

# Communities focus on year of improvements

## Fenton plans year of construction

**By Vera Hogan**  
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To the Chinese, 2017 may be the year of the rooster, but it also may be the year that maneuvering around Fenton won't be anything to crow about. Construction, however, means progress and the sign of a healthier economy.

See **FENTON** on 7



Lynn Markland

## Holly Village to focus on economics

**By Vera Hogan**  
vhogan@tctimes.com; 810-433-6823  
The village of Holly has made great inroads in developing a vibrant downtown. The focus now is shifting to Saginaw Street westward and development opportunities along the way.

"Much of the business activity

See **HOLLY** on 8



Jerry Walker

## Linden plans host of improvements

**By Vera Hogan**  
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This year is looking bright for the city of Linden, which has a couple of exciting projects it's working on. "We look forward to receiving the comprehensive site assessment of the Linden Mills building, and moving forward with developing a

See **LINDEN** on 9



Paul Zelenak



**SENIOR LIVING**  
**PAGE 10**  
**HOW TO PREVENT MIDDLE-AGE SPREAD**

**Midweek Times**

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 4, 2017**

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## Slip sailing away

TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

On Dec. 22 and 23, 2016, iceboat sailors took to the Lake Fenton ice, the odd sight drawing spectators from nearby, who posted videos of the sailing on social media. See story and more photos on Page 6.

## Shapiro brings strong voice to sixth district

Local resident sworn in, appointed to finance committee, voted vice chair

**By Tim Jagielo**  
tjagiello@tctimes.com; 810-433-6795  
**Flint** — A local young professional suddenly has a significant say in how Genesee County spends its \$90 million in county dollars.

On Tuesday, Jan. 3, Drew Shapiro, 28, of Fenton, was sworn in before his parents, the sheriff and assorted elected officials, along with the rest of the Genesee County Board of Commissioners.

He also was appointed to lead the finance committee, and was

See **SHAPIRO** on 9



Drew Shapiro

## Ouch! New tax jacks up gas price

Revenue will be used to fix state's crumbling roads

**By Sharon Stone**  
ssstone@tctimes.com; 810-433-6786  
Filling up your car's gas tank will cost you more than this time

last week. The higher prices reflect a new fuel tax, which went into effect on Jan. 1.

The increase is part of a \$1.2-billion road-funding package that in addition to registration fees, hikes fuel taxes. Michigan's road funding package calls for \$600 million

See **GAS PRICE** on 8

TRI-COUNTY TIMES  
FILE PHOTO

Filling up at the pump became more expensive on Jan. 1, due to a road-funding package.



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COMMENT  
OF THE WEEK

“Each New Year each of us are given a brand new book containing 365 blank pages. Let's try to fill them with all the forgotten things from last year—the words we forgot to say, the love we forgot to show, and the charity we forgot to offer. Happy New Year!”



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# Local resident enjoys 'Pickers' experience

■ **John Lauve sells classic items to famous TV antique dealing duo**

By Tim Jagielo

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On Dec. 26, 2016, Holly's own John Lauve was featured on the popular History Channel reality show "American Pickers."

His segment was filmed on June 30, 2016 and took all day, from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

On that day, a few large vans could be seen from the street, featuring the business name "Antique Archeology," which is host Mike Wolfe's Iowa home base and shop.

Lauve's episode is titled "Risks and Rewards." It aired on the History Channel at 9 p.m., on Monday, Dec. 26, 2016. While the episode is available on historychannel.com, viewers need to be a subscriber to watch the video as of this report.

The event created a bit of excitement around Holly. The Holly Moose Lodge hosted a potluck dinner and screened the episode for guests when it aired on TV.

At the time the episode was filmed, the show's production team requested that details of the filming be kept a secret, and Lauve was unable to provide details either, based on contracts he had to sign to be part of the show. Now that the show has aired, Lauve is free to talk about the experience.

Lauve hadn't watched the show before, and said hosts Wolfe and Frank Fritz were "personable guys," and chuckled about how good they are at pressuring him to sell. He also said they were knowledgeable, and knew their business well.

He said it was a long day. The first members of the production team arrived at 8 a.m., and were on-site until 8 p.m. The hosts were there from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Lauve said it was interesting to see how



John Lauve of Holly (left) stands with hosts Mike Wolfe (center) and Frank Fritz during filming on June 30, 2016. One item he sold was the classic Mini Cooper behind them.

