

# Fenton police issue 10 tickets so far for texting while driving

■ Injuries and deaths due to distracted driving rising at an alarming rate

By Hannah Ball  
hball@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792

On July 1, 2010, texting while driving became illegal in the state of Michigan. Since the law went into effect, the Fenton Police Department has issued 10 citations for texting while driving, ac-

cording to Lt. Jason Slater. Of the offenders, two were men and eight were women. However, these numbers might not be low because people aren't texting while driving. See **TEXTING on 21A**

“As this continues, I can foresee our state getting to that (hands-free) point as well.”

Lt. Jason Slater  
Fenton Police Department





FEATURED SECTION INCLUDED  
WITH THIS EDITION  
**THERE'S MORE TO  
LIFE AFTER 50**

# Weekend Times

SUNDAY EDITION

VOL. 22 NO. XXXII

SUNDAY, AUGUST 9, 2015

2012 - 2013 - 2014 **NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR**

\$1.00

## Thieves rack up \$2,200 in gift card purchases in less than two hours

■ Linden woman's debit card cloned by fraud ring

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

The Fenton Police Department is attempting to identify suspects who fraudulently used a 43-year-old Linden woman's debit card, which was cloned by criminals.

Fenton Police Chief Rick Aro said in addition to the Linden woman, See **FRAUD on 9A**



**TRI-COUNTY TIMES** | SUBMITTED PHOTO  
Fenton police are attempting to identify this man. He is suspected of being involved with a debit card fraud ring that spans the U.S.

## Smart meters finally coming to tri-county area

■ Residents will be able to review their energy usage online

By Hannah Ball  
hball@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792

In two or three weeks, tri-county area residents will have the option to be a part of the controversial Smart Energy Program by Consumers Energy.

Residents in Argentine Town- See **METERS on 20A**

## Over 550 cars wow crowd at car cruise



**TRI-COUNTY TIMES** | TIM JAGIELO

This year, the Tune Up Car Cruise was located in the Fenton High School parking lot due to Streetscape taking over downtown Fenton. Vince Paris with Southern Lakes Parks and Recreation said there are usually 400 cars when the event is held downtown, however, with more room for parking, this show attracted 550.

See **Fenton and Linden cruise photos on page 6B**

## Streetscape likely to bring more people, businesses and jobs to area

■ Fenton to see big changes over next 10 years

By Hannah Ball  
hball@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792

Residents have been talking, and Hot line writers have been wondering if Fenton's Streetscape project will actually benefit Fenton. The consensus from an expert, city official, and outcome of a similar streetscape project is positive.

University of Michigan Economist Chris Douglas said the biggest aspect of streetscape projects is people being able to walk downtown. People need to be confident and feel safe in their city. Abandoned and vacant buildings need to be dealt with, he said.

“If you do a streetscape project but don't do anything else down- See **FENTON on 10A**



**TRI-COUNTY TIMES** | FILE PHOTO

The Fenton Streetscape project is expected to bring more residents, businesses and work to Fenton.

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**TEXT  
YOUR  
HOT LINE**



“If you think the president of the United States incites race riots and encourages illegal immigration, you need to stop listening to Rush Limbaugh and get your head out of your backside.”



“A recent ABC poll shows Donald Trump leading the pack of Republican presidential contenders. They must be calling the same people who voted for Sanjaya on American Idol.”



“I wish the anti-abortion people would stop trumping up reasons to defund the very useful Planned Parenthood organization. It makes good sense to use dead fetal tissue for scientific research. To do otherwise would be wasteful.”



“After closely watching the news for the last few years I now firmly believe that our federal government's new motto should be ‘Laws are for thee, not for me.’”

**tctimes.com  
COMMENT  
OF THE WEEK**  
“Nothing could possibly better illustrate the lunacy of the left than their outrage, fury and tearful grief over the killing of a lion while simultaneously ignoring the brutal killing of millions of babies and the selling of their organs.”



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**HOLLY**  
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**\$214,000**  
Call Patrik Welty 810-750-2300



**VERNON TWP.**  
6214 S. County Line  
**Gorgeous views as far as the eye** can see on this 2.5 acre property. Great fenced area with a couple of small outbuildings for goats, chickens, dogs, etc. Large ranch home boasts almost 1800 sf. 3 large bedrooms all with walk-in closets. Huge master bath plus additional full bath. Lots of living space with family room complete with natural fireplace and beautiful wood ceiling. Dining room opens to spacious living room. Huge kitchen with terrific center island allows for a wonderful gathering place with plenty of room to cook and entertain. Main floor laundry, large 2 car garage. Home uses natural gas but also as LP capability. Country living at its finest.  
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**LAPEER,**  
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Call Kevin Usealman 810-965-6552



**MILLINGTON,**  
3150 Huston  
**Great home on all-sports Murphy Lake!** Around 1400 square feet of finished living space including upper level porch and lower level screen room that adds another 600 square feet to chill out and enjoy amazing lake views! Home is equipped for year round living or winterize and use for summer getaway! Just a short drive from the cities you can enjoy this up-north style getaway at a great price. Two kitchens for entertaining upstairs and down... two wood burning stoves... seller has put 30k into the boathouse which contains a sauna!  
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Call Kevin Usealman 810-965-6552



**FENTON,**  
9169 Mabley Hill  
**All of the privacy and nature of up north living** conveniently located in Tyrone Twp. Less than 2 miles from US-23. This fabulous 4 bedrm/3 bath home offers 4+ acres of trees & raspberry bushes. Enjoy summer entertaining from your finished walk-out lower level opening to the in-ground pool & cabana. Beautiful views from every part of the home. 2 story Great Rm flows into Dining Area and kitchen. Master Bedrm Suite is on the 2nd floor offering privacy, big dressing rm area, walk-in closet plus 2 additional large closets.  
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**DAVISON,**  
6487 N. Oak  
**Original owner!** Everything you have been looking for in Davison schools! Lots of space, property, fenced yard, attached garage and a large 32 x 24 pole barn! This quiet neighborhood is the perfect place to raise a family. This large quad-level home features an addition of living space added in 2000 on the main level, as well as a large and rustic-feeling 3 season room on the lower level. With living room, family room, dining room and basement this home offers plenty of room for a growing family.  
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**SWARTZ CREEK**  
5449 Reid  
They don't get any cuter than this! Adorable 3 bedroom/1.5 bath ranch located on a beautifully manicured corner lot. Outside you will find tasteful landscaping, gorgeous yard, large deck and a shed that looks like a little cottage. Inside is a completely updated kitchen with stainless appliances, lots of cabinets and prep space. Both bathrooms have been updated as well. Huge family with natural fireplace plus living room. Completely finished basement adds extra room for entertaining, hanging out, playing games or exercising. The sky is the limit with this basement. Home shows pride of ownership and is move-in ready!  
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**HOLLY**  
1471 Oyster Lane  
**Imagine living on almost 5 acres** of beautiful rolling property on a serene lake with over 3000 square feet of finished space on the main level plus a finished walk-out. Terraced landscaping with a waterfall and more. Stunning home and views plus a 25 x 100 foot building to store cars, boats, and toys.  
**\$499,500**  
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**FENTON,**  
613 S. Adelaide  
**This home has a great location** within walking distance to downtown Fenton with its lovely Mill Pond, quaint shops and restaurants. Home currently being used as rental property with one unit up and one down but it could very easily be made back into single family home. Home features very large living area, tall ceilings, and kitchen on the main floor.  
**\$129,900**  
Call Donna Fraidenburg 810-845-1971



**FLUSHING,**  
7451 Potter  
**Great location in Flushing School district.** Beautiful tudor home has tons of room with 5 bedrooms and 4 full baths. Plenty of space for everyone with over 2400 sf. Open floor plan with large kitchen, lots of counter space and roomy dining area. Almost 3 acres to roam around and play with a great 2 story barn that could be used for a home business or just about anything else you can think of. New 2013 generator means you will never be without power. Home is also barrier free allowing for handicap access.  
**\$229,900**  
Call Donna Mynatt 810-397-5779



**FENTON**  
11185 Whispering Ridge Trail  
**Beautiful 3 bedroom 2 bath house** located on almost an acre on a private cul-de-sac. Main level boasts laundry room, study, full bath and fire-lit living room. Large kitchen with hardwood floors offers plenty of cooking area. 3 bedrooms up with another full bath. Daylight basement is plumbed for third bath. 3 car attached heated garage, shed with electricity and RV power outlet. Home also wired for generator.  
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**HOLLY**  
2476 S. Fenton Road  
**Sprawling ranch** has plenty of room for a large family. Split floor plan has 2 bedrooms w/master 1/2 bath & full bath on one side and 2 bedrooms with full bath on the other side. Third full bath in partially finished basement. Large living room and family room gives you plenty of space for entertaining. Enjoy the beautiful weather sitting in your 3 season room. Over 2100 sf of home on a beautiful acre of land.  
**\$169,900**  
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**LINDEN,**  
1205 Ripley Road  
**Wonderful Home on #18 Green** Spring Meadows Golf Course. 3 huge bedrooms, 2.5 baths. Enjoy your fire lit great room on those chilly fall nights. Custom designed with spacious rooms. Open loft area adds to the character of this home. Workshop off of garage, great for home business. Full basement. All this home need is your personal updates. Must See to appreciate.  
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TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

Shannon Gruwell takes a photo of stepson David, 8, at Clover Beach in Fenton Township on Monday, July 27. "It's nice and cool, something for the kids to do before they go back to school," she said.



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

The overlook leading to the beach is one of the more scenic spots in the area.

## Relax...

We still have 44 more days of summer

■ Get the most out of these gorgeous, sunny days at the beach, park or at the movies

**By Tim Jagielo**  
tjagiolo@tctimes.com; 810-433-6795  
**Fenton Twp.** — The heat was crushing, but the water was cooling.

Despite being a weekday, Clover Beach was busy like a Saturday afternoon because of

the 90-degree, cloudless heat. The beach and the parking lot were nearly full during the early afternoon of Monday, July 27.

Families relaxed in the sand while kids and adults alike crashed through the water to cool off. If the weather forecasts are accurate, there is plenty of perfect summer weather just ahead.

See **SUMMER** on 10A

## What home projects do you need a building permit for?

■ Basically, pretty much any and every improvement

**By Vera Hogan**

vhogan@tctimes.com; 810-433-6823

There is still a lot of summer left for homeowners wanting to build an addition onto their home, add a deck, build a garage, put on a new roof or install new windows, for example.

