Dibbleville house will be torn down

Fenton DDA to spend $16,500 on demolition

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

Fenton — On Tuesday, Fenton’s Downtown Development Authority (DDA) voted to tear down 106 W. Shiawassee Ave., the fate of which has been the subject of much controversy for more than a month.

DDA member Mark Hamel, co-owner of The Laundry made

Severely abused puppy ‘…literally skin and bones’

Adopt-A-Pet volunteer Lisa Walker holds Millie, a 4½-month-old, severely abused puppy that was dropped off recently at Genesee County Animal Control. Millie, whose body weight is only half of what it should be, is being nursed back to health by the staff at Adopt-A-Pet in Fenton. See story on Page 11A

Much of Fenton’s rich history rests in Oakwood Cemetery

Old Prospect Hill is burial ground of early settlers

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

Names like Clark Dibble, Dustin and Harrison Cheney, Judge Daniel LeRoy, A. J. Phillips and many more ... they all speak to Fenton’s rich history ... and they’re all buried at Oakwood Cemetery.

In 1869, the private Oakwood Cemetery Association was formed. Aceremty comprised of 23 acres of ground immediately southwest of the old cemetery was laid out and, according to historical accounts, explain the existence of many burials in that portion of the cemetery.

Fenton DDA explains how they operate

Director Mike Burns answers questions about budget, projects

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

The Fenton Downtown Development Authority (DDA) has been in the news a lot lately, but there still are many questions people have about how this group operates and accomplishes its goals for downtown development.

Since its inception in 1993, the Fenton DDA has been actively involved with the Fenton City Council, Planning Department who keep our community and our citizens safe. Thank you!

Severely abused puppy ‘…literally skin and bones’

Adopt-A-Pet volunteer Lisa Walker holds Millie, a 4½-month-old, severely abused puppy that was dropped off recently at Genesee County Animal Control. Millie, whose body weight is only half of what it should be, is being nursed back to health by the staff at Adopt-A-Pet in Fenton. See story on Page 11A

Superintendents weigh in on ‘bathroom bill’

Bill requires public schools to let transgender students use whichever bathroom they prefer

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

On May 13, the Obama Administration issued guidance to public schools across the country in a letter jointly written with the Department of Justice and the Department of Education, urging schools to let “transgender students enjoy a support- and nondiscriminatory school environment,” the administration said.

See SUPERINTENDENTS on 19A

Comment of the Week

Each year, beginning on May 15th, the United States observes National Police Week to pay tribute to law enforcement officers. I would like to give a huge thank you to Chief Aro and the members of the Fenton Police Department who keep our community and our citizens safe. Thank you.

Target does sell Bibles. I looked in the Fenton store and on their website, where dozens of bibles are offered. You can’t believe anything you hear on TV news. The networks are corrupt. They’re owned by corporations that have political agendas. Read a newspaper if you want the truth.”

The bathroom choice problem is a meticulously orchestrated controversy from the Obama Administration to incite hatred and division among Americans. I assure you that he and his corrupt cronies are back-slapping and laughing behind closed doors.”

It’s a easily verifiable fact that Hillary Clinton banked $6.7 million from speeches to corporations in 2015 alone. Now who do you think her allegiance will be to if the event she is elected president? They have names for people who sell their integrity to the highest bidder.”

The majority of the Fenton DDA voted to tear down 106 W. Shiawassee, awarding the demolition bid to Milford Salvage & Iron for $16,500.

The majority of the Fenton DDA voted to tear down 106 W. Shiawassee, awarding the demolition bid to Milford Salvage & Iron for $16,500, in accordance with the Master Plan.

DDA member Chris Bayer, who owns A Joyful Noise Music Studio across the street from 106 W. Shiawassee, supported the motion and it was approved by the majority of DDA members present.

Superintendents weigh in on ‘bathroom bill’

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3864 Valley Rise
Lovely Contemporary Colonial floor plan with Split Master Bedroom Suite. Sunny fire-lit 2 Story Great Room with custom Trimwork & M a n s e t . Living Room has a bay and lovely custom bookcase. Granite kitchen is spacious. Full Finished Daylight Lower Level. $187,000
Call Ann Hernandez-Gabler 248-240-2272

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321 Countreys Place
Beautiful 2 story home just off the golf course in a quiet sub. Home has a finished basement, towering cathedral ceiling above the kitchen and 2 huge walk-in closets in the master bedroom. Homey backyard with privacy fence. $172,500
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Contemporary home on 10 heavily wooded acres. Home has gorgeous wood floors throughout the living area. Open floor plan is great for entertaining. 3 bedrooms and 2 full baths on main level with an additional bedroom in the walkout basement. 16x24 Pole barn and 2 car attached garage. $360,000
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Spacious Ranch on A Beautiful Treed Lot Near Downtown Davison And Within Walking Distance To Park. Beautiful Hardwood Floor In The Living Room And Dining Room. Nice Size Kitchen And First Floor Laundry. $149,500
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16222 Murray
Why fight up north traffic when you can live right in咱 town? This 4 bedroom home was taken down to the studs in 2004 and completely remodeled. Roomy kitchen, living room, and dining room. Grab your water toys and picnic basket and move right in just in time to enjoy summer. $210,000
Call Patrik Welty 810-750-2300

FLUSHING
7451 Potter
Great location in Flushing School District. House on 3 acres. Updated ranch with 5 bedrooms. Could be used for a home business. Equipped with new 2013 generator so you are never without power. Nice open floor plan. Home is Barrier Free for handicap access. $224,900
Call Donna Mynatt 810-397-5779

LINDEN
306 E. Rolston
This executive brick ranch sits on 1/2 an acre with beautiful views of Spring Meadows golf course. Updates abound with new carpet and hardwood floors, newer roof, furnace, and water heater. 2400 sf plus finished basement makes this home ideal for large families and entertaining. Truly a “must see.” $239,900
Call Lynn Reistano 810-625-7399

BRANDON
500 Neptune
Bald Eagle Lake, new widows, siding and remodeled kitchen. Updated lami-nate flooring, inlaw apartment on lower level or great home for large family. Large mature lot in great lake neighborhood. Two furnaces, oversized water heater, and large garage. Great buy! $129,900
Call Donna Mynatt 810-965-6552

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Fabulous opportunity to renovate this huge historic home! Enclosed porch, hardwood floors, huge kitchen, attached wooden garage and additional outbuilding plus a very large almost half acre city lot with an almost fully fenced back yard! House needs TLC but roof is new in the last 2 years. $63,400
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ORTONVILLE
1985 Houghton Trail
Lovely Home on a private setting with STUNNING Gourmet kitchen, 2 story great room & formal dining room. 3 bedrooms, including spacious master suite, & 2 baths. Partially finished lower level walkout with 3rd bath area ready for you to connect plumbing fixtures. Pole Barn/shed is big enough to put a car in! $275,000
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LINDEN
15042 Longfield
100 feet of sandy shoreline on peaceful McCasin Lake. Contemporary 5 bedroom home offers lots of living space. Functional kitchen with plenty of cabinets and counter space. Roomy living room with great views or sit outside on your large deck and soak in the tranquility of living on the water. $217,000
Call Patrik Welty 810-750-2300

FENTON
1017 Lee
Unique home in ideal location in the City of Fenton. Home features nearly 600 square feet, 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Completely remodeled in the last 5 years, new furnace and new roof. Priced to sell, listed below appraisal. $59,900
Call Mark Goldsworthy 810-955-3736

CLIO
12071 N. Belsay Rd.
House needs TLC but also many functional updates including roof, new well pump, central air and furnace. Property has raspberry bushes, mulberry trees and grapevines and beautiful views of wildlife. Clio schools with low Thetford Twp. taxes. This is a short sale and lender approval is required. $49,000
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Homemade goat cheese in a half hour

Fenton Township woman has been making cheese since 1994, offers classes

By Hannah Ball
hbaltimes.com 810-432-6792
Fenton Twp. — On a Tuesday afternoon, eight women gather around a kitchen. A pot of milk heats up on the stove, and there are cookies and crackers on the table.