## SUMMARY

■ An episode of History Channel's "American Pickers" featuring a local man aired last Monday.

“They got some good deals. I didn't sell them everything they wanted.”

John Lauve  
Holly resident

the crew and hosts operated. While the episode makes it look as if the pickers were getting instructions on where to go from their home base, Lauve said that scouts had visited the site already to make sure there were enough items of interest at the home.

Around his home are classic cars, motorcycles and assorted automotive industry memorabilia. His father Henry Lauve was a concept artist for automakers Citroen and General Motors.

Lauve had saved all of his father's automotive corporate artwork from the 1940s. The show highlighted his father's involvement

with developing iconic General Motors vehicles like the Corvette, LeSabre, DeVille and Riviera, and his time on a special camouflage team to protect GM buildings from potential German bomb attacks in WWII.

See **PICKERS** on 7

TRI-COUNTY TIMES | SUBMITTED PHOTO

## AMERICAN PICKERS

New episodes of the popular History Channel show air on Monday nights. Hosts Mike Wolfe and Frank Fritz travel around the country, visiting homes in search of valuable antique items. The home base for the duo is "Antique Archeology," Wolfe's business located in Iowa.



## Minimum wage increase elicits mixed reactions

■ Readers share their thoughts on the 40-cent increase that went into effect Jan. 1

By Vera Hogan

vhogan@tctimes.com; 810-433-6823

Workers earning minimum wage in Michigan have just gotten a 40-cents an hour raise. The minimum wage went up on Jan. 1, from \$8.50 an hour to \$8.90 an hour.

On Jan. 1, 2018, the minimum wage will go up to \$9.25 an hour.

Readers have mixed thoughts on the increase.

"I'm glad to know it won't be going up to \$15 an hour," said Michele Nornung. "That would definitely be noticeable in the pricing of services and food around town."

Fast food workers around the country have been lobbying for an increase to \$15 an hour for more than a year.

"It does nothing for those of us who make more than minimum wage," said Kristina McComb. The wage people will make just starting out on a new job will be as much as people who have been working for a while, she added.

See **WAGE** on 5



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | FILE PHOTO

Bob Keller, 72, bags groceries at the VG's on Silver Parkway in Fenton last year.



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## If I Were King...

king@tctimes.com

### Ten Commandments for dog owners

**D**uring the period of extremely cold and snowy weather we experienced a few weeks ago I had the misfortune to drive by the same home each day and see a poor and miserable dog that spent 24 hours, day and night, in a cold, drafty, ramshackle dog house.

It is heartbreaking to see one of God's creatures attached to a chain, instead of the family who certainly must have loved him at one time. His body language was clear — everything about him, from his sad eyes to his tucked in tail, sent the message that his spirit, and his heart, were broken.

So, I offered him the opportunity to provide his version of the Ten Commandments for dog owners. Here is what he said:

1. My life is likely to be only 10 to 15 years long. Please treat me with dignity and love during that time.

2. Give me time to learn what you want. Please don't break my spirit with your temper, I want to learn how to please you.

3. I am a pack animal and need love, the same as your children. Let me be a valued member of the family. No one will ever be as grateful for your kindness as I will.

4. Please show me love and attention, whether it's throwing a ball or just scratching my head while I sit next to your chair. You have a full life, I have only you.

5. Speak to me often. Even if I don't understand what you're saying, your voice saying my name is like music to me.

6. Please take me inside when it's cold or wet. I am a domesticated animal and can no longer endure the bitter elements. Please feed me good food and provide clean water so that I can stay healthy and be able to play and do your bidding.

7. Please do not ever hit me. I never

do anything bad purposely. I will gladly learn what you want from me if you will take the time to teach me.

8. If my behavior changes or I make a mess in the house, before scolding me ask yourself if something may be bothering me. Like humans, we also become sick and will have symptoms. A good vet will tell you what is wrong.

9. Please love me and care for me when I become old, for you too will grow old one day.

10. When it is time, when I no longer enjoy life, when my physical strength and spirit are no longer present, please do not make heroic efforts to keep me alive. Please see that my life is taken gently and with dignity. And most importantly, please be with me. Never say, 'I can't bear to watch.' It will be so much easier for me if you hold me. I want to leave this earth hearing your voice and feeling your touch, knowing that I will take my last breath while in your loving arms. I love you.

