Once upon a time, you may remember having carolers come to your house to sing the songs of Christmas to you and your family on snowy winter evenings. There would be a knock on the door and upon opening, you were graced with the sweet sounds of carolers. These days, carolers may seem like a dying breed, but they really aren’t. There are still people that go out caroling.

Fenton High School Ambassadors

Instead of a traditional 13th birthday party, Reagan Wood of Fenton Township and her 33 friends went on their annual caroling trip in a neighboring subdivision. It's more about energy and enthusiasm, than knowing the exact words, which is contagious to Gavin Bozoian, 3. In this case, carolers returned to sing, "Let it go," from the movie "Frozen," for an encore performance.

"Elf on the Shelf" is not only one of the holiday’s most popular traditions for young families, it’s a huge global business success with more than 7 million copies of the book (and accompanying elf) sold since 2005, at $29.95 each, grossing more than $16.6 million. If you haven’t heard of it, “Elf on the Shelf: A Christmas Tradition” is a

"Elf on the Shelf" carries on in Fenton

By Yvonne Stegall
ystegall@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792

Tri-County Times | Tim Jagielo

It’s been so much fun to give back to a very supportive community.

Brad Wright
FHS Ambassadors director
GIVE THE GIFT OF DANCE

Christmas Specials

Introductory Dance Package
$89 per couple

5 Lesson Dance Package
$140 per couple

Ask about our Group Lesson Punch Cards!

Professionally trained, certified, friendly, quality dance instruction!

Argentine Tango
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Bolero
Cha-Cha
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East Coast Swing
Foxtrot
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Mambo
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Viennese Waltz
Waltz
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810.750.1360
**THE CHANCES OF A COIN LANDING ON HEADS IS FIFTY-FIFTY**

It isn’t. If the coin is heads up to begin with, it’s more likely to land on heads. Students at Stanford University recorded thousands of coin tosses with high-speed cameras and discovered the chances are approximately fifty-one to forty-nine.

**A TOILET’S FLUSH WILL CHANGE DIRECTION DEPENDING UPON WHICH HEMISPHERE IT IS IN**

This is one of the most ridiculous yet staunchly defended myths to date. Proponents will attribute this to the Coriolis Effect which is derived from the rotation of the Earth. While this effect does influence air masses or other large environmental structures it has absolutely no effect on the direction your toilet drains.

**THE 5 SECOND RULE**

The belief that it takes 5 seconds for bacteria on the floor to hop on a piece of dropped food is misplaced. The truth is, it only takes a second if that.

**LIGHTNING NEVER STRIKES TWICE IN THE SAME PLACE**

The truth is, lightning can hit the same spot numerous times. Lightning is usually concerned with hitting the highest point in any given storm zone. Most major skyscrapers get hit by lightning multiple times a year. So much for that metaphor.

**EVERYDAY MYTHS**

You won’t believe aren’t true

- All that stuff you were told when you were a kid? Yeah, it’s wrong.

Source: list25.com, askmen.com, huffingtonpost.com, therichest.com

**LIGHTNING**

Pennies only weigh about a gram and they tumble as they fall so the air resistance is significant. If it reaches its terminal velocity it would be falling at about 100 miles/hour. So when it finally hit you on the head with about 1 foot-pound of energy it would hurt a little but you would quickly forget about it.

**BUT WILL IT DIGEST?**

No it won’t. It’s true that it doesn’t digest but that doesn’t mean it lingers in your stomach forever. It will come out with everything else, probably looking a lot like it did when it first went down.

**PIGEONS BLOW UP IF YOU FEED THEM UNCOOKED RICE**

Wedding guests are often told to refrain from throwing uncooked rice because of the explosive consequences that it can have on birds, especially pigeons. No bird explosions due to rice have ever been documented. The fact is that birds don’t drink enough water to cause any significant stomach swelling due to rice.

**THE 5 SECOND RULE**

The belief that it takes 5 seconds for bacteria on the floor to hop on a piece of dropped food is misplaced. The truth is, it only takes a second if that.

**CLOUDS ARE LIGHT, RIGHT?**

A popular unit of measurement for cloud-weight seems to be the elephant. According to the National Center for Atmospheric Research in Boulder, Colorado, an average cumulus cloud weighs about 100 elephants, while a big storm cloud tips the scales at 200,000 elephants.

**IF YOU SHAVE YOUR HAIR, IT RETURNS THICKER**

For one thing, the hair that we touch, see and style isn’t alive. Living hair lies under the skin and scalp, so cutting it won’t change the texture or speed that it grows. The fact is, you’re merely seeing your hair at a different stage. Since the sun naturally lightens hair, new growth looks darker, but it all evens out in the end.

