New development OK’d for west of Silver Parkway

Fenton City Council clears way for two-story, 11,520-square-foot commercial building

By Vera Hogan
vhogan@cttimes.com; 810-433-6823

Fenton — More signs of prosperity are evident in the city of Fenton with the upcoming construction of a two-story commercial building — only this time on the west side of the city.

On Monday, the Fenton City Council cleared the last hurdle for Wilson Lahoud, owner of Inca Realty, LLC in Grand Blanc, by rezoning a 1.23-acre parcel of land on the corner of Silver Parkway and Fenton Road.

The approval clears the way for two-story, green commercial building set to begin next spring.

Contract language for fire services approved

Tyrone Township negotiating new contracts with Fenton, and Fenton and Hartland townships

By Vera Hogan
vhogan@cttimes.com

The Fenton City Council voted unanimously Monday night to approve proposed language for another three-year fire services contract with Tyrone Township.

The current contract expires on March 31, 2016. Fire Chief Bob Cairnduff said he has been working with Tyrone Township on the language for the new contract, which would take effect on April 1, 2016.

In November, Tyrone Township voters turned down the renewal for the public safety assessment to pay for continued fire services and dedicated police service. Tyrone Township receives police services through the Livingston County Sheriff’s Department.

See CONTRACT on 7

Firefighters’ charity event a big hit

Mark Worth went all-out with his costume, and organizers of the second-annual Nightmare on Mill Street went over and above on an elaborate set up. The adult-themed costume party, held Friday, Oct. 23, is one of three Fenton Firefighters Charities events which aid local families in need. They are still tallying ticket and beverage sales, but the event raised $6,000 in sponsorships this year.

See more photos at tctimes.com.

Driver charged with reckless driving in death of state trooper

MSP trooper Chad Wolf was dragged for miles on I-75 the morning of Aug. 28

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

The driver deemed responsible for Michigan State Trooper Chad Wolf’s death has been charged with reckless driving resulting in death and leaving the scene of an accident when at fault — resulting in death.

Charles Raymond Warren Jr.

Caroline Street extension set to begin next spring

City projects for 2016 in preliminary stages

By Sally Rummel
news@cttimes.com; 810-629-8282

The grass will be greener on the other side, at least at the corner of Silver Lake Road and LeRoy Street in downtown Fenton.

The latest word from Phil Hagerman, who purchased the former Fenton Collision property last March through SkyPoint Development, is that construction will begin in the spring on a new 1.23-acre commercial building.

See DRIVER on 7

How in the world could a Fenton resident live dead in his home for over a year without neighbors becoming concerned about his welfare? Are we becoming like Flint or Detroit?

Why are we cutting benefits for our veterans, no pay raises for our military and reducing the size of our army because it’s too expensive to maintain, but we are not stopping the payments or benefits to illegal aliens, or cutting federal aid to foreign countries?

“I’m very excited about this endeavor. Fenton has been good to me and I look forward to starting this project.”

Wilson Lahoud
Owner/Broker Inca Realty, LLC

“If America is so selfish and greedy, why is it that 45 percent of the population, including many who are not even citizens, are living completely on welfare and never have to go to work like the people whose tax dollars support them?”

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DAMAGED 8

PRELIMINARY 7

PRELIMINARY 7
TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELLO

Kim Runci holds grandson Merek, 1, with husband Dominic before the Linden Middle School Pink Out game last Wednesday. Runci, a cancer survivor, is surrounded by family and friends. She was embraced and recognized by the team and given flowers as a surprise.

Surprise party for player’s grandma
Linden Middle School girls basketball team shows support by wearing all pink

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

Linden — The Linden Middle School girls basketball team wasn’t just bleeding red and black on Wednesday when they defeated Holly 39-31. The girls were also bleeding pink.

Kim Runci, 63, was surprised when she arrived at the game to find pink balloons, flowers, and necklaces, and a giant group hug from the basketball team.

Her daughter, Tiffany Miller, organized this surprise party for Runci in honor of her beating breast cancer for the sixth year in a row.

The players wore pink socks, pink headbands, and even used a pink basketball. “Wearing pink won’t make it go away, but it shows support,” Miller said.

Runci was surprised, but said she guessed something was up. “My daughter is always celebrating my success,” she said.

Her granddaughter, Mallory Ross, 12, who is in seventh grade, played in the game. “We like to surprise my nana,” she said. “It’s sad at times when she goes to get her numbers done, but I’m also super proud because she’s really strong. She doesn’t dwell over anything and she’s always really positive.”

Faith Baptist Church has new senior pastor

Daniel Patz brings 14 years of experience to Linden community

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

A new pastor conducted his first sermon at the Faith Baptist Church of Linden on Oct. 4.

The new senior pastor, Daniel Patz, 40, said, “It was great to start to get to know the church members, the church body and the community.”

The pastor of 14 years moved here from Dunbar, Wisconsin with his wife, Molly, and five children.

“We want to anchor down into the community for a long time,” he said.

After serving as pastor at Bethlehem Baptist and Grace Church in Wyoming, Minnesota for about 11 years, he served as president of Northland International University, a small Christian university in Wisconsin.

The family moved to Tyrore Township this year when Patz became the senior pastor at the church located at 4518 Silver Lake Rd.

Patz said he likes Michigan. “I like it very much. I’m a Packers’ fan but I can cheer for both Michigan and Michigan State,” he said.

The church was founded in 1981 by Jack McMaster. His son, Ken McMaster, took over until Patz stepped in. McMaster is now pastor emeritus.

“I’m the first pastor that’s not a McMaster at Faith Baptist Church,” he said.

Patz said it’s really special to have the founding pastor still at the church. “Our goal is to glorify God by loving Him and each other in our community by living out the word of God in all that we do and all that we say,” he said. “We at the church are committed to love and serving the community.”

Improved school bus stops, non-motorized trail, new park make the list

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

Fenton Twp. — At the Fenton Township Board of Trustees meeting on Monday, officials held a public needs hearing for possible projects funded by an $82,000 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG). This federal grant helps local governments develop better communities for moderate- to low-income families.

