303(a), 303(d), and 303(c) in no event will the terms of the modified mortgage agreement be modified. Notice is hereby given that the mortgage loan will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public vendue, Sixty-Three Dollars and Twenty-Seven Cents ($63.27) including interest due from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a(c), whichever is later. Dated: 12/18/2011. Wells Fargo Home Mortgage. Potestivo & Associates, P.C. 811 South Main Street, Suite 212, Flint, MI 48507. (248) 844-5123. Our File No: 11-53736. Mortgages, dated: 12/25/2011, 01/00/2012. If you are in the State of Michigan, please contact our office at (248) 844-5123. Under MCL 600.3241a(c), whichever is later. Dated: 12/14/2011. CitiMortgage. Mortgages, dated: 12/25/2011, 01/00/2012. If you are in the State of Michigan, please contact our office at (248) 844-5123. Under MCL 600.3241a(c), whichever is later. Dated: 12/18/2011. Wells Fargo Home Mortgage. Potestivo & Associates, P.C. 811 South Main Street, Suite 212, Flint, MI 48507. (248) 844-5123. Our File No: 11-53736. Mortgages, dated: 12/25/2011, 01/01/2012. If you are in the State of Michigan, please contact our office at (248) 844-5123. Under MCL 600.3241a(c), whichever is later. Dated: 12/18/2011. Wells Fargo Home Mortgage. Potestivo & Associates, P.C. 811 South Main Street, Suite 212, Flint, MI 48507. (248) 844-5123. Our File No: 11-53736. Mortgages, dated: 12/25/2011, 01/01/2012.
WATERFRONT walkout, deck off kitchen and 2 car garage. Need Great room, dining room, 2 bedrooms, 1.5 baths, 1st floor laundry, 1229 sq. ft. in-ground sprinkler and garage. Updated flooring and interior paint.

More space? Finishing lower level walkout with Well maintained condo with 135 feet on Lobdell Lake. 3 bedrooms, beautiful view from private screened porch.

REDUCED PRICE and fenced outdoor storage for equipment. CONDO master bedroom, 2340 sq. ft. + 896 sq. ft.

FENTON TOWNSHIP 3 bedroom ground floor condo in lower level walkout that could Call Frank Cramer 810-869-5701

2 car detached garage

$239,000

Call Frank Cramer 810-869-5701

2.5 bathrooms, 1st floor laundry, Beautiful Lake Front Property with 2 full baths, central air, fireplace in den/library and could add up to 900 sq. ft.

$126,300

Call Margie Hinwood 810-377-1295

FENTON TOWNSHIP Cryer and Grand Blanc Road. Check out this doll house

$119,900

Call Nancy Hanks 248-459-0198

GEORGIA Style with 4 natural fireplaces which are located in the living room, dining room, family room and Master bedroom, wide plank flooring throughout, 2 bedrooms, 1.5 bathrooms, 1900 sq. ft. and full basement. This is used to be a single couple that loves the historical style. It’s one of the most beautiful homes you will ever see.

$84,900

Call Gail Landvoy 810-577-9901

This home was built as a recreation of the David Ogden home in Faribault Conn. 18th Century style with 4 natural fireplaces which are located in the living room, dining room, family room and Master bedroom, wide plank flooring throughout, 2 bedrooms, 1.5 bathrooms, 1900 sq. ft. and full basement. This is used to be a single couple that loves the historical style. It’s one of the most beautiful homes you will ever see.

$119,900

Call Margie Hinwood 810-377-1295

FENTON TOWNSHIP 15109 Hogan Road Move in today.

Super clean 3 bedroom ranch with many updates: new roof, carpet, paint, newer furnace. Located in lake area with beautiful lakefront yard. Nice floor plan with lots of room to play, living room, family room and dining room, 1.5 baths, basement and storage shed. Oversize garage has plenty of room for toys, workshop.

$119,900

Call Margie Hinwood 810-377-1295

LAKE FENTON, Ideal lakertown home for entertaining. 2 Story 3 bedroom home completely updated throughout, Granite kitchen open to Great Room overlooking panoramic views of lake, breakfast room, bedroom on main floor, central air, 3 bathrooms, 2675 sq. ft. and finished lower level with Daylight windows on corner lot. This is a Neighborhood Stabilization Program and Buyer must qualify and participate in 8 hour class.

$399,000

Call Gail Landvoy 810-577-9901

GAINES TOWNSHIP 5368 Squirre Lane

Large Spacious rooms, built-in china cabinets, fireplace in living room and College. Large Spacious rooms, built-in china cabinets, fireplace in living room and home theater system, in-law-apartment, deck, sprinkler system and 3 car garage. Vacation Lake Front Home next door.

$799,000

Call Arlene/Deb Wargo 810-569-1444

DEERFIELD TOWNSHIP 7217 Hitchcock Drive

Beautiful Lake Front Property with 136 feet on Loubdell Lake. 3 bedrooms, 2.5 bathrooms, 1st floor laundry, fireplace in den/library and master bedroom, 2040 sq. ft. - 696 sq. ft. in lower level walkout that could be added up to 1000 sq. ft.

$220,000

Call Frank Cramer 810-869-5701

FENTON TOWNSHIP 1741 Tannock Drive

Waterfront on Taylor Lake. Up North Atmosphere! Great for Summer Cottage or Year Around Home with a great view of the lake, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 891 sq. ft. + 816 sq. ft. in finished lower level walkout.

$120,000

Call Patrick Weldy 810-750-2300

ROSE TOWNSHIP 12325 St. Andrews Way


$62,000

Call Margie Hinwood 810-377-1295

ROSE TOWNSHIP 1741 Tannock Drive

An absolute doll house! Completely remodeled 3 bedroom Ranch located at the end of the street surrounded by woods on two sides. Falls like up north yet close to everything. Great paint pallet, beautiful hardwood floors throughout. Room to build garage. Deck is prepped for sunroom. Seller will give plans.

$82,000

Call Nancy Hanks 248-459-0198

TYRONE TOWNSHIP 9500 Walla Drive

An absolute doll house! Completely remodeled 3 bedroom Ranch located at the end of the street surrounded by woods on two sides. Falls like up north yet close to everything. Great paint pallet, beautiful hardwood floors throughout. Room to build garage. Deck is prepped for sunroom. Seller will give plans.

$62,000

Call Nancy Hanks 248-459-0198

ROSE TOWNSHIP 15052 Tannay Boulevard

Beautiful views of lake & large private backyard. Most of upper level has been tastefully remodeled in the last 5 years. Kitchen is exquisite with granite & lighting. Updated all through out. 2 Story 3 bedroom with 2 skylights. You will love the adjoining Sun Room! Finished walkout basement with Daylight windows on corner lot. New Kitchen, bathroom, windows, roof covering, paint and driveway. This is a Neighborhood Stabilization Program and Buyer must qualify and participate in 8 hour class.