In the city of Fenton, a building permit is required for all structural changes, such as roof framing, enlarging windows, interior remodeling or floor plan changes.

A permit is also required for demolition work, and before building accessory structures larger than 200 square feet, such as sheds, gazebos, garages, etc. All accessory structures, regardless of size, require a zoning permit for approval on placement, total allowed lot coverage, height and building separation, roof pitch, etc.

Before installing any swimming pool, whether it is above or in-ground, if it has a depth of 24 inches or greater, requires a permit. If electrical is installed or if pool equipment pumps, alarms, etc. are present, an electrical permit is to be issued by the state of Michigan.

Other home additions, such as decks, roofing, additions such as living areas, attached garages, covered porches, See **BUILDING** on 19A



“Persons not obtaining a building permit are in violation...”

**Mike Reilly**  
Fenton building and zoning administrator

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# Things I have learned

• **You would** be wise to stay as far away as possible from any woman who ever uses the word misogynist.

• **It is really** difficult to memorize the entire Military Alphabet (*Alpha, Bravo, Charlie, Delta... Whiskey, X-ray, Yankee, Zulu*).

• **It never occurs** to most adults to occasionally bend down and have an eye-to-eye conversation with a small child. Try it, I guarantee that you will be pleasantly surprised.

• **Never, under** any circumstances, trust any statistics, data or studies that are put out by the government.

• **There is no** single demographic in the universe as clueless to the realities of life as freshmen college students.

• **People who** march around and carry

signs in public protests are always interested only in benefiting themselves.

• **A sincere compliment** will often be recalled by the recipient for the remainder of their life.

• **Nearly every** voter casts their vote based on how the outcome will affect them financially.

• **I have never** met an Australian that I didn't like. Either it's the accent, or they must pass an affability test before they let them out of the country.

• **You will never** have a friend that will be as loyal, trusting and appreciative as

your dog.

• **Grieving families** may not remember if you did visit the funeral home, but they sure as hell will remember if you didn't.



## Hot lines

Submit at: tctimes.com, call 810-629-9221 or text to 810-771-8398

All submissions, if approved for publication, must be 50 words or less and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Tri-County Times. We reserve the right to edit for clarity, length and liability.

**WHAT IS A conservative?** No more taxes even though roads and bridges crumble and little kids go hungry. Government so limited that the rich and powerful are free to destroy the earth and treat others like slaves. Supremacy of fetal rights, woman's lives don't matter. Is that what conservatives want?

**REGARDING PLANNED PARENTHOOD** and their butchering of fetuses and trying to sell aborted fetus baby parts, when asked about this situation, President Obama had one comment. Fore.

**I DISAGREE WITH** Vera Hogan on being able to recycle more stuff with the 95-gallon bins. Has she read what we no longer can recycle versus what I used to put in my little bin? She needs to read it.

**WHAT IS THE** difference between a Democrat and Socialist? It's the way you spell the word.

**READ MY PREDICTION.** Less than a year from now, Joe Biden will be the Democratic candidate for the Democrats to be president and Hillary Clinton will suck up to him like you wouldn't believe to run as vice president.

**TO THE PERSON** who called in about the sport peppers. I believe I saw them at Gordon Foods in a gallon jar at the one on M-59 in Waterford. I wasn't sure. I wasn't looking for them, but I thought it said sport pepper on the gallon jar. Thank you.

**DOES ANYONE HAVE** a picture of the old Mickey's Dairy back in the '50s? Please let the Times know if you do. It would be much appreciated. Thank you.

**THANK YOU FOR** the flag disposal drop box. My family will utilize it and I know my grandpa would have enjoyed the ceremony at Lockwood. Great idea.

**HOW IS IT** that the seminary received half a million dollars in 1995 to be restored and now stands in ruins about to be torn down? Was this ever investigated?

**SMART METERS CAN** have major health side effects due to EMF radiation exposure and impact your personal privacy. People with illnesses or the elderly, you do not have to accept a Smart Meter. You can 'opt out.' There are fees you will have to pay. Please research and be informed.

**PLANNED PARENTHOOD'S GROTESQUE** baby-parts-trafficking elicits nothing but support from the Obama administration. But kill a lion halfway

• **Always be** reading a book — always!

• **If Morgan Freeman** is in a movie it will almost always be good. If Morgan Freeman is narrating a movie, it will always be good.

• **The most common** English language mistake is ending a sentence with a preposition — almost always 'good.' (see above)

• **Quietly singing** a child to sleep in your arms is the most gratifying experience in the world.

• **All compliments** should be handled by simply saying 'Why, thank you.'

• **Parents who** give their child a typical name but change the spelling (such as Jhon) are self-absorbed and cruel.

• **You alone are** responsible for your actions...unless you are a celebrity.

Opinions offered in If I Were King are the author's alone and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Tri-County Times or its staff. E-mail the King at king@tctimes.com.

across the world, in a nation riddled with grotesque human rights abuses, and the administration is on it.

**WHY DO WE** have to listen to these drums from Bush Park at night? Some of us are sleeping for third-shift jobs, some of us just want some peace and quiet. The weekend is one thing, but on a Monday night?

**I ALSO WORKED AT** a national recycling company. I often heard the bosses laughing at the fact that we pay them to pick up items they make a profit on. And that was eight years ago.

See **HOT LINE** throughout Times

## NOW ENROLLING FOR FALL

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Jon Clay

## Readers write

Letters, 150 words or less, must be signed and include a phone number. We reserve the right to edit for clarity and liability. Letters must be written exclusively for the Times.

### Robotics camp

Dear Editor,  
I would like to thank you for the wonderful article on the recent robotics camp, at Linden Middle School. Introducing STEM to students is vitally important and creates a passion for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. However, it was failed to be mentioned that this camp was co-sponsored by the Fenton GRAYT Leviathons Robotics team. Both the Linden RoboEagles and GRAYT Leviathons team members did a fantastic job mentoring these young students. Kudos to these high school students.

— Jenny Mervyn, Flint

Compiled by Alexei Rose, intern

## What project or activity do you still want to get done this summer?

## street talk



"I need to trim my trees and cut some of them down."

— Mike Larsen  
Owosso



"I still need to stain my deck and paint my porch."

— Ruth Summer  
Rose Township



"I have a number of toys that I need to finish crocheting."

— Susan Smith  
Tyrone Township



"Going through my things and getting rid of stuff I don't need."

— Faye Bond  
Rose Township



"I want to put new windows in my house."

— Dale Wynn  
Fenton Township



"I need to gather my vegetables and can them."

— Judy Ross  
Rose Township



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# The local face of homelessness

■ Families with nowhere to go are a reality in Fenton and Holly

By Sally Rummel

news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

Henry, age 9, is like every other boy his age. He loves video games and has been a voracious reader since he was 3. His sister, Helen, 7, adores animals and tells everyone she meets that she was "student of the month" in her first-grade class.

Both kids dote on their little brother, Holden, just 11 weeks old, who wins everyone over immediately with his auburn curls and bright blue eyes.

No one would ever guess that these kids had been living with their parents, Dan and Misty, in a motel, with friends and most recently in a tent at a campground, before their money totally ran out and they had no place to go.

Recently, they were able to sit down together as a family, enjoy a home-cooked meal at

Fenton United Methodist Church, before heading to bed for the evening in makeshift "bedrooms" in the Family Life Center.

These are the faces of today's homeless families, staying week to week in local churches as part of Family Promise of Genesee County, a 1½-year-old program that builds a network of local congregations and volunteers to provide shelter and service to homeless families, keeping them together in a time of crisis.

**“I’m excited to help with three families, because they’ll be empowered to change their lives.”**

**Denise Simmerman**  
Coordinator for host church  
Fenton United Methodist

Families who are accepted into the program must be facing a housing crisis, pass a drug test and have children in their custody, according to Lindsay Moore, executive director of Family Promise of Genesee County.

“It’s a misnomer that homelessness happens only in Flint,” said Moore. “We are currently serving families who have reached out to us from Holly and Fenton.”

Moore adds that many families have jobs, but there’s



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | SALLY RUMMEL

Parents Dan and Misty enjoy a home-cooked meal served at Fenton United Methodist Church. Supply churches in the area also help provide food and volunteers.

been a life change that has created a housing crisis. “Maybe it’s a divorce, job loss, loss of transportation,” said Moore. “It becomes a Domino effect, enough to trigger a chain of events that leads to homelessness. Families are the fastest-growing segment of the homeless population. It’s surrounding you. People just aren’t aware.”

Dan, 32, is currently working two jobs, but it’s not enough to make ends meet with a long list of past evictions, garnishments, student loans, etc. following them.

“It all started with poor financial decisions,” admitted Dan, who has just accepted a third job to augment their income. “We moved here last year from Wisconsin because the cost of living is cheaper and I had a job lined up. We got behind in rent because we thought the first month was free. Misty worked ‘til January, but her training wasn’t paid for, so we got behind. Then we knew we wouldn’t have money for day care when Holden was born, so she had to quit her job.”

The couple also lost a baby two years ago, sending Misty, 34, into a spiral of depression and anxiety. “We try really, really hard,” said Misty. “Since we got married 10 years ago, it’s been one thing after another.”

Because of Family Promise housing at area churches, families are able to save all the money they normally would spend on rent, food, utilities, toiletries and paper products. “That allows them to save up for a down payment or security deposit on a more permanent living situation,” said Moore.

Typically, families stay with Family Promise for about 60 days, with extensions granted when necessary. They also follow up with “graduate” families for two years.

## SUMMARY

■ Homelessness is a reality not only in Flint, but also in neighboring suburbs, including Fenton and Holly. Family Promise of Genesee County addresses this issue by involving local churches as a network for these families.

## How is Family Promise funded?

This program is made possible through donations, grants and two annual fundraisers, a Gala event in February and a Give Me Shelter 5K run set for this Saturday, Aug. 8 in Davison.

Donations can be sent to:  
Family Promise of Genesee County  
P.O. Box 4519  
Flint, MI 48504

## PARTICIPATING CHURCHES

**Fenton:** Host Church Fenton United Methodist, with support churches Transfiguration Lutheran Church, First Presbyterian Church and St. Jude’s Episcopal Church.

**Holly:** Host Church Calvary United Methodist.

**Grand Blanc:** Host Church Holy Spirit Lutheran Church with support church Holy Family Catholic Church.



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | SALLY RUMMEL

Fenton United Methodist Church volunteer Janet Ruggirello holds Holden, 11 weeks, the youngest Family Promise family member.