Kim Emmert is teaching a small class how to make mozzarella cheese.

Her 11-acre property is home to goats, sheep, chickens, turkeys, dogs, cats and a hen. The sound of turkeys gobbling comes in through the open windows, giving Emmert’s lesson an authentic feel.

“It’s whole milk,” she said, stirring the pot. “You cannot use ultra pasteurized milk because we heat it to a very high temperature and it breaks down the protein molecules and you will not form very good curds.”

She said there are two basic types of cheese.

“One is thermophilic,” she said. “Those are your very, very hard cheeses.” These cheeses are heated to over 100 degrees when being made. Parmesan is a thermophilic cheese.

The other type is mesophilic.

“Those you don’t heat to such high temperatures and those are almost all the other cheeses — cheddars, colby and the fresh cheeses we’re making here today,” she said. They add cultures, or bacteria, to the goat cheese which determines the flavor.

But since she’s only using buttermilk from the store to make mozzarella, she’s going to add citric acid “that’s going to partially curdle the milk and give it the springy texture,” she said.

When the milk on the stove reaches 55 degrees, Emmert adds a teaspoon and a half of citric acid mixed with water. She mixes it with a slotted spoon.

She then turns the burner up.

“Temperature is very important,” she said, adding that the order in which ingredients are added is also crucial. When the milk reaches 90 degrees, she adds animal rennet, which separates the curds from the whey, which is the left over protein-rich liquid. It coagulates and resembles cottage cheese in less than a minute as Emmert stirs the pot.

She goes through the rest of the process as her students watch. It doesn’t take long for the mozzarella to look like mozzarella. After kneading the mixture, putting it in the microwave for intervals of 60 seconds, and periodically draining the juices out, she cuts of small pieces and passes the mozzarella around.

Kim Emmert shows her cheese-making class how to milk a goat, after getting Puddin’ on the milking stand with the promise of food. Emmert milks her twice a day and usually gets a gallon of milk every day. She regularly uses the milk to make cheese.

People share nods and give small hums of approval, voicing their opinions after they’re done chewing. The group agrees — the cheese is delicious.

The entire process takes approximately 30 minutes.

Sometimes Emmert puts the cheese into molds, hangs it in a bag or presses it. The cheese that is hung will be softer and more spreadable, she said.

After cheeses have been tasted, she takes the class out to see her animals in the backyard. The goats and sheep flock to her in the pen, as she leads one of the goats out.

The goat is named Puddin’, and she recently gave birth. Emmert gets her to climb up on a slightly raised platform and shows the class the proper milking technique.

She milks Puddin’, twice a day and usually gets about a gallon of milk every day. This class is small compared to her typical ones, where she’ll usually teach more than 20 people. She’s holding two free cheese-making classes on June 25 and 26, from 12 to 2 p.m. Call (810) 210-4458 to reserve a spot.

Emmert has been making cheese since 1994. Her friend gave her a baby sheep, and she got a goat not long after. Her first goat’s name was Charleen.

“My friend gave me a cheese-making book and that was that,” she said.

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Volunteers Needed!

Fenton Community Planting Day

June 4 • 9:00 am to 12 noon

Meet at Fenton City Hall. Join the Beautification Team as we plant flowers at City Hall, Police Department, Gazebo, Library & Museum.

Help Us Keep Fenton Beautiful

Call: Chair, Dawn Overmyer @ 629-0455 or Mayor Pro-Tem, Pat Lockwood @ 516-9480.

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Is it really you, or not?

Every journalist on the planet has been trying to land an interview with Donald Trump’s publicist John Miller. Only one did. Thank you for talking with me, Mr. Miller,” I said. ‘No problem. Thank you for your call. I’m a big fan.’

‘Really?’

‘No, not really. I’m just being nice. I’ve never heard of you, actually. You’re a total nobody. A real loser. No offense, of course.’

‘None taken. So how do you respond to the charge that you’re Donald Trump himself just using a fake name?’

‘That’s outrageous and false. In fact, I was just talking to Donald about that when you called. He’s upset about the allegations, so upset. You have no idea how upset.’

‘So can we meet in person then or may-be do a Skype call?’

‘Uh, no, see, I’ve got a rash on my face. Horrible rash. Worst rash you’ve ever seen. You understand.’

‘Of course, but could you at least put Donald on the phone for a moment since he’s obviously right there.’

‘Certainly … (calling over his shoulder) hey, Mr. Trump, do you have a moment to speak with this loser from Michigan? You don’t? What’s that? You’re meeting with him? I’m sure she was. Thank you for your time, Mr. Trump.’

‘You’re welcome, Little Andy.’

‘You realize I just called you Mr. Trump and you responded to that, right?’

‘Mr. Trump has no idea what you’re talking about.’

Some people think it matters because Mr. Trump could very well be president, and it’s a little scary to think the president has a history of calling up people pretending to be somebody else.

‘No, not right. In fact, no one does that, sir, and no one ever has. Like in the history of mankind.’

‘They don’t? Well, I guess that just goes to show what a trend-setter Donald Trump is. He’s quite a guy, you know. And here’s a secret — that hair? It’s all real, baby. All real.’

‘Good to know. But going back to why it matters. Some people think it matters because Mr. Trump could very well be president, and it’s a little scary to think the president has a history of calling up people pretending to be somebody else. It’s a little weird, don’t you think? Would he do that, for instance, with Vladimir Putin or Angela Merkel?’

‘You mean Bald Vlad and Angry Angie? Of course not. By the way, I’ll bet she was a looker back in the day, ch? Rwrw?’

‘I’m sure she was. Thank you for your time, Mr. Trump.’

‘You’re welcome, Little Andy.’

‘You realize I just called you Mr. Trump and you responded to that, right?’

‘Mr. Trump has no idea what you’re talking about.’

How do you want to be remembered and what do you want on your headstone?

Bridgette Jacquez
Linden

“I want to be remembered for kindness. My motto in life is just to make everyone’s, even a stranger’s, day a little bit better.

No, I’ve never thought of what I want to have on my headstone.”

Joline Hauch
Fenton

“As a good person. We talk about death all the time but I’ve never thought about what I want on my headstone. I think ‘She was a good mom and grandma.”

“I want to be remembered as a person who made a difference. I’m not going to have a headstone. My ashes will be spread near my home on the Fenton Mill Pond.”

Jackie Gillespie
Grand Blanc

“Probably for being a good person, for being a good mom, and a good friend. I haven’t thought about what I want on my headstone.”

“Probably for being a good person, for being a good mom, and a good friend. I haven’t thought about what I want on my headstone.”

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Larry Eckardt
Fenton

“I want to be remembered for who I really was. I want to be cremated. I don’t want somebody to have to pay for a spot.”

Courtney Matlock
Fenton

“I want to be remembered for who I really was. I want to be cremated. I don’t want someone to have to pay for a spot.”

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“I want to be remembered for who I really was. I want to be cremated. I don’t want someone to have to pay for a spot.”

See HOT LINE throughout Times
It would have taken me years to do what they did in a day, which is incredible'

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

Deerfield Twp. — Across the farmland is spread a small army of about 100 volunteers wearing white or red T-shirts. Outside the farmhouse, wood siding was removed, electrical trenches were dug and chopped wood is carried to a searing bonfire. Heavy equipment moves earth and debris as chickens and peacocks strut around shovels and construction materials while a radio plays country music.

Homeowner Diana McMullen watches the activity and says, “I love it, it reminds me of an old barn-raising.”

The volunteers are with Re building Together-Oakland County (R TOC), an organization similar to Genesee County’s Christmas in Action (CIA).

