So you’re thinking about the military

Ten things you should consider before joining the military

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

“Joining the Army is beneficial for young men and women who want to learn how to be leaders, how to be disciplined, and how to push themselves to their limits on a daily basis,” says Capt. Robert Holmes, former Fenton resident and public affairs officer for 69th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, Fort Hood, Texas. “It’s not a decision that should be taken lightly since a soldier’s first few months in the Army are extremely difficult. It should never be a decision that anyone makes because they want the money or the other benefits seen on commercials, because then their heart is not in it.”

For comprehensive, detailed information on each branch of the U.S. Military, visit one of the following sites:

- www.goarmy.com
- www.airforce.com
- www.navy.com
- www.marines.com
- www.gocoastguard.com

Source: usmilitary.com

Downtown is blooming

Four new retail stores coming to Fenton

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

Fenton is about to become the “best dressed” city in the tri-county area, with a new retail development featuring shoes, cosmetics, clothing and jewelry, located between Target and Tractor Supply Company on Owen Road.

Ulta (cosmetics and a hair salon), Maurice’s (women’s clothing), Famous Footwear, Kay Jewelers and one unfulfilled space.

See RETAIL on 18A

Neighbors, officials at odds over trailer park

Neighbors of the Lake Pomenah Mobile Home Park have been urging officials to do something to improve the conditions of the park.

See Page 8A

Home on Spring Meadows Country Club destroyed by fire

Homeowner escapes without injury, likely cause of fire is electrical in nature.

See Page 15A

COMMENT OF THE WEEK

I WOULD LIKE to express my deepest appreciation to all veterans, past and present, and their families. To those who gave their life, you really are, and were, the Greatest Generation. Thank you to all patriots.

Four new retail stores coming to Fenton

Ulta, Famous Footwear, Kay Jewelers and Maurice’s expected to be open by fall

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

Fenton is about to become the “best dressed” city in the tri-county area, with a new retail development featuring shoes, cosmetics, clothing and jewelry, located between Target and Tractor Supply Company on Owen Road.

Ulta (cosmetics and a hair salon), Maurice’s (women’s clothing), Famous Footwear, Kay Jewelers and one unfulfilled space.

See RETAIL on 18A

Neighbors, officials at odds over trailer park

Neighbors of the Lake Pomenah Mobile Home Park have been urging officials to do something to improve the conditions of the park.

See Page 8A

Home on Spring Meadows Country Club destroyed by fire

Homeowner escapes without injury, likely cause of fire is electrical in nature.

See Page 15A

COMMENT OF THE WEEK

I WOULD LIKE to express my deepest appreciation to all veterans, past and present, and their families. To those who gave their life, you really are, and were, the Greatest Generation. Thank you to all patriots.

Four new retail stores coming to Fenton

Ulta, Famous Footwear, Kay Jewelers and Maurice’s expected to be open by fall

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

Fenton is about to become the “best dressed” city in the tri-county area, with a new retail development featuring shoes, cosmetics, clothing and jewelry, located between Target and Tractor Supply Company on Owen Road.

Ulta (cosmetics and a hair salon), Maurice’s (women’s clothing), Famous Footwear, Kay Jewelers and one unfulfilled space.

See RETAIL on 18A

Neighbors, officials at odds over trailer park

Neighbors of the Lake Pomenah Mobile Home Park have been urging officials to do something to improve the conditions of the park.

See Page 8A

Home on Spring Meadows Country Club destroyed by fire

Homeowner escapes without injury, likely cause of fire is electrical in nature.

See Page 15A

COMMENT OF THE WEEK

I WOULD LIKE to express my deepest appreciation to all veterans, past and present, and their families. To those who gave their life, you really are, and were, the Greatest Generation. Thank you to all patriots.
FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL

DAVE BROADWORTH
REaltOR

810-347-5354
HOMES@DAVEBROADWORTH.COM
daveinfenton@gmail.com
1032 N LEROY ST. | FENTON

WHAT IS YOUR HOME WORTH?
Visit http://fentonmihomevalues.com/

LINDEN

1115 N. Bridge St. | Linden,
4 bedroom » 2 bath » 2,546 sq. ft. » pool
$225,000

707 S. Adelaide St. | Fenton
4 bedroom » 2 bath » 1,462 sq. ft.
$134,900

8032 Torrey Rd. | Grand Blanc
3 bedroom » 1 bath » 1,200 sq. ft.
$130,000

11200 Vantage Pointe | Linden
4 bedroom » 4.5 bath » 3,800 sq.ft. » acreage
$650,000

13334 Buno Rd. | Milford
4 bedroom » 5.5 bath » 2,950 sq. ft. »10 Acres
$550,000

15339 Silver Ridge | Linden
3 bedroom » 3 bath » 2,558 sq. ft. »10 acres
$335,000

PENDING

6161 Pine Greek Crossing | Grand Blanc
4 bedroom » 2.5 bath » 2,480 sq. ft.
$240,000

121074 Parkin Ln. | Tyrone Twp.
4 bedroom » 3.5 bath » 2030 sq. ft. »Acreage
$350,000

Hartland Rd., Fenton
55 Acres Vacant Land
$250,000

SOLD

4336 Meadowbrook Ct. | Grand Blanc
$214,000

16187 River Ridge Trl. | Linden
$293,000

10068 Scenic Ridge Blvd. | Grand Blanc
$156,000

Visit http://fentonmihomevalues.com/
As school year ends, principals reflect on SENIOR PRANKS

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

Nason Haenlein, 18, leads the group of students out of the parking lot for their senior prank — riding lawn tractors to and from school. Those with zero-turn tractors popped wheelies while waiting for traffic to clear enough at the end of the day. In the tri-county area, pranks ranged from lawn tractors to “for sale” signs. Every Linden senior’s riding lawn tractor was adorned with an American flag.

Among the privileges that come with being a high school senior, like taking fewer end-of-the-year exams, getting out of school early, and having seniority over the rest of the school, seniors also get to attempt a prank that will hopefully make them go down in their school’s history.

Local schools are no exception.

This year, Linden High School seniors organized a last-minute prank where they drove lawn tractors to and from school. Approximately eight tractors of all shapes and sizes sat in the front row of the student parking lot on the south side of the high school throughout the school day.

After school, students gawked as they started the engines, creating a lot of noise in the parking lot. Nason Haenlein, 18, led the pack of tractors out of the lot, halting traffic for a few minutes.

A few years ago at Fenton High School, seniors placed a sign in front of the school that read “For Sale” with a number to call, said Doug Busch, interim superintendent of Fenton schools.

“The sign included the building telephone number for anyone interested in ‘buying’ the high school to call the main office,” he said. “I believe they also put the high school up ‘For Sale’ as a classified ad on Craigslist.”

Busch said this prank is a good example of smart, witty, and humorous joke that did not cause any damage or cleanup work.

“One of the most important things about a senior prank is that it does not cause damage, vandalism or result in students getting into trouble over a poor choice. As adults, we have a sense of humor, but cannot tolerate anything that is destructive or damages property,” he said.

The senior pranks that stand out are ones that are humorous and don’t cause any damage, he said.