$164,900

Call Nancy Hanks 248-459-0198

BEST LOCATION! The Heart of Fenton. Move in ready. NOT A SHORT SALE.

$320,000

Call Frank Cramer 810-869-5701

FENTON TOWNSHIP 13486 E. Michigan Avenue

Call Frank Cramer 810-869-5701

LAKEFRONT living on 5 acres. 3 bedroom ranch and a Guest Cottage. Main house has 1.5 baths, living room, family room, dining room, 2133 sq. ft. full basement and enclosed porch. Updated bathroom, furnace and septic field. Guest Cottage offers one bedroom with numerous updates, great rental.

$144,000

Call Lisa Ciarcia 810-845-7281

FENTON TOWNSHIP 121 4th Street

This home was built as a recreation of the David Ogden home in Faribault Conn. 18th Century style with 4 natural fireplaces which are located in the living room, dining room, family room and Master bedroom, wide plank flooring throughout, 2 bedrooms, 1.5 bathrooms, 1900 sq. ft. and full basement. This is used to be a single couple that loves the historical style. It’s one of the most beautiful homes you will ever see.

$119,900

Call Gail Landvoy 810-377-9901
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The council reconvened to make two motions, one to authorize allowing reductions in staff amounting to more than $100,000 per year. The second motion was to accept Parker’s recommendations on the settlement agreement. Both motions were unanimously approved by the village council, and were not discussed before the audience.

The motion to reduce staff was done to “implement savings” through the elimination of one account clerk/deputy clerk treasurer and one receptionist/meter reader, said President Jeff Miller. Miller said the savings amounted to $1,111,871. The staff members know they are being laid off, but the names are not being released at this time.

The second motion was to move $19,629 from the fund balance to cover the “financial obligations of the village,” said President Jeff Miller.

Both Miller and Manager Jerry Walker declined to state the cause of the reductions. Powers’ attorneys also declined to comment. Officially, Walker said money from the reduction in staff was for “projected village expenses.”

The settlement agreement was pretty specific to not talk about the case,” Walker said. Walker said they did talk about a settlement and a settlement agreement during closed session, but he could not say if the reductions and the motion regarding the case were connected. He said the reductions were not part of a regular budget discussion. Miller said during the meeting that reductions have not been presented to the board to cover a budget shortfall.

The money saved due to the staff reductions and the money from the general fund adds up to $131,500. The council had earmarked around $43,000 for Powers’ in severance pay in case she was fired. Legal insurance covers the first $25,000 in an award or settlement, according to Walker.

Although both motions passed unanimously, council member Jackie Campbell admitted she was not happy about the vote. “Nobody is happy,” said Miller. “The bottom line is, any time you have to make decisions like this, it is difficult. But again, the council had to serve more than 6,000 people.”
CITY APPROVES $6,400 FOR FIRE TRUCK REPAIRS

Fenton City Council gave Fenton Fire Chief Robert Cairnduff permission to spend about $6,400 to repair its 2001 Pierce fire truck. The fire department’s equipment maintenance fund will be amended by adding $6,500. Cairnduff said they have been putting the repairs off but it has now become a safety factor. The fire department typically replaces trucks after 20 years, which means the truck is expected to be replaced in about 10 years. Repairs will resolve the rusted packing bolts and replacement of pump packing. The front suction intake valve must be replaced and the hydraulic ladder rack needs the main arms replaced. The truck will be out of service for a few days while the repairs are being made.

CITY JOINS FIVE-COUNTY COOPERATIVE

The Fenton City Council unanimously approved taking part in the I-69 International Trade Corridor Next Michigan Development Corporation. This five county economic development cooperative will focus on improving freight connectivity and enhance economic development in the region. To participate, the city needed to pass a resolution approving the interlocal government agreement. The cost to participate is $3,000, per year, for three years, funded by the Local Development Finance Authority (LDFA), since the Industrial Park would be most positively impacted by this agreement.
Dibbleville past and present
What it has to offer to younger generations

By Sharon Stone

Dibbleville has come a long way since its early days in the mid 1830’s. In 1837, the two-block area included many churches, office space of A. J. Phillips and two small frame buildings, one of which is the oldest house in town. Dibbleville was named for one of Fenton’s founders, Clark Dibble. He came here from New York in 1834 and laid claim to 40 acres of government land. Dibbleville became Fenton’s original business district and remains adjacent to Fenton’s oldest residential area. One structure in this district was built by Robert LeRoy in 1837 shortly after Fenton purchased

TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIMES FILE PHOTO

Dibbleville, the historical business district in downtown Fenton dating back to the 1830s, continues to be a hub of retail businesses, restaurants and other services.

“Dibbleville continued to be a hub of retail businesses, restaurants and other services. It was 1942 when the popular movie, “A Yank On The Burma Road,” with Lorraine Day, was playing. Dibbleville named it Fentonville. The village became Fenton in 1863. Fast forward to today and Dibbleville remains the city’s downtown business district. When locals speak of downtown Fenton, they typically envision the Dibbleville area and its architectural uniqueness.”

Byerly’s was next door and Hitchcock Insurance was upstairs. It was 1942 when the popular movie, “A Yank On The Burma Road,” with Lorraine Day, was playing. Dibbleville named it Fentonville. The village became Fenton in 1863. Fast forward to today and Dibbleville remains the city’s downtown business district. When locals speak of downtown Fenton, they typically envision the Dibbleville area and its architectural uniqueness.

With the Fenton United Methodist Church toward the north end of Dibbleville and the First Presbyterian Church of Fenton at the south end, several unique retailers and a couple of restaurants are flourishing in the quaint historical neighborhood. Visitors to downtown can find most everything they might need or want, from pizza, Michigan beer, shoes, insurance, auto service, books, heating and cooling products, cameras, jewelry, hair salon, general store, art gallery, gluten-free and its architectural uniqueness.

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The finger nose hair trimmer is for the hair that used to grow on your head, but now sprouts out of your nose and ears. It is the perfect gag gift for a friend.

TABLET ARM HOLDERS
You’re at the mall and you totally want to look at your Marie Claire A to Z app, but you brought your clutch instead of your messenger bag! Whoa, calm down, it’s cool — you strapped your iPad to your wrist, remember? Close call.

PET PETTER
For those who find pet ownership stressful and angst-ridden exercise, this device eliminates actually having to touch your pet ever again. Now the only thing you’re responsible for is picking up poop.

RAZORBA
Let’s face it, back hair on a man isn’t attractive. It’s the equivalent of a woman with hairy legs. But for men, there is no easy way to rid yourself of back hair, until now.

SMOKER MITTENS
Never let the cold weather impede the right to smoke again. Now smokers can pull on these cigarette-enabling winter mittens and suck in as many cancer-causing chemicals as they please in any temperature.