The families leave the host church every morning at 7 a.m., spending the day at the Family Promise Day Center at Calvary United Methodist Church in Flint. There are resources there for job searches, toys, kitchen facilities and a place for kids to nap, etc., before returning to the host church for dinner.

Family Promise also offers classes on parenting, landlord/tenant relations and “Money Matters,” presented by The State Bank.

Thanks to Family Promise, Dan and Misty are feeling more hopeful than they have in years. “It feels like a fresh start,” said Misty. “It’s still scary. We’ve made so many mistakes. But it makes us want to get out of

the program as soon as we can, so there’s room for others.”



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | SALLY RUMMEL

Helen, 7, makes a beaded bracelet with teen volunteer Erin Bedell.



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | SALLY RUMMEL

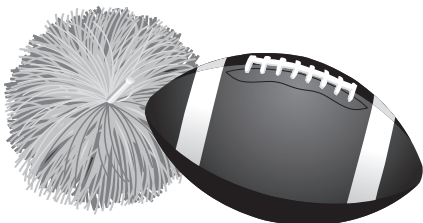
Henry, 9, goes back for more dinner, enjoying the food brought in by volunteers.



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TRI-COUNTY TIMES | HANNAH BALL

Pugsley (right), played by Griffin Grabowski, and two ancestors, played by Alyssa Carr (middle) and Sadie Kessler (left) along with the rest of the cast sing the opening number of "Addams Family: The Musical!" at rehearsal on Aug. 4 at the Fenton Village Playhouse.

## 'Creepy and kooky' comes to Fenton

■ The Fenton Village Players presents 'Addams Family: The Musical!' for month of August

By Hannah Ball

hball@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792

**Fenton Twp.** — The thespians of Fenton Village Players have been fine-tuning their singing, dancing, acting, and rigor mortis stances for "Addams Family: The Musical!," this season's musical comedy.

Rehearsals have been going on since the beginning of June, and shows started Aug. 6 and will run through Aug. 23.

In this play, the Addams family is thrown through a loop when Wednesday Addams invites a boy and his parents over

for dinner.

"Little Wednesday Addams is all grown up and she has met a boy who she has fallen in love with and he's normal," said Jill Tomlin, who plays an ancestor. "He's what society would consider normal. Wednesday would like her family to pretend to be normal when meeting him and it doesn't go very well. It does not go the way she intended."

Tickets can be bought online at [fenton-villageplayhouse.wordpress.com](http://fenton-villageplayhouse.wordpress.com), as well as Fenton's Open Book at 105 West Shiawassee Ave. in Fenton, The UPS Store at 17195 Silver Parkway, and one hour before each performance at the Fenton Village Playhouse at 14197 Torrey Rd.

## HOT LINE CONTINUED

■■■■ **BEING A LIBERAL** Democrat is like putting the car in D for drive, all right, and it's like driving our country right off a cliff.

■■■■ **THE WEDNESDAY HOT** line saying to go forward put car in D for Democrat and to go backward put car in R for Republican was very funny and definitely on the mark.

■■■■ **THE FOLLOWING THOUGHTS** represent the thinking of liberal Democrats: massive debt, job killers, failing schools, my taxes being used to pay for abortions, open borders for criminals, weak foreign policy, deals with terrorists and weak on crime.

■■■■ **WHOSE IDEA WAS** it to eliminate parking in Dibbleville in front of the businesses? Is someone trying to shut them down? Has anyone else noticed that the new streets

are two lanes, one in each direction? It reminds me of a previous debacle when someone decided to close off traffic on South LeRoy a few years ago.

■■■■ **OUR GREAT COUNTRY** is on the edge of a cliff right now. Go ahead, put your car in D, and see what happens. Thank you.

■■■■ **IF THE NUCLEAR** deal with Iran was such a good deal, the President and Kerry wouldn't have to work so hard to sell it.

■■■■ **YES, MANY ITEMS** can be recycled. Unfortunately, Republic only wants to accept those recyclables that they can make money from. They should accept anything that contains the recycle symbols on them.

■■■■ **HOW TO TELL** if 'fill in the blank' with a name is lying: their lips are moving. How imaginative, how original, how old.

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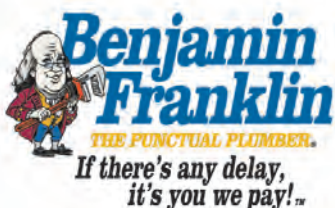
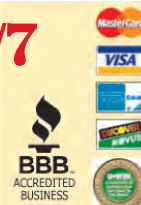
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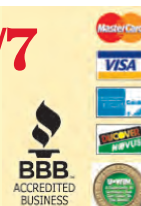
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# LOOKING BACK at this week IN LOCAL HISTORY

COMPILED BY VERA HOGAN

## 5 years ...

**Sunday, Aug. 15, 2010**

*One dollar price tag for old fire hall questioned.* The city of Fenton's Downtown Development Authority (DDA) is offering to sell the old fire hall to a restaurant developer for \$1, and provide up to \$400,000 in funding for the project.

## 10 years ...

**Sunday, Aug. 10, 2005**

*Police chief under the gun.* An out-of-control budget, excessive overtime causing the budget to exceed \$50,000 in one year, insubordination, disciplinary problems and low morale among officers has resulted in the Holly Village Council questioning police department policies, procedures and leadership.

## 15 years ...

**Sunday, Aug. 13, 2000**

*Local astronaut to pilot space shuttle.* Fenton's Astronaut Michael Bloomfield, who graduated from Lake Fenton High School in 1977, is scheduled to be the shuttle pilot of the STS-97, Endeavor on Nov. 30.

## 20 years ...

**Sunday, Aug. 13, 1995**

*Bye, bye Warbirds, protesters get their way.* The days for the World War II fighter planes, known as the Warbirds, are numbered. This summer will mark the second and last season for the Warbirds at Price Airport, off Silver Lake Road. However, efforts to rid the Fenton Township and Linden area of the planes were not credited to local protesters. Actually, they are being praised for making the Warbirds such a successful business venture at Price Airport.

## 25 years ...

**Sunday, Aug. 12, 1990**

*Price hike.* Don't expect a break from high gas costs. American consumers are still feeling the effects of last week's (Aug. 1, 1990) Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. AAA of Michigan reported that retail gasoline prices statewide have increased by an average of 17 cents per gallon in the wake of the invasion. Area gas prices ranged from \$1.21 per gallon to \$1.29 per gallon of regular unleaded. Before the invasion, prices ranged from 98 cents to \$1.02 per gallon.

## 30 years ...

**Sunday, Aug. 11, 1985**

*Three Fenton drug busts.* Local cops join feds in nationwide crack-down on drug dealers. A nationwide crackdown on marijuana growers and dealers spread into the area last week with three major drug busts. Two were in Fenton and one was in Fenton Township. The federally funded program is targeted at stopping potential marijuana traffic by raiding growers during the harvesting season.

## Police&Fire report

### FENTON POLICE INVESTIGATE SUSPICIOUS INCIDENT

On Monday, Aug. 3, a female shopper at a retail store on Owen Road reported a suspicious situation to Fenton police. Fenton Police Chief Rick Aro said that the woman reported that as she shopped, she was distracted by talking on her phone. She felt a tug on her clothing and saw a boy. She thought she saw a knife fall to the floor. She reported the situation to the store. Aro said police interviewed both parties involved, as well as viewed surveillance video and determined that no criminal act took place. The police chief said it could have been mistaken identity on the boy's part and the knife might have been a phone.

### DAD'S WALLET STOLEN FROM UNLOCKED CAR

On Aug. 1, a 48-year-old Fenton man filed a larceny from auto complaint with Fenton police. The man said he parked his 72-year-old father's 2005 Buick LeSabre in the driveway of their home in the 800 block of Whisperwood at midnight. Later, he went out to the car and noticed that someone had ransacked it. His father's wallet, containing cash, ID, etc. had been stolen. The car was left unlocked.

### INDECENT EXPOSURE AT FENTON HIGH SCHOOL

At 9:25 a.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 4, a Fenton police officer was sent to Fenton High School to investigate an indecent exposure complaint. Police Chief Rick Aro said two 15-year-old females told the responding officer that they were at the track for a camp. As they were walking south of the track entrance, they heard a girl scream. When they looked toward the scream, they saw a white male with the front of his shorts pulled down and he was exposing himself to another female. The teens described the suspect as a white male, in his 40s, about 6 feet tall. He had short dark hair and was of heavy build. They did not see the man's face. The females ran toward the school when this happened and the suspect continued to walk eastbound toward the parking lot. No vehicle was observed. The police officer met with the athletic director who will be turning over the school's surveillance video to police.

## FRAUD

**Continued from Front Page**

three other local residents have been victimized through a new debit card scam that stretches across the U.S. The Secret Service has been in touch with the Fenton Police Department.

Aro said with the Linden woman's case, she came to the police station on Aug. 1 to file the complaint. She reported that within 20 minutes, an unknown person used her debit card five times at The Home Depot in Fenton to buy \$1,500 in gift cards on July 31.

Police viewed the store's surveillance video and observed the suspect in possession of the debit card, although the woman confirmed with police that she was still in possession of her debit card.

Another suspect went to Walgreens on Silver Lake Road in Fenton and purchased \$700 worth of gift cards in three separate transactions. Again, police viewed the store's surveillance video and saw that the suspect was in possession of the debit card.

Aro said the Secret Service is aware of similar related crimes across the country. The motive appears to be the same.

According to federal investigators, a security breach occurred at a national chain beauty supply company. Personal information was obtained during this breach and put on the Internet where criminals were able to purchase the information. With real account numbers, criminals across the country have been able to make real-looking (cloned) debit cards, not necessarily with the correct name on it.

It appears that criminals live close



**TRI-COUNTY TIMES** | SUBMITTED PHOTO

Fenton police suspect this unknown man of being involved with a nationwide debit card fraud ring. He allegedly used a cloned card in Fenton to buy gift cards.

to where the victims live. There are multiple suspects, said Aro.

Aro said the suspect at The Home Depot incident was described as a white male, in his 30s, with short dark hair. He was dressed in black workout type clothing. The suspect at Walgreens was described as a black male, nicely dressed.

Detectives are following up with the investigation. They have been in contact with the victims' banks in an attempt to figure out how the suspect came to possess their debit card.

If anyone recognizes the men in these photos, they are urged to call Fenton police at (810) 629-5311.