At the end of the day McMullen’s farm received a good brush clearing and garden. Old, unsafe structures were knocked down and removed.

The barn and home were repainted along with electrical and safety upgrades. The home received a new roof and an actual kitchen (there was none in the lower floor). Wiring was brought up to code. McMullen is a widow, and mother of five, ages 12 to 21. She essentially had to retreat to this home after losing her husband. The home was in dire need of repair and couldn’t be insured without an expensive list of repairs, which R TOC took care of.

“It would have taken me years to do what they did in a day, which is incredible,” she said. She said she does OK as a single mom with day-to-day bills, but replacing a roof or adding a proper kitchen would take a long time. “I think it’s an amazing blessing.”

McMullen wouldn’t have qualified for assistance under Habitat for Humanity because her income is too high. She does not qualify to apply for CIA because she’s not a senior. RTOC was the organization that could assist her in her “in-between” state.

Project Captain Kirt Rushlow has worked with the organization for 25 years. He said this is one of the biggest he has seen. Projects can range from a handicapped ramp, to a project like this.

Inside the home, the kitchen was built with studs, drywall, new wiring, cabinets and counter tops. This required skilled labor to pull the project off safely. Materials are often donated or sold at cost by various small businesses. While the bulk of volunteers spent the day on-site, preparations by Rushlow and others started a few months ago to make sure the project went smoothly.

This was also one of more than 30 RTOC projects that happened that day. Christmas in Action also had a full roster of projects. “The whole thing blows me away,” said McMullen.

It would have taken me years to do what they did in a day, which is incredible.

Diana McMullen
RTOC Project homeowner
Mayor Sue Osborn, T om Berthy of The State Bank, and Terry Green of Bill- meier Camera voted against the motion to demolish the building.

Osborn said she voted ‘no’ because after listening to everyone, she thought some bids should be solicited.

“I thought we should gather prices for some type of restoration,” she said. “But now that the DDA has voted, we should be supportive and move Fenton forward.”

“When I came in there on T uesday I wasn’t really prepared to vote at that point,” said Green. “I didn’t really feel like I had enough information. I was still listening to comments from everyone else, city officials and the public.

“I toured the building and saw the condition,” he added. “I have an old building as well and there are serious cons to an other, city officials and the public. I thought we should gather prices for some type of restoration,” she said. “But now that the DDA has voted, we should be supportive and move Fenton forward.”

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MAY 22
1843: A massive wagon train, made up of 1,000 settlers and 1,000 head of cattle, sets off down the Oregon Trail from Independence, Missouri. Known as the “Great Emigration,” the expedition came two years after the first modest party of settlers made the long, overland journey to Oregon. They arrived in October, completing the 2,000-mile journey in five months.

MAY 23
1934: Notorious criminals, Bonnie Parker and Clyde Barrow, are shot to death by Texas and Louisiana state police while driving a stolen car near Sailes, Louisiana. Barrow hooked up with Parker in 1932, and the couple began a life of crime together. Over the next two years, the couple teamed with various accomplices to rob a string of banks and stores across five states. Among the public, Bonnie and Clyde’s reputation as dangerous outlaws was mixed with a romantic view of the couple as “Robin Hood,” folk heroes like.

MAY 24
1964: A referee’s call in a soccer match between Peru and Argentina sparks a riot. More than 300 fans were killed and another 500 people were injured in the violent melee that followed at National Stadium in Lima, Peru. The match was a qualifier for the 1964 Olympics. With only a few minutes left in a close game, a referee disallowed an apparent goal for Peru and the stadium went wild. The resulting panic and crowd-control measures taken caused stampedes in which people were crushed and killed.

MAY 25
1977: Memorial Day weekend opens with an intergalactic bang as the first of George Lucas’ blockbuster Star Wars movies hits American theaters. The movie received seven Oscars, and earned $461 million in American theaters. The movie received widespread celebration. Named for the narrow strait that marks the entrance to the San Francisco Bay from the Pacific Ocean, the Golden Gate Bridge was constructed from January 1933 to May 1937. At the time, it was the longest suspension bridge in the world, at 4,200 feet.

MAY 26
1907: John Wayne, an actor who came to epitomize the American West, is born in Winterset, Iowa. Born Marion Michael Morrison, Wayne’s family moved to Glendale, California, when he was 6 years old. When he graduated from high school, he hoped to attend the U.S. Naval Academy. However, after the school rejected him, he accepted a full scholarship to play football at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles. In the summer of 1926, Wayne’s football coach found him a job as an assistant prop man on the set of a movie directed by John Ford. Ford started to use Wayne as an extra, and he eventually began to trust him with some larger roles. Ford gave Wayne his big break, casting him in his brilliant 1939 western, Stagecoach, after which Wayne’s career took off.

MAY 27
1934: Detectives with the Genesee County Sheriff’s Office are investigating a home invasion, which occurred in the 2400 block of Margaret Drive in Fenton Township. The home invasion was reported at 2:45 a.m. on Monday, May 16. Det. Geno Gaticka said forced entry was made into the home and approximately $7,000 worth of cash and personal belongings were stolen. Detectives are attempting to identify the suspect and the case remains under investigation.

MAY 28
1998: Comedian and actor Phil Hartman, famous for his work on Saturday Night Live and NewsRadio, is shot to death by his troubled wife, Brynn, in a murder-suicide. He was 49.
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**Art comes to the people**

*Fenton DDA's Art Sculpture Exhibit is designed to bring art and community together*

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

When it comes to art, you either love a piece or... not so much. But the point is, it gets you talking and looking at the world in a different perspective.

That’s the excitement behind the Fenton DDA’s Art Sculpture Exhibit, which brought eight new art pieces into the downtown area from May of this year to April 2017.

These eight new pieces join one permanent sculpture, “Pescado II,” located behind The Fire Hall at the Millpond. The city bought the piece from the artist, following its huge positive response from the public. “It’s been a big hit,” said John Strayer, vice chair of the Fenton DDA.

The “Stainless Steel Butterfly,” behind The Fire Hall, also has been very well received by the public and a donor has stepped forward to purchase it for the community.

Now in its fourth year, Fenton’s Art Sculpture Exhibit has become an annual rite of spring. The exhibit encourages a walking tour of the sculptures downtown, bringing art to the people while also promoting the Fenton community. Brochures are available at City Hall, and the information about each sculpture is in this story’s sidebar.

The downtown sculptures were actually the brainchild of Strayer, who researched the idea four years ago of either buying or renting art as part of the DDA’s policy to encourage public art downtown.

His searching took him to the Midwest Sculptures Initiative in Blissfield, headed by Ken Thompson, a sculptor. Now Fenton’s one of 16 communities to rent art provided by this artist group, including Toledo, Ohio; Dearborn and Tecumseh, to name a few.

Each of the rental sculptures costs $1,500 for a total of $12,000, funded by the Fenton DDA. Total value of the rental sculptures, according to their purchase price, is $63,600.

The sculptures themselves range in price from $1,500 for the “Purple People Eater” in front of the Fenton post office to $22,000 for Self Series 5 in front of the Fenton Community & Cultural Center, if you wanted to purchase the piece from the artist. “The prices are negotiable with each artist however,” said Strayer.

Whether you fall in love with a particular sculpture or dislike one with the same intensity, the committee that selected them had some of those same feelings.

“Our selection committee meets only once a year in March, with Ken Thompson and his slideshow, and we look at over 500 sculptures,” said Strayer. “We end up eliminating some right away then ‘argue’ for the pieces we like, taking a vote to select the final eight. You’ve got to have skin like a rhinoceros, because you know not everyone is going to like everything you put out.”

The committee is made up of people in the local arts community, from teachers to members of the Lakes Area Arts Council, DDA business owners and community residents. “We try to ask new people every year,” said Strayer.