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



**“Speak to me often. Even if I don't understand what you're saying, your voice saying my name is like music to me.”**

## Hotlines

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

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

**EIGHT YEARS AGO** I was so poor I had to move to Louisiana to get a job. Say whatever you want to about Obama, but now, if you don't have a job, you just plain don't want one.

**STREET LIGHTS ON** the corner of Third and East, Fourth and East, Third and Oak, and Fourth and Oak are not working. Guess I have to make up for it with outdoor lighting outside my house.

**THANK YOU, BOB**, for 39 years of postal service and 32 years of marriage. You're a good man, a good father, and a good husband. Happy retirement.

**WHY DON'T AIRPLANES** have AEDs?

**SO, JOHN KERRY** said that Israel can either be Jewish or be Democratic but not both. Does that mean that we can be American or Democratic but we cannot be both? Kerry and Obama have now both made themselves look like idiots, both have stabbed Israel in the back/front. Hamas in Palestine is like ISIS; they kill people and think nothing of it. Kerry wants to turn Israel over to their enemy. Who does Kerry and Obama think they are anyway? I have a good idea what they are.

**SUGGESTION, IF YOU** are so frustrated by the Silver Lake Road exit off U.S. 23, don't use it. There is nowhere in Fenton, Linden, or Holly you can't get to from

North and Owen Road exits. Stop whining, take some initiative, and solve your own problems.

**SO, CHICAGO HAD** a record 762 homicides in 2016. That's a whopping 57 percent increase over the previous year. I wonder how many of those who used guns are members of the NRA.

**MANY POSTERS USE** the term 'liberal' as if it is a bad thing. If the concepts of fairness and equality are unacceptable to you, you need to take a good look at yourself.

**TREASON: WHEN A** politician (Clinton) delivers classified information to foreign countries (Russia and China).

**I WANT TO** wish everyone in Fenton Happy New Year's. May everyone have good health and happiness. I also want to say to a friend of dad's, Chester, how we miss our good apples this year. Stay safe and off ladders. Dad surely was missed this year at Christmas and always.

**GLOBALISTS, IN ORDER** to fulfill their dreams of a World Government, want to create a regional government in the Middle East. However, Israel creates a problem. Globalists, Obama and Kerry want to solve the problem by eliminating Israel. They will fail.

**TRUMP IS OUR** President-elect and I have no quarrel with that (though I didn't vote for him). But 'we the people' did not overwhelmingly vote for him. The truth is that neither Trump nor Clinton could muster even 50 percent of the popular vote.

**'OBAMA PHONES' EXIST** because Reagan started the Lifeline program in 1984. Drug testing welfare recipients is nonsensical. It was done in Florida and accomplished nothing other than wasting tax money. Get a clue.

**YOUR DEC. 31**, Fenton: cesspool of crime, edition surprised me.

**I WORRY FOR** those who rely on just Good Morning America or the New York Times for their news. When people share these 'news' organization stories on social media, it reveals just how naive and ignorant you are of the world. You'd be wise to check out more credible sources.

**WILL THE READER** please inform me where I can find the facts that led to the assertion that Obama's daughter is now worth over \$12 million?

See **HOT LINE** throughout Times

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Compiled by Tess DeGayner, intern

### What would you like the American Pickers to see at your house?

### streettalk



"I do have something from 1760. It's an old Sterling Silver porringer. It's from the female side of the family so it jumps in names. I wouldn't want to sell it though."

**Bill Reese**  
Holly



"I have an old portrait, two antique drawn out photos and they look to be from the 1800s."

**Martha Clark**  
Linden



"I have a bicycle and a lot of old tools, the bike I bought about 20-30 years ago down in Key Largo, Florida."

**Edward Grant**  
Fenton



"My grandparents' marble table. It was a wedding gift to them and I also have their gold plates from their anniversary."

**Clem Langeway**  
Tyrone Township



"I have fishing lures that are about 100 years old and a cane given to me by my dad. And an original Fred Bear bow, one of the last ones they made."