Aro urges residents with debit cards to maintain a low balance on the account and to monitor it daily.

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TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

Clover Beach in Fenton Township is as busy as a Saturday afternoon, on Monday, July 29. The lot was almost full, as was the water and beach.

## SUMMER

Continued from Page 3A

In the tri-county area, there is enough recreation nearby to ensure getting the most out of the second half of summer, whether it's the water, the park, or a great summer flick. The following is a selection of what to do nearby.

### Fenton

**Silver Lake Park Beach** is located in Silver Lake Park, which is off 16100 Jennings Road, off Silver Parkway. Swim in Silver Lake, and bring a little cash for the entrance fee.

**Bush Park** is on the Shiawassee River, located behind St. John Catholic School. The entrance is at the east end of Jefferson Street, off Adelaide Street.

### Holly

**Groveland Oaks County Park** is a camping resort with a variety of settings and activities, which include camping, hiking, kayaking a water-slide and many others. It's located at 14555 Dixie Highway. Call (248) 634-9811 for details.

**Seven Lakes State Park** is at 14390 Fish Lake Road between Fenton and Holly. This large park features a variety of outdoor activities.

### Fenton Township/Linden

**Clover Beach** is just south of the city of Linden, off Linden Road, on Byram Lake. The park is free to use, and is across from Linden Park.

**Fenton Township Park and Beach** is open from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m., Memorial Day to Labor Day. This small park and beach on Lake Fenton is tucked away behind the Fenton Township Civic Community Center on Mantawauka Drive.

### Summer Movies

**NCG Trillium** is in Grand Blanc off Holly Road, north of the I-75 exit, at 8220 Trillium Circle Ave. This week moviegoers can catch Ant-Man, Minions, Mission Impossible and Mr. Holmes, among others.

**The US 23 Digital Drive-in Theater** is now all-digital, and is located at 5200 Fenton Road, between Grand Blanc and Flint. This weekend, moviegoers can see Fantastic Four, Ant-Man, Mission Impossible, Minions, Vacation and/or Trainwreck, depending on the screen.

## FENTON

Continued from Front Page

town, I think it's pretty likely the project will fail," Douglas said.

The Fenton Streetscape fits this walking criteria.

Fenton City Manager Lynn Markland said when the Fenton Streetscape is complete, the sidewalks will be wider and people will be able to walk side by side.

"The Streetscape will encourage more people to walk in the downtown area," he said.

Another aspect of a streetscape is attracting customers.

A city is like a business, Douglas explained, and it aims to attract customers from surrounding areas to spend money in downtown and maybe relocate there some day. A city or town also needs to consider other pieces like utility services, fire protection, and other local services.

Markland said he expects more residents will work and live in the downtown area.

"People have told me they've moved to the city because of what they've seen going on downtown," he said. Real estate agents have told him that buyers want a walkable downtown.

Markland said he expects more retail, office space, and maybe more restaurants in downtown Fenton. "People want to work in a vibrant downtown area. They want to walk downtown during lunch and participate in evening activities immediately after work," he said.

Douglas said when one city undergoes a streetscape project and improves the area, there's pressure on neighboring places to follow suit.

"If one city is sprucing itself up, neighboring cities need to do the same thing. The other ones are going to feel obligated," he said.

Markland expects this, as well as more activity on North LeRoy, Owen Road, and the industrial district because of the Fenton Streetscape.

"There are some properties that are underutilized and those properties will start to develop and you'll see more jobs as a result," he said. "As the area contin-

ues to grow, I think we'll all benefit from it," Markland said. "As all communities are doing well, each community helps the other."

In 10 years, Markland believes there will be an increased population and increased economic activities in downtown Fenton, Silver Parkway and Owen Road.

"We've got subdivisions that were left incomplete during the recession. You'll see those finished and start to be built up," he said.

## SIMILAR PROJECTS

In 2012, Rochester underwent a \$10 million streetscape project to redo Main Street, where popular businesses are located, and the city is seeing growth because of it, said Nik Banda, deputy city manager of Rochester. Main Street had a 3-percent vacancy rate at the start of the project, and now it's 2.4 percent vacancy at the end. They lost seven businesses during construction, but gained 13.

"It set us up for stability for the next 20 years," Banda said. The project helped stabilize local businesses, which have been reinvesting in their stores by redoing signs and awnings. People are more likely to walk downtown.

It's also stabilized the residential neighborhoods.

"Because of this solid downtown, because of the parks and schools, we're seeing unprecedented redevelopment in homes. People are redoing their homes," he said, adding that there's well over \$100 million going into residential houses.

People are more likely to live near the city now.

It's also sparked road construction in Rochester Hills. "Knowing that we're so stable, they up-fronted a lot of money to redo roads and reinvest in their communities," Banda said.

Because of the construction of Main Street, the city of Rochester decided to build two parking structures to fix parking issues. The first, which added 250 parking spaces, just opened last week. The second will add 300 spaces.

"Now we have more parking than we've ever had," he said.

In seven years (10 years since their streetscape project), Banda said he expects Rochester to look "even more pretty. We're on the verge of about 400 new residential units at the edge of town. More people walk up town. It'll keep solidifying the residential pace."

**“People have told me they’ve moved to the city because of what they’ve seen going on downtown.”**

**Lynn Markland**  
Fenton City manager

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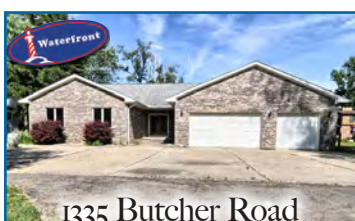
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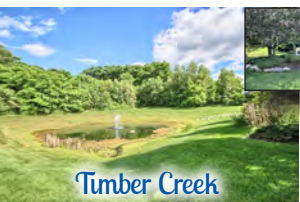
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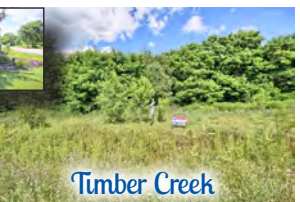
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If you have any questions please call 810-591-4700.

Additional information is posted on the district's website [www.fentonschools.org](http://www.fentonschools.org) under the resources/enrollment tab.

## Cicada's mating call... the sounds of a waning summer

■ Legend has it that after the first cicada concert, frost is just six weeks away

By Sally Rummel

news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

If you're listening intently to nature's songs outdoors, you'll notice during the long, hot days of late July and early August, the love songs of the male cicadas, six-legged, grasshopper-like insects.

The sound of the cicada, pronounced [si-key-duh], love song is the loudest song known in the insect world, according to insects.about.com. Some species of cicadas register more than 100 decibels. Imagine the noise produced when thousands of cicadas sing together, creating a cicada chorus.

While some species of cicada do most of their crooning at night, Michigan's



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Cicadas are plentiful in Michigan during late summer days, singing their songs to let us know that fall isn't too far away.

most common dog-day cicadas do most of their singing from dusk until sunset.

According to folk legend, when you hear the first song of the dog-day cicadas, it means there's just six weeks until the first frost of the fall season.

That may not be good news for those of us who want to hang on to summer, but for the male cicadas calling for females from high in the trees, it's a love song for mating. Their song, which is made by vibrating membranes on the abdomen, sounds more like a loud hum or whine than an actual song.

A female cicada that finds a male attractive will respond to his call with a brisk movement of the wings. The male can both see and hear this "wing flick," and will reply with more clicking of his tymbals. As the duet continues, the male makes his way toward her and begins a new song called the "courtship call."

Cicada calls are species-specific, helping individuals locate their own kind, when different kinds of cicadas share the same habitat.

Young cicadas are called nymphs. They have no wings and their front legs have thick claws for burrowing.

"Cicadas spend most of their time as nymphs down in the soil around the base of trees," said Howard Russell, entomologist at Michigan State University. They feed on xylem sap from roots. Their lifespan is typically from two to five years and their emergence from underground is staggered so some individuals emerge each year.

However, the periodical cicada, a cousin to the dog-day cicadas, live from 13 to 17 years and all emerge at once.

"That's the most interesting thing about these 17-year cicadas," said Russell. "In Michigan, this species is only in southern Ann Arbor. They're all members of one brood and when they are mature, they all come out of the ground at one time, in one day throughout their range across the U.S." There can be millions of adult cicadas flying around at that time.

Cicadas don't have too much effect on humans one way or another, at least in Michigan. They don't bite or sting, but can be a nuisance because of damage sometimes done on tree branches while the female is laying eggs.

In other countries, however, they are a delicacy for eating and Chinese medicine often uses their shells.

Here in Michigan, their love song does signal that summer days are fleeting and that fall isn't as far away as we'd like to think.



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## TRIVIA HORSE RACING

**Q** What horse won the Triple Crown in 1943?

**A** Count Fleet completed the Triple Crown by winning the Belmont Stakes by 30 lengths. Of the \$261,787 waged, \$249,516 was on Count Fleet.

# Costigan leads our female soccer team

■ Determination helps put Tiger mid on top of our strong squad

**By David Troppens**  
dtroppens@tctimes.com; 810-433-6789  
Brianna Costigan is a competitor.

And the Fenton incoming senior will do whatever is possible to earn a victory.

It doesn't matter if it is a non-league soccer game, a scrimmage, or a jog to the corner flag before the start of the game.

"Right after the National Anthem the girls jog to the crowd and then sprint to the

corner flag," Fenton girls varsity soccer coach Matt Sullivan said. "For three years it's been let's see who can beat Bri to the

corner flag. She

has to be the

first. The

girls try to

hold her back,

but she almost al-

ways wins."

"They team up on me

and cheat a little," Costigan said about the races. "But it's just another team bonding moment."

But if anyone is wondering why Costigan is the Tri-County's 2015 Female Soccer Player of the Year, her desire and competitive nature is a good place to start.

"She's extremely self-motivated," Sullivan said. "She's very driven. She's a very hard

**See COSTIGAN on 17A**



## BRIANNA COSTIGAN

Our 2015 Female Soccer Player of the Year scored nine goals and dished 11 assists.



**Times**

SUNDAY,  
AUGUST 9, 2015  
PAGE 15A

# Sports

ONLINE EXCLUSIVES

▶ Did you miss Wednesday's edition, visit [tctimes.com](http://tctimes.com) to catch back up.