Among the potential uses mentioned at the meeting were improving bus stops at various intersections within the township.

“We asked if they would consider paving 50 feet into the intersection,” Supervisor Bonnie Mathis said.

Also suggested was limestone or gravel resurfacing, ditching, and the culvert replacement on Odell Road from Lahrng Road to Linder Road, Fairbanks Road, Jennings Road, Ray Road and Linder Road to U.S. 23.

Since Mundy Township owns a part of Ray Road, it would have to pay for its part, said Operations Manager/Deputy Clerk Tom Broecker.

Last year, CDBG funds were used to replace the culverts on Odell Road.

The next suggestion was a generator for the township hall so the center could be used as a shelter. “It’s an emergency shelter for tornadoes. People do come. If we have 250 people in this building and no power, we can’t use the toilets. So we have asked for a generator for this hall,” Mathis said.

Demolition of blighted structures owned by the township was also requested.

It was suggested the money could go to non-motorized paths on North Long Lake Road between Torrey and Fenton roads, Torrey Road between and North Long Lake and Linden roads, and Fenton Road between Butcher Road and Fenton city limits.

The last suggestion Mathis listed was the winterization or other home improvements through Genesee County programs, Loose Senior Citizen operations, and Loose Senior Citizen capital improvements.

Clark Bob Krug added two suggestions. “One is scholarships for students who cannot afford tuition under the Southern Lakes Parks and Recreation Program,” he said.

The other suggestion was giving out fire extinguishers, fire alarms, and carbon monoxide detectors to senior citizens.

Treasurer John Tucker suggested using the grant money for the new township park on Thompson Road next to Wiggins Road.

The application deadline is Nov. 20. A list of recommended projects will be presented to the township board at the Nov. 2 meeting, when board members will approve specific projects, Broecker said. After that, the application will be sent to Genesee County Community Development.

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Sec 105 - within Oakland County and Sec 105 (C) - contiguous counties
Are black cats really ‘spooky?’

Black cats and black dogs are usually last ones to be adopted out of shelters

By Sally Rummel
news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

If a black cat crosses your path, you’re in for bad luck, or so the old superstition goes. In reality, the only bad luck seems to be for the cat.

With October being the month of superstitions, the plight of black cats, and also black dogs, is more noticeable this time of year.

Many black cats and black dogs are the most overlooked pets for adoption. “It’s called Black Dog/Black Cat Syndrome,” said Jody Maddock, director of Adopt-a-Pet in Fenton. “We actually have to limit how many black dogs or cats we have in our shelter at one time, or the public just glazes over them and doesn’t adopt. The black animals typically sit in shelters for longer than other animals.”

So why are people “spooked” by black cats especially, but also black dogs? Historically, the superstition about black cats arises from old beliefs in witches and their animal counterparts, which were often said to take the form of domestic animals like cats.

According to Maddock, big black dogs have been portrayed as symbols of death in literature and legend. “Black dogs and cats have been cast as the ‘bad guys’ in movies or modern stories like Grim in the Harry Potter stories, so many people might subconsciously associate them with evil.”

A 2013 study of cat adoption rates published in The Open Veterinary Science Journal concluded that “black cats, regardless of age or sex, require the longest time to adopt. They are followed by primarily black cats with other colors.”

Other reasons for slower adoptions for black cats and dogs are more pragmatic. “They are harder to get clear, crisp photos for advertising purposes, because they are black,” said Maddock. “Their facial features don’t often stand out.”

Sheer numbers may also come into play. “There are more black animals for adoption because black is the dominant trait,” added Maddock. While fur color offers no indication of a prospective pet’s health or temperament, public perception and superstition play a role in adoptions.

Sandy Smith, DVM
Animal Health Clinic in Fenton

Saying “God bless you” after a sneeze

During sixth century A.D., an awful pestilence was spreading throughout Italy and the first symptom was severe sneezing. Death soon followed. Pope Gregory the Great urged the healthy to pray for the sick by saying “May you enjoy good health” or “God bless you.” If someone sneezed while alone, he urged that person to say “God help me.”

Saying “God bless you” after someone sneezes now is more a polite formality rather than a plea to stay alive.

Breaking a mirror gives you seven years bad luck

As doctors for superstitious people, mirrors were thought to predict someone’s health for seven years in ancient Greece. As divination, “mirror seers” would dip a mirror in water and someone would look in the glass. If it was blurry, it was said he would die.

If it was clear, he would have good health.

The Romans added the time factor because they believed peoples’ health changed in seven-year cycles.

See ORIGINS on 6

Superstitious origins

Throwing salt over your shoulder, breaking a mirror brings bad luck, and others originate from ancient Greece

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

It’s quiet in the office, except for the furnace and the sound of people typing on their computers. Someone sneezes.

A rehearsed “bless you” rings through the office and then the room resumes its silence.

Saying “bless you” after someone sneezes is an old superstition kids are taught at a young age.

Why do people believe in superstitions? Something good can happen regardless if you knock on wood, but the rules are still followed.

Here are the common superstitions and their origins.

Throwing salt over your left shoulder

Originating all the way back to 3,500 B.C., the ancient Sumerians started to throw salt over their left shoulder to dispel bad luck of spilling the sacred seasoning. This practice spread to the Egyptians, Assyrians and the Greeks.

The word “salary” actually comes from “salt money,” showing how prized the seasoning was and still is.

Breaking a mirror gives you seven years bad luck

As doctors for superstitious people, mirrors were thought to predict someone’s health for seven years in ancient Greece. As divination, “mirror seers” would dip a mirror in water and someone would look in the glass. If it was blurry, it was said he would die.

If it was clear, he would have good health.

The Romans added the time factor because they believed peoples’ health changed in seven-year cycles.

See ORIGINS on 6

Think varicose veins are just a cosmetic issue?

Varicose veins are a sign of vein (venous) disease.

Symptoms may include pain, swelling, restlessness, burning, itching, fatigue of the legs as well as skin damage. Learn more about vein disease at www.flintveins.com

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Joe Biden ends the speculation

You think there’s a lot of excitement upon the election of a new pope? That’s nothing compared to the months of absolute media frenzy surrounding every word of Vice President Joe Biden. Was he going to run for president in 2016?