The challenge every year is to find just the right spot to place the sculptures. “What we’ve learned is that a lot of the response to the sculpture comes about from proper placement,” said Strayer.

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*Free Gutters With New Complete Roof*
Firefighters to memorialize piece of world trade center

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

The Fenton Fire Department will unveil and dedicate a memorial monument on the 15th anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks. The dedication ceremony will be held on the lawn of the Fenton Fire Department on Sept. 11 at a time to be determined after church services.

As they have done every year for the past 15 years, the Fenton Fire Department will sound the emergency sirens at 9:59 a.m. on Sept. 11, the time when the first World Trade Center tower fell. Fire department personnel will stand at attention in front of the trucks, and there will be a moment of silence.

See CEREMONY on 18A

Guests at a 2011 Fenton Fire Department open house look at the section of steel that was once part of one of the World Trade Center buildings, which were destroyed by terrorists on Sept. 11, 2001.

9/11 Memorial Dedication

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attacks, and 125 at the Pentagon. Another 6,000 people were injured.

It was mass, horrific chaos. George W. Bush, who was the President of the United States at the time, ordered that every aircraft in the sky land, a feat that was accomplished in about two hours.
Hartley will lead Fenton schools as permanent superintendent

Board of Ed chooses Swartz Creek candidate

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

Adam Hartley was unanimously selected by the Fenton Board of Education to serve as the district’s new, permanent superintendent.

He will begin his duties by July 1. He was chosen Tuesday night after second Interviews were conducted with him and one other candidate, Jennifer Hammond, principal of Grand Blanc High School.

The two were among five chosen from a pool of 27 applicants for first interviews last week.

Hartley and Hammond were scheduled for second interviews Tuesday, after which the board voted for the candidate they believed was the best fit for Fenton schools.

Since 2015, Hartley has served as the executive director of GEARup2LEAD, a leadership development organization, and as director of innovative projects at the Swartz Creek Community Schools.

Prior to his current position, Hartley was the assistant superintendent of Instruction for the Swartz Creek district for three years. In addition to his central office leadership experience, Hartley served as principal at Birmingham Covington School, from 2009 to 2012. Prior to that, Hartley was the principal at Central Elementary School in Flushing Community Schools for seven years. He was also a teacher with the Montrose Community Schools.

Hartley holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Michigan-Flint, a master of public administration degree from Eastern Michigan University, and a doctorate from the University of Michigan-Flint, an educational specialist degree from Oakland University, and a doctorate from Eastern Michigan University in educational leadership.

“Both finalists were great candidates,” said Drew Shapiro, school board president. “They each had different skills to offer, but Adarn Hartley seems to have the best personality for our district at this point in time.

“Everyone was very excited at meeting,” Shapiro said. “He was applauded by the audience. It’s not often that our board makes a unanimous decision. Our most important job as a board is hiring the superintendent.

“Adam has a lot of great ideas and a lot of energy,” Shapiro said. “He is passionate about what he does.”

Contract negotiations will likely begin next week with the Personnel Committee, said Shapiro.

“As long as we get a contract, he’ll be onboard by July 1,” he added.

“My family and I are excited to be a part of such a quality school district and vibrant community,” said Hartley. “I was reminded of the many Fenton points of pride when touring each building last week. I am eager to work with all members of the school community to continue to provide the very best education for our learners can experience.”

The Fenton school board led a very professional hiring process and I am thankful for the teachers, administrators, community members, and students who have already reached out to welcome me as the district’s leader,” he added. “I am looking forward to implementing my first 100-day action plan, tackling the tough issues, and working hard each day for the families we serve.”

Shapiro complimented Hammond and said she will be a great fit for another district.

He also commended Doug Busch, who has been serving as interim superintendent while at the same time doing his own job as executive director of finance and personnel.

“Leves a lot of credit,” Shapiro said of Busch. “He could have collected an additional $40,000 for doing the superintendent’s job, but because of the district’s financial situation he wouldn’t accept any additional compensation.

“Doug is a heck of a guy,” added Shapiro. “He has done a great job and I am happy he is going to remain onboard as director of finance and personnel.”

(This article was posted on www.tctimes.com on Wednesday, May 18.)
Adopt-A-Pet takes in severely neglected puppy

**‘Millie’** is dehydrated, malnourished, has skin infections and atrophied muscles

By Hannah Ball

A 4½-month-old malnourished puppy is being rescued back to health at Adopt-A-Pet in Fenton, after she was recently dropped off at Genesee County Animal Control.

The dog was “all skin and bones,” said Director Jody Maddock, adding that she has a skin infection, atrophied muscles, and is severely dehydrated.

Maddock, who got the dog on Wednesday, said the puppy weighs only 14 pounds, one more pound from when she was weighed last Thursday. She should weigh 25 to 30 pounds.

“She should be double her body weight,” she said.

Since she was dropped off as a supposed stray at the GCARC, “unfortunately, there are no owners to prosecute,” Maddock said.

The doctor gave her a 2 out of 10 on the body scale condition. “She was having trouble walking, she’s dehydrated, she’s got infections,” she said, adding that her muscles are completely atrophied. “Based on her muscle loss, she’s likely been in a very small cage for a very long time.”

“Because she was malnourished and didn’t get any exercise, her paws don’t have the muscle and tendon development they should have at her age,” Maddock said. “It’s going to take some time before she’s ready to be adopted. She estimates a little over a month.”

She said it’s hard to tell what breed she is because she’s so malnourished.

“So I wanted to give her a strong name, a fighter name,” she said.

The puppy is on antibiotics and they’re slowly feeding her. “We wanted to give her strong name, a fighter name,” she said. “They call her ‘Millie.’”

Since she was weighed last Thursday, she’s getting a lot of love. “She’s got an amazing personality,” Maddock said. “She’s very happy, she’s very outgoing.”

She’s eating six to eight small meals a day. Maddock said it’s slowly feeding her. She’s eating six to eight small meals a day. Maddock said it’s hard to tell what breed she is because she’s so malnourished.

They call her “Millie.”

“She’s getting a lot of love,” Maddock said. “She’s got an amazing personality. She’s very happy, she’s very outgoing.”

The doctor told Maddock if the dog hadn’t been found for a few more days, they likely wouldn’t have been able to nurse her back to health. Maddock said it’s going to take some time before she’s ready to be adopted. She estimates a little over a month.

She said it’s hard to tell what breed she is because she’s so malnourished.

“If I were to guess I would say she’s probably a pit bull mix,” she said. “She’s literally all skin and bones.”

They decided to name her Millvina, after the last woman survivor of the Titanic.

They call her “Millie.”

“We wanted to give her strong name, a fighter name,” she said.
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DDA

Continued from Front Page

Commission and residents for the goal of economic development in Fenton City.

Senior Sally Rummel inter-viewed Fenton DDA Executive Director Mike Burns on Tuesday, and here are his responses.

Q. What are the physical boundaries of the Fenton DDA?

A. The downtown district zigzags a little bit around the city. Included in this area are properties on LeRoy Street from Elizabeth to Sixth streets. It jogs over to the east from W. Admiral and extends from Silver Lake Road to Owen Road, including Silver Parkway. Everything south of Silver Lake Road is in the district, plus some of the businesses in the Industrial Park.

Q. How is the DDA funded?

A. Whoever is taxed in those areas (listed above), those dollars go into the DDA fund. If a property is in the DDA district, it’s a tax capture. The majority of our funding comes from commercial taxes, not residential.

Times Recorder resident but not in the DDA district, you pay a millage rate to the county for things like Bishop Airport, Mott (Community College), paramedics, libraries, veterans and seniors, and your rate is assessed off your property values. Schools are excluded from the tax capture, ever since Proposal A. These funds come back to the city for economic development downtown. This is called Tax Increment Financing (TIF) and is how DDA funds are.