**PENNY FROM THE EMPIRE BUILDING**

Dropping a penny from the Empire State Building would kill someone.
**What’s your favorite Christmas movie?**

- “’The Family Stone.’ The characters are so dysfunctional, it’s nice to see other people’s problems.”
  — Crissy Vandengiessen
  Byron

- “’It’s a Wonderful Life.’ It explores the spirit of Christmas.”
  — Melissa Gatza
  Linden

- “’Christmas with the Kranks.’ It’s a funny movie.”
  — Tina Jimenez
  Fenton

- “’A Christmas Story.’ It’s a classic.”
  — Tomaso Demartin
  Fenton

- “’Miracle on 34th Street.’ The daughter didn’t believe, and it really was a miracle.”
  — Mary Carney
  Minneapolis, Maryland

- “’The Miracle of Duniway Street.’”
  — Tomaso Demartin
  Fenton

- “I like ’Miracle on 34th Street.’”
  — Melissa Gatza

- “’It’s a Wonderful Life.’ It explores the spirit of Christmas.”
  — Mary Carney
  Minneapolis, Maryland

- “’Elf Frenzy’”

  **Notes of thanks**

  Thank you Muffler & Go
  I want to thank Dan at Muffler & Go on North LeRoy Street in Fenton for doing such a good oil change and he asked me what I was doing with the stationary bike in my vehicle. I use this bike regularly and it recently broke, leaving me wondering what I was going to do for exercise, at 82 years old. Dan said he’d take care of it. When I came back it was fixed, and he did it for free. It is people like Dan, and businesses like this one, that make this city a community. Thank you again, and happy holidays!
  — Sincerely, Bob Zientek Sr.

**ELF FRENZY**

*Continued from Page 1B*

Finding innovative, exciting places for the elf each day, perched in a different spot. Kids can’t touch the elf or loses its Christmas flying magic.

“It’s the first thing Izzy looks for when she gets up in the morning,” said Marie Helcher, mother of Izzy, 6, and Hank, 4. This is the third Christmas season that Puddin’ the Elf has lived with the Helchers during the Christmas season. Chocolate the Elf has lived at the home of John and Marie Todorovsky of Fenton for the past three years, to the delight of their kids, Jack, 7, and Sophia, 9.

“The kids love it!” said Marie, although she admits she wasn’t very good at keeping up with the daily comings and goings of the elf that first year. “The kids kept telling me their elf wasn’t moving around like their friends’ elves. Now, I’m right on it.”

Finding innovative, exciting places for the elf to perch every day is part of the fun, and the curse, of the Elf on the Shelf. The most unique spot at the Todorovsky house was when Chocolate was perched in the cupboard with Izzy’s flying chocolate milk. At the Helcher’s house, Puddin’ was hidden on top of the refrigerator on a gallon of chocolate “elf milk.”

Many moms look for outside inspiration, including Pinterest, their friends on Facebook, or a website like popsugar.com, that shows “66 Places to Put Your Elf on the Shelf.”

Ask any harried mom and most will admit they’ve forgotten to move the elf at some point from Thanksgiving to Christmas. “The kids will ask me why ‘Puddin’ is in the same spot as yesterday,” said Helcher, who works in Fenton. “I usually just say it’s because Puddin’ was so comfortable there that he wanted to stay,” she said with a smile.

While all this elf hoopla can make some people cynical, probably the biggest response most people have when coming across “Elf on the Shelf” for the first time is, “Why didn’t I think of that?”

**TRI-COUNTY TIMES | SUBMITTED PHOTO**

The refrigerator was the most unusual hiding spot for Chocolate the Elf at the Todorovsky household this season.
The holiday-decorated Lake Fenton High School commons area lent a festive air to the inaugural Tin Can Raffle.

‘Sweet music’ for Lake Fenton schools

†Tin Can Raffle raises over $4,000 for Lake Fenton music programs

By Sally Rummel
news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8382

The Lake Fenton Music Boosters are rounding out the holiday season on a high note with a successful first-time fundraiser — the Tin Can Raffle, held during Jinglefest weekend of Dec. 6-7. With prizes like an autographed jersey from the Detroit Red Wings, ski packages from Mt. Holly, this inaugural raffle netted more than $4,000 to benefit the entire school district’s music programs.

Visitors to the event dropped tickets into tin cans of their favorite prizes donated by about 100 local businesses and families. Prizewinners were announced after the Jinglefest Parade. Some of the most popular items were a hot air balloon ride, a tour of Lake Fenton in an amphibious military vehicle and Blue Devils Bagg-O set.

“We’ve never had anything like this before,” said Ron Kopicko, who co-chaired this event with his wife, Amy. “Now the school wants us to do it as an annual event. This was a huge kick-off.”

CAROLING

Continued from Page 1B

went caroling at businesses around town on Monday, Dec. 8. Some of the businesses they went to included The Laundry, Fenton’s Open Book, Fenton House Restaurant, Fire Hall, Rough Draught, Fenton Hotel, Fenton Coney Grill, John’s Pizzeria and Uncle Ray’s.

According to Ambassadors Director Brad Wright, 19 of the 20 Ambassadors participated, and one was home sick. He said, “We went to 15 different businesses and restaurants throughout Fenton. Every place we went we were met with enthusiasm and appreciation.” The FHS Ambassadors have been doing this for the past several years. “It’s been so much fun to give back to a very supportive community.”