We writers of the White House Press Corps divined the answer even before he announced it to the world. Notice that the vice president was about to make a statement at the White House, in the Rose Garden, with President Obama at his side, could mean only one thing: He wasn’t running.

First elected to the Senate in 1972, Biden served 36 scandal-free years before taking the oath of office as vice president. In the Senate, he fought for causes reflecting his own middle-class background: consumer and environmental protection, minimum wage, college aid and campaign reform. He opposed the Gulf War in 1991.

Biden, of course, also has a powerful life story. His wife and daughter were killed in an auto accident shortly after he was elected to the Senate in 1972. For the next 35 years, he commuted home an hour and a half every night, from Washington to Wilmington, Delaware, to be with his two surviving sons — one of whom, his elder son and close political adviser, Beau, died of brain cancer last May.

We won’t know for months the ultimate impact of Biden’s not running, but it’s already changed the political landscape in a couple of ways. For startz, it makes the Democratic Party less lively. Today, there are but two serious candidates, Bernie Sanders and Hillary Clinton. Joe Biden would have brought a lot of new energy to the mix and made both Clinton and Sanders better candidates. It would have been better for the party, had he run.

For his part, Joe Biden promises to continue to speak out on the issues — he just won’t do so as a candidate. Which is too bad. Biden brought more experience and more leadership skills to the table than any other candidate. Had he started earlier, I believe he could have won the nomination and been elected our next president.
‘Rosie the Riveters’ beat world record

Nearly 2,100 ‘Rosies’ gather to honor women workers, create museum

By Hannah Ball
hb@tctimes.com, 810-433-6792

Red bandanas and blue jumpsuuits took over the Willow Run Airport in Ypsilanti Michigan on Oct. 24, where people from different states joined efforts to save a bomber plane by dressing up like cultural icon Rosie the Riveter.

Holly Bishop, 37, of Holly, attended with her twin sister, Heather, and said “Even sitting from the parking lot and seeing the sea of the red and white polka dotted scarves was so cool.”

Rosie the Riveter is a cultural icon symbolizing the thousands of women who worked during World War II to make sure production didn’t stop in America.

A group, whose goal was to save the historic part of the Willow Run Bomber Plane Airport by turning it into a museum, organized this event. Part of their efforts included beating a Guinness World Record.

Last year, they set the world record for having the most Rosie the Riveters in one place when 776 people got together.

A group in Texas broke the record with 1,500 Rosies. With 2,096 Rosie the Riveters this year, the record was broken again.

“We feel like we’re doing our part and supporting the history of it,” Bishop said. “There were people there from all different states, trying to help us beat the record and get into the Guinness World Record.”

She and her sister saw the event on Facebook and realized the airport held familial significance; their grandfather used to work there. He joined the Navy during WWII, and their grandmother worked there as a riveter. Both of their grandmothers were riveters.

“The riveters are unsung heroes, I think. They kept the country running,” she said. “My grandma was a riveter. She said ‘I was a little disappointed when the boys started coming back because that meant I had to go back home.’ She loved to work.”

In order to qualify, each riveter had to wear dark blue pants and shirt or coveralls, with the pants rolled up, red socks, black or brown work boots, and their hair in an up-do with a red bandana with penny-sized polka dots. They went through two inspections.

They had to stand in the outfits for five minutes to beat the record. While standing, they sang patriotic songs like “America the Beautiful.”

“There were people crying,” Bishop said. “It was so cool.”

A few veterans attended the event, as did 43 original Rosie the Riveters.

“We felt like we were honoring them. It was such an awesome experience. I wish more people did things like that. It’s good to see the camaraderie for our country. It was a great thing to be a part of,” Bishop said.

People donated to turn the airport into a museum at the event, and donations are being accepted on savethebomber-plant.org.

“They want to make it into a museum in honor of WWII and the veterans and Rosie the Riveters,” Bishop said. “We’re still trying to earn money to turn it into a museum.”

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TRI-COUNTY TIMES | SUBMITTED PHOTO

Holly Bishop (middle) and twin sister Heather Bishop (right) pose with a friend as ‘Rosie the Riveter’ to help establish a new Guinness World Record of 2,096 riveters at Willow Run Airport in Ypsilanti on Oct. 24.
Never open an umbrella inside
Some historians trace this superstition back to ancient Egypt with the pharaoh’s sunshades, but many historians believe it started more recently. In 18th century London, when metal-spoked waterproof umbrellas were invented, it was dangerous to open them inside on confined spaces. The stiff spring mechanism could suddenly pop open and injure an adult or child. Nowadays, umbrellas pose much less of a threat.

It’s unlucky if a black cat crosses your path
Because of their association with witches in the 16th century, black cats developed a bad reputation. People believed witches were associated with the devil so a black cat crossing your path was suspected to be bad luck.

Knock on wood to prevent bad things from happening
This superstition has two parts. The first is the belief that talking about the possibility of something good happening could jinx the situation. The second is believing that knocking on wood prevents that.

Most historians believe this superstition came from the United States. Some historians say it comes from touching a crucifix when taking an oath, and others believe it started in Europe when people would knock loudly to ward off evil spirits. Now, after someone confesses to expecting something good to happen, they knock on wood to not jinx it.

Intoxication as a defense to a crime
When I was in law school, one of the required courses was criminal law.

In this class, I learned about substantive criminal law including the concept of ‘intention’ to commit a crime. I will not go into a lengthy discussion of intent, but suffice it to say I learned that crimes have elements or parts and for a conviction almost always require a showing of some sort of criminal intent to prove. It be it general intent, constructive intent, presumed intent or specific intent.

More serious crimes (such as first-degree murder) are specific intent crimes (i.e. the criminal statute has wording to the effect that the defendant intended or knowingly did an act) and one of the defenses to such crimes was intoxication be it voluntary or involuntary.