## SCOUTING THE METRO LEAGUE Swartz Creek Dragons

Since 2009, the Dragons have been a respectable middle-of-the road type of Metro League squad. They typically finish a game or two above or below .500 and around .500 in Metro action. The coaches placed Creek in fifth at the pre-season meeting, so it seems the area mentors expect a bit of the same this year.

But this team does have some fine returning talent. Receiver and defensive backs Kenyen Spurlock and Brett Pero return as does linebacker/running back Clayton Lynn. All three earned either first- or second-team league honors last year.

**Coach Brad Brown says:** "We are going to try to do our best to get better every day; make sure we are doing things the right way on and off the field."

**Outlook:** Expecting another middle-of-the-pack finish seems about right, but there is some talent. The Dragons could pull off an upset and move up a little bit.

# Putting in some hard work

■ Xceleration Sports camp getting Fenton athletes ready for fall

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

**Fenton** — Chelsea Bujak is only going into the seventh grade at St. John School.

Her friend, Jaden Williams, is only a year older, preparing to go into the eighth grade at Fenton's AGS Middle School.

But, apparently they are old enough to do some tire flipping of some very large truck tires. In fact, the tire may have been taller than the athletes flipping them.

"It was very challenging," said Bujak, who plays basketball softball and cross country and plans on being a cheerleader this year as well. "It's really fun though. Working as a team and having everybody keep pushing and encouraging you helps."

"The last time I couldn't flip it, but now I can do it," said Williams, who plays basketball and track and field. "It's pretty awesome."

**See WORK on 16A**



TRI-COUNTY TIMES  
DAVID TROPPENS

For the last seven weeks Xceleration Sports has been running a conditioning camp at Fenton High School for about 140 athletes ranging from seventh-grade to seniors. (Above) A team of students work on flipping a large tire across the football field. (Right) Cassie Campbell pushes a weight across the field during another drill.

## MSU great Nichol spreads some advice to area students

**By David Troppens**  
dtroppens@tctimes.com

**Fenton** — Keith Nichol was just entering the Fenton High School campus for the first time in his life.

Waiting upon the football field were about 100 middle school and high school athletes just finishing a work out, and eagerly awaiting the Michigan State football star.

"It reminds me a lot of where I came from and what I went through," Nichol said about his first observations of Fenton's campus and stadium. "I didn't realize how big the stadium was or the high school was."

Nichol came to Fenton High School on Thursday morning to talk to Fenton's participants of their summer training programs run by Xceleration Sports. Thursday morning was the last session of the summer

**See NICHOL on 18A**

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Wednesday Night  
CROSS COUNTRY  
RACES

Here are the July 22 Wednesday Night Race results. The top three in all the children's classes are listed. This was the final event of the summer.

<b>HALF-MILE RACE</b>	
<b>GIRLS UNDER 6</b>	
1. Grace Groves .....	4:13.15
2. Jillian Bowles.....	4:39.21
3. Kaitlyn Bowles.....	4:50.99
<b>GIRLS 7 TO 9</b>	
1. Kendra Kuch.....	3:34.96
2. Samantha Craine .....	6:04.98
3. Ava Siegwald.....	6:09.14
<b>BOYS 6 &amp; UNDER</b>	
1. Brady Cook .....	3:55.04
2. Gavin Katic .....	4:19.03
3. Jacob Orzol.....	5:48.80
<b>BOYS 7 TO 9</b>	
1. Dillon Hamilton.....	3:17.08
2. Garrett Clark.....	3:20.49
3. Carson Kuch .....	3:30.05
<b>BOYS 10 TO 12</b>	
1. Patrick Hamilton.....	3:09.57
2. Nathan Katic.....	3:35.71
3. John Sage.....	4:25.23
<b>ONE-MILE RUN</b>	
<b>GIRLS 6 &amp; UNDER</b>	
1. Courtney Lawhorne.....	9:36.10
2. Melody Meckstroth .....	11:35.05
<b>GIRLS 7 TO 9</b>	
1. Ava Justice .....	7:23.31
2. Kendra Kuch.....	8:22.64
3. Ava Fahrenkopf.....	8:29.14
<b>GIRLS 10 TO 12</b>	
1. Lauren Gadola .....	7:12.00
2. Ashlyn Kaighen .....	8:40.67
3. Olivia Nester .....	9:46.20
<b>GIRLS 13 TO 15</b>	
1. Meghan Hitt.....	8:50.33
<b>BOYS 6 &amp; UNDER</b>	

1. Brady Cook .....	8:31.01
2. Gavin Katic .....	8:50.34
<b>BOYS 7 TO 9</b>	
1. Garrett Clark.....	7:11.21
2. Dillon Hamilton.....	7:42.65
3. Carson Kuch .....	7:56.11
<b>BOYS 10 TO 12</b>	
1. River Meckstroth .....	6:41.53
2. Nolan Fahrenkopf .....	7:01.99
3. Christopher LaFave.....	7:06.19
<b>BOYS 13 TO 15</b>	
1. Sebastian Lubahn .....	6:27.66
2. Nathan Katzenberger.....	8:20.81
3. Jack Smigielski .....	10:39.41
<b>TWO-MILE RUN</b>	
<b>GIRLS 7 TO 9</b>	
1. Ava Farenkopf .....	18:35.16
2. Shawna Schmandt.....	24:47.48
3. Ava Justice .....	25:44.26
<b>GIRLS 10 TO 12</b>	
1. Emily Grob .....	19:50.11
2. Natalie Allen .....	22:05.84
3. Olivia Nester .....	27:36.91
<b>GIRLS 13 TO 15</b>	
1. Claire Grob .....	18:34.30
<b>WOMEN 16 TO 18</b>	
1. Kaylea Biland .....	20:18.36
<b>BOYS 7 TO 9</b>	
1. Aiden Sage.....	18:20.25
2. Blake Jahn .....	20:25.92
<b>BOYS 10 TO 12</b>	
1. River Meckstroth .....	16:04.84
2. Ben Grob .....	16:05.41
3. John Sage.....	22:39.29
<b>BOYS 13 TO 15</b>	
1. Nick McDonald.....	11:52.80
2. Cade Kaighen .....	11:55.11
3. Sebastian Lubahn .....	14:36.71
<b>THREE-MILE RUN</b>	
<b>GIRLS 13-15</b>	
1. Meghan Hitt.....	25:37.90
<b>BOYS 10 TO 12</b>	
1. Nathan Katic.....	21:58.48
2. Elijah Schmandt.....	29:39.72
3. Aaron Jahn .....	30:26.35
<b>BOYS 13 TO 15</b>	
1. Blake Jordan .....	22:17.90
2. Cole Jordan.....	28:19.50



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | DAVID TROPPENS

Nick Cairnduff was one of about 140 Fenton athletes ranging from the seventh-grade through seniors who took advantage of the conditioning camp held at Fenton High School during the summer. Cairnduff pushes a weight down the football field during Thursday's final session of the summer.

WORK

Continued from Page 15A

It was just one of many physical activities performed on Fenton High School's football field on Thursday morning by about 140 seventh-grade to senior athletes. During other times, the athletes were pushing weights laying on the turf up and down the football field. Others were doing pushups and short 10-yard sprints. Eventually, all of the students were able to do each task.

The event was the final of 28 one-hour sessions held at Fenton High School throughout the summer. They were held Monday through Thursdays for seven weeks. The goals of the camp were two-fold. Hosted by Xceleration Sports LLC, the camp was used to help give quality speed and agility training as well as strength and conditioning training to Fenton athletes and doing it in a format that all of Fenton's athletes, regardless of the sport, could benefit from the training. And it seems to be working out.

The camp started a year ago when Fenton High School athletic director Michael Bakker connected with Xceleration Director Ben Boudro about his company's program.

"We hooked up with these guys and they were able to fill a need we had of providing core muscle training as well as speed and agility and flexibility — all those things that go across all the sports and can help our student-athletes," Bakker said. "This was the best way to get our kids integrated together as well as mix sports. ... This is our second year and it's great."

Boudro's program for strength and conditioning and speed and agility work was something he worked on while getting his masters degree at Michigan State.

"They wanted a program that every single sport could benefit from it," Boudro said. "They can learn how to work. They get stuff they can't get anywhere else. ... Last year was our first year and we were working the kinks out. This year everything was way smoother, so that allowed the kids to come in and get their work done and leave. The biggest difference I noticed

from last year to this year is this year's kids are more 'ripe.' They were able to progress more. At the beginning of the summer, we had kids who could do zero pull ups finishing the summer by doing seven or eight."


The athletes are broken down into high school and middle school divisions as well as boys and girls divisions. Some days are spent emphasizing weights and conditioning and the others in agility and speed training. They are done within groups so athletes can create new friends and so they can encourage and push each other. On Thursday, teams of about six kids worked on the tire flip together. Two would flip the tire while others would encourage the flippers. When they made the flip, two more would do another flip. The process continued for about seven minutes. By the end, the athletes were exhausted. Occasionally there are guest speakers. Thursday's guest speaker was ex-Michigan State quarterback and wide receiver Keith Nichol (see related story).

The program appears to be a hit with the athletes.

"It was really cool to meet new people when I first came I didn't know anybody and now I know people," Williams said. "I didn't expect it to be this challenging, but it was more fun because the coaches pushed us hard."

The athletes also showed great progress. According to Boudro, 72 percent of the Fenton athletes experienced a decrease of their 40-yard dash time of at least a half-second. Fifty percent increased the number of pull-ups they were able to do and 92 percent improved their vertical jumps. He told the athletes of the about 20 schools they have programs for, Fenton's improvement was the greatest.

"It's been a huge benefit to our program and for those kids who have stuck with it," Bakker said. "They have really excelled. They've all improved over the summer. I'm very happy with it. I wish more kids would do it, but at the same time I'm thrilled with the 140 kids who are here doing it."



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## David's Dabblings

A few thoughts about the area's sports scene and some others not dealing with sports at all.



### I AM AN EXTREME RUNNER OKAY, MAYBE I'M NOT

I do not like running. Well, I'm fine if running means taking four steps to chase down a crazy volleyball bump or it involves racing my wife, Anna, to pick up that quarter we both see on the floor. Then I'll run with gusto. But, for the most part, running any distances beyond a quarter of a mile is something I would rather avoid.

However, Anna is a runner. And over the last few years, Anna has adopted one of my favorite activities, curling, as her own. Generally, she hates the cold and ice. So when she joined one of my curling teams a couple of years ago, I knew she was doing it more to do something with me. And I have to give her great props for doing so. I love that she is now curling with me. It's made it even more rewarding. However, once she started curling, I felt a bit more pressured into trying to get more involved in her running.