This is the third year that Todd and Monica Wood’s daughter, Reagan, went caroling for her birthday. Reagan turned 3 on Monday, Dec. 8. Some of the businesses they went to included The Laundry, Fenton’s Open Book, Fenton House Restaurant, Fire Hall, Rough Draught, Fenton Hotel, Fenton Coney Grill, John’s Pizzeria and Uncle Ray’s.

As a wonderful yearly tradition, Monica Wood said, “They will remember this forever. I don’t know how many houses, we just go to ones with lights on and knock and when they come the kids start singing.”

Originally, singing carols started out as a celebration of the winter solstice. It was then adopted as part of the Christian celebration of Christ. Caroling received a bad rap sometime in the 1600s when they were believed to be inappropriate since they didn’t completely revolve around scripture. It was in the late 1500s, during the Great Reformation, that an interest in caroling was born again.
**LF school board very satisfied with superintendent’s performance**

The Lake Fenton Board of Education voted Monday on Superintendent Wayne Wright’s performance evaluation. In a unanimous vote, Wright received an overall rating of “effective” in his performance evaluation for the 2013-2014 school year. “Superintendent Wright was rated effective or high-effectiveness in areas such as district finances, district operations, promoting academic excellence, planning and evaluation of curriculum and instruction, and board, staff and community relations,” said Kristi Ocenasek, school board president. “The board has been very satisfied with Superintendent Wright’s management of the district. We are pleased that Lake Fenton continues to grow in a positive direction.”

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**Last-minute tips to save cash on holiday shopping**

>Giving thoughtful gifts doesn’t have to break the bank

**By Ryan Tackabury**

news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

The holidays are supposed to be a time to enjoy with friends and family. While you might want to shower your loved ones with gifts, you don’t want to go broke in the process. Here are some tips that could help keep your spending down.

**Make a budget**

Before you set out on your shopping adventure, make a list of everyone you need to buy presents for, and decide how much you intend to spend. The important part — stick to that list. Today’s world, you have no shortage of gift options, and all it takes is a little bit of extra time to find the perfect gift for the perfect price.

**No really, stick to the list!**

Everyone wants to be Santa Claus and hand out gifts after gift — it really does feel good to give. There is no need to give Saint Nicholas a run for his money. However, people will appreciate your gifts even if you do not spend a small fortune on them. Once you have purchased the number of gifts you intended to, stick to your guns no matter how great your next gift find is.

**Bake a present**

You may already have all of the ingredients for a great present in your kitchen cupboards. Baked goods are loved by many, and many will resist the temptations to pick up a copy of that cool new gadget or that nice looking shirt for yourself, but stick to the plan. According to the National Retail Federation, 59 percent of Americans reported buying gifts for themselves while out conducting their holiday shopping.

Remember you will hopefully be receiving your own gifts from your friends as well, it is called a gift exchange, after all. Do yourself a favor by not buying yourself a gift, you will appreciate it later, and have one less name to worry about on your list.

**Gift cards, not cash**

Everyone can use cash, which is what makes it a welcomed gift, even if it can be a little boring. Consider purchasing gift cards — not only will it allow you to personalize your gift, it is often possible to find special deals around the holidays from stores and restaurants that let you get a little extra bang for your buck.

Check out the website www.giftcardgranny.com where you can buy gift cards from people who are looking to convert their own gift cards they own into cash.

**Alternatives to wrapping paper**

Once you are done reading this issue of the Tri-County Times, use it to wrap up your gifts, and consider it an early gift from us to you. Wrapping paper is just one more addition to your list of holiday gift expenses — don’t be afraid about cutting it out entirely. No one has ever been disappointed that the gift he or she always wanted was not wrapped in the right kind of wrapping paper.
HOT-N-READY®
4-8pm or order anytime.
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MEAL DEAL
Includes Original Round Pepperoni Pizza,
Crazy Bread® Crazy Sauce®,
and a PEPSI® 2-Liter

Ultimate Supreme ......................................................... $10.00
Pepperoni, Sausage, Mushroom, Green Pepper & Onion (8 slices)

3 Meat Treat® ................................................................. $8.00
Pepperoni, Sausage & Bacon (8 slices)

Hula Hawaiian® ............................................................... $6.50
Pineapple & Ham (8 slices)

Crazy Combo® ....... ........................................................ $2.99
Crazy Bread® & Crazy Sauce® (8 piece order)

Italian Cheese Bread (10 piece order) ............................... $3.99

Caesar Wings (8 piece order) ........................................... $5.00
Flavors: BBQ, Buffalo, Garlic Parmesan, Teriyaki, Spicy BBQ, Bacon Honey Mustard, Oven Roasted, Lemon Pepper

Caesar Dips® ................................................................. 59¢ OR 2 for $1.00
Buffalo, BBQ, Ranch, Buttery Garlic, Buffalo Ranch & Cheesy Jalapeno

2-Liter Beverage ............................................................. $1.99
Pepsi®, Diet Pepsi®, Mountain Dew®, Diet Mountain Dew®, Sierra Mist®, Root Beer or Orange