See SENIOR PRANKS on 17A

Doug Busch
Fenton Area Public Schools interim superintendent

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

Integrated Vascular Vein Center of Michigan
1-877-771-VEIN
600 Health Park Blvd. Ste. G, Grand Blanc • 810.606.1660

One of the most important things about a senior prank is that it does not cause damage, vandalism or result in students getting into trouble over a poor choice.

Doug Busch
Fenton Area Public Schools interim superintendent
Say what you mean, mean what you say

I would respect politicians a lot more if they just said what they mean and owned it. A good example is the transgender bathroom debate.

State Sen. Tom Casperson (R-Escanaba) introduced a bill this week that would require students to use the bathroom corresponding to their body parts unless parents give written permission, in which case they could use a staff toilet or unisex bathroom. It’s pretty clear Casperson finds the whole idea of transgender students and their selfish need to go to the bathroom to be icky.

But of course he didn’t say that. Certain politicians seldom come right out and say what’s on their minds because they’re smart enough to realize that a lot of the time what’s on their minds sounds thoughtless, mean and small. Instead Casperson claimed his bill is — weirdly enough — primarily about parental rights: ‘The fact that they would allow a child to say, ‘I don’t want my mom and dad to know’ that they’re taking such a big leap in life ... is unacceptable.’

‘They’ is the state Board of Education, which is in the process of developing a voluntary policy to guide districts on how to make schools safe and supportive for gay and transgender students. (What an awful goal, right?)

The policy as outlined in a February memo isn’t specifically about the bathroom issue, nor does it talk about allowing or encouraging students to say, ‘I don’t want my mom and dad to know.’

In fact it doesn’t deal with parental notification or permission at all. What it says is: ‘The unique needs and concerns of each student should be addressed on a case-by-case basis with a student-centered approach that includes the ongoing engagement of the student, the parent/guardian, as appropriate, and school personnel ... per the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).’

It also says districts should provide appropriate and meaningful family engagement and support. Since parental acceptance and family support are key determinants of LGBT student health, student support teams, staff, and community partners should provide resources to help families and students locate information, affirming counseling, and support services.

And it also mentions this: ‘Research indicates that LGBTQ students, nationally and in Michigan, are targeted with physical violence and experience a hostile school environment more frequently than their non-LGBTQ peers.’

As the state board is ‘committed to promoting a safe, supportive, and inclusive learning environment for all students.’

Casperson says his bill is about the well-being of all students, too, or he put it, ‘I’m concerned about all the kids.’

But that’s obviously not true. By all students, he clearly means those who aren’t transgender, since his bill — as I mentioned — says that even with parental permission transgender students could only use a unisex bathroom, single bathroom or staff bathroom.

And for off-campus activities students could only use facilities that correspond with their biological sex.

In other words, transgender kids won’t be treated equally at all. But of course he doesn’t come right out and say that. They seldom do.

Hotlines

Last week, the Republicans in Congress passed a military funding bill that will increase spending for more helicopters, jet fighters, ships and equipment, also to increase the number of troops and to increase pay for our soldiers. Of course, Obama was against a lot of it. Who’s really keeping us safe? It’s the Republicans.

The book, ‘The Bible,’ the basic instruction book before leaving earth, the word of God. The truth. I think if you take a look at current world events, you will absolutely have to agree that the Bible is accurate.

When Hillary was secretary of state she made a deal with Russia for the U.S. to sell them a good portion of our uranium. For that, the Clinton Foundation received $1.75 million from the company that closed the deal. If Liberals vote for her, they found somebody even worse than Barack and that is hard to do.

I quote from the internet that 36 of our states have no legal requirements for gun registration, no permit necessary to purchase or own a firearm. Michigan is one of the smart ones. Great.

Apples to oranges. First of all, 90 percent of fast-food workers are part time and don’t even come close to $31,000 per year. Secondly, an army private makes $18,000 per year plus gets free housing, free food, free clothing, and free transportation.

IF YOU DO not get the Wednesday Tri-County Issues, you are missing so much of your town’s news. It’s the best deal in town and everyone should get it to stay informed.

Can anyone please tell us where the headstone went that was thrown at them because a group of stupid idiots want to play stupid?

Watching the so-called protests in New Mexico, I believe they should be dealt with as criminals. It has nothing to do with Donald Trump. Why should police officers have rocks thrown at them because a group of stupid people want to play stupid?

Barack Obama said that Donald, the next president, is not qualified to pick the next Supreme Court justice. He picked Elena Kagan, who was his attorney, and was paid over a million dollars to hide just about everything in his past. She sure is qualified.

It’s a shame with all the chemicals being poured into the environment that residents still allow spraying for mosquitoes. Save the bees — no more spraying.

Who would you want to give the commencement speech at your graduation?

تروحيل النص إلى النص البسيط

I would respect politicians a lot more if they just said what they mean and owned it. A good example is the trans-gender bathroom debate.

State Sen. Tom Casperson (R-Escanaba) introduced a bill this week that would require students to use the bathroom corresponding to their body parts unless parents give written permission, in which case they could use a staff toilet or unisex bathroom.

It’s pretty clear Casperson finds the whole idea of transgender students and their selfish need to go to the bathroom to be icky.

But of course he didn’t say that. Certain politicians seldom come right out and say what’s on their minds because they’re smart enough to realize that a lot of the time what’s on their minds sounds thoughtless, mean and small.

Instead Casperson claimed his bill is — weirdly enough — primarily about parental rights: “The fact that they would allow a child to say, ‘I don’t want my mom and dad to know’ that they’re taking such a big leap in life ... is unacceptable.”

“THEY” is the state Board of Education, which is in the process of developing a voluntary policy to guide districts on how to make schools safe and supportive for gay and transgender students. (What an awful goal, right?)

The policy as outlined in a February memo isn’t specifically about the bathroom issue, nor does it talk about allowing or encouraging students to say, “I don’t want my mom and dad to know.”

In fact it doesn’t deal with parental notification or permission at all. What it says is: “The unique needs and concerns of each student should be addressed on a case-by-case basis with a student-centered approach that includes the ongoing engagement of the student, the parent/guardian, as appropriate, and school personnel ... per the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).”

It also says districts should provide appropriate and meaningful family engagement and support. Since parental acceptance and family support are key determinants of LGBT student health, student support teams, staff, and community partners should provide resources to help families and students locate information, affirming counseling, and support services.

And it also mentions this: “Research indicates that LGBTQ students, nationally and in Michigan, are targeted with physical violence and experience a hostile school environment more frequently than their non-LGBTQ peers” and that the state board is “committed to promoting a safe, supportive, and inclusive learning environment for all students.”

Casperson says his bill is about the well-being of all students, too, or he put it, “I’m concerned about all the kids.”

But that’s obviously not true. By all students, he clearly means those who aren’t transgender, since his bill — as I mentioned — says that even with parental permission transgender students could only use a unisex bathroom, single bathroom or staff bathroom.

And for off-campus activities students could only use facilities that correspond with their biological sex.

In other words, transgender kids won’t be treated equally at all. But of course he doesn’t come right out and say that. They seldom do.
Fenton’s ‘best kept secret’ seeks new members

The Silver Lake Ski Club performs every Tuesday during the summer.