Q. How much money does the DDA have to work with right now?

A. We’ll capture this year, July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017, about $1.7 million in revenue. That’s down a little from our biggest year when we had $2.1 million. Our biggest issues have been losses in property values during the bust in 2008-2010. We’re also seeing a loss of tax dollars from big box stores that get significant tax reductions from the Michigan Tax Tribunal. We’ve actually had to give money back to the taxpayers. It’s a big problem.

Q. Does your budget carry over funds from year to year?

A. In addition to what we capture, we’ll have a fund balance this year of about $1 million.

Q. Who decides how these dollars are spent?

A. The DDA is its own entity with its own budget. Board City Council oversees the DDA. They have to approve the budget and TIF, which are their guidelines to operate.

The DDA has been adhering to the city Master Plan, which was adopted in 2006 by the DDA, council, Planning Commission and residents. We wanted these groups to give the city a guideline and vision as to what the downtown would become in the future.

Projects like College of Southern Genesee Area, the Fire Hall, Streetscape, Red Fox, Action Auto site and redevelopment of 106 Shiawassie have all come out of that plan.

When things come up that aren’t on the Master Plan, we (the city) can take it to the DDA. It still has to go to City Council to approve any budget change. If it’s not in the budget or TIF plan, the DDA has to have it approved by City Council.

Q. Who is currently on the board?

A. Board members are appointed by Mayor Sue Osborn, who serves on the board indefinitely. The majority of board members are either own property or work at property in the DDA district. There’s also a citizen representative and four at-large appointees.

Oshg Schmidt is chairperson and John Strayer is vice chair. Other board members are Doug James, Tom Bertsch, Terry Green, James Saule, Gary Henderson, Mark Hanel, Doran Kasper, Chris Bayer, Jeff Canever and Bobbie Sweetman.

There’s also a Citizen Advisory Board, whose only job is to advise the DDA/Board when the TIF plan needs a revision. Our current TIF plan has been extended to 2040. The last time they needed to meet was in 2010. Gary Henderson, Chuck Berra and Carol McAllister were on the board at that time.

Q. I noticed that some board members’ terms have expired. Can they still serve on the board and have the right to vote?

A. Each board member has a term that expires, and they serve and have voting rights until their position has been filled. Currently, the positions of Terry Green, Doran Kasper and John Strayer have expired and Osborn will either re-appoint members or make new appointments.

Osbg Schmidt in a phone call that she will makeappointments after this year’s budget is adopted and the issue of the house at 106 Shiawassie has been settled (see related story), “I have to look at attendance and other records,” she said.

Q. What are the projects the DDA is working on this year?

A. Re-developing the area by 106 Shiawassie, the former Tops site, Caro-line Street extension (later this summer), re-developing 111 South LeRoy St. next to United Methodist Church, Action Auto property and a plaza walkway between Elizabeth Street and Shiawassie, next to Joyful Noise and Le Petite Maison to connect these areas in an aesthetically pleasing way.
Your house could be chosen for a visit by popular History Channel TV show

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

Your trash could be a national show’s treasure.

The popular History Channel show “American Pickers” is coming to Michigan in June. The show is currently in its seventh season.

In the show, the two leads, Mike Wolfe and Frank Fritz, travel the U.S. in search of rare, vintage collectables, and they’re bringing their search to Michigan.

Before they come, Wolfe and Fritz need destinations to visit.

If you, or someone you know, collects antiques that fit in these categories, your house might be worthy to be picked. See sidebar for list.

Contact americanpickers@cineflix.com and include your name, phone number, location, description of collection, and photos.

You can also call 1-855-OLD-RUST.

The show will not consider visits to retail shops or flea markets.

HOT LINE CONTINUED
IF LITTLE JOHNNY or Suzy wants to go to college, they can pay for it themselves, just like every generation before them has.

WHY DO I need 30 rounds to go deer hunting? The second amendment was not worded the way it is because they were worried about the deer taking over.

YA, HANNAH. I heard that turn signals were an extra option that most people do not purchase.

GEORGE BERNARD SHAW stated, ‘Those that can, do (conservatives), those that can’t, teach’ (liberals).

I FIND THE uproar over the gender restroom issue ridiculous. Only a narrow-minded person full of hate would assume that a transgender person is a pedophile. A pedophile is pure evil. A transgender person is hardly in that category.

RECENTLY, I READ that Hillary and Bill Clinton earned over $20 million publishing their memoirs. What I find thoroughly amazing is that when they are both under oath, their usual answer to questions is ‘I don’t recall.’ Their memoirs should be filed under fiction.

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ART Continued from Page 8A

“The one I’m most proud of is ‘Heat Wave’ on the pedestal at City Hall, because the sculpture that had been on the pedestal for years by a local artist had been vandalized. We felt the best way to honor the people who had done all the work on the pedestal and original art placed there was to place a special piece of art there.”

Strayer adds that the new wide sidewalks downtown have given the sculpture exhibit opportunities that they hadn’t had before. “We’d also like to get sculptures to the Silver Parkway area in the future, and that requires working with MDOT (Michigan Department of Transportation) for safety issues,” he said.

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Painting with a Twist opens in Fenton

It’s ‘fun art, not fine art’

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

Painting with a Twist, open in Fenton since November 2015, might not be considered fine art, but it’s definitely fun art.

Owner Nancy Schollhammer had attended a class in Rochester with a friend and enjoyed it so much that she wanted to bring this fun art concept to Fenton. The store is located at 17155 Silver Parkway near The UPS Store.

“Anyone can do it,” said April Rheingans, store manager. “You don’t have to have any art or painting background. Friends often come together or groups come to celebrate a special event. You can bring your own wine or non-alcoholic beverage, appetizers and snacks or you can buy a limited number of beverages on-site.”

Classes are held seven days a week, limited to 45 students. “You can also have a private party, as long as we have room available and you have at least 10 people registered,” said Rheingans.

Open classes are held after 6 p.m. for “artists” 18 and older. There are also Family Day and Kids’ Day events, usually reserved for kids 7 and up.

HOT LINE CONTINUED

I AGREE WITH the person about all the sculptures downtown and the heck with the rest of us. They want volunteers to make the downtown pretty. We don’t get anything like this at in the north end and streets are just horrid.

THIS IS FOR people who live in apartments and complain. No one is twisting your arm to stay. You should probably go live in the woods where there’s nobody around you.

I KNOW WHY the light by the Fenton Hotel is there. The railroad company put it there to keep people from stopping on the tracks. Why it is operational when there’s no train coming is beyond me. I think it’s ridiculous.

I RECENTLY READ in one of your Hot comments the name ‘Winifred’ and it brings me great memories of the finest seventh- and eighth-grade teacher I ever had. She was wonderful. Thank you.

YES, BRUCE JENNER in the same re-stroem as my girls gets beaten. P.S., don’t bother telling me I have to call him Caitlin Jenner. ‘Reject the notion that I must accommodate his ‘feelings’ over the reality that he is a man.’

WHY NOT TAKE the time to go to city meetings or read the minutes to the meetings online? Making statements in the Hot line do not answer your questions. Get informed so you do understand why.

MAYBE MAYOR OSBORN should vote first next time when a controversial issue with the DDA is being considered.

AN 11-YEAR-old Houston boy, a Chicago girl, and a San Diego pregnant woman are among the thousands stabbed to death this past week in America. Knife violence is at epidemic proportions. We need to institute background checks and waiting periods for all knife purchases.

ARE YOU KIDDING? Sanders has no path to the Democratic nomination. Even after Hillary is forced out of the race due to federal charges, Democratic Party elites will pass over Sanders and nominate Joe Biden.

THE QUOTE, ‘EVERY developed country in the world has free healthcare except for the United States’ is a lie created by the World Health Organization (WHO), in order to promote their political agenda of socialism. Don’t believe the hype.