What this meant wasn’t that if one was shown to be intoxicated they would necessarily be totally acquitted (although it was possible), but rather the jury could find intoxication and reduce the charge to a lesser offense.

This was the law when I graduated from law school in 1976 and continued to be the law in Michigan until the legislature passed 2002 Public Act 366 which became effective Sept. 1, 2002.

Under the 2002 statute, voluntary intoxication is no longer a defense to any crime except under very limited circumstances as follows:

- It is an affirmative defense to a specific intent crime, for which the defendant has the burden of proof by a preponderance of the evidence that he or she voluntarily consumed a legally obtained and properly used medication or other substance and did not know and reasonably should not have known that he or she would become intoxicated or impaired.

Case law has interpreted the defense of involuntary intoxication as to drugs as one that the Defendant must raise and requires an affirmative showing: (1) that the defendant did not know or have reason to know that the prescribed drug (or substance) is likely to have an intoxicating effect (2) that the prescribed drug, not another intoxicant... caused the defendant’s intoxicating condition and (3) that as a result of the intoxicated condition the defendant was rendered temporarily insane.

Statistically, this defense is a difficult one to sustain but the law clearly allows it.

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**FREE yard waste tags available at Fenton City Hall**
Starting Nov. 1, city of Fenton residents will begin using the new trash, recycling and yard waste collection system. Free yard waste tags are now available at Fenton City Hall, according to City Manager Lynn Markland. Residents may use these tags on containers of their choice, or they can still use the Kraft yard waste bags (no tags required). Residents are reminded that yard waste will be picked up on the same day as their trash and recycling — not on Mondays as it was previously. Residents are also reminded that leaves are not to be raked or blown into the streets. Doing so will clog the sewer drains and eventually end up in people’s basements.

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**SPOOKY**
Continued from Page 3
superstition may get in the way of science. According to Adopt-a-Pet Office Manager Diane Gale, black cats are the sweetest of all colors.

“I’ve heard that from many other people as well,” said Maddock.

Missy Taylor of Fenton adopted her 2-year-old black cat, Faith, when she was just a kitten. “The owner was standing in front of Walmart with her, begging someone to take her home,” said Taylor. “She’s the most docile, sweet and gentle kitty ever.”

Local veterinarian Sandy Smith of Animal Health Clinic in Fenton experiences the Black Dog/Black Cat Syndrome at her own practice. “People really are superstitious,” she said. “They associate black animals with witches. I also think it’s because people tend to go for animals with more exotic coloring. Animals with black coloring are just overlooked, I myself am partial to them.”

Smith says she sees a higher incidence of cat abuse during the Halloween season than in any other month, black cats and others.

“I’ve been in the business for more than 30 years,” said Smith. “I see ritualistic abuse this time of year with cats, people cutting their ears and tails off. I’ll only adopt out cats in October to people I know. It’s wise for pet owners to keep an eye on their black cats and dogs this time of year.”
**CONTRACT**

**Continued from Front Page**

Had it been approved, it would have replaced Tyrone Township’s current public safety special assessment that expires March 31, 2016. The last installment on the current special assessment was billed on the winter 2013 tax roll.

According to Clerk Keith Kremer, that means sufficient funds will not be available for fire services and dedicated police services after March 31, 2016.

In January of this year, Tyrone Township officials discussed the idea of placing public safety services on the May 5 ballot and held a public hearing on the matter with mixed reviews.

That hearing did not reach the May 5 ballot and on May 19, the Tyrone Township Board of Trustees passed a resolution to renew its Police and Fire Special Assessment District, contracting for fire services with the city of Fenton, Fenton Township and Hartland Township for three years.

Through this special assessment, owners of vacant parcels pay $75 per year for police and fire services, parcels with residential structures are charged $150 per year, parcels containing structures or trailers with multiple units pay $250 plus an additional $20 per unit, and other parcels are charged $250 per year.

“There are only a few minor differences to the contract,” Caidnuff said. “This year the rate was changed to the yearly rates, the annual stand-by fee, billing and invoice changes, clarification on burn bans and when the contract can be terminated.”

The rates proposed for the first year would remain the same as the current rate. A base run fee of $1,391 will be charged to Tyrone Township for the first year, $1,095 for the second year, $1,095 for the third year, and $1,419 for year three.

According to the proposed contract, a “run” is defined as any “tone” that is issued in response to a request for dispatch by the city regardless of whether fire department equipment leaves the department’s facilities in response to an alarm, and whether the run is completed or is terminated prior to arrival on the scene.

A run chargeable under this section includes, but is not limited to a false alarm, provided the Fenton Fire Department takes a good faith effort to clarify the alarm before leaving the department’s facilities in situations where the location of the alarm has had a history of previous false alarms. But even if no equipment leaves the city’s facilities when a call is cancelled, that call is still considered a “run,” and the base run charge for that alarm will be $500.

If diesel fuel costs go above $3.50 per gallon during the three-year contract period, the city will increase the base run charge according to a schedule of possible fuel hikes. If diesel fuel costs ever reach $5 or higher, for example, a $25 fee will be tacked on to the base run fee.

The Fenton Fire Department will be charged $1,000 for determining conditions warranting issuance of a “burn ban” for the township. Upon notification from the city, Tyrone Township will post the burn ban on its website and notify all agencies providing fire suppression service to the township. A burn ban issued by the city will apply to the entire township and will be enforced by Tyrone Township.

If another agency recommends or issues a burn ban for some or all of the township, the township or the other agency will be required to notify the city of the ban.

The proposed contract, once approved, will be in effect until March 31, 2019. The contract may be terminated by either party by giving the other party written notice of not less than 120 days before the date of termination.

It is expected the number of runs in a contract year fall below 100 or above 200, either party may request a renegotiation of the contract before the termination date. Last year, Fenton responded to about 150 Tyrone Township calls, Caidnuff said.

“Tyrone Township is negotiating with us first and we’ll use our approved contract as a template for the other two municipalities (Fenton and Hartland townships) and their contracts,” Caidnuff said.