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

The Silver Lake Ski Club is looking for new members to join the well-known local ski club for this summer season.

The club is known for their ski show performances on Silver Lake where the public is invited to watch skiers perform tricks. The park is located at 16100 Jennings Road off Silver Parkway in Fenton.

Joe Durocher, vice president of operations, said the club currently has 32 members, not including their junior team.

The club puts on ski shows every Tuesday starting in June on Silver Lake. The Silver Lake Ski Club has competed in national tournaments. They perform every Tuesday starting in June on Silver Lake.

The 2016 ski season will be dedicated to Gerry Durocher and Brady Morton, former members who passed away last year.

“Both were tragic losses,” Durocher said. “After both of them died, we took a break from competing in last year’s central, regional, and national tournaments. This year we will be competing again.”

The club’s Fourth of July show, will be held Friday, July 1 at 6:30 p.m. It will be the start of the 2016 Fenton Freedom Festival.

“We do tricks as well as perform a full production style show on land and water,” he said.

The team is currently looking for new men and women who know how to water ski to join the team.

“We actually have people that move to Fenton or Linden because of the ski team. Not every city has one,” Durocher said. “After both of them died, we took a break from competing in last year’s central, regional, and national tournaments. This year we will be competing again.”

More information about the Silver Lake Ski Club can be found on its website at silverlakeskiclub.com or on its Facebook page “Silver Lake Ski Club.”

Memorial Day
Sale
Going on now

HONORING MILITARY SERVICEMEN & WOMEN WITH A $1,000* DISCOUNT TOWARD THE PURCHASE OR LEASE OF AN ELIGIBLE NEW FORD VEHICLE.

2016 Leases 0% APR financing for 60 Months

- 2016 Ford Fusion SE FWD w/Tech Package
  $149/mo* 24 Months
  $2,179 Cash Due at Signing

- 2016 Ford Explorer XLT 4x2
  $269/mo* 24 Months
  $3,088 Cash Due at Signing

- 2016 Ford Edge SEL FWD
  $229/mo* 24 Months
  $2,699 Cash Due at Signing

- 2016 Ford F-150 XLT SC 4x4
  $239/mo* 24 Months
  $3,699 Cash Due at Signing

- 2016 Ford Escape SE FWD
  $149/mo* 24 Months
  $1,949 Cash Due at Signing

- 2016 Ford Focus SE Automatic
  $139/mo** 24 Months
  $1,429 Cash Due at Signing

* Restrictions apply. See dealer for details. * Not all lessees will qualify for Ford Credit Red Carpet Low Mileage Lease. Payments vary. Residency restrictions apply. Take new retail delivery from dealer stock by 5/31/16. See dealer for complete details.

Mark Carpenter, MA
Licensed Professional Counselor

Life coaching is for everyone. It brings hope back into the lives of teens and adults.

- Depression
- Anxiety
- Grief and Loss
- Court Appointed Counseling
- Teen Counseling/Coaching

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.

810.282.4093
mcarpenter@vaelife coaching.com
www.vaelife coaching.com

North Towne Professional Centre, 14165 N. Fenton Rd., Suite 104K, Fenton
What do they have in common?
By Sally Rummel
news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

What do the Gettysburg Address and Memorial Day have in common?
The roots of the Memorial Day holiday are in the words that Abraham Lincoln made so famous, not in May, but in November 1863. These words pay homage to the ultimate sacrifice made by those fighting for their cause in the deadliest conflict ever in American history—the Civil War.

The words of the Gettysburg Address should remind all Americans to remember those who gave “the last full measure” of devotion, just as President Lincoln did in those darkest days of the Civil War. . . . “that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain—that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom—and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.”

But, in a larger sense, we can not dedicate—we can not consecrate—we can not hallow—this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here.

It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us—that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion—that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain—that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom—and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.

Gettysburg Address 1863 and Memorial Day 2016

What do they have in common?

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

What do the Gettysburg Address and Memorial Day have in common?
The roots of the Memorial Day holiday are in the words that Abraham Lincoln made so famous, not in May, but in November 1863. These words pay homage to the ultimate sacrifice made by those fighting for their cause in the deadliest conflict ever in American history—the Civil War.

The words of the Gettysburg Address should remind all Americans to remember those who gave “the last full measure” of devotion, just as President Lincoln did in those darkest days of the Civil War. . . . “that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain—that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom—and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.”

The Gettysburg Address, so powerful in its brevity with only 272 words, was delivered by President Lincoln on Nov. 19, 1863 on the battlefield near Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. The war had been long, people were tired, and the previous speaker was Edward Everett, a congressman, educator and diplomat. He spoke for two hours, followed by Lincoln’s speech, which was only about 1 percent of Everett’s in length.

Lincoln’s passionate words so represented the spirit and purposes of all such commemorations that it has been committed to the memory of almost every school child throughout the generations since 1863.

Ten U.S. historical events every American should know

• Assassination of Abraham Lincoln
• The Louisiana Purchase
• The Manhattan Project
• The Vietnam War
• Death of Osama bin Laden
• Assassination of John F. Kennedy
• The American Revolutionary War
• The Civil War
• September 11, 2001
• Apollo 11

Source: ListVerse.com
‘First Fridays’ to provide art fun in Fenton

Summer kickoff of special events is June 3

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

A new family friendly series of art events, “Arts Are The Heart” begins in Fenton this summer, with First Fridays kicking off on Friday, June 3.

The June 3 event will be held from 3 to 7 p.m. at the Fenton Community & Cultural Center, presented by the Lakes Area Arts Council. An Art Camp for kids ages 5 and up will be held to create “Artsy Masks” from 3 to 5:45 p.m. A $10 fee is charged for supplies, and advanced registration is required at www.lakesareaarts council.org.

In addition to the camp, “Creation Stations” will be set up on the FCC front lawn for creative movement and dance, photo opps and selfie frames, touch an instrument, face painting, live statues, plein air painters, Lego station free-builds and interactive story telling. “Heart Art” from area schools will be on display at the FCC, and performing local musicians, including the Fenton High School Orchestra Jazz Group, will also participate.

“We’re also very appreciative of the $10,000 grant from The Hagerman Foundation that has made this summer art series program.”

Joan Horcha
President of the Lakes Area Arts Council

“We are thrilled to have so many volunteers working on this,” said Joan Horcha, president of the Lakes Area Arts Council. “We’re also very appreciative of the $10,000 grant from The Hagerman Foundation that has made this summer art series possible.”

The other First Fridays will include art projects, exhibits, music, literary and performing arts, and an opportunity for families to view and enjoy art. These events are free and open to the public, with the following themes:

• Friday, July 1. “Patriotic Art and Music: Art.”

Another huge art event this summer will be ArtWalk on Saturday, July 9, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. with an Opening Reception on Friday, July 8, from 7 to 9 p.m.

For more information, visit www.lakesareaarts council.org or email: fentonartwalk@gmail.com.

HOT LINE CONTINUED

YOU COMMEND HIM for his service, then criticize him by suggesting he gets free room, board, clothing, and medical, you’re uninformed. Nothing is free; everything is earned. If you want to include all benefits as your total military income, then also include all work performed — 14-hour days, 24-hour shifts, field exercises, deployments, etc.