ICARTA
Let’s leave bathroom entertainment at bathroom reading, not listening. Singing in the shower is enough, we don’t need to go into a duet with John Mayer while on the throne too.

CUSTOMIZED CUPCAKE CAR
Put on your matching hat, slip under the muffin top of your Cupcake Car, and let the world figure itself out for awhile. Get (or give) the sheer, joyful chaos of a gift that is mind-blowing, triple-dog-dare, double-infinity forever cool. Make the kids or grandkids literally squeal with joy.

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Q. When ever I start my gas oven, it comes on with a boom, or whoosh sound. What could cause this?

A. When ever a gas oven control calls for heat it sends voltage to the igniter. As the igniter heats up it creates amperage, or current flow causing the gas valve to open and the gas is ignited! (whoosh) The sound is a result of the igniter becoming weak and allowing the gas valve to open very slowly. This slow release of gas allows a build up until enough has built up to ignite. (BOOM) You’ll need an igniter soon.

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Randy Wise nominated for TIME magazine dealer of the year

Randy Wise, owner of Randy Wise Buick-GMC in Fenton and four other dealerships throughout mid-Michigan, has been nominated for the 2012 TIME magazine Dealer of the Year award.

Wise is one of a select group of dealers from across the United States who will be honored at the 95th annual National Automobile Dealers Association (NADA) Convention & Exposition in Las Vegas on Feb. 4, 2012.

The TIME magazine Dealer of the Year award is one of the auto industry’s most prestigious and coveted honors. Wise, 63, is one of only 50 auto dealers out of 17,000 nationwide nominated for this award. A panel of faculty members from the Ross School of Business at the University of Michigan selects one finalist from each of four NADA regions and one national Dealer of the Year.

Wise graduated from the University of Michigan in 1970, breaking into the automotive business at Cauley-Serra Chevrolet, while serving as a staff sergeant in the U.S. Army Reserve until 1976. He purchased his first dealer-ship, Randy Wise Chevrolet in Flint, in 1989, and now owns Randy Wise Buick-GMC in Fenton, Randy Wise Ford in Ortonville, Randy Wise Auto Mall in Flint and Randy Wise Chevrolet-Buick in Milan, leading a staff of 200 employees.

Wise’s son, Christopher, is a vice president in the organization. “Through the cyclical times of the automobile industry, I never questioned the decision I made in 1970 to get in this business,” said Wise. “I keep a positive attitude with employees, especially some of the younger ones, convincing them that this is a great business. If we consistently do the right things, it can be very rewarding.”

TIME magazine and Ally Financial have both joined forces to honor these nominees. The 2012 national TIME Dealer of the Year winner will receive a $10,000 contribution to a nonprofit organization of choice. The other 50 nominees will each receive $1,000 to give to a qualified nonprofit organization. Ally will make more than $60,000 in charitable contributions to local community causes on behalf of the dealers.

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Christmas Gatherings

Christmas Eve @ 4PM & 7PM
@ Fenton High School Auditorium
3200 West Shiawassee Fenton, MI 48430

Christmas Day @ 11AM
@ The Rock Church
11400 Linden Rd. Fenton, MI 48430
Ice fishing and Safety

By Colin Van Leuven - news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

Winter won’t be held off for much longer, no matter what the last few warmer-than-normal days have led you to believe. As many of you are just itching to get out for some ice fishing, it’s not only time to put on new lines, sharpen the blades on your auger, and pick up some new lures, but it’s also time to think about safety. Here are a few tips on how to have an enjoyable outing and to make sure you all return safely.

• Is the ice safe? Judge the safeness of any ice by the color. Clear ice is stronger than white ice that has thawed and then refrozen. Ice will usually melt near shorelines first, so on warm days, think about heading back in early. Ice should be a minimum of 3 inches thick, before you even think of venturing out on to it. (And, that is still taking a chance.)

• Buy yourself an inflatable life vest, and wear it. Tell your friends to do the same, and get them for your children as well. The life vest is easily inflated, and will keep you at the surface, if you fall through the ice. Also, take along some ice picks. A couple of 16 penny nails driven into the ends of a an old broom handle and then sharpened to points works just as well, tied together with a cord or leather lace. These are worn over your neck like a sash, and will help you climb back onto safe ice should you fall through, while your inflatable life vest keeps you afloat.

• Use the buddy system when going out to your favorite lake, and always let someone know where you are going to be fishing.

• Be aware of where you’re going or have gone. A GPS is as useful out on the ice as anywhere else. Once, I was caught on the open ice on one of the Great Lakes in unexpected blizzard conditions. Had I not known exactly where I was, I could have easily ended up going in the wrong direction toward open water.

• Stay away from moving water. Moving water will degrade ice so quickly that the safe ice you walked across could be treacherous on your trip back. If you see rushes or other grasses sticking through the ice, take care also, as these can cause cracking. For those of you who ice fish on the Great Lakes, if you suddenly notice your lines going at an angle, it means the whole pack of ice is starting to move, so you had better move, too.

• Carry standard safety gear. Besides ice picks, a length of stout supple rope could save someone’s life. Rescue squads may have difficulty reaching your location, and the delay can mean the difference of surviving, or not. A wool blanket could keep a victim from lapsing into hypothermia, which can kill quickly. Chemically activated, body-size heat packs, similar to hand warmers only larger, can help, too. I put one inside my outer shirt to help me stay warm, especially if I’m not fishing from a shelter.

• Hypothermia is a dangerous killer. It can sneak up on you quickly. This is important when children are out ice fishing with you. If someone in your fishing party starts shaking uncontrollably, or acts confused and disoriented, get them to a warm location immediately.

• Wear warm boots. When venturing far from shore, make sure your boots are thick, with non-slip soles, or if the ice is clear, or wet and slippery, wear ice cleats. Falls on ice kill many people each year. Simply falling on ice is a painful experience, and can cause broken wrists, ribs, and other major broken bones.

Ice fishing is fun, and in many people’s minds, it’s the best way to fish. The fishes flesh is firm and some think fish tastes better when caught through the ice.

With frozen lakes not far off, it’s time to tune up your gear and get ready to head out on the iced-up waters. Just be sure that you also prepare to do it safely. Colin Van Leuven can be reached at colinio@charter.net.
Look Who’s Talking

By Angel Rynearson, Intern

Kirsten Humitz
16-year-old Junior
Fenton High School

FAMILY:
Beth and Bruce Bair. I have three sisters, Calli Humitz, Emilee Humitz, and Bailey Bair.

MY DREAM CAR IS:
A cream-colored Avalanche with black leather interior.

IF YOU COULD DO ANYTHING OVER IN HIGH SCHOOL WHAT WOULD IT BE?: I would focus more on my grades.

WHAT DO YOU DO OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL?: I work at Bob Evans and hang out with my friends.

MY GREATEST HIGH SCHOOL REGRET IS?: Not staying close to the people I should have stayed close to.