**BACKGROUND ON PUBLIC SAFETY**

**Prior to 2011, Tyrone Township billed the city for all fire calls paid for a small percentage of the entire cost of fire and police services and the township general fund paid for the balance. The township was in poor financial shape and could not continue to provide services using that method. The special assessment guaranteed funding for public safety services.**

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**DEVELOPMENT**

**Continued from Front Page**

Silver Lake Road, adjacent to Silver Arbor Apartments.

Originally zoned MHR (Medium/High Density Residential), the parcel has been rezoned to GBD (General Business District).

Lahoud and his partners plan to construct a brick, two-story commercial building, with 5,760 square feet of space on each floor. There will be a basement with daylight windows and the second floor will feature a terrace, Lahoud said.

“We want it to be very trendy,” he said.

During public comment Monday, Lahoud told the council, “I’m very excited about this endeavor, Fenton has been good to me and I look forward to starting this project. It will be a great opportunity.”

Lahoud said the building will feature mixed uses, with offices on the second floor, and retail and possible restaurants, including take-out, on the lower level.

The only condition attached to the rezoning approval is that an easement to Arbor Drive becomes available, that a connection be obtained. This is for the benefit of Silver Arbor Apartment residents.

Lahoud said the property is currently being cleared of tree stumps and other landscape debris. He plans to break ground as soon as engineering approval and the proper permits are obtained.

In addition to the Silver Lake Road property, Lahoud has purchased the former 6-acre Nagy Excavating site on Silver Lake Road and two other adjacent parcels for future development.

Lahoud, a Fenton Township resident, said he has also purchased property further east on Silver Lake Road for future development and mentioned the possibility of a restaurant featuring Middle Eastern cuisine.

“I am really looking forward to doing more business in Fenton,” Lahoud said.

“I am anxious to work with businesses that are local to Fenton, such as hair salons and local merchants, not the big box retailers.”

**PRELIMINARY**

**Continued from Front Page**

Ventures is that the original project didn’t pan out as they had planned.

“We’re now having the fence removed and grass planted,” said Hageman. “We were hoping the project would develop this fall, but as it did not, we want to at least beautify the vacant lot with some grass.”

Another SkyPoint project, the extension of Carolina Street downtown, has been moving forward.

Lahoud residents who remember downtown before Urban Renewal in the 1970s will notice at least a partial return to “the old days” when Carolina Street will be extended in Spring 2016.

“We’ll be severing a portion of the building (the mall that lies south of the new Cornerstone building), opening the road between LeRoy and Walnut (streets) through to the Jack R. Winegarden Library,” said City of Fenton Assistant Manager Mike Burns. “We’re working right now with construction engineers to see exactly where the building will be cut through.”

Peter Hughes of SkyPoint Ventures, said the intent is to tear down the south end of the building to allow Caroline Street to go through. “Fenton Flowers and Guenter Behbolz Jewelers have already relocated,” Hughes said. “Part of the plan of the Caroline Street extension is the mutually agreed upon move of these tenants.”

Burns said the city is beginning the process of design engineering for the project. “We’ll have a proposal soon to the DDA (Downtown Development Authority). We’re getting closer.”

Plans for Phase 2 of the Cornerstone building project are also in their preliminary stages. Tentative plans are for a second multi-use retail/residential building to be built on a parcel of land in front of the old J&J Trophy shop and former location of Fenton Computers.

“It’s the land where the parking lot is now, closest to Fenton United Methodist Church,” said Burns. “It’s still preliminary; we’re just doing our due diligence. We hope to have something in a couple of weeks.”
The large tree that was cut down last Friday afternoon was located near the Thurber/Stone Mausoleum in Oakwood Cemetery.

DAMAGED Continued from Front Page tree without saying anything to the city or to the Oakwood Cemetery Board,” said Czarnecki. The tree was in Section A, near the Thurber/Stone Mausoleum.

“On Friday, Oct. 21, the Board Chairman was driving through the cemetery late in the afternoon and found the tree cut down and the wood neatly stacked along the roadway and the branches stacked up as well,” Czarnecki said.

“While they did a fairly neat job and cleaned up their mess, they appeared to have knocked down a very large family stone and damaged it,” he added. “There is also a cherub statue on the plot next to this tree that is now broken. This was on a baby’s grave site.”

It is not known who removed the tree or why, but a report was filed with the Fenton Police Department and they are investigating, said Czarnecki.

“It is a shame that people feel free to damage property at the cemetery,” he added. “If someone wants a tree removed there are procedures to follow to get this done. These procedures were definitely not followed.”

There are rules and regulations for the planting and removal of trees at Oakwood Cemetery.

“Basically, the public needs to contact the city and make the request,” Czarnecki said. “From there the request will be reviewed by me and the Oakwood Cemetery chairman. If the necessary request will then go to the Oakwood Cemetery Board for a final decision.”

Czarnecki said most of the time, the decision is obvious, or a decision can be found that everyone can work with.

“The members of the board are very reasonable and understanding people,” he said. “Recently someone planted a tree on another plot without permission. When we discussed this with the family they understood the situation and we found another location nearby to plant the tree.”

Czarnecki said the Oakwood Cemetery Board prefers to seek amicable solutions rather than hold strict to the rules and remove items that are found to be out of compliance.

“A simple discussion can usually solve the situation,” he said. “For trees and other plantings, the discussions are easy, and if an agreement is reached, the DPW will remove the tree.”

“It is disappointing that someone would take it on themselves to remove the tree, and cause damage that they did not report,” Czarnecki said. “Now another family has been burdened because of others who did not follow the rules and who do not care for other people’s property.”

Anyone with information is asked to call the Fenton police at (810) 629-5311.

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MICHIGAN VOTES
WHAT YOUR LEGISLATORS VOTED ON RECENTLY

MichiganVotes.org is a free, non-partisan website created by the Mackinac Center for Public Policy to provide concise, non-partisan, plain-English descriptions of every bill and vote in the Michigan House and Senate. With one click, you can approve or disapprove of key votes by your legislators using the VoteSpotter smartphone app. This report was released Friday, Oct. 23.