At first, I tried to pacify her by going to some of her races, cheering her on the couple of times I saw her during the event. It worked for awhile. But I could tell she wanted me to run with her.

This is where the Wednesday Night Races come into play. Every summer the five-week event is ran at Linden County Park during late June and through the entire month of July. Over the years I've covered one of the events and cheered Anna while she did her 3-mile run. However, a year ago I figured it was time for me to step up and share Anna's running experiences together. I did three races last year.

However, this season my goal was to be an extreme runner. An extreme runner is someone who attends and competes in all five races. I'd occasionally look at all of Anna's medals and I figured it was time for me to get one. And after Anna had to miss the first week due to work, I saw my opportunity to get a medal she wasn't going to get. I had to get this extreme runner medal.

Thankfully, they use the term 'runner' loosely. There were many times I started walking during portions of the race. My 10-minute miles aren't all that impressive. However, after five weeks, I received my extreme runner medal. And for about a day (Anna took first place in her age group at the Run for Hope 5K race a day later) I was the king of runners in the house. I even yelled out the front door - 'I'm an extreme runner,' probably scaring a few neighbors in the process.

But here's the rotten part of this whole story. The season is over. I figured that would mean the end of the runs. Nope. Anna has me conned into still going to Linden County Park to run at least once a week. And now I'm not getting any sort of medal or ribbon for doing so. There's not even any more wild blackberries to pick at the park. I'm doing this because she likes it.

Oh, the vicious circle I've started. I'm running and I can't seem to put an end to the cycle. I wonder if this is how Anna feels about curling. Nah.

## COSTIGAN

Continued from Page 15A

worker, especially in the class room and on the soccer field. She's a fierce competitor and wants to win everything she does."

"I would say I always try my hardest and always working my hardest. I feel pretty good about helping others succeed and setting others for the goal," Costigan said. "I feel like it helps not only myself to play better, but it helps motivate others to work harder."

Another great strength for Costigan is her ability to play just about anywhere on the pitch and be an impact player.

Her speed, athleticism and determination made her an outstanding safety net defender for the Tigers, and Sullivan thought she would be the anchor of the defense earlier in the season. However, when the offense was struggling, he moved Costigan to a center midfield position and almost immediately the Tigers' offense became potent.

"She's loaded with talent and there were too many times the last few years when we relied on her athleticism and quickness to help us out on defense," Sullivan said. "With those teams we needed that. This year we needed to get her away from defense to help her score more goals."

One of her early games she played at center-mid was a 4-0 Fenton victory against Kearsley. In the contest, Costigan assisted a Chloe Foor goal and one by an Eryn Isaacson goal. Two days later, Costigan scored three goals in the Tigers' 4-0 victory against Clio.

"When we put her at center mid it made us a different team," Sullivan said. "We knew wherever we put her she'd be effective. We were struggling to score so we took that chance."

With Costigan at center mid, the Tigers now had a chance to take advantage of another combination. Foor and Costigan play on the same travel team, resulting in many outstanding passes from Costigan to Foor for Foor goals.

"I think it helped (teammate) Brennan (Sullivan) and I really work good together with Chloe," Costigan said. "We are on the same travel team so I always know where she is, and when I get it to her, I know she'll always put it in."

Perhaps the combo's most important goal came in the state semifinals when Costigan assisted Foor's goal in a 1-0 victory against Trenton at West Bloomfield High School. The breakaway goal was set up when Costigan fought to keep possession of the ball in her own defensive end. She eventually earned possession, dribbled to midfield and sent a perfect pass to Foor, resulting in a breakaway goal.

"I knew I had to get the ball to her because I saw their defense was pretty spread out," Costigan said after the game. "Chloe and I play together on club so I knew if I was able to give her a ball, she would be able to put it in. I just ended up giving her a beautiful ball. She was wide open and I knew she was going to finish it."

Costigan ended the season setting up 11 goals and scoring nine herself. She earned Division 2 Second-Team All-State honors.

"She showed me something different this year with her offensive skill and her ability to take players on," Sullivan said. "She made some moves I haven't seen in a long time. That comes back to her confidence in herself."

"I just see her becoming even more confident and attacking even more (next

season)."

Costigan has already committed to the University of Cincinnati to play collegiate soccer. After helping lead the Tigers to their first-ever D2 state championship game, could there possibly be an encore performance next year?

"I'm excited about next year," Costigan said. "I don't know all the freshmen coming up, but we have a couple of freshmen who are really good who will hopefully make the team strong again. If we keep everything together, we could end up in the same spot, and hopefully go for the win."

TRI-COUNTY TIMES | DAVID TROPPENS

The Tri-County Times' Female Soccer Player of the Year Brianna Costigan (back) competes for a ball during the 2015 season.



## All Tri-County Girls Soccer Team

### FEMALE SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR:

Brianna Costigan, Fenton junior

A Second-Team All-State pick, Costigan could do it all for the D2 state finalist Tigers. Statistically, she finished with nine goals and 11 assists, but she provided quality play wherever she was needed on the pitch.

Here is a list of the players that made our All Tri-County Girls Soccer Team as selected by the sports staff.

### REST OF FIRST TEAM (In no particular order)

#### Name (all-state team) School

Alia Frederick (first) ..... Linden  
Ann Fetzer ..... Holly  
Ashlyn Skidmore (third) ... Lake Fenton  
Chloe Foor (H. Mention) ..... Fenton  
Tayana Brown ..... Lake Fenton  
Kaitlyn Begley ..... Lake Fenton  
Katie Wilkowski ..... Linden  
Kuristin Porritt (H. Mention) Lake Fenton  
Carly Granger ..... Fenton  
Melissa Williams ..... Lake Fenton

#### Name (all-state team) School

Brennan Sullivan ..... Fenton  
Maddie Zayan (second) ..... Linden  
Alexis Cash ..... Lake Fenton  
Margaret Berry ..... Fenton  
Jessie Magalski ..... Linden  
Grace Walterhouse ..... Linden  
Erica Freeman ..... Linden

#### Keepers

Abigail Quesnelle ..... Fenton  
Madison Paige (third) ..... Linden

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## NICHOL

Continued from Page 15A

and the 2007 Lowell graduate was going to leave a lasting comment for the students. During his approximately 10-minute discussion with the students the Michigan State quarterback/wide receiver talked a bit about his story and tried to relay to the kids some helpful tips.

"Every decision you make from here on out is going to lead you down one of two paths," said Nichol, who may be best known for his Hail Mary touchdown reception on the final play in a victory against Wisconsin during his senior year. The victory helped earn the Spartans an invitation into the Big Ten championship

**“Ultimately, if you give all your effort and train as hard as you possibly can, what else do you have left to give?”**

**Keith Nichol**

*Ex-MSU football star on the pressure placed upon athletes to succeed*

game. "The way you work every day is going to directly correlate to how successful you are going to be on the next level, whether that may be high school for some of you or college. ... It's directly stems from what you are doing today."

### Nichol's athletic history

Nichol was more than a great quarterback during his three-year varsity career at Lowell High School. He ranked among the best in the nation.

During three seasons as the starting quarterback, he passed for over 6,500 yards and 76 touchdowns and also ran for over 3,000 yards and for 58 TDs in his prep career. He led Lowell

to a 33-3 record during his three seasons and was an all-state selection three times. Scout.com ranked him the 22nd best high school quarterback in the nation.

He originally committed to Michigan State, but went to Oklahoma. After a year as a Sooner, he transferred back to Michigan State.

After sitting out his transfer season, he was the back up for MSU starter Kirk Cousins. However, Nichol still spent plenty of time at quarterback, completing 49-of-91 passes for 764 yards and seven TDs. He also ran for 128 yards and a score. After suffering a dislocated elbow, Nichol was asked to move to wide receiver.

"For many they may get upset or go to another school. My philosophy was to train every single day to be the best athlete I could be," Nichol said. "Fortunately, I was able to play another position. ... I enjoyed winning more than throwing the ball and throwing touchdowns so my philosophy was to do whatever I could do to make the team win."

### The Hail Mary catch

Nichol became a solid receiver, catching 48 passes for 614 yards and four touchdowns during the final two seasons of his career. Also being open to the change allowed him to earn a spot in Spartan lore when he caught the Hail Mary pass from Cousins in the 37-31 vic-



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | DAVID TROPPENS

(Above) Ex-Michigan State football player Keith Nichol talks to students at the final conditioning camp held by Xceleration Sports at Fenton High School's football field on Thursday. Nichol played quarterback and wide receiver during his MSU career. He is best known for his Oct. 22, 2011 Hail Mary catch (right) in a 37-31 victory against Wisconsin. The victory led them to Legends Division championship in the Big Ten and into the the Big Ten Championship game. The Spartans lost in the rematch 42-39.

tory against Wisconsin his senior season.

Tied 31-all, the Spartans attempted a 44-yard Hail Mary pass on the final play of the game. Initially, the ball was thrown into the end zone, but the ball bounced off some players and back to the Wisconsin 1, where Nichol was standing. Nichol caught the ball and then fought to the end zone to get the game-winning score. Initially, it wasn't called a TD, but replay



reversed the call, creating a great celebration among the players and the Spartan Stadium crowd.

"When I saw the ball up in the air what I thought was we are going to win the football game," Nichol said. "I was going to have to be strong to get it in. It was very slow motion when you are playing, so I felt it took forever for that moment to occur.

"The thing I remember was the adrenaline rush when they announced the play as a touchdown. The stadium was going nuts with my team running out. It was an incredible moment. It is very cool to look back and have people talk about that moment. When you do it or accomplish it, you don't think it's going to be the big deal it is until people make it the big deal it is today."

Nichol told the students what happens in their lives is up to them. Nichol is a wealth Management Representative affiliated with Northwest Mutual.

"You are going to ultimately be what you want to be," Nichol said. "In the back of your mind you know what you are capable of accomplishing, and if you quietly go about that every day with that in the back of your mind, you are going to do something."