A UNITED STATES Air Force pilot was stationed in Italy and said he could have easily saved the four men killed in Beng-hazi, but he never got the phone call. Now we know that regarding Benghazi, Hillary did nothing but lie.

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Painting with a Twist opens in Fenton

SUMMARY

Painting with a Twist opened in Fenton in November 2015, and is the only location in Genesee County.

TRI-COUNTY TIMES | SUBMITTED PHOTO
Painting with a Twist owner Nancy Schollhammer painted a picture with her daughter, Morgan, at a recent event in her Fenton store.

Once a month, “Painting with a Pur-pose” is held as a charity event with funds raised for groups like Relay for Life, Project Graduation, etc. “We’ve already raised $5,000 for charity,” said Rheingans.

All registrations and payment are due in advance of the class. You can register online at www.paintingwithatwist.com/ fenton/ or call the store at (810) 629-7928 to pre-register.
Staying safe while traveling abroad

A possible terrorist bombing on European airliner reminds travelers to take precautions

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

Waking up to the news Thursday morning that an EgyptAir flight from Paris to Cairo went missing over the Mediterranean Sea may have some local travelers wondering about their safety on upcoming overseas travel plans.

Although not confirmed, it is believed there may have been a bomb on board the EgyptAir aircraft.

One way travelers can protect themselves is to sign up for the U.S. Department of State’s Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP), a free service that allows travelers to receive real-time, detailed updates of country-specific warnings and alerts. This helps travelers avoid problem countries and areas, and are essential for international travel.

STEP enrollment can be done by visiting www.step.gov/step.

The benefits of enrolling in STEP allows U.S. citizens and nationals traveling abroad to enroll their trip with the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate.

Those who sign up will receive important information from the Embassy about safety conditions in your destination country, helping you make informed decisions about your travel plans.

This also helps the U.S. Embassy contact you in an emergency, whether it’s a natural disaster, civil unrest or a family emergency. It will also help family and friends get in touch with you in an emergency.

CURRENT TRAVEL ALERT TO AND THROUGHOUT EUROPE

The State Department alerts U.S. citizens to potential risks of travel to and throughout Europe following several terrorist attacks, including the March 22 attacks in Brussels claimed by ISIL.

Terrorist groups continue to plan near-term attacks throughout Europe, targeting sporting events, tourist sites, restaurants, and transportation. This travel alert expires on June 20. It could, however be extended if the EgyptAir disappearance on May 19 was the result of terrorist activity.

The U.S. State Department advises U.S. citizens to exercise vigilance when in public places or using mass transportation. Be aware of immediate surroundings and avoid crowded places. Exercise particular caution during religious holidays and at large festivals or events.

It is also important to follow the instructions of local authorities, especially in an emergency.

Monitor media and local information sources and factor updated information into personal travel plans and activities.

Be prepared for additional security screening and unexpected disruptions.

Stay in touch with your family members and ensure they know how to reach you in the event of an emergency.

European governments continue to guard against terrorist attacks and conduct raids to disrupt plots.

For further information: see the State Department’s travel website for the Worldwide Caution, travel warnings, travel alerts, and country specific Information.

Call 1 (888) 407-4747 toll-free in the United States and Canada or 1 (202) 501-4444 from other countries from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Eastern Standard Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays).

You can also follow the U.S. Department of State on Twitter and Facebook.

Additional tips

Even if you get the all-clear and no further attacks occur between now and when you depart for Europe, you still have to be careful.

Plan for the worst. Make an emergency plan. Memorize all of your hotel emergency exits and be prepared to find them with limited to no visibility.

Register with your embassy and keep the numbers of the nearest embassies and consulates with you.

Pack what’s important. Carry your emergency contact information, money, credit cards, signed passport and emergency information in your carry-on luggage and keep it with you at all times. Also, make sure you have at least two weeks of daily medications with you.

Avoid tar gets and practice the art of blending in. Wear muted colors. Don’t stand out and make yourself an easy target.

Sources: U.S. Department of State; USA Today

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Dr. Juan Alvarado, O.D., Diplomate, American Board of Optometry

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Plan for the worst. Make an emergency plan. Memorize all of your hotel emergency exits and be prepared to find them with limited to no visibility.

Register with your embassy and keep the numbers of the nearest embassies and consulates with you.

Pack what’s important. Carry your emergency contact information, money, credit cards, signed passport and emergency information in your carry-on luggage and keep it with you at all times. Also, make sure you have at least two weeks of daily medications with you.

Avoid targets and practice the art of blending in. Wear muted colors. Don’t stand out and make yourself an easy target.

Sources: U.S. Department of State; USA Today
18A Sunday, May 22, 2016

CEREMONY
Continued from Page 9A
While everyone else was in a panic, the
city firefighters and police officers were there
to help pick up the pieces.
The Fenton Fire Department has
picked up another piece — a piece of steel
from what was left of the W orld Trade
Center buildings.
That steel piece will be used on a
granite memorial that will be placed on
the south lawn of the Fire Department at
205 East Caroline St.
According to Fenton Fire Chief Bob
Cairnduff, the department obtained the
artifact after applying for it from the Port
Authority of New York and New Jersey,
which put out a call to police and fire
departments that pieces were available to
them.
The section of steel Fenton received is
3 feet long by about 6 inches wide. It was
obtained by Fenton in 2011.
“We originally wanted a traveling
memorial that we could take around to
schools, for example,” said Cairnduff.
“But ultimately decided on a permanent
structure.”
Cairnduff said many school classes
take walking tours downtown, and the
fire department is included on their
route. Firefighters will be talking about
the memorial when the classes come to
visit in the fall.
Fenton Memorials is creating the piece,
and will be giving the fire department the
materials needed at cost. The memorial
will be etched with color and depict the
two towers in the background. The metal
piece from the towers will be welded across
it.
The memorial will be placed on a
concrete pad and feature a couple of benches
and lighting.
The city of Fenton has budgeted $8,000
toward this project, however, between
$14,000 and $16,000 is needed.
Cairnduff said his firefighters will
donate their time to install everything, such
as pour concrete, do the landscaping, etc.
Monetary assistance is being sought
to cover the $6,000 to $8,000 difference
in cost. The fire department also will ac-
cept donations of items to complete the
lighting, landscaping materials, concrete
for the pad, etc. The cutting work and
welding also is being donated.
A surveillance camera also is planned to
protect the memorial and area at all times.
Cairnduff said the names of those who
donate $500 or more will be etched on the
back of the monument. To make a dona-
tion, contact Cairnduff at (810) 629-8595.
(This article was posted on www.vaelife-
coaching.com on Thursday, May 19.)

WHAT YOU MISSED in the
MIDWEEK TIMES
Compiled by Vera Hogan

The following is news you missed in the
Wednesday, May 18 Midweek edition. Readers
who wish to become subscribers and get both
the Wednesday Midweek and Sunday Weekend
edition are encouraged to call (810) 629-6262.

 Weird, wacky Michigan weather
Last weekend’s wintry mix should be
the end of snow for the season. While
snow in May is an unusual occurrence, this
isn’t the first time Michiganders have
awakened to snow in what is
supposed to be a warm spring month.

 Fenton city officials pass
2016-2017 budget
The Fenton City Council passed the
2016-2017 budget after a public hearing
on Monday. May 23. Costs of police nearly
20% above what was budgeted.

 Exotic animal ordinance amendment
under final review
Family owned zoo in Tyrone Township
with rare animals remains open while
Planning Commission reviews new
ordinance language.

 News briefs

 SPA GIVING FREE ROSES TO HONOR
FALLEN SOLDIERS ON MEMORIAL DAY
Serendipity Wellness Spa in Linden will
honor fallen soldiers this year by provid-
ing free red roses to be placed on the
gravesites of local military men and
women who gave their lives in service to
our country. Serendipity invites local resi-
dents to pick up their free rose on
Friday, May 27, from 2 to 10 p.m. or Satur-
day, May 28, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.,
so it may be placed on the gravesite of
local military men and women.
Arlington National Cemetery in Wash-
ington D.C. Supplies are limited to 250 roses
in doing so, also provided 150 roses for
the Memorial Day Flowers Foundation and
VAE Life Coaching can now accept
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan and
Molina Healthcare as well as affordable rates
for those looking to pay without insurance.