House Bill 4738: Increase gas and diesel tax To increase the state gasoline and diesel taxes to 22.3 cents per gallon starting Oct. 1, 2018, and after that index the amount to inflation. The current gas and diesel tax rates are 19 cents and 15 cents per gallon, respectively. The bill would increase the diesel tax to 19 cents on Oct. 1, 2017. Passed 56 to 50 in the House Rep. Hank Vaupel (R-Dist. 47) YES Rep. Joe Graves (R-Argentine Twp.) YES

House Bill 4736: Increase vehicle registration tax To increase the annual vehicle registration (license plate) tax by around 40 percent per vehicle. Most of the revenue from this tax goes to the state road budget. Also, to impose a surtax on electric and alternative fuel vehicles that use the roads but don’t pay gas tax. Passed 55 to 51 in the House Rep. Hank Vaupel (R-Dist. 47) NO Rep. Joe Graves (R-Argentine Twp.) YES

House Bill 4182: Limit local government body “phone-in” voting To establish that it is a violation of the Open Meetings Act for a member of an elected public body to cast a vote on a decision without being physically present. This would not apply in cases of an emergency or serious illness as defined by the bill, or if a public body is using a video conferencing system. Passed 30 to 7 in the Senate Sen. David Robertson (R-Dist. 14) YES Sen. Mike Kowall (R-Dist. 15) YES Sen. Joe Hune (R-Dist. 22) YES Sen. Jim Ananich (D-Dist. 27) NO Sen. Ken Horn (R-Dist. 32) YES

House Bill 4370: Earmark some income tax to roads; increase homestead tax credit To increase the value of a “home- stead property tax credit” that home- owners and renters can claim on their state income tax, and increase household income caps that limit eligibility for this credit (which essentially reimburses some property tax paid on a person’s home). The bill is intended to offset around $200 million of the $600 million of gas tax and vehicle registration tax hikes included in a House road funding proposal. Passed 62 to 44 in the House Rep. Hank Vaupel (R-Dist. 47) YES Rep. Joe Graves (R-Argentine Twp.) YES

View stories at tctimes.com
All four tri-county football teams are in state playoffs

**Fenton hosts Holly in an all-tri-county playoff game**

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

When the state playoffs begin on Friday, it’s going to feel a bit like a regular-season week in the tri-county area.

First off, all four teams will be playing. Second, all four teams are playing league foes, including the first-ever tri-county playoff battle when Fenton hosts Holly. Finally, all three contests involving tri-county area squads will be played during the typical regular-season slot — 7 p.m. on Friday.

In Division 2 action, Fenton hosts the Holly Bronchos, while in Division 3 action, the Linden Eagles host Metro foe Brandon. Finally, in Division 4 action, Lake Fenton will get a chance to avenge a previous tight loss when the Blue Devils travel to GAC Red foe Corunna.

The game that will catch the most attention is Holly’s road game at Fenton. It marks the first time the two Grange Hall Road rivals have faced off against each other in the playoffs.

The Tigers (8-1) beat the Bronchos (5-4) in the first contest, 35-19. However, Holly remained competitive for most of the game, giving Bronchos’ fans a reason to think an upset was possible on Friday.

“We love having the opportunity to go against Fenton and the league champs,” Holly coach Ryan Culloty said. “They are a very good football team and it should be a great match-up."

“Fenton is a good football team, but our kids are excited to play and it should be a great atmosphere.”

Fenton varsity football coach Jeff Setzke has guided the Tigers to eight See PLAYOFFS on 10

RIVALS COLLIDE
Holly travels to Fenton for the opening round of the playoffs on Friday.

**Tigers capture fifth straight title**

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

**Fenton edges Linden in OT, 30-27**

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

**Fenton** — Games against bitter rivals for outright league championships are supposed to have a little bit of everything.

Fenton’s 30-27 overtime victory at home against the Linden Eagles, clinching the Tigers their fifth straight Metro League crown, had just about everything happen in it and a little more.

In a game that had a questionable lateral for a defensive TD, a trick punt play for a huge gain called back due to a penalty, many turnovers and more game changing plays than one could count, Fenton’s sophomore quarterback Josh Czarnota ended the contest in Fenton’s favor with a one-yard TD run during the Tigers’ overtime offensive possession.

The TD came after Fenton’s defense forced the Eagles to kick a 24-yard field goal on their offensive possession. Bailey Davis made that field goal, but Fenton’s TD run came two plays later. First, Kevin Lack took a reverse pitch and gained nine yards to the Linden 1 on the Tigers’ first offensive play of overtime. About a minute later, Czarnota, who had his share of ups and downs in the game, experienced his ultimate high with the one-yard TD run and the 30-27 victory. Fenton has now beat Linden four of five seasons.

“It means a lot,” said Czarnota, who also tossed a TD pass earlier in the contest, but also threw three interceptions. “Giving the seniors this win, their final home game guaranteed and there were a lot of things this year that weren’t going our way.”

**Blue Devils clinch playoff spot, defeat Williamston**

By David Troppens
droppens@tctimes.com

**Fenton** — The Lake Fenton varsity football team did what it does best on Friday night. They ran the ball for a ridiculously impressive amount of yardage at home against Williamston, collecting an easy 39-14 victory.

All the Blue Devils (5-4) had to do was see if it was enough to make the playoffs. It was, as Lake Fenton became one of the squads to qualify for the Division 4 state football playoffs with a 5-4 mark.

Trent Hilliger scored on TD runs of 65, 20 and 10 yards, and finished with 235 rushing yards, leading the Blue Devils to the victory. The win locks up a winning season for Lake Fenton, but they had to wait until Sunday before finding out they were making their ninth playoff appearance.

See DEVILS on 11

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Bronchos fall in final contest, still make playoffs

By Jordan Climie
jclimie@tctimes.com

Holly — Win and get in.

That was the motto of the final regular season game for both the Bronchos and the Blackhawks, who entered with identical 5-3 records. Unfortunately for the home crowd, it was Brandon that clinched a playoff berth at 6-3 with a 27-25 win. Fortunately for the Bronchos, the loss didn’t keep Holly out of the playoffs. The Bronchos (5-4) still qualified for the playoffs and will be traveling to Fenton for a 7 p.m. Division 2 district game on Friday.