MY MOST EMBARRASING MOMENT IN HIGH SCHOOL WAS?: I slipped on ice and fell walking into the school.

IF YOU COULD HAVE ONE SUPER POWER WHAT WOULD IT BE?: To fly, because it would be really cool.

IF YOU WERE PRINCIPAL FOR A DAY WHAT CHANGES WOULD YOU MAKE AT YOUR SCHOOL?: I would have open-campus lunches and late-start days.

WHAT IS AN UPCOMING EVENT YOU ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO?: The Sadie Hawkins dance, because dances are fun and we don’t have them that often.

IF YOU HAD TO WALK THROUGH DOWNTOWN ALL DAY WEARING A SIGN WHAT WOULD IT SAY?: ‘Live each day as if it was your last.’

FRONT ROW SEATS AND BACK STAGE PASSES, WHOM ARE YOU SEEING?: Taylor Swift, Scotty McCreery or Chris Brown.

BEST DAY IN YOUR LIFE SO FAR?: Spring break in Florida.

WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS AFTER GRADUATION?: To go to college, I don’t know where yet.

WHERE WILL YOU BE AND WHAT WILL YOU BE DOING 10 YEARS FROM NOW?: I hope to be married, starting a family, and have a great job.

Student Body asked at Fenton High School

What is your favorite winter activity?
Compiled by Angel Rynearson

NOAH PIERSON, FRESHMAN
“I like to ski. My brother and I both like skiing.”

MORGAN LOOMIS, SOPHOMORE
“I like making igloos with my uncle.”

RYAN DASCENZA, FRESHMAN
“My friends and I like to go snowmobiling.”

DRAKE BLANKENSHIP, FRESHMAN
“I like to snowboard because it is exhilarating and very fun.”

AMBER HIGGINBOTHAM, SENIOR
“My favorite winter activity is building snowmen (and then destroying them). It’s fun.”

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**SCHULZ-FOX**
The engagement of Tracey Anne Schulz to Gregory Robert Fox, both of Marshfield Wis., has been announced by his parents, Thomas and Terri Fox of Fenton. Her parents are Wayne and Mary Schulz of Marshfield, Wis. The bride-elect graduated from Marshfield Senior High School in 2004. She is employed by Lang Furniture in Marshfield, Wis. Her fiancé is a 2000 graduate of Fenton High School and is employed by Monroe Truck Equipment in Marshfield, Wis. A Sept. 15, 2012 wedding ceremony will be held in Marshfield, Wis.

**ROCHE**
Len and Helen Roche of Fenton celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on Dec. 8. Roche, and the former Helen Kann of Britton, S.D., were married in Flint on Dec. 8, 1951. The couple has six children, John Roche, Anne (Tom) Brown, Susan (John) Leadley, Tim (Christine) Roche, Laura (Don) Beach and Nancy Smith. They have 12 grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

**SMITH**
Michelle LuRena Shouse of Fenton became the bride of Richard Patrick Smith of Linden on Nov. 19, 2011. The ceremony was held at the Gazebo at the Saline County Courthouse in Benton, Ark. and was performed by Justice of the Peace J. R. Walters. Attending the couple were their three children, Justin Smith, Katelyn Smith and Kelsie Smith. The bride is the daughter of Virgil and Haney Shouse of Fenton. The groom is the son of Wayne Smith of Fenton, and Susan Taylor of Sand Point. A reception is planned for summer of 2012 in Fenton. The couple is residing in Benton, Ark.

**BIRTHS**
OUELLETTE
Christa and Andrew Ouellette have announced the birth of a daughter, Adrianna Makenna Ouellette. She was born on Dec. 7, 2011 at University of Michigan C.S. Mott Children’s Hospital at 10:43 p.m. Her weight was 2 lbs., 10 ozs. She was 15.5 inches long. Her grandparents are Donna and the late Chris Newman of Holly and Frank and Lynne Ouellette of Holly. Her great grandparents are Marilyn Jenkins of Holly and Joyce Gagneur of Westland.

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**ANNIVERSARY**
Members of St. John Catholic Church dedicate a memorial, the “Eternal Flame,” on Sunday, Dec. 11 outside of St. John’s Activity Center. The monument is to remember unborn babies lost to abortion, miscarriages, or pre-birth complications. Roger Sharp, owner of Sharp Funeral Homes, donated it.

**We Need HOMES!**

Bria is a beautiful Shih Tau mix. She loves attention and is such a little doll.

**We are Popeye & Smokey!**

We are the cats that have been here the longest. We would really like to spend Christmas with our new family, lounging in front of a warm fire, with love all around.

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**Obituaries, Funeral Services and Memoriums**

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**Eternal Flame**

**TRI-COUNTY TIMES | ANGEL RYEARNER**

Hi, I’m Bria. We are Popeye & Smokey! Bria is a beautiful Shih Tau mix. She loves attention and is such a little doll.

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810-735-5169

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Conflict over presents calls for some give-and-take

DEAR AMY: I love my family dearly, but every year we get into huge arguments over gifts. I hate receiving presents. I just don’t feel I deserve them. I want Christmas to be about spending time with my family, not about who can spend the most.

My parents refuse to see things my way and continue to buy me gifts I don’t want. It really hurts me when they do, and they refuse to stop. It seems as if my feelings aren’t important, and I must always do things their way.

What can I do?

I don’t want to be a downer on Christmas but I stay depressed all month because I’ve done things their way for 28 years and they refuse to acknowledge my beliefs for just one Christmas. Your thoughts?

— Downer

DEAR DOWNER: Being depressed for the entire month of December most definitely not the way to go. Because you cannot change your parents but can only ask them to change, you might need to be the one to actually behave differently. I agree with you that your parents should be sensitive to your wishes, and that is the expectation. They have feelings, too, and you might be able to influence them by affirming their intent and letting them know you appreciate their generosity toward you — even though the material aspects of it make you miserable.

It’s possible that your expression, “I don’t feel I deserve gifts,” has ignited a dynamic in them where they respond to your reluctance with overabundance. I agree that it is inappropriate, but they may be overreacting to prove that you are deserving. Ask your folks yet again to limit their gift-giving to only one gift and bring one gift for them.

If at age 28 you cannot find a way to negotiate this — with some compromise on each side — then you should rethink where and how you spend your Christmas holiday.

DEAR AMY: Our good friends recently had to put their family pet of 12 years to sleep, and they are grieving.

My husband and I are not pet lovers, and our friends are aware of this. We want to make a meaningful gesture toward them to acknowledge their loss, but we fear coming across as inauthentic since we have never had a family pet.

We have told our friends that we love them and are sorry that they are hurting, but is there something else besides a card that would be appropriate as well?

— At a Loss

DEAR AT A LOSS: There is nothing “inauthentic” about acknowledging another person’s loss, even if you have never faced this sort of loss yourself. Euthanizing a pet is a very tough choice to make — and the experience itself can be overwhelming, because this choice is often made after many bouts with illness and treatment.