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SUPERINTENDENTS
Continued from Front Page

How will local schools handle this issue? The Times asked the four local school superintendents three questions — What do you think about Obama’s letter? How are you going to handle the issue? Have there been any issues in regards to transgender students using the bathroom they prefer?

Wayne Wright
Lake Fenton Community Schools superintendent

“We are still looking at the letter and looking at a direction we need to go with this issue. I do not agree with everything in the letter as I think schools could make accommodations as needed for students to meet their needs. I am sure we will be receiving guidance from MDE (Michigan Department of Education) and our other organizations in the future on how to handle these situations. We will be discussing this issue in the future. We will be looking at guidance we receive in the future.

“We did have an issue with a transgender student in the past and the student used our unisex bathroom. I did not hear that this caused any issues.”

Doug Busch
Fenton Area Public Schools interim superintendent

“The letter provided guidance from the U.S. Department of Education and the Attorney General’s office on gender identity. “We continue to work with all staff members to ensure that all students have a safe learning environment where they can be successful.”

Busch said Fenton schools have not had any problems with transgender students using whichever bathrooms they prefer.

Dave Nuss
Holly Area Schools superintendent

“I agree with the essence of President Obama’s perspective, that all students should be treated with respect and dignity — this is not a new concept for Holly schools. Schools should be a safe haven for all, regardless of race, ethnicity, or gender — there is no place for disrespect or discrimination in schools.

“We are going to continue our long-standing practice of treating all students in a dignified way and meeting the needs of each student in a respectful way.”

Nuss said Holly schools have not had any problems with transgender students using whichever bathrooms they prefer.

Russ Ciesielski
Linden Community Schools interim superintendent

“As a school district, our number one priority is providing a safe learning environment for our students. We know students who feel safe, included, and comfortable in the school setting will achieve at high levels.

“We fully intend to review the federal guidance that was released by the U.S. Department of Education and Justice on May 13, 2016, and along with legal guidance, our Board of Education, and the state Board of Education, we will look to develop policies that we believe are appropriate and helpful for all of our students.

“Our district has policies against bullying. These policies are intended to minimize and, hopefully, eliminate the discrimination that occurs when students are singled out for their differences. We have talked to our student body that communicating with our teachers, staff, and/or administration is the first step in helping. “If our district is approached by a student who identifies with another gender, we will work with the student, parents and staff to ensure the student’s safety and privacy. Given the legal debate surrounding these issues, we may also consult with attorneys to ensure the rights of all students are considered and supported.

“Linden Community Schools is dedicated to providing a first rate educational experience to all of our students. We will continue to provide this service, and work with all of our students to give them this experience.”

Ciesielski added that Linden schools have not had any problems with transgender students using whichever bathroom they prefer.

The story

Transgender people using the bathroom that matches their gender identity has been a national issue since late March when North Carolina Governor Pat McCrory signed legislation into law stating that residents must use the bathroom that coincides with the sex on their birth certificate in public buildings.

House Bill 2, the Public Facilities Privacy & Security Act, also known as the “bathroom bill,” also restricts cities from passing nondiscrimination laws, giving that power to the state government.

The law received national attention and many companies, like American Airlines and the National Basketball Association, have publicly condemned the state, threatening to take business elsewhere.

The U.S. Department of Justice told the state the law was discriminatory and violates civil rights, but the state kept the law. The DOJ sued North Carolina and North Carolina sued the DOJ.

The state risks losing federal funding over the bill.

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CEMETERY Continued from Front Page

These burials date much earlier than 1870, which indicates the area was used for cemetery purposes prior to the formation of the Oakwood Cemetery Association.

The Oakwood Cemetery Association was dissolved in 1948 and the cemetery turned over to the village of Fenton. In 1964, the village of Fenton incorporated as the city of Fenton. In the division of assets between the new city and Fenton Township, the old township cemetery (Prospect Hill) was turned over to the city. Today, Oakwood Cemetery consists of more than 40 acres and includes Old Prospect Hill.

Among the oldest settlers buried at Old Prospect Hill include Clark Dibble, a New Yorker who came to Fenton in 1834. He explored the wilderness along the Shiawassee River on his way to what is now Grand Blanc. By mistake, he found himself on the White Lake Trail. He proceeded north and found himself in a spot so beautiful he decided to settle there. That spot ultimately became Dibbleville.

The Indians called Dibble “Cockaway,” a name etched on his monument. His legacy is a headstone shaped like the image of a Model-A Ford, reads “… a legend in his own time.”

Smallbone died on Jan. 9, 1985. He froze to death in the snow. His body was found in the yard, a short distance from his house. His tombstone, which bears the image of a Model-A Ford, reads “… A legend in his own time.”

Among the many interesting people buried at Oakwood Cemetery in Section G, include Ida Gorton Glenwood better known as the “Blind Bard.”

This woman lived in Fenton in the latter part of the 19th century. She was widely known as a poet and the author of romantic novels written in the style then in vogue when sentimental fiction flourished. Among the many books to her credit were “Lily Pearl,” “The Mistress of Rosedale,” and “Washed up on the Beach.”

After her death, it was learned that Glenwood’s real name was Cynthia Roberts Gorton and she was born in Massachusetts in 1826, the youngest in a family of five. Her eyesight began to fail at an early age. At 21, she married Fred Gorton, and six years later after a serious illness, she became totally blind.

Although she was completely without sight, the “Blind Bard” as she became known, became an expert with the typewriter and was the first in Fenton to own one.

Businessman Andrew J. Phillips, better known as A.J. Phillips, rests in Oakwood Cemetery in Section G. Founder of the Phillips factory, he bequeathed his private office to the village of Fenton when he died in June 2004. It was to be used for a public library.

The offices, located across the street from the Fenton Police Station, were used as a library, but are now home to the A.J. Phillips Museum.

Among the many unusual headstones in the cemetery belongs to Thomas Bourne, a young man who died at a young age. His legacy is a headstone shaped like a football player bearing the number 61. This headstone is located near the Sinclair Street entrance of Oakwood Cemetery, in Section R.

Fenton’s own eccentric Joseph Milo Smallbone also is resting at Oakwood Cemetery in Section N. Smallbone, who was born on Sept. 26, 1911, died on Jan. 9, 1985. His life as one of Fenton’s most mysterious and eccentric individuals was featured on a YouTube video, created by musician Bonnie (Caryl) Whitehurst, formerly of Fenton.

Smallbone was usually dressed in black with a soot-streaked face from the wood-burning stove he used to heat his Wakeham Street home, and smelling just as bad. Legend has it that Smallbone never bathed and feared the tub.

He had two Model-A Fords that he drove until he could no longer get insurance or parts. After that, his mode of transportation was his dilapidated old bicycle.

Smallbone was last seen getting into a green or grey Ford Tempo with three unidentified Hispanic men near the Villa Hotel on Parkway Drive the night of her murder.

The 1988 FHS graduate of Fenton High School, who would be 46 today, was remembered as a talented young woman who went to California with the hopes and dreams of stardom in the entertainment world. She got into modeling and won several beauty queen crowns, including Miss Great Lakes.

During a fashion show in Chicago after graduation, Weatherwax got her chance to go to Hollywood to pursue a singing career. She was crowned Miss Hollywood in 1991 and signed a recording contract. In a 1994 interview with the Tri-County Times, Weatherwax compared her voice to a mix of Whitney Houston and Janis Joplin.

Although Fresno police continue to investigate this case, it remains unsolved.