LARGE DEEP DISH PIZZA
8 Crispy, Crunchy Corners with
caramelized cheese edges
Dough baked to perfection to
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WE USE 100%
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Pastor Dean G. Dumbrille
A SAVOR IS BORN!
Please join us as we proclaim the
wonderful news!
Christmas Eve Candlelight
Communion Service
December 24 at 4:00PM, 7:00PM,
and 11:00PM
New Year’s Eve
Communion Service
December 31 at 7:00PM

JOIN US FOR OUR
HOLIDAY WORSHIP

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Welcome to Linden Presbyterian’s
CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP 7:00pm
We will hear the story of Jesus Christ from throughout Scripture and sing many great carols that are both classics of our faith and culture and teach us of the saving Good News of Jesus Christ. We will also be celebrating the sacrament of the Lord’s Supper at the worship service.

CHILDREN’S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM
The children’s Christmas program will be at
10:30am Worship Services on December 21st

December 28th Service - 10:00am with a brunch following
Linden Presbyterian Church
119 W. Broad St. • Linden
(810)735-5755

TYRONE COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
10235 White Lake Rd. Fenton, MI 48430
810-629-1261
Pastor James Mascow

Sunday Worship Service
December 21st
10:15 a.m.

Christmas Eve Service
December 24th
6:00 p.m.

CHRISTMAS AT CENTRAL
Christmas Eve Service
Join us for an evening of carols, Christmas music, & the lighting of 1000 candles!
6:30PM
Central Church of the Nazarene
1261 W. Bristol Rd. Flint, MI 48507
810.235.5671
centralnazarene.com
facebook.com/flintcentralchurch

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Selfishness: the ‘UnChristmas’ attitude

Dr. Gary Chapman, author of the best-selling book, ‘The Five Love Languages,’ was once asked to name the number one challenge facing married couples. He answered, ‘The greatest challenge facing marriage today is the same as it’s been for hundreds of years, learning to live a life of love rather than selfishness.’

Explaining his conclusion, Chapman said, ‘Most marital problems are rooted in selfishness. I don’t get what I want, so I lash out in anger. My spouse fights back or withdraws and the marriage suffers. Two selfish people will never create a successful marriage. But two people who choose to love each other and look out for each other’s well-being will learn how to build a good marriage.’

A woman once told me I had changed her marriage of 15 years with one statement. ‘What did I say that caused this change?’ I asked. She replied that I had said, ‘You may be asking if you are getting all you deserve out of your marriage when that is not the question. You should be asking if your husband or wife is getting all he or she deserves out of your marriage.’ That simple line in my sermon moved her and her husband to trade selfishness for love and changed the focus of their relationship.

Marriage isn’t the only area of life diminished by selfishness. Upon entering a bookstore, I asked the gracious clerk if she was having a good day. Suddenly, tears were near as she shared with me how many customers had said mean things to her that very day.

What causes irritability in most of us? Selfishness. We’re more interested in our own agendas than in the needs of those around us.

Sadly, this ‘me-first’ attitude can even be found in churches, showing itself in caustic comments about ministers and other members who don’t cater to the carnal desires of those who are more interested in their own welfare than the needs of others.

Christmas ought to be the most selfless season of the year, the ideal time to give and forgive. Songs and sermons now center on a baby born in Bethlehem’s stable manger who later spent his life reaching out to hurting people, often being criticized for taking time to show his love to the outcasts of society. He was characterized by compassion, frequently weeping over the sorrows and needs of others.

Looking back, Chapman recalled that he and his wife struggled during the early years of their marriage, saying they were both selfish, but neither of them realized it. He says they spent a great deal of their time hurt, angry and disappointed. Then, in answer to their prayers, God enabled them to exchange their selfishness for giving love.

The same miracle attitude change awaits all who desire and ask for it. So ask! And in your asking and receiving you will give your family, your church and others the gift of love, the greatest Christmas gift of all.

Roger Campbell is an author, a broadcaster and columnist who was a pastor for 22 years. He can be reached at rogercampbell@ameritech.net
Senate Bill 655: Impose licensure on “applied behavioral analysis”
To impose licensure and regulation on the practice of “applied behavioral analysis,” with $90 annual license fees, apprenticeship mandates, and more. Among others this would impact individuals who provide treatment for autism spectrum conditions.
Passed 35 to 4 in the Senate
Sen. Jim Ananich (D-Gene County) □ YES □ NO
Sen. Dave Robertson (R-Gene County) □ YES □ NO

House Bill 4454: Ban counting religious holiday absences in student’s record
To prohibit public schools from counting religious holiday absences against a student’s attendance record if the school provides any kind of recognition for an excellent attendance record.
Passed 95 to 14 in the House
Rep. Joe Graves (R-Argentine Township) □ YES □ NO

House Bill 4186: Revise criminal record expungement rules
To allow a person convicted of only one felony offense and not more than two misdemeanors, to apply to have the felony “set aside,” or expunged from the person’s public record. A person convicted of not more than two misdemeanors could apply to have one of them set aside. This would not apply to convictions for very serious crimes, sex crimes or domestic violence.
Passed 109 to 0 in the House
Rep. Joe Graves (R-Argentine Township) □ YES □ NO