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**STARTING FRI AUG 7**

**\*\*RICKI AND THE FLASH (PG13)**  
 FRI-SAT 11:30 1:50 4:15 6:40 9:15 11:35  
 SUN-WED 11:30 1:50 4:15 6:40 9:15  
 THURS 11:30 1:50 4:15 6:40 9:15 11:35

**\*THE FANTASTIC FOUR (PG13)**  
 FRI-SAT 10:10 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 8:55 9:50 11:15  
 SUN-WED 10:10 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 8:55 9:50  
 THURS 10:10 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50 11:55

**\*THE GIFT (R)**  
 FRI-SAT 11:40 2:05 4:35 7:10 9:35 11:55  
 SUN-WED 11:40 2:05 4:35 7:10 9:35  
 THURS 11:40 2:05 4:35 7:10 9:35 11:55

**THE SPONGEBOB MOVIE-FREE (SENSORY FRIENDLY) (PG)**  
 FRI-SUN 10:00

**THE SPONGEBOB MOVIE-FREE (PG)**  
 FRI-SUN 9:30

**STARTING SAT AUG 8**

**\*THE FANTASTIC FOUR (SENSORY FRIENDLY) (PG13) SAT 10:00**

**STARTING THUR AUG 13**

**\*STRAIGHT OUTTA COMPTON (R)**  
 THURS 8:00 10:00 12:05

**\*THE MAN FROM U.N.C.L.E. (PG13)**  
 12:05

**\*@THE MAN FROM U.N.C.L.E. AN IMAX EXPERIENCE (PG13)**  
 THURS 7:00 9:30 12:05

**CONTINUING**

**\*SHAUN THE SHEEP MOVIE (PG)**  
**\*@MISSION IMPOSSIBLE: ROGUE NATION: AN IMAX EXPERIENCE (PG13)**

**\*MISSION IMPOSSIBLE: ROGUE NATION (PG13)**  
**\*VACATION (R)**  
**SOUTHPAW (R)**  
**PAPER TOWNS (PG13)**  
**MR. HOLMES (PG)**

**\*@3D PIXELS: REALD 3D (PG13)**  
**#2D PIXELS (PG13)**  
**TRAINWRECK (R)**  
**2D ANT-MAN (PG13)**  
**THE GALLOWS (R)**  
**2D MINIONS (PG)**  
**2D INSIDE OUT (PG)**

\*Due to movie company policies no passes are accepted.  
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## BUILDING

Continued from Page 3A

carports and patios to name a few, require a building permit from the city.

Window replacement other than maintenance requires a permit as well.

The only thing that does not require a building permit in Fenton are play structures that are pre-fabricated approved, but a zoning permit is required.

The cost of these permits vary depending on the project and its estimated value. According to the city of Fenton's website, the value of a new deck would be \$17 per square foot. The building permit for a deck with a value of \$1,000, for example, would cost about \$66.

The cost of a swimming pool permit is a flat rate of \$70 for an above-ground pool and \$135 for an in-ground pool.

All permits must be obtained prior to starting the actual work to avoid an additional administrative charge not to exceed \$100. This additional fee would have to be paid before the required permit is issued.

According to Fenton Building and Zoning Administrator Mike Reilly, "Persons not obtaining a building permit are in violation of the state of Michigan Building or Residential Code. The penalties include a citation, fine or both.

"Any concealed construction must be dug, torn down to allow the inspector to review and approve the work performed illegally," Reilly added.

Personnel with the building and code enforcement department are reviewing sites during the course of each day, he said.

Depending on the project, taxes will likely be added. Homeowners in the city of Fenton do pay additional taxes for decks and sheds, for example.

Reilly said the most building permit requests are for roof coverings and wood decks.

For more information on building permit requirements in Fenton, visit city hall at 301 South LeRoy St., or its website at [www.cityoffenton.org](http://www.cityoffenton.org) (click on Departments and again on Protective Inspection Department).

## Websites contain permit information

Similar building permit requirements are in place in the communities surrounding Fenton. Information regarding building permits can be found on the websites of most local communities.

- **Fenton Township's** website is [fentontownship.org](http://fentontownship.org); look up Building under Departments.
- **Holly Village's** website is [hollyvillage.org](http://hollyvillage.org); look up Building & Code Enforcement.
- **Holly Township's** website is [hollytownship.org](http://hollytownship.org); look up Building under Departments.
- **Groveland Township's** website is [grovelandtownship.net](http://grovelandtownship.net); look up Documents.
- **Linden's website** is [lindenmi.org](http://lindenmi.org); look up Building & Code Enforcement under Departments.
- **Rose Township's** website is [rosetownship.com](http://rosetownship.com); look up Building Department under Departments.
- **Tyrone Township's** website is [tyronetownship.us](http://tyronetownship.us); look up Planning/Zoning Administration.
- **Argentine Township's** website, [argentinatownship.com](http://argentinatownship.com) does not currently contain building permit information. Call (810) 735-5050.

## WHAT YOU MISSED in the MIDWEEK TIMES

Wednesday, June 3, 2015 edition



Erich Wilfinger



Marsha Wilfinger

### Accused killer not new to justice system

Erich Wilfinger, 66, remains jailed in Montmorency County on suspicion of murdering his wife, Marsha (Sargent) Wilfinger, formerly of Linden.

### Sights, Sounds & Tastes

The 13<sup>th</sup> annual Sights, Sounds and Tastes of Holly was held downtown last Saturday. About 500 visitors enjoyed food samples, fun and entertainment.

### A simple act of kindness

Autumn Beltinck, a Fenton Township teen shampooed and cut hair of homeless people in Detroit through a volunteer effort with Paul Mitchell The School Michigan, where she is a student.

### Victim remembered with great fondness

Longtime friend Sally York of Flushing shares memories of Marsha (Sargent) Wilfinger, who was murdered in June.

### From carefree summer to back-to-school

Use this month to get ready by making appointments, reading books and supply shopping.

### Destination Michigan: Pentwater and Manistee

Spend some more time on the beach before the summer is over. Both of this week's final getaway destinations offer some fun in the sun and much sand and lighthouses for your summer enjoyment.



## HOLLY HEAD START

Currently enrolling preschoolers for the 2015/16 school year. Free preschool to those who qualify. Please call **248-328-3019** for information.



## News briefs

### ART IN THE PARK

Art in the Park has announced its event dates and times at various parks in Fenton. All of the events will take place from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturdays.

**May 23** – Bush Park Gazebo

**June 13** – Franklin D. Adams Park

**July 25** – Freedom Park

**Aug. 15** – O'Donnell Park (millpond)

**Sept. 12** – Rackham Park

### FENTON VFW IS ACCEPTING NOMINATIONS FOR YOUR 'SPECIAL VETERAN' TO RECEIVE AN ALL-EXPENSE PAID TRIP FOR TWO

This contest is sponsored by the Fenton VFW Post 3243 and Argentine Care Center. To enter, type a nomination letter of 400 to 500 words and tell the VFW why your "Special Veteran" should be awarded an all-expense paid trip for two. The nominations will be judged for first-, second-, and third-place prizes. Include the Veteran's name, address, city, why, how, what they have done and why they deserve to be chosen for an all-expense paid trip to Las Vegas or Orlando with \$500 gift card or lodging at Niagara Falls with \$300 gift card, or \$100 gift card. Mail the nomination to Fenton VFW Post 3243, 1148 North LeRoy St., 48430; attention: Bonnie. Include your name and address as well. The deadline is Oct. 1, 2015 and winners will be announced at the VFW Post 3243 on Veterans Day, Nov. 11, 2015 at 6 p.m.



## ASK THE MECHANIC

Chris Wilkinson,  
Certified Mechanic

**Q:** What does it mean when my car makes a chugging noise when I put my foot on the gas? It almost feels like I'm not going to make it up a hill. I've heard it could mean that I need a tune up, but I'm not sure.

- Alexis

**A:** This does sound like a tune-up related problem, but could be caused by other things as well. First thing to consider is how many miles your car has on it. Most cars today last up to and over 100,000 miles before the first tune-up is needed. If over 100,000 miles than the first place to start is with a good tune-up, as it most likely needs this anyway for maintenance. If this is not the cause then you may need to go to a repair shop. The diagnostic equipment we have to use for today's vehicles is very expensive and takes much time to learn to use them properly.

Don't forget to change your fuel filter with the tune-up as this is usually under the car and often overlooked as part of the complete tune-up.

Do you have a question that you would like to have answered?  
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The teachers of MBSD are so proud of all our competition dancers at the extremely wonderful year we have had. You are the reason we all love teaching, thank you for being a part of our lives. Special thank you to all our wonderful parents, you're the best!!

### FALL REGISTRATION AUGUST 22<sup>nd</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> FROM 10am UNTIL 2pm

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## METERS

Continued from Front Page

ship, Linden and the greater Fenton Township area should have received their first letter in the mail about upgrading the smart meters Consumers Energy has been installing around Michigan since 2012.

These new electrical communicating meters connect to the meter socket in a home and measure the home's energy usage, according to Consumers Energy. Data is sent as a text-type message to Consumers by a cell phone tower every day on a secure network.

Customers can view their information every day on the Consumers Energy website, which alerts homeowners when their usage is higher than usual, and how it compares to the neighbors'

usage rates.

It also has information on projected energy costs, how the weather affects an energy bill, energy-saving tips, and it helps customers set goals on reducing energy usage, according to Consumers Energy. Customers will also be able to choose their own billing date.

In 2016, these meters will be able to alert Consumers on the location of power outages.

"The program is a \$750 million program with a \$1.9 billion benefit to our customers," said Dennis McKee, communications director for the Smart Energy Program.

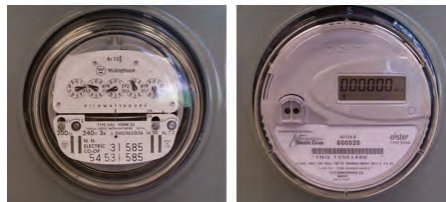
Consumers started upgrading their technology in 2012 in west Michigan.

They're working across the east side and expect to be completed by the end of 2017.

The meters are not harmful to human health. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) determined the radio frequency emitted from the smart meters was safe for humans, McKee said.

**“Only half of 1 percent opt to keep their old technology.”**

**Dennis McKee**  
Consumers Energy  
Smart Energy Program  
communications director



Traditional meter

Smart meter

"MPSC (Michigan Public Service Commission) looked into every possible issue and concluded that the meter technology is safe and beneficial for our customers," he said.

Residents who don't want to be a part of the program can still use the old manual reading program, he said. However, there is a fee.

According to Consumers Energy, residents who opt out after the smart meter is upgraded will face a fine of \$123.91.

If you notify the company you're opting out of the program before they upgrade the smart meter, a fee of \$69.39 will be put on your bill to pay for labor costs and continued support of the meter technology. There's also a fee of \$9.72 per month to cover costs of labor for a manual meter read and costs to support

using the old technology.