Sending a card is thoughtful. My most recent pet that died — a gigantic tabby cat — left an equally massive void in my life with his passing. I never expected to receive cards in the mail about this loss, but when I did I was extremely touched by the gesture. You might also make a small donation to your local animal shelter in this family’s name. Otherwise, don’t worry about your authenticity; just be sincere.

(Read questions via e-mail to askamy@tribune.com or by mail to Ask Amy, Chicago Tribune, TT500, 435 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago, IL 60611. Amy Dickinson’s memoir, “The Mighty Queens of Freeville: A Mother, a Daughter and the Town That Raised Them” (Hyperion), is available in bookstores.)

Dr. Donohue regrets that he is unable to answer individual letters, but he will incorporate them in his column whenever possible. Readers may write him or request an order form of available health newsletters at PO Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475.

Red Velvet Krispie Treats

INGREDIENTS

• 3 T. butter
• 1 (10.5 ounce) bag mini marshmallows
• 1 T. vanilla extract
• 3/4 c. red velvet cake mix
• 6 c. Cocoa Rice Krispies cereal
• 4 oz. white chocolate chips, melted

DIRECTIONS

1. Line a 9 x 13-inch pan with wax or parchment paper; coat well with cooking spray. Set aside.

2. In a large saucepan, melt the butter over low heat. Add marshmallows, cake mix, and vanilla stirring frequently, until melted and smooth. Fold in the cereal until well combined and coated.

3. Transfer sticky cereal mixture to the prepared pan, pressing down until the top is level. Drizzle white chocolate over top.

Bride wants to use dog in wedding

DEAR PAW’S CORNER: My stepdaughter Susan is getting married on the day after Christmas, in the Bahamas. A lot of her relatives, including myself, are rather miffed about the date and location. But even more outrageous are her plans for the wedding itself. She’s decided that her yellow Lab, “Briny,” will serve as the ring bearer! I’m not sure how she plans to pull this off, but I think it’s really inappropriate. How can I tell her this without upsetting her?

— Joyce L., Deerfield Beach, Fla.

DEAR JOYCE: I don’t think there’s a way to say what’s on your mind without upsetting her, because you’re unhappy with the wedding plans overall. Personally, I think it sounds really fun that Briny has such an important place in the wedding.

Susan does need to make sure that Briny can make the trip over to the Bahamas. The website www.bahamas.com has details on getting a pet import permit, but the most important detail is that Briny must have up-to-date vaccinations and that she’s staying in accommodations that allow pets.

This close to the wedding, it’s probably best not to go into any other details. If you’ve accepted the invitation and finalized your travel plans, go to the wedding, enjoy a fully beverage (preferably with an umbrella), and be happy.

Send your question or comment to ask@pawscorner.com, or write to Paw’s Corner, c/o King Features Weekly Service, PO Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475. For more pet care-related advice and information, visit www.pawscorner.com.
**DIBBLEVILLE**

Continued from Page 1B

products, chic items for their dogs, antiques, candy, a post office, dentist, church to a design studio.

Carol Schuler, owner of Sweet Variations, has an expansive view of Dibbleville when she looks out her candy shop’s front window. For more than 30 years, residents and visitors to Fenton have frequented her shop for her homemade chocolates and other candy items.

Schuler likes her shop’s location, although parking can be an issue when it’s busy. She said “tweens” and teens come into the candy shop often looking for the gummy candies, chewing gum and candy bars. Customers a bit older like to indulge in the chocolates that she has made. “Right now I’m up to my knees in marshmallows,” said Schuler who is creating her chocolate-covered candy for the holidays.

Since 1980, the Iron Grate has been offering a wide range of products for their customers. Elizabeth Dickens, originally from London, owns and operates the shop with her two daughters. They like to say they bring “big city” chic to small-town America. Trendy clothing, popular with your mom, can be found on the shop’s second floor.

For anyone who loves homemade breadsticks, they have to try the ones at The Fenton House restaurant. Manager Megan Papathodore said it’s common for people out shopping to stop in just to get a half bag of breadsticks and then continue shopping. Adults dining with children will soon learn there is a game room in the back. This room is a big hit with the kids.

With their front carryout counter, Papathodore said people are happy to stop inside to buy a cup of coffee or hot chocolate. “We always offer hot choco-late and coffee for people walking around town,” she said.

In addition to the popular breadsticks, the restaurant staff of about 40 has been providing pizza and pasta since 1986.

The French Laundry, at the corner of Shiawassee Avenue and Adelaide Street, has a separate menu for kids 12 and under. The restaurant has a Kid’s Night every Monday from 5 to 8 p.m. where Kid’s Stuff menu items are at half price. Entertainment includes a magician and balloon sculptor.

With its corner location and ample front windows and patio seating, Mark Hamel, owner of the restaurant, has created a destination for those seeking a unique dining experience in the heart of Dibbleville.

Andrea Miller, owner of Elle Marie Hair Salon, is living out her dream as a shop owner in Dibbleville. She opened her sala- lon on South LeRoy Street, just south of the police station, less than two years ago.

She had her eye on Dibbleville for years and jumped at the chance to open her shop when a space became available. “I liked the walk-in traffic,” she said. “It’s an energetic area and I like the unique buildings.”

Even newer to Dibbleville is Jill’s General Store, just two doors south of the hair salon. Here, customers will find unique vintage items, newer items and locally made organic soaps at the family-owned shop.

Owner Jill Hendrix said Dibbleville was perfect for their general store since it presented an opportunity to restore and utilize an historical setting. “I’ve always loved small towns and sense of community,” she said.

Hendrix has been surprised by seeing younger people seeking out quality items of glass or cast iron, for example, rather than new, cheaper plastic items as they aim to set up their own homes. She recalls one girl shopping with her mother. The girl spotted an older sewing and said it would make the perfect gift, despite being used.

Music is enjoyed at every age and Dibbleville has a music studio, located between The French Laundry and Sweet Variations that continues to thrive. Chris and Lisa Bayer, owners, began providing music instruction in 2003 and opened the studio doors in 2006. Since that time, it has seen a 10-fold increase in enrollment, with more than 250 enrolled music students.

For anyone who hasn’t made their way to Dibbleville with their entire family, it might just be the right time to enjoy the Christmas and holiday decorations as they do a little window shopping and getting to know their local retailers.
When celebrating Christmas was criminal

In 1664, the English Parliament outlawed Christmas. No celebrations of any kind were to be tolerated that commemorated the season. What caused this revolt against celebrating the birth of Christ?

Was there a conspiracy to do away with Christianity? Were political leaders so determined to be inclusive that they feared the wide recognition of one religious holiday might obscure others? Did they think England was getting too religious? Were doubters demanding their rights of privacy from the songs and sounds of Christmas?