It all came down to one thing for Holly — time.

“If we had more time, we would have got them,” Holly coach Ryan Culloty said.

The Bronchos did have a chance to march down the field with a few seconds short of two minutes remaining in the game, but errant passes didn’t connect as the run-heavy Holly offense was forced to go to the air.

Holly was in this to win from the opening drive however, starting the scoring off with a beautiful run around the Brandon defense by senior running back Javon Barr. Brandon answered though with a big 47-yard scamper to tie it up.

In the second quarter, junior Amy Scruggs’ 24-yard field goal gave the Bronchos a 1-0 halftime lead.

In the second half, Brandon’s offense would find its groove, putting up 29 points. Two of those three touchdowns came in the final quarter, as Holly found itself playing with desperation from behind.

For a Blackhawk offense that averages 50 points per game, it was good, but not good enough according to Culloty.

“They had a couple breaks here and there,” he said. “(Brandon’s) Quarterback fumbled a couple times and it bounced right back to him.”

“They were two evenly matched teams.”

Second-half scoring for Holly was led by a beautiful pass from junior quarterback Garrett Stapleton to senior Adam Tooly, who tiptoed along the back of the end zone.

Freshman running back Jacob Honstetter had a short run as well in the fourth.

Holly’s ground game provided 252 yards. Javon Barr finished with 91 yards on 13 carries, while Paris Partee had 85 on 14 attempts.

Adam Tooley caught off four of quarterback Garrett Stapleton’s completions, collecting 41 yards on them.

Defensively, Christian Diaz finished with eight total tackles, while Tooley had six.

Now, however, Culloty and the Bronchos had wait until Sunday to see if they had enough points to sneak into the playoffs as a 5-4 team. They did. But even if the Bronchos finished outside the playoffs, Culloty said he was happy with the players this season.

“If I’m extremely proud of the way they conducted themselves,” he said. “They bought in.”

PLAYOFFS

Continued from Page 9

straight playoff appearances, but this is the first time Fenton will face a familiar foe in the opening round.

“Other than our first year when we faced Davison, we’ve always played a team that was way outside the conference or a team we don’t follow or hear much about,” Setzke said. “From the players’ and coaches’ perspective these are the fun games to play in. … Both bands will be there and it’s supposed to be a decent night right now. It should be a fun night."

In the first match-up the teams were relatively even until the second half when the Tigers started pulling away. Fenton was able to pound the ball on the ground for over 200 yards rushing, with Dylan Crankshaw finishing with two rushing TDs. Holly moved the ball well on the ground as well, but were unable to take advantage of all of its scoring chances, allowing the Tigers to eventually earn the victory. Don’t be shocked if the ground games dictate action on Friday as well.

“The thing we know for sure is they want to control the ball and run it. And when they have to do they can throw it effectively,” Setzke said about Holly. “Defensively, they give a lot of looks and fronts. They rally to the ball well. I fully expect a tough physical football game.”

“It’s one of those things we look back on the film and say how can we do things better,” Culloty said. “We have a gauge of what we do well and what they do well offensively.”

Division 3 - Brandon at Linden

The Eagles (7-2) defeated Brandon (6-3) in their opening contest 34-28, but there was a time when the Blackhawks trailed 27-7 before changing its offense to a wing-T. Once the change was made, Brandon took a 28-27 lead. It took a final-drive one-yard TD run by Ryan Young to earn the Eagles the victory.

During that comeback Brandon changed their offense and have kept with some of those changes. Since playing Linden, Brandon has won three straight contests and scored 119 points in those contests.

“Brandon completely changed their offense in the middle of the third quarter for the first time when we played them,” Culloty said. “We’ve ran that same offensive series in each game since, and it has been very successful for them in their final three games. Prior to that, they had not ran (the wing-T) at all, so our kids and coaches were taken off guard a little. It was a nice adjustment by them.”

The Eagles have been steadily getting better with each week, facing off against the Fenton Tigers for the Metro League crown on Friday, losing a tight 30-27 verdict. When it comes to teams with playoff experience, the Eagles are on the top of the list, making the postseason 14 straight seasons.

“We have to take care of the ball offensively and not allow their offense the big plays,” Douglass said. “They are scoring a lot of points, and it’s mainly on big plays. The wing-T is tough to defend and they execute it well.”

Division 4

Lake Fenton at Corunna

This may not be your typical No. 1 vs. No. 4 seed district. Just two weeks ago the Blue Devils pushed Corunna to the limit before losing a tough 35-28 verdict at Lake Fenton High School. There’s no doubt the Blue Devils are excited about the opportunity to avenge the loss.

“They were excited to see we are going to play them a second time. They are looking forward to it,” Lake Fenton football coach Eric Doyle said about his team. “I want to think we are more excited about playing them than they are against us because the way the first game went down.”

The Blue Devils were their worst nemesis in the first outing, taking some costly penalties, allowing some late-game scores and not taking care of some great chances. Doyle realizes this.

“We have to close out the halves better,” Doyle said. “We gave up a TD on the last play of the first half and a TD during the last 34 seconds. We have to get some stops and do the things we have success with. We’ll put in a few wrinkles, but we just have to take advantage of the things we do best.”
**DEVILS**

*Continued from Page 9*

All six-win teams make the playoffs. Squads that won five out of nine games must wait to see if there are enough playoff spots available to send some into one of the eight division fields.

“We are a better football team than our record indicates,” Lake Fenton coach Eric Doyle said prior to knowing if his team was in the playoffs.

“...beat Sault on a late touchdown and Marlette who probably will make the playoffs. Williamson won four games. We’ll see what happens. When you look at our schedule we played six teams out of nine who are playoff teams.”

Lake Fenton took control from the opening kickoff when Chris Bell took a squib kick and returned it 80 yards for a score.

The officiating crew tried to sort out the play, but after about an eight-minute delay remained with their original call. Linden argued based on their formation the long-snapper, who had a receiver-eligible number, was eligible for the pass. It was a play the coaching staff discussed with the officiating crew prior to the game, but the play was disallowed, giving Fenton the ball back. The game eventually was pushed into overtime.