"Only half of 1 percent opt to keep their old technology," he said. "We are overwhelmed by positive reactions with the new smart technology."

It's too early in the program to measure how effective the smart meters are.

Consumers plans to upgrade the meters in the greater Fenton area, Argentine and Linden in the next few weeks. Residents east of U.S. 23 in Fenton and Holly Township will have meter upgrades soon after, and residents in Tyrone Township and Holly should expect upgrades in September.

### SMART METERS BY CONSUMERS ENERGY

- The entire program will upgrade 1.8 million electric meters and 600,000 natural gas meters for customers who receive gas from Consumers as well. Communication modules will be installed on the natural gas meters.
- Residents don't have to be home for the upgrades, but they can make appointments if they wish.
- Businesses will be contacted by mailings, calls, or outreach meetings depending on size and amount of electrical service.

Source: Consumers Energy

### SMART METERS BY DTE

- DTE has also been upgrading their meters using Advanced Meter Infrastructure (AMI) for customers in southeast Michigan. These new meters are no charge for customers.
- All four million DTE electric and gas meters are expected to be replaced in a few years.
- These new electric meters will use secure, low-power radio transmissions to send homeowners' energy information to the company.
- The new electric meter will have a digital display. A radio-frequency transmitter will be installed in the back of the natural gas meter so it will not look any different.
- According to DTE, these meters will lower the amount of estimated bills, increase meter reading process efficiency, have automated power outage detection, and will give customers access to daily energy usage information.
- The FCC has deemed the amount of radio frequency emitted is safe.
- Customers who choose to opt out will have a one-time fee of \$67.20 and a recurring fee of \$9.80.
- DTE customers in Livingston County and Genesee County should expect new meters in 2016 or 2017.

Source: dteenergy.com

### THIS WEEK'S INSERTS

- READ**
- Alpine Marketplace
  - C & L Ward Brothers
  - CVS Pharmacy
  - D&W Windows & Sunrooms
  - **Featured Section: There's More To Life After 50**
  - **Holly Foods**
  - Rite Aid
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# Grand Opening Fenton Orchards

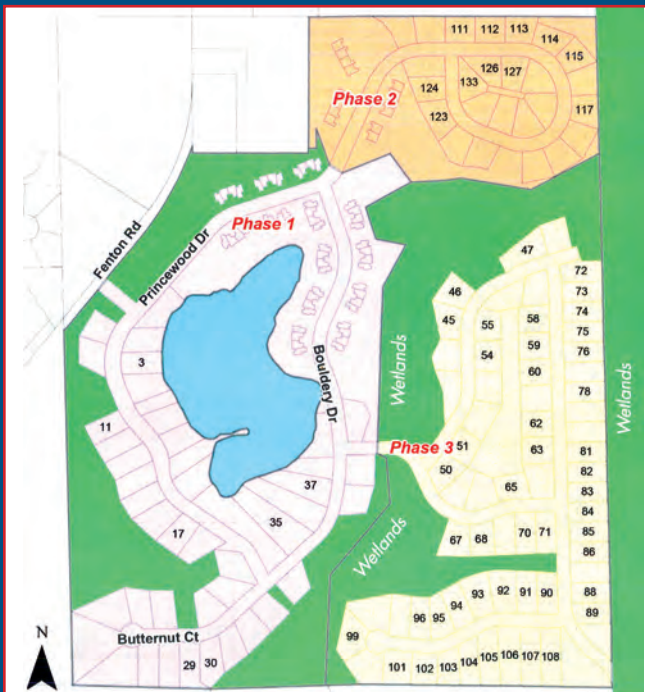


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## TEXTING

Continued from Front Page

In a 2011 study by the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), 31 percent of U.S. adults between the ages of 18-64 admitted to texting or emailing while driving within the last 30 days.

Slater said the problem for law enforcement is proving someone was texting and driving. Police have to prove they were texting to order the citation, which can be difficult. They must have consent to look through someone's phone. Sometimes officers see them texting when they pull up next to them in a car.

"A lot are lumped with other charges," Slater said. One was associated with a drunk driving charge.

Texting while driving is one of the worst forms of distracted driving because it involves all three forms: visual, manual and cognitive, according to the CDC.

Visual distracted driving involves taking your eyes off the road, manual distracted driving is taking your hands off the wheel, and cognitive distracted driving is not paying attention.

Combined, the three are deadly.

According to the Department of Transportation, cell phones play a part in 1.6 million crashes annually, causing about 500,000 injuries and 6,000 deaths in the United States yearly.

This affects young people and older people. A study done by the University of Utah found that the reaction time of a teenager using a cell phone is the same as a 70-year-old driver not using one.

Drivers are also 23 percent more likely to get into a crash while texting, according to the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration.

The no texting while driving law hasn't decreased the amount of crashes because of distracted driving causing deaths and injuries (see side bar).

Slater said the statute also doesn't prevent other forms of distracted driving, like writing in an address book or other activities that take a driver's attention off the road.

Most states have hands-free laws to avoid distracted driving (see sidebar).

Depending on the state, texting while driving or talking on the phone while driving is illegal. It's still legal to talk on the phone while driving in Michigan.

Even Bluetooth, meant to allow drivers to speak on the phone hands free, might

not help distracted driving. The University of Utah found that using a cell phone while driving, hand-held or hands-free, delays a driver's reactions as if he or she had a blood alcohol concentration of .08.

"As this continues, I can foresee our state getting to that (hands-free) point as well," Slater said. "That's the only way you're really going to get the cell phone out of their hands."

## SUMMARY

■ Fenton, Linden and Holly follow Michigan state law and prohibit texting while driving.

## HANDS-FREE LAWS

- **In 14 states** and the District of Columbia, drivers are prohibited from talking on the phone while driving.
- **Novice drivers** are prohibited from using cell phones in 37 states and the District of Columbia.
- **Forty-six states** and the District of Columbia prohibit texting while driving, along with Missouri and Texas, which prohibits novice drivers from texting while driving.

Source: Insurance Institute for Highway Safety

## INJURIES AND DEATHS FROM DISTRACTED DRIVING ON THE RISE

- **The number** of injuries and deaths because of distracted driving has been rising over the past few years.
- **In 2013**, 3,154 were killed in motor vehicle crashes with a distracted driver. This is a 6.7 percent increase from 2012. About 424,000 were injured in a motor vehicle crash in 2013 with a distracted driver, which is up from 421,000 in 2012.
- **People under 20 years old** are the largest proportion of distracted drivers, and drivers in their 20s make up about 27 percent of distracted drivers in fatal crashes.
- **Twenty percent** of teens and 10 percent of parents have admitted to texting while driving.
- **About 660,000** drivers are using their cell phones while driving at any given moment in the day. This number has been consistent since 2012.

Source: distraction.gov

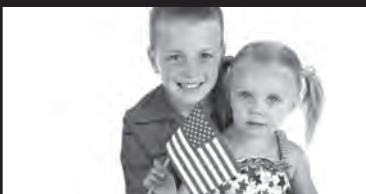
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# Easy campfire cooking

■ Campfire recipes the entire family will love

**By Hannah Ball**  
hball@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792

Cooking over the fire adds a special flavor to the food, and makes camping even more enjoyable.

Here are a few recipes for camping food. Each are easily adjusted to fit a small crowd of people or a large crowd. The amount of each ingredient depends on how many people you're cooking for.

## BREAKFAST:



### Orange Rolls in Orange Peels

**INGREDIENTS:**  
Oranges  
Pillsbury Grands! Orange Flavor Rolls  
Icing

**DIRECTIONS**  
Scoop out the orange, and place the cinnamon roll dough in the peel. Fit as many as you want on a tray and cover it with aluminum foil. Depending on how hot the fire is, they may only need to bake for five to eight minutes. Check on the dough every minute and take them off the fire when it's done baking. One orange makes two servings, but two is enough for one adult.  
Spread some icing on top for added sweetness. Serve with a fork or a spoon.

Source: [www.trulysimple.com](http://www.trulysimple.com)

## LUNCH:



### Grilled sausage with potatoes and green beans

**INGREDIENTS:**  
Green beans, trimmed and halved  
Red potatoes, quartered  
Vegetable oil  
Onion, sliced  
Sausage, cut into one-inch pieces  
Butter  
Cup of water

**DIRECTIONS**  
Put the green beans, potatoes, sausage, and onions in a large sheet of foil, and season with the butter and vegetable oil. Tightly seal the foil around the food, but leave a small opening. Pour the water into the foil and seal it. When the fire is hot enough, put the foil over the grill. Cook it for 20 to 30 minutes, depending on how hot the fire is. Check the meat and vegetables every few minutes.

Source: [m.allrecipes.com](http://m.allrecipes.com)

## DINNER:



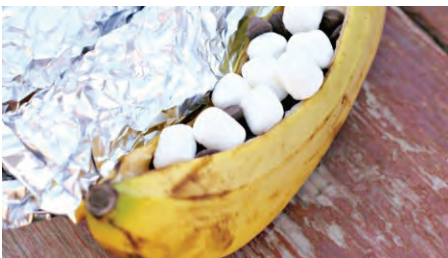
### Cornbread on Chili

**INGREDIENTS:**  
Chili  
Cornbread mix  
Butter  
Cheese

**DIRECTIONS**  
Either prepare chili before the trip, or during. Heat it up in a pot or Dutch oven over the fire. Prepare the cornbread mix and pour it over the chili. Spread it as evenly as you can. Let it bake until the cornbread is done, then pull it off the fire. Serve with a big serving spoon in bowls.

Source: [honestlyyum.com](http://honestlyyum.com)

## DESSERT:



### Banana Boats

**INGREDIENTS:**  
Bananas  
Chocolate chips  
Peanut Butter  
Marshmallows  
Butterscotch chips  
Coconut

**DIRECTIONS**  
Slice a banana open horizontally with a knife, and scoop out half. You can put an array of ingredients from chocolate chips, peanut butter, marshmallows in the peel, and wrap the banana in aluminum foil. Place over the fire for about eight minutes, or until the chocolate is melted. Eat with a fork or spoon.

Source: [cleverpinkpirate.com](http://cleverpinkpirate.com)

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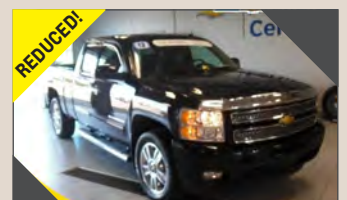
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