Not at all.

What then?

Walter B. Knight, in his book, ‘Knight’s Master Book of Illustrations,’ says Christmas celebrations were forbidden because they had gotten out of hand. The true meaning of Christmas had become lost in a mad-storm of drunkenness, rioting and depravity. Law-abiding people found it necessary to stay indoors for their own safety. And in responding to this crisis, Parliament made celebrating Christmas criminal.

What then brought back the celebration of Christ’s birth in a form that cultivated peace on earth, good will toward men? What enabled people to finally reject carnal cravings that had no reason to be part of the celebration of this historic event?

‘Christmas carols,’ writes Knight. Excessive carol parrying gave Christmas a bad name.

Musical expressions of the real meaning of Christmas restored it, ending the restrictions placed on its celebration.

Thirty years after Parliament’s ban on celebrating Christmas was invoked, Isaac Watts was born. He was somewhat frail and only five feet tall, but took to books and poetry as a child, learning Latin at age 4, Greek at 9, and Hebrew at 13. Watts wrote more than 600 hymns, among them his enduring Christmas carol, ‘Joy to the World,’ with its focus on praise and peace. The pleasing tune was adapted from one found in the masterful work of George Frederick Handel, composer of ‘The Hallelujah Chorus’ which still moves crowds to rise in reverence when played by orchestras or presented by choirs at Christmas and Easter. Handel also had a hand in the music of ‘While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks by Night.’

Other composers kept adding what are now well-known Christmas carols — ‘Silent Night,’ ‘Away in a Manger,’ ‘It Came upon a Midnight Clear,’ ‘The First Noel,’ ‘O Little Town of Bethlehem,’ ‘Hark! The Angel Angels Sing,’ to name some favorites.

Now, every year during the Christmas season, these classic carols with their life-changing lyrics are rediscovered, rehearsed, played over sound systems in malls and legally presented to millions in myriad of media outlets. This is powerful proof that living out the message of Christmas is stronger than laws, bans or boycotts in accomplishing the purposes of what began in a stable in Bethlehem so long ago.

Celebrating Christmas is about more than giving. It’s about living out the inner change made in those who have received the greatest gift of all.

Roger Campbell is an author, a columnist and broadcaster who was a pastor for 22 years. He can be reached at rogercampbell@ameritech.net.

By Roger Campbell

Tri-County Living

Sunday, December 18, 2011

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Holly Presbyterian Church

Rev. Sharilyn Gates, Pastor

CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SCHEDULE

• Christmas Eve Worship Service: December 24, 9:00pm.

• Christmas Day Worship Service: December 25

No Sunday School
Coffee Hour 7:00am — 10:00am.
Christmas Worship....10:30am.

207 E. Maple, Holly
248-654-9494
www.hollypc.org

St. Rita Parish of Holly
Invites and Welcomes all
‘Come Let Us Adore Him’
Communal Penance Service
with Individual Reconciliation
December 22 at 7pm
Vigil of Christmas Mass
4pm and 7 pm
Christmas Day Mass
Sunday, December 25
9am and 11am
Vigil of Mary, The Mother of God Mass
Saturday, December 31 at 4pm
Mary, The Mother of God Mass
Sunday, January 1
8am, 10am, 12noon

309 E. Maple Street • Holly
(810) 634-4841

Fenton United Methodist Church

Christmas Eve Worship
Family Worship
Family Life Center
4:00 pm & 6:00 pm.

Candlelight Worship
Sanctuary
9 pm & 11 pm.

Childcare available at all services for toddlers and infants.

Trinity Lutheran Church

806 Main St. Fenton (810) 629-7861
www.trinitylcmifenton.com
Pastor Dean G. Dumbrille

Celebrate the season with us A Savior is Born!
Please join us as we proclaim the wonderful news

• Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion December 24 at 4:00PM, 7:00PM and 11:00PM.

• Christmas Day Communion Service December 25 at 10:00AM.

• New Year’s Eve Communion Service December 31 at 7:00PM.

• New Year’s Day Communion Service January 1 at 10:00AM.

Fenton United Methodist Church
119 S. Leroy Street • Fenton • 810-629-2132
www.fentonymc.com • FentonUMC.office@gmail.com

St. Mary Magdalene

Orthodox Church

December 24
Christmas Eve Vigil @ 5:30pm

December 25
Divine Liturgy @ 10:00am

Christmas 2011

2499 S. Long Lake Rd.
Fenton, MI 48430
810-750-1401

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Fenton hockey defeats Tri-City co-op squad, 5-0

By David Troppens
droppens@tctimes.com; 810-433-6789

Fenton’s Danny DeLong has always wanted to play hockey with his brother. He’s getting that chance right now.

And on Wednesday, it paid off handsomely for the Fenton varsity hockey team when DeLong, a freshman, scored two goals off assists from his older brother, Tyler DeLong, helping lead the Tigers to a 5-0 victory against the Linden/Lake Fenton/Durand co-op hockey team named the Tri-City Chiefs at Iceland Arena.

“It feels great,” Danny DeLong said. “I’ve been looking forward to playing with him all my life. It’s great I get the chance to do it for one year.”

The Tigers, who remain the only Flint Metro League team that is not involved in a hockey co-op, are happy to have the pair working together as well, as the duo combined to score the team’s first goal late in the first period. That goal came on a cycled puck from Tyler DeLong to Danny DeLong near the boards. He took a shot from an extreme angle and found the net with just 1:45 left in the opening period. Then, at the first-period buzzer, Fenton took a 2-0 lead on goalie Connor Phillips, off an assist by Jake Foguth.

“I got a cycle from my brother and I threw it toward the net,” DeLong said about his first goal.

Fenton played the game with just 10 skaters, but still dominated the attacking phase of the game, out-shooting Tri-City 40-7 in the contest. In fact, Fenton out-shot Tri-City 15-0 in the first period alone. The Tigers, who opened the sea-See HOCKEY on 15B

Run Like the Dickens race draws great reviews from runners

By David Troppens
droppens@tctimes.com; 810-433-6789

Holly — When it comes to road racing, Fenton’s Sue Larsen has seen just about as many races as anyone over the last 10 years.

She’s raced in 5Ks, 10Ks and marathons. She’s run during all seasons in all types of weather. She’s run in Michigan, and several other states in the union.

So when one of Fenton’s running stars gives a race some kudos, you know she’s doing so after experiencing plenty of events — good and bad.

And when it comes to the Run Like the Dickens Run and Walk, which was held in Holly on Dec. 10, those kudos were coming out as though she was a public relations worker for the event.

“I love it,” Larsen said. “Watching this grow from a small fundraiser for their track team to what it is now is amazing. He always seems to get the coldest days. It always seems to be about 20 degrees colder than it has been in previous days, but it was cold this year.