IF YOU THINK service members get free room and board, clothing, and medical, you’re uninformed. Nothing is free; everything is earned. If you want to include all benefits as your total military income, then also include all work performed — 14-hour days, 24-hour shifts, field exercises, deployments, etc.

I BEG TO differ with the post saying service men and women get free room, board, clothing, etc. My son serves and has to pay for meals he does not eat, and pay for his uniforms and some accessories. It is disgraceful that anyone in uniform should have to pay for any of these things. Initiate pay cuts for all politicians.

IT’S SHAMEFUL THE way some continue criticizing him by suggesting he gets free room, board, clothing, etc. My son serves and has to pay for meals he does not eat, and pay for his uniforms and some accessories. It is disgraceful that anyone in uniform should have to pay for any of these things. Initiate pay cuts for all politicians.

YOUR FIREWORKS NEEDS

FENTON

NOW OPEN!

17315 SILVER LAKE PARKWAY
(next to Dunhams)

OPEN YEAR ROUND FOR ALL OF YOUR FIREWORKS NEEDS
Neighbors, officials at odds over trailer park

Township says all properties are in compliance

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

Fenton Twp. — For more than two months, residents living on neighboring streets have attended Fenton Township meetings hoping to improve the living conditions at the Lake Ponemah Mobile Home Park.

They’re complaining of blighted properties in the park, roofs caving in, trash and other factors they said harm living conditions.

“My concern is when we first talked to you about the situation with the trailer park, we really had high hopes that we would get at least the main street cleaned up; the debris, the blight between the trailers,” said Terry Garfield, who lives on Eastview Drive, next to the mobile home park. He has attended multiple meetings with his wife, Sharon.

At previous meetings, residents said there is crime, drugs, junk left on people’s lots, and the dumpster continuously overflows.

Garfield said there was a frenzy for the first few weeks to get things cleaned up when they first went to the township, but now it’s bad again. He said the ordinance enforcement officer, Tom Hosie, wasn’t doing everything he could.

“It is really not possible to at least get that cleaned up?” he said at the May 16 meeting.

Supervisor Bonnie Mathis said Hosie has been doing everything he can and “We are doing what we can do.”

She said neighboring residents want the whole park cleaned up so it doesn’t look like it does now. “That’s going to be almost impossible,” Mathis said.


Graves, Brown, and Horn saw the conditions and shared their thoughts. (see sidebar)

Hosie said the land is zoned for a mobile home park, and that some people who live near the park prefer it wouldn’t be there.

“It’s being appropriately used,” he said. When they get complaints, he talks about it with the residents to resolve the issue. If the violation isn’t handled in two weeks, he issues a warning.

Mathis said people exaggerate the conditions of the park, and think certain ordinances are being violated when they actually aren’t. She said many residents who live in the park are proud of their homes.

“You’ll walk in there and you’ll see gardens.”

Mathis said that when there is a complaint about something in the trailer park, the problem is handled. The owner has been in contact and has complied with the township’s requests.

See TRAILER PARK on 20A

The Lake Ponemah Mobile Home Park on Eastview Drive in Fenton Township has been the subject of nuisance complaints from residents living on neighboring streets.
Quick action led to arrest of school shooting plot suspects

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

Argentine Twp. — Two Argentine police officers and one detective were recognized Monday at the Argentine Township Board of Trustees meeting for their work in stopping the alleged school shooting plot at Linden High School last fall.

Police Chief Dan Allen read a press release congratulating and thanking Det. Doug Fulton and officers Paul Brooks and Tony Matthews for their work on the case.

School Resource Officer Paul Brooks came across the school shooting threat in October 2015. Argentine police coordinated with the FBI, and more undercover officers were put in place.

The officers obtained more information and apprehended the three suspects, Ryan Stevens, 18, Lamarr Dukes, 15, and Kody Brewer, 15. Brooks and Fulton located Stevens at an undisclosed location in the city of Linden, and he was placed into custody. They were able to obtain more information from there and connected the two other suspects to the case.

Officers also discovered how specific people were targeted.

Allen said the actions taken on the first day, the coordination with the officers at the school, the apprehension of the three suspects, and the discovered information merits the awards for Fulton, Brooks, and Matthews.

They were each given a certificate and a round of applause from audience and board members.

Allen also honored Jeff Mulnix, a new officer, for putting himself through the police academy and graduating the top of his class, and receiving an award from the Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement Standards, the governing body for Michigan officers.
MILITARY
Continued from Front Page
won’t be in it.”
According to military.com, the following are the top 10 things you need to understand and consider while you prepare to meet with a recruiter:

1. MOTIVATION: If you are considering the military, it is your responsibility to be motivated to serve your country. Your motivation to serve should be a calling to join a profession that offers invaluable experiences and skills. To join the military because you have nothing better to do could lead to a miserable experience.

2. FITNESS: Make sure you understand that going to boot camp with the mindset that it is the military’s job to get you in shape is going to lead to failure, injury or being dropped from a program. You need to be able to surpass the minimum fitness standards before you sign with the recruiter. This means finding out what the fitness requirements are and practicing those. Typical weight loss goals to meet military standards are in the 15 to 20-plus pound range these days. Get in shape now, not a few weeks before joining.

3. INITIATIVE: Taking the initiative is a skill you will be taught when in the military, but you can start practicing now. Research important things about your future profession. Where could you be living after basic training? How long are the deployments? Learn the geography of the area you are likely to deploy to and its customs and culture.

Learn about current events around the world that may affect your potential travel. Sometimes you will be asked to do something, and you will have no idea how to accomplish that task. But you will have to figure it out. You may also have to do things without people telling you to do them. That is taking the initiative. Read a great book on many military reading lists, “Message to Garcia.”

4. RECRUITER: Call your local recruiter and make an appointment to meet. Sometimes getting him or her on the phone may be difficult, but try to speak with someone to arrange an appointment. Walking in cold turkey results in you leaving to track down your Social Security number and card, birth certificate, other IDs, transcripts from high school and college, and more. Know what you need to bring and what you want to do in the military before visiting. Going in and asking what you qualify for could place you in a bad position. Do your homework and do not leave it up to the recruiter to find a job for you.

5. MEDICAL RECORDS: The military will screen you medically, but if you have any prior surgeries, broken bones, or major illnesses, they need to know about it and file the proper paperwork as some of these may require medical waivers. Know the disqualifying ailments. Make copies of all your records when you submit them.

6. ASVAB (Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery): Learn how to take this test. Take a few practice tests at www.official-asvab.com and read a book on tips and strategies for taking the ASVAB. There are many ASVAB study guides in bookstores and online. Your score on this test can determine where you will live and what you will be doing in the military.

7. TROUBLE: Your criminal record will be investigated in a background investigation, and it can be an issue in your attempt to join depending upon what you have been arrested for. Inform the recruiters of any arrests. They will find out one way or another and an omission on your part may be detrimental to progressing further.