House Bill 5409: Authorize pedal-powered beer bars
To establish in statute that a “commercial quadricycle,” which is a pedal-powered mobile beer bar, is not considered a “motor vehicle” even if it has auxiliary power, and instead would be subject to the less onerous regulations imposed on “low-speed vehicles.” Passengers would be allowed to open beer or wine containers, but the driver would be required to have a blood alcohol level of zero. The bill would also mandate certain insurance coverage levels.
Passed 97 to 12 in the House
Rep. Joe Graves (R-Argentine Township) □ YES □ NO

House Bill 4927: Let adoption agencies refuse adoptions that violate moral convictions
To prohibit the relevant state agencies from discriminating against a faith-based private adoption agency for refusing to assist or participate in an adoption that violates its written religious or moral convictions, including adoptions of a child by a homosexual.
Passed 60 to 49 in the House
Rep. Joe Graves (R-Argentine Township) □ YES □ NO

House Bill 5205: Facilitate “advanced waste energy recovery”
To streamline state regulations so as to facilitate the use of “advanced waste energy recovery” methods, and define fuel manufactured from municipal, industrial, or agricultural solid waste and other sources as “renewable” for purposes of a 2008 law mandating that 10 percent of the electricity sold by utilities must come from “renewable” sources.
Passed 63 to 46 in the House
Rep. Joe Graves (R-Argentine Township) □ YES □ NO

House Bill 6074: Exempt college athletes from unionization
To establish that college students who participate in intercollegiate athletics on behalf of a state university are not considered “public employees” subject to unionization under the law that mandates school district employees must engage in collective bargaining with government employee unions.
Passed 59 to 50 in the House
Rep. Joe Graves (R-Argentine Township) □ YES □ NO
The Times would like to thank all of the parents and their children who stopped by the office to submit their coloring contest entries and to have their photograph taken. The staff enjoyed looking at all of the works of art.

COLORING CONTEST ENTRANTS

AGE 3
WINNER - Matthew Waters (Fenton)
Jonas Overholser (Fenton)
Madeleine Morrill (Buffalo NY, Gparents in Fenton)

AGE 4
WINNER - Logan Romeo Thibodeau (Fenton)
Drew Mogford (Linden)
Aquila Collins (Flint)
Macallan Cumming (Receunseh)
Rylee Turner (Holly)
William Mikolajczyk (Fenton)
Cooper Hill (Linden)
Alyssa Carol (Flint)

AGE 5
WINNER - Danielle Janeen Ramsey (Holly)
Marina “Emin” Williams (Fenton)
Samantha Yant (Fenton)
Sidney Shepard (Fenton)
William Waters (Fenton)
Connor Godlewski (Linden)
Riley Wright (Swartz Creek)
Kenna Slavens (Swartz Creek)
Jillian Bowles (Fenton)
Katie Durfield (Fenton)
Brandon Perantoni (Rose Township)
Mason Russo (Fenton)

AGE 6
WINNER - Titan Tremaine (Fenton)
Elle Brody (Clarkston)
Dilon Chavis (Holly)
Addie Guinn (Fenton)
Dakota Chavis (Holly)
Niah Large (Howell)
Samantha Mogford (Linden)
Eve Metcalfe (Fenton)
Grace Groves (Fenton)
Mara McLennan (Linden)
Shane Snyder (Fenton)
Madison Good (Holly)
Alice Smith (Linden)
Luke Wright (Swartz Creek)
Alexzyn Glover (Fenton)
Aiden Welch (Holly)
Lilly Miller (Fenton)
James Church (Fenton)
Owen Raymond (Fenton)
Jocelyn Martinez (Holly)
Brady Flashhans (Fenton)

AGE 7
WINNER - Kendra Kuch (Linden)
Brooke Waters (Fenton)
Noah Sapekak (Holly)
Graham Groves (Fenton)
Levi Hudson (Fenton)
Aubrey Wymore (Linden)
Reina Fox (Fenton)
Carson Kuch (Linden)
Dylan Rampreen (Fenton)
Vincent Loria (Linden)
Carson LaVanway (Fenton)
Sebastian McLainson (Holly)
Nolan Emmons (Holly)
Reese Russo (Fenton)

AGE 8
WINNER - Sydnee Terryah (Linden)
Alida Smith (Gaines)
Claissa Biderman (Holly)
Kayla Hulwett (Fenton)
Blair Ungursky (Holly)
Grant Tremaine (Fenton)
Harry Hunt (Fenton)
Evan Fancher (Holly)
Jared Romanack (Linden)
Brook Litogot (Fenton)
Kasey Wasiel (Linden)
Maria Gavulic (Fenton)
Donovon Miller (Fenton)
Ava Tata (Linden)
Evan Pampreen (Fenton)
Sophia Markley (Fenton)