“But (race director) Rob (Busydlo) makes it a great event. The fact it’s put on by a runner, he gets all the little things — the bathrooms, the places to get warm, the babysitting for kids so families can run. ... I think he does an awesome job.”

And Larsen isn’t the only one to think that way. Considering the race drew a record field of 1,345 runners (1,245 who finished) in weather that hovered around 10 degrees, it’s apparently become a winner with people all over the state. And the field of winners symbolized that. Larsen was one of only two tri-county runners/walkers to win the male or female overall title in the 5K walk or run and 10K run. The other local winner was Fenton’s standout 5K walker Susan Fassert. Area masters division winners included Lisa Veneziano, who won the female masters 10K run. Beyond those three, winners from Armada, Novi, Milford, Rochester, Allen Park, Montrose and Rochester Hills.

Reviews from the champions were very positive.

“It’s encouraging to see all these people that are such dedicated to get out here and support a good cause,” 10K men’s winner Mike Andersen, of Milford, said. “I got up this morning and it was eight degrees outside, but there’s 1,000-plus people here so that makes it a lot better. They really do a good job. The course was great and the people were great.”

The holiday feeling also appealed to the runners.

“It’s awesome,” Stoney Creek High School senior and men’s 5K winner Eli Naas said. “In general, it’s a flat course. It’s nice how people are playing music for you while you are running.”

“I think the highlight was going right down that main street area,” Andersen said. “That was pretty cool with the festival being set up. Other than that, seeing a lot of houses with music on was really encouraging.”

Even the temperatures weren’t that much of an issue for one runner. Caro’s Alex Williams ran his race without a shirt on.

“IT’s cold when you start, but once you get going, it’s not too bad, just the fore-arms take it,” Williams said. “I do all my races with no shirt. I just decided a shirt is just too baggy. Last week I ran two races on the same day and it wasn’t bad. This was a touch colder, but I thought I’d run it. This is the coldest I’ve ever run without a shirt.”

The ninth-annual Run Like the Dickens Road Race was held in Holly on Dec. 10. Despite temperatures that were well below freezing, there was a record 1,345 runners at the race, making it the highest attended road race in the tri-county area during 2011. (Above) Runners for the 5K run get ready for the start of the race. The event holds a 10K run, a 5K run and a 5K walk. While the field size has made the Run Like the Dickens race one of the most competitive in the Flint area, some still enjoy the holiday season while competing, as evidenced by this unidentified “Christmas tree” runner. Many ran dressed as Santa Claus or other holiday appropriate characters.
Eagles win second straight contest, defeat Swartz Creek

By David Troppens
dtroppens@tctimes.com; 810-433-6789

Swartz Creek — After beating Fenton for the first time in seven years, apparently the Linden varsity girls basketball team wanted the good times to roll a little bit longer.

The Eagles captured their second straight victory, defeating the Swartz Creek Dragons 50-40 Tuesday night at Swartz Creek.

“It’s hard to beat Fenton and then go ahead and play Swartz Creek the next game and win,” Linden coach Ben Varner said. “That was huge for us. In the past we were not able to do that at all. I don’t think we won back-to-back games last year, and to do it against two good teams is huge. Our confidence is growing. Hopefully we can keep it up.”

The Dragons, who are expected to be one of the stronger teams in the Metro League, trailed Linden 15-9 after the first quarter, but cut the gap to 24-21 by halftime.

In the second half, the Eagles produced their most explosive half of basketball of the season, scoring 26 points, helping them earn the road win.

“We started off really well again and got off to a little bit of a lead,” Varner said. “It was a lot like the Fenton game. They got us back a little bit and then we pulled it out at the end again. Like I said, we are getting better. We are playing hard, working hard and getting better.”

Sarbrina Kinney and Kelsey Brecht led the offense with 13 points each, while Jordan Sargent had 12 points. Madison Nosek chipped in nine points.

Manja Satkowiak and Kelsey Brecht had four steals each, while Rachel Maxheimer had five rebounds.

The Eagles (2-1, 2-2) have progressively gotten better defensively. After scoring 33 points in each of their first two games, Linden scored 40 against Fenton and 51 on Monday. The last two games have been the Eagles’ two best defensive contests as well.

“Both teams pressed us and we were able to handle it OK and score points on that,” Varner said. “When we were forced to slow it down and run our offense, we ran our offense better. We are putting the ball in the basket a lot better.”

Tigers remain undefeated with victory against Brandon, 74-47

By Al Zipsie
dhoppens@tctimes.com; 810-433-6789

Ortonville — The Fenton varsity boys basketball team had its closest game of the year, Tuesday.

The Tigers defeated the Brandon Blackhaws 74-47 in a Metro League victory at Brandon.

However, 27 points is tight when you consider the Tigers had a pair of 40-point routs over Clio and Linden to start the season.

Fenton had the knockout blow early, outscoring the Blackhaws 22-3 in the opening quarter. They padded the lead to 26-3 and to 38-14 by halftime. A pair of juniors — Cory Cox with 11 points and Eric Readman with 10 points — combined for half of the team’s first-half points. Fenton’s defense was stingy and the Tigers dominated the rebounding battle as well.

“We played phenomenal defense in the first quarter,” Fenton varsity boys basketball coach Tim Olszewski said.

Dylan Morris, a small guard, sparked the Blackhaws in the second half, scoring 17 points. He had seven points on two possessions. He had a rare four-point play, when he was fouled after he drilled a three-pointer. He added the free throw to complete the play. He also got fouled on a three-pointer and made all three shots.

“It is not a discredit to our defense,” Olszewski said. “They hit a half-dozen NBA three-pointers.”

Four Fenton players reached double-figures for Fenton. Cox had a game-high 19 points, while Dylan Hickoff had 16. Readman chipped in 11 while Ryan Hickoff had 10. The Hickoffs had other nice numbers as well. Ryan Hickoff had six rebounds, four steals and four assists, while Dylan Hickoff had six steals and three assists.

“The Hickoffs are fun to play with, they really are,” said Cox. “I came into this season just wanting to do whatever I can to help the team.

“I wanted to play a role with my rebounding, my defense and (my ability to) kick the ball out for an easy look on a shot. We have to keep our focus in games like we have had. To practice with each other every day helps us get better.”

The game was delayed for over 30 minutes with 4:16 left in the third quarter when the Blackhaws’ Cody Feltner was injured. Feltner hit his head and was wearing a neck brace when taken off the court on a stretcher.

“It is just basketball. You have to be thinking of the kid who got hurt and went down like that when the game resumes,” Olszewski said. “We had to persevere through it and having a big lead to keep a concentrated effort.”

Swartz Creek 63, Linden 41

Swartz Creek outscored Linden 23-12 in the second quarter to capture a 35-20 lead at the half. The Eagles were unable to cut into the deficit in the second half, resulting in the loss.

Kevin Baker and Colin Hoeberling had 14 points each for the Eagles (0-3, 0-3).