8. DISCIPLINE: If you have issues with dealing with authority, you must know that you will be disciplined and forced to change your way of doing things, especially in basic training. Learn to suck it up, learn from the negative feedback and move on. Soon, your deeds will be what separate you from your peers, which can lead to speedy advancement within the ranks. But you have to do your time at the bottom.

9. TRAVEL: Expect to be gone from home and family while training and deploying throughout the year to just about anywhere in the world. There are hundreds of bases around the globe.

10. EDUCATION AND SKILLS: The experience you have in the military will shape your future careers. You will learn how to react quickly during high stress and life and death situations, and rely on your training to help people through traumatic events.

There are many educational opportunities available in the military from occupational training courses to full college tuition paid in undergraduate and graduate programs.

Choosing a branch
For some the decision is easy because they want to follow in the footsteps of parents and grandparents. Many others want to follow in the footsteps of parents and grandparents. Do your homework. This is your future profession and possibly even your future family. Take the time to educate yourself on all the pros and cons of each branch. This is your future. Take the time to educate yourself on all the pros and cons of each branch.

Once you have considered these factors, and perhaps more of your own, you should be able to decide which branch is right for you.
Silver Lake - Isle of Bordeaux
9371 Grand Summit, Fenton
$1,599,999
2+ ACRES, 4 BEDROOMS, 3.5 BATHROOMS, 10,000+ SQ. FT., 7 FIREPLACES & IN-GROUND POOL

16215 Grand View Rd, Fenton
$1,149,000
76’ FRONTAGE ON SILVER LAKE, 5 BEDROOMS, 4.5 BATHROOMS & 4,700+ SQ. FT. WITH WALKOUT

Lake Fenton
13507 Haddon St, Fenton
$949,999
150’ FRONTAGE ON LAKE FENTON, 5 BEDROOMS, 4.5 BATHROOMS & 6,000+ SQ. FT. WITH WALKOUT

Lobdell Lake
16320 Knobhill Dr, Linden
$924,999
94’ FRONTAGE ON LOBDELL LAKE, 3 BEDROOMS, 3.5 BATHROOMS & 4,707 FINISHED SQ. FT.

High Grove
8425 Grovemont, Grand Blanc
$799,999
5 BEDROOMS, 4 FULL, 2 HALF BATHROOMS, 7,069 SQ. FT. WITH FINISHED WALKOUT BASEMENT

10 Acres
6333 McCandlish, Grand Blanc
$750,000
10 ACRES, 5 BEDROOMS, 4 FULL, 2 HALF BATHS & 8,000+ FINISHED SQ. FT., TRANQUIL GARDENS
Since 2011 John Wentworth has been the #1 RE/MAX realtor in Genesee County. John puts marketing first and will blow your past real estate experiences away! Each home is unique, therefore John customizes a marketing plan for each listing. He is constantly working to improve and excel over the competition, bringing you the most innovative marketing, exposure, negotiating tactics and hands on approach to listing your home.

Professional Photos | Visual Tour | Drone Videos | Staging | Print Marketing | Mega Open Houses | Great Communication & Much More!

Interested in Buying?

The John Wentworth Group has a team of professionals dedicated to educating buyers and sellers about the current housing market. Our team of buyers agents are committed to acting quickly in this fast paced housing market to allow our buyers the ultimate advantage. By working with one of our agents you will be prepared to make a strong offer and be coached through the process so that the transaction can go smoothly.

Call The John Wentworth Group and take advantage of our dedicated buyers agents! (810) 955-6600
Home on Linden golf course destroyed by fire

Homeowner escapes without injury, cause of fire is likely electrical

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

A home on the 14th hole of Spring Meadows Country Club in Linden was destroyed by fire on Tuesday, May 24.

Numerous fire departments were dispatched to the scene after the 911 call came in shortly after 3 p.m. Linden Fire Chief Brian Will said with so many of the area fire departments using paid volunteer firefighters, several departments were requested to obtain enough manpower since many of the firefighters have other full-time jobs.

Will responded immediately to the home in the 1300 block of Meadow Green Lane and police were already on scene telling him that the roof was melting.

After talking to the homeowner, who escaped without injury, Will said she had been cleaning out the attic and bringing items down to the main floor of the ranch-style home. Because of the warm outside temperatures, the attic was warm already and she went downstairs where it was cooler.

While she was on the main floor, she told the fire chief that she heard popping sounds above. She went to investigate and realized the attic was on fire.

Assisting Linden City, were fire departments from Fenton City, North Oakland County Fire Authority, Grand Blanc City and the townships of Argentine, Fenton, Gaines and Mundy. Linden Fire Department was on scene until approximately 7 p.m.

The fire chief said a crew returned briefly at 8:30 p.m. when they learned some mulch near the home ignited.

The fire chief said the homeowner had insurance and that her insurance provider is contributing to this story.

Multiple departments led by the Linden Fire Department battle the blaze in the 1300 block of Meadow Green Lane in Linden on Tuesday. The fire destroyed the ranch-style home, but no one was injured.

Will believes the fire was electrical in nature above. She went to investigate and realized the fire chief that she heard popping sounds above. She went to investigate and realized the attic was on fire.

A home on the 14th hole of Spring Meadows Country Club in Linden was destroyed by fire on Tuesday, May 24. The fire chief said a crew returned briefly at 8:30 p.m. when they learned some mulch near the home ignited.

The fire chief said the homeowner had insurance and that her insurance provider is contributing to this story.

Multiple departments led by the Linden Fire Department battle the blaze in the 1300 block of Meadow Green Lane in Linden on Tuesday. The fire destroyed the ranch-style home, but no one was injured.

Homeowner escapes without injury, cause of fire is likely electrical

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

Multiple departments led by the Linden Fire Department battle the blaze in the 1300 block of Meadow Green Lane in Linden on Tuesday. The fire destroyed the ranch-style home, but no one was injured.

Homeowner escapes without injury, cause of fire is likely electrical

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

Multiple departments led by the Linden Fire Department battle the blaze in the 1300 block of Meadow Green Lane in Linden on Tuesday. The fire destroyed the ranch-style home, but no one was injured.
Need a Student Loan?

Just Ask.

- Competitive Interest Rates and with good grades, get even lower rates.
- 1% Interest Rate Reduction once you repay 10% of the loan.
- No Cosigner Required for college Juniors and Seniors. Creditworthy students can apply on their own.
- Apply Online at dortonline.org/studentloans

We are awarding five scholarships in the amount of $1,000 each to graduating high school seniors or current students enrolled full-time in a college or university.

For more information, visit dortonline.org/scholarship

Police & Fire Report

DON'T BE SCAMMED — POLICE NEVER COLLECT FOR THE IRS

Holly Police Chief Michael Story is warning residents of a new scam. He said a Holly Township resident recently received a phone call, which turned out to be scam. The caller ID identified the caller as HPD (not Holly police) with their general number of 634-8221. The police chief said the resident was scammed out of several thousand dollars after sending money via Western Union and another outlet. The amount was exactly what the resident owed to the IRS, which was filed through Turbo Tax. The unknown caller, with a Hindi accent, identified himself as Officer Michael Sinclair and he said he was with the Holy (not Holly) PD. He said he was collecting for the IRS and directed the resident how to make payment. Since the payment was made, the resident has been getting more calls demanding more money or the police would come arrest them. The resident eventually hung up and called police. The police chief said, “Obviously no police department collects for the IRS and at no time does the IRS accept payments in that manner. My concern is that my PD’s number and someone claiming to be an officer here are conducting these activities.” The chief suggests that anyone receiving such a phone call to hang up.