AGE 9
WINNER - Mary Grace McAninch (Holly)
Alexis Rain Morean (Holly)
Karsen Steele (Fenton)
Felicity Lavigne (Holly)
Leann Williams (Fenton)
Dorid Tunin (Fenton)
Abigail Gidin (Holly)
Kelsey McLennan (Linden)
Robbie Hunt (Fenton)
Emma Murray (Holly)
Brooke Peterson (Linden)
Alyson Churan (Swartz Creek)
Jaden Romanack (Linden)
Carson Tiemann (Linden)
Caden Hall-Cooke (Linden)
Mary Katherine Hass (Fenton)
Emma Most (Linden)
Libby Hagan (Fenton)

AGE 10
WINNER - Amelia Farley (Linden)
Nolan Frick (Holly)
Lillian Wright (Swartz Creek)
Sean Bowles (Fenton)
Shanda Shuck (Holly)
Madalynne McAlindon (Holly)
Teddy Farley (Linden)

AGE 11
WINNER - Emma Leigh Wise (Linden)
Tori Stewart (Fenton)
Chris Bullard (Kalamazoo)
Isabella Archambau (Linden)
Selena Monette (Holly)
Kayce Caldwell (Linden)
Chase Hall-Cooke (Linden)
Dominic Loria (Fenton)
Alicia Orman (Linden)
NOTICE OF POSITION OPENING CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF FENTON ORDNANCE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER

The Charter Township of Fenton is accepting applications for the position of Ordnance Enforcement Officer. Fenton Township is primarily a residential community with a population of 15,500 and a total SEV of $759 million. The position will work directly with the Township Supervisor and Operations Manager in the enforcement of township ordinances. Applicants must be currently or previously licensed as a law enforcement officer in the State of Michigan. Previous experience as a detective and previous experience in ordinance enforcement preferred. Fenton Township offers a very competitive wage and benefit package and is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Applicants should submit a letter of interest and resume to: Charter Township of Fenton, Attn: Thomas Broecker, Operations Manager, 12060 Mantalawuka Drive, Fenton, MI 48450. Deadline for submission is 3:00 p.m. Friday January 9, 2015.

NOTICE OF HEARING REQUEST FOR VARIANCE CITY OF LINDEN – ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

The City of Linden’s Zoning Board of Appeals will be conducting a public hearing as part of the hearing agenda on Tuesday, January 13, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers on the lower level of the Mill Building at 201 N. Main Street, Linden, Michigan. The purpose of the hearing is to hear citizens’ comments on a request for the following:

Petitioner: J&J Property LLC, 106 West Rolston Road, Linden, MI is requesting a variance to the City of Linden Zoning Ordinance – Section 45.1 (Schedule of Area, Height, Width, and Setback Regulations) - Petitioner requests variance to construct a new building located 5 feet from the west (rear) property line and 10 feet from the north (rear) property line in lieu of the required 20 foot rear setback.

Tax Description: Tax ID# 61-20-506-002

Legal Description: Lots 2 & 3 Block 1 except a parcel of land beginning at the SW corner of Lot 3 Block 1 thence N 29 degrees 21 minutes E 9 feet thence S 69 degrees 08 minutes E 96.34 feet thence S 89 degrees 44 minutes E 93.10 feet N 62 degrees 10 minutes W 97.50 feet to the place of beginning and a parcel of land beginning at the NE corner of Lot 2 Block 2 thence S 62 degrees 06 minutes 22 seconds E 100.04 feet thence N 0 degrees 27 minutes 23 seconds S 27.17 feet thence S 27 degrees 53 minutes 38 seconds W 73.85 feet thence S 62 degrees 06 minutes 22 seconds W 230.20 feet to the place of beginning owned and occupied as one parcel (93/03) Map of Part of Village of North Linden FR 6100023005.

Applications and supporting documentation are available for public review at the City Offices. Persons wishing to comment may do so at the hearing or written comments should be addressed to Lynn M. Henry, City Clerk, at P.O. Box 507, 132 E. Broad Street, Linden, MI 48451.

TERRY MATLOCK SCHOOL OF PREFERRING ARTS is looking for full time infant teachers and teacher aides. Please apply in person at 1350 Grand Pointe Ct, Grand Blanc, MI 48439.

INFORMATIONal

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At their meeting of December 15, 2014 the Fenton Township Board took the following actions regarding proposed ordinances:

1. Adopted Ordinance No. 774, an amendment to Articles 2 & 3 of Zoning Ordinance No. 594 to revise the definition for Wholesale and warehousing, and to add this use as a principal permitted use in the C-3 and M-1 zoning districts.

2. Conducted the first reading of a proposed Zoning Ordinance amendment to rezone parcel 06-13-556-015 from R-3 to C-2, with conditions.

The second reading of the proposed ordinance will be conducted at the January 5, 2015 Fenton Township Board meeting.

Complete copies of the ordinances may be obtained at the office of the Fenton Township Clerk, 12060 Mantawauka Drive, Fenton, MI 48430. The ordinances are also available on Fenton Township’s website at www.fentontownship.org.