“Even (Fenton’s) coaching staff said it was a great play.”

Linden co-coach Denny Hopkins said.

“We had some passes we shouldn’t have thrown but when you get right down to it, that probably puts us up by a touchdown with three minutes left. You take that way from the kids and that’s ridiculous. The thing is they knew about (the play).”

The first half saw only a few yards. Fenton scored first. The TD came when Czarnota rolled to his right, found Dylan Cranckshank open for a reception and Cranckshank ran 57 yards down the Linden sideline for the TD reception. Linden’s extra-point gave Fenton a 7-0 lead.

The Eagles responded immediately with a 10-play, 80-yard drive, capped with Ryan Young’s one-yard TD run around the right side. Davis made the extra point and the teams were tied at 7-all with 7:02 left in the half.

The Eagles took advantage of a Davis interception, which he returned to the Tigers’ 20, eventually scoring with a 29-yard Davis field goal. The Eagles led 10-7 at the half.

Most of the chaos happened in the second half.

Fenton opened the half with a 65-yard eight-play drive, scoring on a one-yard run by Czarnota. Fenton led 14-10 with 9:32 left in the third quarter.

The teams exchanged turnovers, with a Cade Dickson pick setting up Linden’s next score. Linden drove 45 yards in five plays, scoring on a 20-yard run around the right side by Ryder Rivera. Linden led 17-14 with 2:02 left in the third quarter.

Fenton moved the ball to Linden’s 32 on its next possession before the Eagles scored on a questionable Fenton turnover. Czarnota threw the ball which was ruled a lateral instead of an incomplete pass.

Linden’s Davis picked it up and returned it about 70 yards for the score. Linden led 24-14 with 21.8 seconds remaining in the third quarter. However, from that point on, the Tigers found a way to tie it up and force the OT.

“It means so much,” Fenton senior Chase Lynch said. “All this work we put in since the off-season, all we’ve accomplished our senior year it means everything. It couldn’t be any better.”

“It’s everything we expected,” Fenton senior Ben Haiglar said. “Coming out here and beating everyone in the Metro, we are so happy to have that overtime win. It was an emotional roller coaster. Our team kept our heads, we never gave up and that’s what made us champions.”

Fenton varsity football coach Jeff Setzke liked what he saw out of his team.

“It’s resilience because at any time we could’ve folded up the tent but we didn’t,” Setzke said.

“We did everything we could do to lose the game with the turnovers, things we haven’t done before... But when you get into pressure situations those things do happen, and you have to overcome them, that’s the thing. We learned from those losses.”
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**HOROSCOPES**

**ARIES** (March 21 to April 19) Your honesty continues to impress everyone who needs reassurance about a project. But be careful you don’t lose patience with those who are still not ready to act.

**TAURUS** (April 20 to May 20) Pushing others too hard to do things your way could cause resentment and raise more doubts. Instead, take more time to explain why your methods will work.

**GEMINI** (May 21 to June 20) Be more considerate of those close to you before making a decision that could have a serious effect on their lives. Explain your intentions and ask for their advice.

**CANCER** (June 21 to July 22) You might have to defend a workplace decision you plan to make. Colleagues might back you up on this, but it’s the facts that will ultimately win the day for you. Good luck.

**LEO** (July 23 to August 22) The Big Cat’s co-workers might not be doing enough to help get that project finished. Your roars might stir things up, but gentle purr-suasion will prove to be more effective.

**VIRGO** (August 23 to September 22) Someone you care for needs help with a problem. Give it lovingly and without judging the situation. Whatever you feel you should know will be revealed later.

**LIBRA** (September 23 to October 22) While you’re to be admired for how you handled recent workplace problems, be careful not to react the same way to a new situation until all the facts are in.

**SCORPIO** (October 23 to November 21) Rely on your keen instincts as well as the facts at hand when dealing with a troubling situation. Be patient. Take things one step at a time as you work through it.

**SAGITTARIUS** (November 22 to December 21) Your curiosity leads you to ask questions. However, the answers might not be what you hoped to hear. Don’t reject them without checking them out.

**CAPRICORN** (December 22 to January 19) Be careful not to tackle a problem without sufficient facts. Even sure-footed Goats need to know where they’ll land before leaping off a mountain path.

**AQUARIUS** (January 20 to February 18) Appearances can be deceiving. You need to do more investigating before investing your time, let alone your money, in something that might have some hidden flaws.

**PISCES** (February 19 to March 20) Your recent stand on an issue could make you the focus of more attention than you would like. But you’ll regain your privacy, as well as more time with loved ones, by week’s end.
3-Day Halloween Sale!
Prices good on Thurs., Oct. 29, Fri., Oct. 30 & Sat., Oct. 31

VG's Grocery
Fresh, Natural, Grade A
Boneless, Skinless
Chicken Breast
Value Pack
$1.88 lb.

Angus Beef
Fresh, Natural, Beef Shoulder
Boneless English Roast
or Ranch Steak
Value Pack
$3.99 lb.

$1.88
with yes

Hershey's Snack Size Candy
8.8 - 11.6 oz.

2/$5
with yes

DiGiorno Pizza
(17.2 - 34.2 oz.) or
California Pizza Kitchen
(12.7 - 16.2 oz.)

$4.49
when you buy 4
selected varieties

Ripe, Ready to Eat
Hass Avocados
each

10/$10
with yes

Pepsi-Cola Products
8 pk., 16 oz. bottles,
8 pk., 12 oz. bottles,
or 12 pk., 12 oz. cans
(plus deposit)

$4.99
when you buy 4
selected varieties

Totino's Pizza Rolls
36 - 40 ct.

$1.88
with yes

Ripe, Ready to Eat
Hass Avocados
each

$3.69
gallon
Made fresh daily by
Aseltine's of Comstock Park, MI

$3/$9
when you buy 3
select varieties

Michigan Apple Cider
gallon
Made fresh daily by
Aseltine's of Comstock Park, MI

$1.88
with yes

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