News Briefs

PATRIOT WALL TO SHOW SUPPORT FOR OUR TROOPS

The Linden Arts Council in conjunction with the Linden VFW will sponsor its second annual Patriot Wall on the Union Block on Memorial Day. The unveiling will be at 9:30 a.m., before the Memorial Day Parade on Monday, May 30. The banner across the wall will invite all to write a message of support for our troops serving in the Middle East. All are invited to participate in this event. The banner will be later be removed and sent to Afghanistan.

Each year as Senior Awards night approaches for Lake Fenton High School, anxiety rolls in for me. It’s a very emotional and hectic time for my family. We’re in the midst of planning our annual golf outing fundraiser and a week or so before each year’s senior awards night, my husband, Jeff, and I meet with our committee of school officials who select the winner of the Brad Stone scholarship, which is in memory of our son. It’s hard to believe Brad would be 28 if he were alive today. He died in 2000 when he was just 12 from complications of an asthma attack. Each year as I put together a speech about the latest scholarship, I try to keep it simple, as I know I will struggle when I’m standing at the podium. On Wednesday, as soon as I heard Principal Todd Reynolds announce my name to the audience filled with seniors and their families, that rush of emotion hit me again. I try to stay composed. I really do. Sometimes I do pretty well and sometimes I fail miserably. As soon as I said Brad’s name, I felt my voice quivering and a huge lump in my throat. Brad’s legacy and this scholarship mean so much to my family and me. I glanced at my husband, seated in the back row with my mom, and after taking a deep breath, I finished my speech and announced this year’s winners. Twenty seniors applied for Brad’s $10,000 college scholarship. Our committee ultimately chose two seniors — Mason Rinks and Allison Muenzer. They each receive a $5,000 college scholarship. I’d like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all of the seniors who took the time to apply. Their essays, especially those who knew Brad’s story, always tear at our heartstrings. I’d also like to thank Duanita Elford, the high school counselor, who works so hard with these students and announces this event. It’s a very special evening. The Stone family finds much comfort in providing these scholarships in Brad’s memory to such incredible young men and women.
Congratulations!
on her recent graduation from
Michigan State University
on May 6, 2016 with a degree in
Communication Arts &
Science/Advertising.
Love, Mom, dad, kara, todd,
brooke & paisley

To have your insert/flyer viewable
online, call Gail Grove at 810-433-6822

• Alpine Marketplace
• Arbys
• Auto Value
• CVS Pharmacy
• Gus Macker
• Holly Foods
• Rite Aid
• Sears Hometown Stores
• Target
• VG’s
• Walmart

To have your insert/flyer viewable
online, call Gail Grove at 810-433-6822

Senior Pranks
Continued from Page 3A

Lake Fenton seniors have done crea-
tive things on their last day, as well. Who
could forget some students who live on farms
driving their massive farm equip-
ment to school or the time when several
seniors, donning their caps and gowns,
rode their bicycles to school and right
through the front door of the building? 
Michelle Shepherd, administrative
assistant of Holly High School, said the
senior pranks their students pull off are
“honestly pretty good.”

“They zip tie
derclassmen
lockers, they
move furniture,”
she said. One year
the seniors moved
all of the weight
room equipment
into the wrestling
room and set eve-
rything up.

Shepherd said students also have
changed a classroom’s furniture and once
filled a teacher’s classroom full of balloons.

Some senior pranks might go too far and
make national news. (See page B3)

Some seniors pull off memorable pranks
that the class remembers for years after.

One local resident, Linda Foreman, said,
“One of my teachers when I lived in Con-
necticut was huge. He drove a VW Bug.
We were always amazed at how Mr. Yaggi
could get his immense bulk into that car.”

On the seniors’ last day, Foreman
said when Mr. Yaggi left the building he
couldn’t find his car.

“Some seniors fill
classrooms with
balloons, some put
a teacher’s car on
top of a building, and
some drive their lawn
tractors to school for
their senior prank.”

“Some seniors fill
classrooms with
balloons, some put
a teacher’s car on
top of a building, and
some drive their lawn
tractors to school for
their senior prank.

Some seniors fill
classrooms with
balloons, some put
a teacher’s car on
top of a building, and
some drive their lawn
tractors to school for
their senior prank.

Some seniors fill
classrooms with
balloons, some put
a teacher’s car on
top of a building, and
some drive their lawn
tractors to school for
their senior prank.

Some seniors fill
classrooms with
balloons, some put
a teacher’s car on
top of a building, and
some drive their lawn
tractors to school for
their senior prank.

Some seniors fill
classrooms with
balloons, some put
a teacher’s car on
top of a building, and
some drive their lawn
tractors to school for
their senior prank.

Some seniors fill
classrooms with
balloons, some put
a teacher’s car on
top of a building, and
some drive their lawn
tractors to school for
their senior prank.

Some seniors fill
classrooms with
balloons, some put
a teacher’s car on
top of a building, and
some drive their lawn
tractors to school for
their senior prank.

Some seniors fill
classrooms with
balloons, some put
a teacher’s car on
top of a building, and
some drive their lawn
tractors to school for
their senior prank.

Some seniors fill
classrooms with
balloons, some put
a teacher’s car on
top of a building, and
some drive their lawn
tractors to school for
their senior prank.

Some seniors fill
classrooms with
balloons, some put
a teacher’s car on
top of a building, and
some drive their lawn
tractors to school for
their senior prank.

Some seniors fill
classrooms with
balloons, some put
a teacher’s car on
top of a building, and
some drive their lawn
tractors to school for
their senior prank.

Some seniors fill
classrooms with
balloons, some put
a teacher’s car on
top of a building, and
some drive their lawn
tractors to school for
their senior prank.
RETAIL
Continued from Front Page

realtor space are now being built as one 20,000-square-foot retail space, subdivided into five stores. All the stores are attached, but separated into five separate retail spaces.

“They’re working on the roof now, then will be getting the interiors done,” said Mike Reilly, Fenton’s building and zoning administrator.

Ashmark Construction of West Bloomfield broke ground on the project on Nov. 30, 2015, after a year and a half of delays. “They had to wait for commitments from tenants, then there were construction delays over the winter in laying masonry,” said Reilly.

The project is now moving forward quickly, with a construction completion date of September. “Everyone seems pretty excited,” said Brent Bogle, construction superintendent for Ashmark.

When the building is completed, Ashmark will hand the space over to the tenants to build out the interior retail space. “We’re doing all the interiors except for Kay Jewelers,” said Bogle. “Kay’s is using their own contractor.”
Fenton's Relay for Life set for Saturday, June 4

New venue, events and 12-hour format add more excitement to this year’s event

By Sally Rummel

Just about everyone has been touched by cancer at some point during their lives, either themselves or a family member. Brenda Swallow, event leader for the American Cancer Society’s Relay for Life in Fenton, lost both of her parents to lung cancer at the young age of 66. She has been extremely passionate about Relay for Life and its ability to help cancer patients with resources and services, as well as fund research to find a cure.