ROBERT E. KRUG
FENTON TOWNSHIP CLERK
**DID YOU MISS THESE DAILY DEALS?**

**Daily Deal for December 1st:** Don’t miss out! 25% off your entire purchase until Dec 13 @ Diamond Sport Gear. Your baseball and softball specialists. 810-629-0718  
**Daily Deal for December 3rd:** Today only at Mancino’s of Fenton: Get an 18” Ham “Skinny Jimmy” Whole Grinder for just $7 including tax - just ASK for the Daily Deal!  
**Daily Deal for November 28th:** 9pc Adjustable Wrench Set $24.97 at Kerton Lumber in Holly at Saginaw & Grange Hall. 248-634-8951 Just Say “Daily Deal” while supplies last  
**Daily Deal for November 16th:** What’s Shake’n Folks! CLASSIC BURGER/FRY/DRINK only $6.49 Abbott’s Fresh 1/3# Meat. Add: Uncle Ray’s Shake for $1! Located on Silver Pkwy

**VIDALIA**

**PLAN 30-134**

The Vidalia is clearly a class act. Boasting more than 4,000 square feet of living space, this grand home is designed for families that want plenty of space for relaxing and entertaining.  
A striking two-story foyer is overarched at the rear by a balcony from which you can view both foyer and family room. Formal living room and dining room flank the foyer, while a splendid two-story, sunken family room is one step down, just past the two classic columns that support the balcony. Windows fill most of the rear wall of this comfortable, bright and lofty informal living area. On one end, it connects to the kitchen. At the opposite end of the room there’s a fireplace with bookshelves on one side and an entertainment center on the other.

**HOUSE PLAN OF THE WEEK**

Visit AssociatedDesigns.com for more information or to search our home plans.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First Floor</th>
<th>Second Floor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2427 sq. ft.</td>
<td>1018 sq. ft.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Theater/Bonus</td>
<td>497 sq. ft.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Living Area</td>
<td>4005 sq. ft.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Garage</td>
<td>849 sq. ft.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dimensions</td>
<td>93’8” x 75’6”</td>
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</table>

**2000 SERIES**
Obituaries, Funeral Services and Memoriams


**William Joseph Chouinard**
1922-2014
William Joseph Chouinard - age 92, of Fenton, died on December 16, 2014. No services will be held. Arrangements entrusted to Sharp Funeral Homes. Fenton Chapel, 1000 Silver Lake Rd., Fenton. Mr. Chouinard was born December 12, 1922 in Detroit. He is survived by his wife, Adella. Online condolences may be posted on the obituaries page of www.sharpfuneralhomes.com.

**Christian P. Brabb**
1979-2014
Christian P. Brabb - age 35, went to be with the Lord on December 11, 2014. He was a loving son of Stanley and Mary Brabb. Dear brother of Anthony (Lindsey Benistio) Brabb, Scott Brabb, Matt Brabb and Meredith Hoffman. Special nephew of Charles and Margaret Brabb. Christian also leaves aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins and loving friends. His funeral Mass will be Monday 11AM at St. John’s Catholic Church, 600 N. Adelaide St., Fenton. Dr. Dwight Ezop officiating. Friends may visit on Sunday from 11AM to 1PM at the Transfiguration Lutheran Church in Fenton, 14176 N. Fenton Rd, Fenton, MI. In lieu of flowers donations may be made to the church. Share memories at www.temrowskifamilyfuneralhome.com.

**Mary Herbel**

**William Patrick Murphy**
1935-2014
Michael Patrick Murphy - age 78, of Linden, died December 17, 2014. Funeral Mass will be celebrated 2 PM Monday December 22, 2014 at St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church, 600 N. Adelaide St., Fenton. Fr. Dwight Ezop and Fr. David Harvey celebrants. Interment following in Fairview Cemetery, Linden. Visitation will be held at Sharp Funeral Homes, Linden, December 20th from 2-8 PM. A memorial service will be held Tuesday December 23rd at 11AM at St. John’s Catholic Church, 600 N. Adelaide St., Fenton.

**Ronald Bell**


**Ronald Skarzynski**

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*Is your Times tube missing or damaged? Stop by the Tri-County Times office and pick up your FREE Times tube and mounting bracket.*

256 N. Fenway
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Wife drunk texts, then claims ‘foul’

DEAR AMY:
My wife and I have been married for 35 years, I don’t think she has ever been physically unfaithful. But she has been a drunk texter. She received a text one night after she was asleep. I tried to ignore it, but her phone kept beeping every five minutes. So I finally got her phone and pushed the OK button to make it stop. I didn’t read the message or anything. The next day she yelled at me, accusing me of reading her texts. When I explained what really happened, she called me a liar. That’s when I began wondering what was in there that she was so worried I would see. Fortunately we have mostly gotten past it, but I can’t stop wondering what was in her phone that day. What do you think?

— Hurt and Confused

DEAR HURT:
Her choice to ‘drunk text’ is juvenile and disrespectful. When this became a problem between the two of you, your wife should have readily offered to show you her phone. You are wise to understand that you cannot control your wife’s actions, but it would be nice if she would. You say you are mostly past this, but in my view if you want to have a healthier, satisfying, and more transparent partnership, you two have some work to do.