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Lake Fenton wrestlers cruise past Beecher, 60-15

By Al Zippsie
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Lake Fenton — Three Lake Fenton wrestlers who have been called on to play a big role this season delivered Wednesday.

Tyler Sanders (152), D.J. Melton (160) and Ray Denam (171) combined for three straight pins to lead the Blue Devils past Flint Beecher 60-15 in the GAC opener. The trio did not get a lot of action last season. Tyler Sanders, a senior, did not wrestle last season and is on the team with his younger brother Cody, a sophomore. Denam, a senior, sat out the first part of last season as a transfer and then suffered a shoulder injury at the GAC meet. He did not get a chance to wrestle for Lake Fenton in either state tourney series a year ago. He has returned after shoulder surgery, Melton, a junior, saw only part-time varsity action. But all three are performing well this year.

“Ray looked tough. He is coming back from shoulder surgery and I didn’t expect him to be able to come back,” Lake Fenton coach Vance Corcoran said. “He had a couple tough matches to test it (at the Hartland Invitational).

Tyler Sanders controlled his match, and it is nice to have him come back and wrestle.”

The Bucs had only nine wrestlers and only filled matches at seven positions. Lake Fenton took a 24-0 lead. Kalan Harbin (103), Jared Corcoran (112), James Demember (125) and Todd Melick (130) each earning forfeit wins. There was a double void at 119, then Beecher won the first two matches wrestled, as Terrill Thorton (135) won a 5-0 decision over Lake Fenton’s John Barry, and Karem Bralook (140) pinned Alexis “Peanut” Melton.

“Even with the losses we had good matches,” Corcoran said. “花生 wrestled good and John (Barry) gave a good wrestler a good match, and battled to the end.”

Leading 24-9 the Blue Devils clicked off a 36-point run to ice the match. Cody Sanders (145) won by void, and his brother, Tyler (152), had a pinfall in 1:25. D.J. Melton (160) followed with a fall in 2:42, and Denam (171) had the quickest pin of the night in 1:13.

“The shoulder felt great tonight. I am just trying to heal it up,” said Denam. “The (Genesee County Meet) will be a test. Last year you felt some pressure. We had three state champions and lots of talent to push you in the wrestling room. This season it feels great to be a leader.

“I want to be first at Districts and Regionals and place in the top three at state.”

Chase Hall (189) and Lucas Allen (215) had forfeit wins before state qualifier Melvin Rawls got Beecher back on the board with a pin in 1:41 over Mike Connelly (285).

“Last season everybody knew we had lots of studs out of the gate,” Corcoran said. “This is this year we have many new names. At the end the kids will get better and show where we stand. As a whole this team knows and wants to get better. They have a hard work ethic, better than any team I have coached.”

“We have two great coaches, and we learn a lot from them,” said D.J. Melton. “Compared to last year there is not as much pressure. We still are intense and are always trying to be a good team.”

Lake Fenton’s Ray Denam (top) works on getting control of his opponent in the Blue Devils’ 60-15 victory against Beecher Wednesday night.

Lake Fenton swim team remains perfect

By David Troppens
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The Fenton varsity boys swim team has improved, and the squad’s results are showing that. The Tigers defeated Carman-Ainsworth for the first time in five years by a tight 96-90 margin.

The squads were tied 86-all entering the 400 freestyle relay, meaning the team that won the event would win the meet. The Tigers’ team of Adam Andreaski, Brent Cassidy, Joshua Bryant and Adam Ransom won the relay with a time of 3:45.91.

“It was a big win for us,” Fenton coach Brad Jones said. “We have not beaten Carman-Ainsworth in the last five years. Depth was the key.”

See FENTON on 15B
**Fenton girls post strong game vs. Brandon, 44-18**

By David Troppens
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Fenton varsity girls basketball coach Brad DeWitt wanted to see cleaner play, meaning less turnovers.

He also wanted to see his team capitalize on more scoring opportunities.

The Tigers did both a bit better than in the past, earning a 44-18 Metro League victory Tuesday against Brandon.

"We wanted to take care of the ball and not turn it over," DeWitt said. "We still had too many turnovers, but we did a better job with it. We were able to produce more opportunities and produce more out of transition instead of turning it away. We turned some of their turnovers into points."

Fenton used a 14-1 second-quarter spurt to take a 22-5 lead into halftime. From there, the Tigers only allowed the lead to grow. Fenton's defense never allowed the Blackhawks to score more than seven points in a quarter.

Julie Gilbert led the squad with 11 points and six steals. Payton Maxheimer chipped in six points. Kristina Kinney led the Tigers with five rebounds.

"Everybody contributed," DeWitt said. "Everyone did something here and there and everyone played a lot."

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**HOCKEY**

Continued from Page 12B

son with four close losses, have now won three straight contests, including the last two by shutout. Joe Foguth earned a shutout in a 2-0 victory against Lansing Catholic Central recently. On Wednesday, Brendan Bryan played his first game in net and earned the shutout, making seven saves.

"They are coming together. Things are starting to click for us," Fenton coach Jeff Mynatt said. "We had three solid periods of hockey and a ton of shots. They played the system very well. Penalty-wise, they were very disciplined. That goalie made some saves, that's for sure."

That goalie Mynatt was talking about was freshman Thomas Messenger. He made 35 saves and kept the Tigers scoreless for the first 13 minute of the contest despite a strong offensive presence by Fenton.

"Thomas Messenger, our goalie, hasn't played goalie since he was in squirts," Tri-City coach Peter Lynch said. "He's been out four to five years, but I knew he is a good athlete. He's probably made the biggest leaps and bounds since our first practice.

"In all fairness, we have kids that haven't played before, but they are good athletes. They are a good group of kids."

The Tigers made it 3-0 just 1:42 into the second period when Wyatt Betrus scored on an assist by Ben Colos. Then, with 1:43 left in the period DeLong's second goal. His first shot hit off the bar, but the rebound came right back to him. He shot again and scored on the second attempt.

In the third period, Fenton scored just one goal. That was provided by Jake Foguth on a slap shot from the blue line.

DeLong is happy to see Fenton's progress.

"I guess we are getting to know each other, and working hard in practice pays off," DeLong said.

Lynch was pleased with his inexperienced squad. The Chiefs fell to 0-2 with the loss.

"I'm really proud of how the kids played," Lynch said. "Defensively, they were very responsible. Our boys played the game we asked them to play. I know Fenton has a few players that are highly skilled, and I thought we'd shut them down pretty good. We clogged the middle up pretty good."

Tri-City competed in the Grand Ledge Invitational at The Summit during the weekend, while Fenton hosted Grandville for a non-league game at Hartland Sports Center.

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**Fenton’s Danny DeLong (left) tries to get by Tri-City’s Nathan Alen during the Tigers’ 5-0 victory against the co-op squad that includes players from Lake Fenton, Linden and Durand.**
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