This year’s Relay is set for Saturday, June 4, from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. at the old Fenton Cinema lot now owned by Creative Foam, at 291 North Alley Dr.

Swallow’s husband is David Swallow, president of Creative Foam, who didn’t hesitate in donating the use of his company’s lot for this year’s Relay, in order to make the event more financially successful.

Also new this year is a 12-hour time frame, instead of a 24-hour marathon, which has been in place since Relay started in 1985 with the theme, “Cancer Never Sleeps.”

“We’re trying it this year,” said Swallow. This year’s schedule of events includes a Silent Auction, from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m., a Survivor Ceremony/Luncheon, Kids Zone, Relay Princess Competition for girls ages 4 to 18, Caregiver Ceremony/Dessert Reception and a Luminaria Ceremony.

The Kids Zone, from 12:30 to 6 p.m., is a new event this year, sponsored by local Realtor Wade Pyles of Berkshire Hathaway Home Services Michigan. “Cancer has affected my family,” said Pyles, whose father died of the disease.

“Cancer has affected my family,” said Pyles. “It’s a family friendly event with lots going on. Everything you buy or participate in will help the cause.” She’s expecting about 400 participants at this year’s Relay.

Seventeen teams have already signed up, and teams and individuals can sign up, even on site at the event. “There’s no limit on team size or amount of funds raised,” said Swallow. “Every dollar counts.”

Music will also be a part of the day’s excitement with A Joyful Noise Music and Dance performances from 3 to 4 p.m. with E.R.E. bands and “Tie Dyed Giants” from 8 to 9 p.m.

PFLstonBuilds-a-Car Contest, Relay Olympics, scavenger hunt, DJ and more will all be part of the fun.

Traditional events including the Survivors Victory Lap at 12 noon and luncheon, as well as the Caregiver Celebration at 6 p.m. at Luminaria Ceremony at 9 p.m., are the cornerstone of Relay, but there’s also a lot of fun. “Relay is for everyone, not just for cancer survivors and families,” said Swallow. “It’s a family friendly event with lots going on. Everything you buy or participate in will help the cause.” She’s expecting about 400 participants at this year’s Relay.

“Relay is for everyone, not just for cancer survivors and families,” said Swallow. “Every dollar counts.”
CONGRATULATIONS
Sweetheart!

Bridgett Adams

I’m just beaming proud of you! It’s not the good grades, not the soccer scholarship or all the awards you won. It is the amazing young woman you’ve turned out to be. Your character shines like no other! You have taught me more about life than I could ever teach you. Cleveland State is very lucky to have you. You truly are my hero. Always remember to be VERUM UT TIBI.

Dad

HOT LINE CONTINUED
THE DDA DOES not understand that what’s good for businesses is not always good for the residents. They don’t want a small town; they want a ‘mall town.’

WELL, HERE WE go again. Anti-American protests outside another Trump rally. It’s shaping up to be a long summer of America hating, Mexican flag waving riots.

THIRTY RESIDENTS SPOKE against the DDA tearing down that house. You claim to have a lot more in favor of keeping it, but they didn’t show up to the meeting. Your precious house is coming down in favor of progress that the majority of this city supports. Get over it already.

THE OAKWOOD CEMETERY in Fenton is full of rich history. Well, let me guess, Dad.

DIRT. DUST. TRACKING.
Get Rid Of It NOW!
Blacktop Driveways
Commercial • Residential
10’x70’
pre-season special
$1750
Call Robert at
(810) 750-9760
or 800-297-0686
D.O.W. ASPHALT
FLINT
PAVING

TRAILER PARK
Continued from Page 8A
“We have people who buy a house near a horse farm and then they decide those horses smell terrible, the township should do something about that,” he said.

Tom Hosie
Fenton Township ordinance enforcement officer

This mobile home community has received attention from township officials, due to complaints from neighboring residents regarding the living conditions within the park.

State representatives visit
After seeing the conditions of the trailer park, the state officials shared some thoughts with neighboring residents.

State Rep. Joe Graves (R-Argentine Township) said, “Neighbors were all in agreement the park is now the cleanest it has been in years, but they are concerned it will be more blight as soon as attention is no longer on them. They also agreed the current compliance officer is doing a good job and spends a great deal of time in the park addressing issues.”

Graves told the residents that the township is doing all it can without raising standards.

“From what I have been told, many prospective buyers just turn around once they see the condition of the trailer park and cross the homes for sale on Eastview off their list,” he said.

Brown said the township only has authority for blight, but that doesn’t do enough to improve living conditions. He said cleaning up the park would require intervention from the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA).

“Pressure needs to be applied on this regulatory agency to see to it that the residents of the park have suitably living conditions and that the residents within the area don’t have to lose home values as a consequence of blighted conditions,” he said. “I wish the county health department had authority, but that has been removed by the state. So unfortunately, the county has its hands tied.”

THE RIGHT DIRECTION
FOR KIDS. FOR LIFE.
Camp Copneconic is one of the best camping experiences in the Midwest. We have something for everyone – from traditional camp activities to great adventures such as zip lining, water sports, rock wall climbing, horseback riding and much more.

10407 N. FENTON ROAD • FENTON, MI
☎ 810-629-5623 • CampCopneconic.org

REGISTER BY MAY 31 AND SAVE ON DAY & OVERNIGHT CAMPS

WEEKEND TIMES
tctimes.com
Can 911 locate you?

Many dispatchers have difficulty locating 911 callers in rural areas

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

If you call 911 from a landline, the dispatcher can locate you easily. If you call from a cell phone, your location might not transmit at all.

Chances of dispatching services getting a fix on your location if you call from a cell phone ranges from 10 to 95 percent, according to USA Today.

If you have an emergency in Livingston County or Fenton, your chances are promising.

The city of Fenton has its own dispatching unit, and rarely experiences this problem.

Dispatcher Supervisor Samantha Sturgis said, “We are fortunate and we aren’t in a very rural area so most of the time it’s just a matter of asking the caller where businesses or landmarks they are near.”

She said the dispatchers are familiar with the area and they use GPS coordinates.

“We always receive some sort of information when the call is answered. How good that information is can vary,” she said. Some calls come in with “phase 1” information, which means the address of the cell phone tower appears. With “phase 2” information, they receive latitude and longitude coordinates of the estimated location within 300 meters.

This all happens in a matter of seconds.

Genesee County Central Dispatching regularly receives more than 20,000 911 cell phone calls a month, according to genesecounty911.org.com.

Genesee County 911 Operations Manager Dave Plumb said about one in 10 emergency 911 cell phone calls have this problem. Of the approximate 20,000 cell phone calls they receive each month, about 2,000 calls don’t automatically transmit location.

“It depends on how they have their phone set up,” he said. As long as the caller has their GPS set up, operators should be able to locate them. “If they get in an accident, they go off the road, in any type of abduction situation...” he said. “It’s very important.”

Plumb said in most cases, callers have their GPS on, but it’s a problem with older phones because they might not have GPS capability.