Coumadin vs. Pradaxa

DR. ROACH:
I was put on Coumadin several years ago for atrial fibrillation. It was a perpetual pain in the butt, all those tests and never knowing from day to day how much the blood had been changed from meal to meal. Both extremes were dangerous. I had two friends on Coumadin who were in remote areas when they fell, both hitting their head. Both died from brain hemorrhage before they could be treated at a hospital. My doctor suggested Pradaxa, a more expensive product, but no testing required. From what I have there is no more danger of internal bleeding from one than from the other, and apparently Coumadin can be reversed medically in an emergency room while Pradaxa cannot (true or false?). It would be helpful for you to explain the chemical/medical differences between the two drugs; how they work and why they work differently; and an opinion as to which is the safer to use, and why. — C.I.

ANSWER:
Atrial fibrillation, the chaotic beating of the upper part of the heart, puts people at higher risk for blood clots, and is one of the most common reasons to prescribe warfarin (Coumadin). Warfarin really did start off as rat poison, but, like many drugs, it’s useful as a medicine in small doses even if it is potentially deadly in high doses. It has been in use for 60 years. Unfortunately, it is ineffective if you don’t give enough and can cause serious bleeding if too much is given, as happened to your friends. The INR blood test (international normalized ratio) is used to determine the correct dose, and the usual desired range is 2-3, although people with mechanical heart valves need a slightly higher dose, 2.5-3.5. Blood testing needs to be done at least every few weeks, and much more often when just starting and in people whose levels go up and down. Since warfarin works by blocking vitamin K, people on warfarin need to have a consistent vitamin K intake, which is mostly found in green, leafy vegetables. Vitamin K will reverse the effects of warfarin in half a day or so, but blood products can be used to immediately reverse the effect. dabigatran (Pradaxa) is a new medication that works by directly blocking thrombin, a key protein in making clots. dabigatran should not be given to people with poor kidney function or disease of heart valves. There is no way to reverse its effects. Studies comparing warfarin and dabigatran have shown similar rates of effectiveness and a slightly lower risk of brain hemorrhage with dabigatran. Some studies show a slightly higher risk of heart attack in people taking dabigatran. In my opinion, both are reasonable choices. Pradaxa may be more convenient since it doesn’t require testing and appears to be about as effective, and with a lower risk of brain hemorrhage. However, there is no antidote, and it needs to be taken twice daily.

MARYLAND-STYLE CRAB CAKES

INGREDIENTS:
• 3 T. butter
• 1 small onion, finely chopped
• 16 saltine crackers, crushed, plus more for coating crab cakes (or panko)
• 1 t. dry mustard
• 1/2 t. Worchester sauce
• 1/4 C. mayonnaise
• 1 large egg, beaten
• 1/4 t. salt
• 1/8 t. pepper, to taste
• 1 lb. lump crab meat
• canola oil, for frying

Recipe from accskidbookobsession.com

DIRECTIONS
1. Heat butter in a skillet or sauté pan over medium heat. Add onion, reduce heat to medium-low and cook 8-10 minutes or until soft and light golden (do not brown). Stir in crushed crackers, dry mustard, Worcestershire, mayonnaise, egg, salt and black pepper and mix well. Fold in crab meat.
2. Form into 10-12 even cakes. Chill in refrigerator for 30 minutes.
3. Coat cakes with crab crumbles or panko. Heat canola oil in a skillet or sauté pan over medium-high heat. Working in batches, brown cakes 2-3 minutes per side or until nicely browned, adjusting heat as necessary to prevent over-browning or burning. Drain on a wire rack. Repeat with remaining cakes.

DVD RELEASES

TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES
York City as Shredder and his evil Foot Clan have an iron grip on everything from the police to the politicians. The future is grim until four unlikely outcast brothers rise from the sewers and discover their destiny as Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. The Turtles must work with fearless reporter April O’Neil (Megan Fox) and her wise-cracking cameraman Vern Fenwick (Will Arnett) to save the city and unroll Shredder’s diabolical plan. Based on the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles Characters Created by Peter Laird and Kevin Eastman with a Screenplay by Josh Appelbaum & André Nemec and Evan Daughtry, Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles is produced by Michael Bay (director and executive producer of the blockbuster Transformers franchise), Andrew Form, Brad Fuller, Galen Walker, Scott Mednick and Ian Bryce, and directed by Jonathan Liebesman (Wrath of the Titans). PG-13, 1 hr. 41 min

SUNDAY SCRAMBLER

Unscramble the letters within each rectangle to form four ordinary words. Then rearrange the boxed letters to form the mystery word, which will complete the gag!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TILL</th>
<th>DONER</th>
<th>DONER</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>658</td>
<td>825</td>
<td>456</td>
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<th>LIPOS</th>
<th>SPINNER</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>754</td>
<td>102</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Mystery Word: "I never let my husband buy his own clothes—he’s liable to get something that needs to be dry cleaned!"
Answer key located in this edition
Layaway for Christmas | Up to 24 Months Interest Free Financing*

The Christmas Sale
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