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Harrison Cheney, his father Dustin Cheney, and family, are also buried in Old Prospect Hill. Harrison was the first non-Native American child born in the settlement of Dibbleville. He lived to be an old man in the village he was born. Dustin Cheney built the town’s first log house, located at the northwest corner of what is now Adelaide and Shiawassee Avenue, where Rockwell Assisted Living is now located.

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“A legend in his own time.”

Oakwood Cemetery is the final resting place for a young Fenton native who suffered a sad ending.

Jill Ann Weatherwax, a beauty queen, aspiring actress, dancer and singer, died just as she was making a name for herself.

On March 24, 1998, this Fenton High School graduate was brutally beaten and stabbed to death while trying to live out her dreams in California.

Friends sometimes leave flowers at her grave, which is tucked into one of the newer sections (GP) of Oakwood Cemetery. Her tall headstone, stands next to the headstones of her parents, who died in 2006 and 2010 respectively.

Weatherwax was murdered in Fresno, California. Police found her body the next day, dumped in an empty lot next to an animal shelter, about 200 miles away from Oxnard, where she had been living.

News reports indicated W. eatherwax was last seen getting into a green or grey Ford Tempo with three unidentified Hispanic men near the Vella Hotel on Parkway Drive the night of her murder.

The 1988 FHS graduate of Fenton High School, who would be 46 today, is remembered as a talented young woman who went to California with the hopes and dreams of stardom in the entertainment world. She got into modeling and won several beauty queen crowns, including Miss Great Lakes.

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Although Fresno police continue to investigate this case, it remains unsolved.

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Remembering the sacrifices of those who fought and died

National observance is recognized in the tri-county area with many parades and ceremonies

By Sally Rummel
news@cttimes.com; 810-628-8282

Memorial Day on Monday, May 30 observes the sacrifices made by men and women in all the wars fought by American forces. This national observance is recognized in the tri-county area with many parades and ceremonies.

Here are the events happening in our area:

Fenton

The parade steps out Monday May 30 at 10 a.m. from the Fenton Community & Cultural Center and enters south on South LeRoy Street for a brief ceremony at Millpond Park, by members of the Curtis-Wolverton VFW Post 3243. The parade continues south to Shiawassee, turns west, then stops at Freedom Park, where they will again lay wreaths. The parade will continue west to Davis Street, then south to Oakwood Cemetery for a ceremony, including a 21-gun salute and patriotic music by the Fenton High School band.

Linden

The 69th annual Linden VFW Price Crane Robinson’s Post 4642 will lead a parade on Monday, May 30 at 10 a.m. in front of the VFWPost. They will proceed to the bridge over the Shiawassee River, where services will be held for those who served at sea, continuing to the Veterans’ memorial section at Fairview Cemetery for a VFW Memorial Day service.

The Fenton VFW leads the 2015 Memorial Day parade on Caroline Street.

After the ceremony, the parade will return to the VFW Post where the city of Linden will provide hot dogs, chips, beverages and ice cream. Spectators are encouraged to line the roads with flags, decorated bikes, strollers and wagons. Other groups are invited to participate with a float or historical vehicle, however, no political or personal signage is allowed.

Holly

Great Lakes National Cemetery at 4200 Belford Rd., Holly will host its Memorial Day ceremony on Sunday, May 29 at 1 p.m. The 45-minute to one-hour program revolves around keynote speaker Brigadier General David G. Bassett, U.S. Army program executive officer, ground combat systems. Included in the program is a rifle salute, presentation of colors and patriotic music by ‘Men of Grace.’

Because of large crowds of people attending, visitors are encouraged to come early for parking opportunities.

In the village of Holly, the parade begins on Monday, May 30 at 9 a.m., starting on Saginaw Street downtown, just east of Maple Street. The parade will proceed to Maple, turning right (north) to Park Street and turn left (west). It will then continue on Park Street to Lakeside Park, veering right to Lakeside Cemetery for a Memorial Day ceremony.
Holly Bronchos capture regional crown

Fenton misses state bid, places third

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

It was a case of doubles trouble for those competing against the seventh-ranked Holly varsity girls tennis team at the Division 2 regional held at Holly High School on Thursday.

The Holly Bronchos captured all four doubles team championships, flight titles, leading the squad to the team regional championship and another invitation to the D2 state meet which will be hosted, by the way, at Holly High School on June 3 and 4.

Holly had four flight champions and had six flights in the finals, scoring 25 team points, three more than second-place Petoskey.

Fenton placed third with 17 points, just missing qualifying for the state meet by one point.

Holly’s winning flight championship doubles teams were: Sydney Renenan and Megan McReynolds at No. 1 doubles, Haley Crammins and Paige Reid at No. 2 doubles, Nicole Johnson and Megan Lesperance at No. 3 doubles, and Jenna Pepper and Sami Hild at No. 4 doubles.

All four flights won their titles by sweeping all of their matches in straight sets.

The only flight to be seriously challenged in the final was Renenan and McReynolds who defeated Petoskey’s Alena Chapelaine and Alexis Stokel by a 6-4, 6-3 score.

No one was more dominant than Pepper and Hild who won all three of their matches by 6-0, 6-0 scores.

The Bronchos also had two of their singles flights make it to the finals, but have to settle for runner-up finishes.

At No. 1 singles title at regionals on Thursday. Holly won all four doubles flight championships.

Fenton had one flight champion. Katy Kurnz defeated Clio’s top-seeded Sylee Kiran in the semifinals 7-6(7), 6-1 but then lost to Petoskey’s Emily Marino 6-2, 6-1 in the finals.

Fenton had one flight champion. Katy Kunz defeated Clio’s Courtney MacGregor 7-6(5), 7-6(4) in the No. 2 singles match.

CONTINUED ONLINE AT TCTIMES.COM

Fenton golfers place second at Metro Meet

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

The Fenton varsity boys golf team had an uphill climb trying to eclipse the Flushing Raiders if they wanted to win at least a share of the Metro League crown at the Metro League Meet held at Fenton Farms on Monday, and they weren’t able to complete the task.

No one came any closer than the Tigers when it came to doing it, however.

Fenton placed second at the league meet, 15 strokes behind Metro champs Flushing, and finished second in the league standings.

The Tigers were followed by Holly in fourth (353) and Linden in fifth (355).

The Tigers’ team medalist at Fenton Farms was Nick Campbell, carding a 41-43-84. He was followed by Chris Gilbert’s 45-40-85, Dylan Contie’s 43-44-87 and Patrick Conroy’s 43-47-90.

CONTINUED ONLINE AT TCTIMES.COM
By David Troppens
droppens@tctimes.com; 810-433-6789
Fenton — Fenton varsity boys track coach Anthony McMillan has seen progress out of his squad every week this season.

He was probably pretty elated with the progress he saw out of his team on Tuesday against area rivals Linden.

The Tigers won 11 of the 17 events and swept the top three spots in three different events, resulting in a pretty convincing 90-47 Fenton victory against the Eagles.

“We had a very good day, against a good team only one loss on the season,” McMillan said.

The Tigers won four track and field events, and swept the top three spots in four additional events.

The Fenton boys track defeats area rival Linden.

Riley Pottinger of Fenton High School competes in the high jump.

CONTINUED ONLINE AT TCTIMES.COM

Fenton/Linden Heat fall to Clarkston in pre-regional

By David Troppens
droppens@tctimes.com; 810-433-6789
Fenton — Things started well for the Fenton/Linden varsity girls in their pre-regional contest against the Clarkston Wolves.

The score was 9-9 at halftime and the area co-op squad was holding its own.

However, the second half was a different story. Clarkston’s ability to win many more draws cost the Heat as Clarkston defeated Fenton/Linden by a 23-12 margin.

The second-year team entered a Friday night contest with Flushing with a 7-6 overall record and at 5-0 in the Flint Metro League.

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