At Livingston County dispatching, Deputy Director Chad Chewning said it is not a problem because their system is phase 2 compliant. This means when someone calls 911, it gives them the address of the tower, and then it sends the signal back to the phone and obtains the coordinates. The location is then mapped on the dispatcher’s screen. “If they’re in a house, we get the general area, but not the address per se,” he said.

He said cell phones manufactured after 2008 have to be compatible with GPS. “Occasionally you might have an issue if the tower is programmed wrong,” he said, adding that rarely happens.

Dead zones affecting cell phones can be an issue as well.

Another issue is accidental calls. Chewning said people often accidentally call 911 and then just hang up. “At most dispatch centers we have to call back. It ties up our operators,” he said.

Chewning said if someone accidentally calls 911, they should not hang up. Instead, let the operator know it was accidental.

Sturgis said some businesses often accidentally dial 911 because they press “9” to make an outside call.

She said the most important piece of information when calling 911 is your location. “If I have nothing but a location I can start with that, it gives me somewhere to send help to,” she said.

Sturgis said those who make a 911 call need to remember that dispatchers ask certain questions for certain reasons. “We have other concerns like who to send and the safety of our responders and we need your help to fill in the blanks,” she said. “Just because we’re still on the phone with you does not mean help isn’t coming. We’re often sending the help while still talking to you or we have a partner who is doing it across the room.”

The last thing people need to know when calling 911 is that your mailing address or school district doesn’t necessarily coincide with what jurisdiction you are in for emergency services.

“People in three counties have ‘Fenton’ as a mailing address but our 911 center and our police department only service the city of Fenton,” she said.

National tragedy

Dispatchers not being able to locate someone if they call from a cell phone has caused tragedies all over the U.S. Near Atlanta, Georgia, Shanell Anderson, 31, died in her SUV when she crashed into a pond and her doors were stuck. She called 911 but the call was routed to the wrong dispatching location in a neighboring county. Anderson knew where she was, but the dispatcher couldn’t find her location before the call ended and she died.

Dispatching units have been criticized for not being able to locate people in need of help, but Uber drivers can find customers anywhere, according to USA Today.

New rules were recently drafted by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and cell phone carriers requiring carriers to increase the number of cellphone calls to 911 that transmit location data. These new rules state that by 2017, 40 percent of cellphone calls to 911 must transmit location data. By 2021, that percentage increases to 80 percent, according to USA Today.

Landline calls in Fenton go directly to the dispatcher’s desk at the Fenton Police Department. Cell phone calls are directed through the assigned cell tower, which may not be the closest dispatch center.

Monday, May 29, 2016
Fenton girls track captures Metro crown

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

Linden — The Fenton varsity girls track team has dominated action all season long in the Metro League. So when it came to Wednesday’s Metro League Meet, it was fair to say the Tigers were the favorites. But the Tigers did more than win, they dominated. Fenton recorded five league championship performances and had 12 top-three efforts, leading the Tigers to the Metro meet title and the outright Metro League championship for the season. It was Fenton’s second in three years. “It means a lot,” said Fenton’s Madeline Hall, who took part in four of the Tigers’ five event titles.

Story continued online at tctimes.com

Blue Devils collect a share of GAC title

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

Lake Fenton — Sidney Sheyachich has known nothing but Genesee Area Conference Red Division championships during her career with the Lake Fenton varsity softball team. She experienced one more on Thursday.

Needing a split in order to earn at least a share of a GAC Red title against Durand, the Blue Devils won the first game of the doubleheader 8-6 in order to earn at least a co-championship. The Railroaders returned the favor, earning a share of the crown themselves, defeating the Blue Devils 10-6 in the second contest. The Blue Devils have won or shared five straight GAC Red titles.

“It’s kind of like unreal that we’ve been carrying this along for such a long time,” said Sheyachich, who was the winning pitcher and had two hits in the conference-clinching first-game victory. “It just means a lot. I’ve worked basically my whole life for this. I started when I was really young and it seems like an awesome thing. It’s hard to explain.”

The Blue Devils (20-10) started the opening game on fire, having each of their first six batters reach base safely with hits. CONTINUED ONLINE AT TCTIMES.

Fenton boys track team wins Metro meet

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

Linden — Thoughts of contending for a first-place finish at the Metro League meet a year ago were just that for the Fenton varsity boys track team, thought. The team ended up finishing in last place overall finishing behind Flushing, who finished second at the meet.

About a year later, the Tigers have made a complete 180-degree change. The Fenton Tigers dominated the Metro League meet held at Linden High School, scoring 172 points, or 57 more points than any other team, earning the Metro League Meet championship. The win meant the Tigers finished the season in second place overall finishing behind Flushing, who finished second at the meet. “This means a whole lot,” Fenton senior Jacob Lee said. “Since my freshman year we were always the underdogs and low in the standings. Last year we were actually last in the meet, so to go from last to first in one year is huge not only for me but for the entire team.” CONTINUED ONLINE AT TCTIMES.

Volunteers Needed!

3rd Annual
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.
Bronchos capture another Flint Metro League championship

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

Ortonville — Nobody understands how it feels to be a league champion better than the Holly varsity girls tennis team.

Since the 1982-83 school year, Holly has earned an outright or a co-Metro League championship all but two seasons. This season was one that ended up being the rule instead of the exception.

The Bronchos had every single one of their flights make it to the finals, and five won flight championships, earning Holly the Metro League title once again. Holly recorded 21 team points, which was four more than second-place Fenton, earning the Bronchos the league meet title and the overall league crown. Fenton finished second in the overall standings as well.

Holly’s depth was key with the Bronchos winning all four doubles flights. The only singles flight the Bronchos won was at No. 1 singles where freshman Taylor Barrett overcame a regional loss to Brandon’s Maya Campbell to win the league title. Barrett won the final match 7-5, 6-3.

“She was down 5-3 in the first set and rallied back to win 7-5, 6-3 and upset the regional champion,” Holly coach Will Sophiea said. “She had an outstanding day.”

Holly’s winning doubles flights were Sydney Renahan and Megan McReynolds at No. 1 doubles, Haley Crimmins 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. Pepper and Hild didn’t lose a game all day while Johnson and Lesperance lost just one game.

The Fenton Tigers had three flight champions. They were Katy Kurnz at No. 2 singles, Sylee Kiran at No. 3 singles and Delaney Hundzinski at No. 4 singles.

There were four matches involving the two area teams in the final.

where freshman Taylor Barrett overcame a regional loss to Brandon’s Maya Campbell to win the league title. Barrett won the final match 7-5, 6-3.

“She was down 5-3 in the first set and rallied back to win 7-5, 6-3 and upset the regional champion,” Holly coach Will Sophiea said. “She had an outstanding day.”

Holly’s winning doubles flights were Sydney Renahan and Megan McReynolds at No. 1 doubles, Haley Crimmins 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. Pepper and Hild didn’t lose a game all day while Johnson and Lesperance lost just one game.

The Fenton Tigers had three flight champions. They were Katy Kurnz at No. 2 singles, Sylee Kiran at No. 3 singles and Delaney Hundzinski at No. 4 singles.

There were four matches involving the two area teams in the final.