**Mark Thompson**  
Fenton



## Police&Fire report

### HIT AND RUN IN HOLLY

At 4:45 p.m. on Dec. 28, 2016, Holly police responded to Broad and Sherman streets to investigate a hit and run crash. Upon arrival, the officer made contact with the victim, a 31-year-old Fenton woman. The woman said she had been driving south on Broad Street. A tan Avalanche pulled out from Sherman Street to make a left onto Broad Street. The woman said she tried to avoid the truck but she could not. She said the vehicle struck the driver's side door and passenger door of her Dodge Charger. The suspect vehicle was described as a tan/gold, Chevrolet Avalanche with plastic clad rocker panels. The victim told police that after the truck hit her the male driver continued south on Broad Street, out of town.

### TVS STOLEN FROM FRONT PORCH

On Dec. 22, 2016, a 39-year-old Holly woman reported to Holly police that she believed two 50-inch TVs had been stolen from the front porch of her home on Hilltop Drive. The woman said she ordered the TVs from Sam's Club on Black Friday. She never received an email confirmation for tracking delivery. She told police she called Sam's Club on Dec. 22 and was told that FedEx had delivered them to her porch the prior week. The store advised her to file a police report. Replacement TVs are pending. According to police, the woman did not have any other information on the TVs other than the size and she paid \$350 for each. There are no suspects. The case is closed pending further information.

## School news

### LAKE FENTON BOARD OF EDUCATION RATES ITSELF AND SUPERINTENDENT WAYNE WRIGHT

The Lake Fenton Board of Education has completed its 2016 Final Self Evaluation with an overall rating of "Effective." The board has also completed the 2016 Final Superintendent Evaluation for Superintendent Wayne Wright with an overall rating of "Effective," according to Christopher Fletcher, board president. Fletcher added, "It is important to note that Mr. Wright was very close to a rating of Highly Effective."

## HOT LINE CONTINUED

**THE ELECTION WAS** rigged, Trump won anyway. Good luck President-elect Trump.

**EVERYONE IS WORRIED** about ISIS killing Americans. Since the 911 attacks, terrorists have killed 118 Americans. Meanwhile, we have killed 130,000 of our own with our must-have guns. ISIS doesn't need terrorists in this country, it has the NRA.

**I HAVE A** New Year's resolution. I will no longer call Democrats communists, socialists or far-left radicals even though I would be correct. Unless, of course, the Democrats lie and call a Republican a bigot, homophobic or racist, then I will have to rethink my resolution.

**I, AS A** Democrat, was inclined to listen to President-elect Trump about what is referred to as, 'cyber' security. I don't understand his blasé attitude about Russian hacking. Please help.

**SOMEONE PLEASE EXPLAIN** to me how the Russians ruined our national election. The only thing I know they may have done was hack some emails from dishonest Democrats.

**I FIND IT** hard to believe that Trump's appointments will try to enrich themselves like the Clintons have done. These people already made lots of money legally.

**THE FACT THAT** Putin is ignoring Obama's reckless sanctions would suggest to me that Putin, along with the rest of the world's leaders, have no respect for our president.

**I WISH THE** losers would stop talking about the popular vote. Please remember that the Electoral College was instituted to prevent the idiots from California and New York from controlling the country and to give a say to lots of small states.

**COMPARING DRAFT DODGERS** to hardened criminals tells me that some people have a very limited understanding of life.

**HILLARY, YOU LOST.** Obama go home. Trump made it in the USA.

**IF YOU RECEIVED** a notice stating your Social Security increase for 2017, pay attention. The increase should be 3 percent. In actuality, it shows only a 3/10th percent increase. Do the math on your statement. I wonder how many Americans don't spot this error.

## WAGE

Continued from Page 3

Lori Szymanski says people who do their research will find that there are businesses in the tri-county area that are already starting people out at more than \$8.90 an hour.

"Now someone coming in off the street is now making almost as much as someone who has been there for many years," she said.

Tony Gatlin said, "It really doesn't matter at this point. When minimum wage increases so does the price of everything else. In the end, those making minimum wage will still not be able to afford anything that they could not previously afford, yet those that do not get an increase in wages will pay more.

"Yes, there has to be a minimum wage, but it's not like anyone truly benefits when it increases," Gatlin added. "Many businesses will be forced to raise prices to correspond with pay raises, others will simply take advantage of those making more money, and raise prices.

"So you may feel better earning more money per week, but eventually you will also be paying more for things you need," Gatlin added. "Sadly, that's just how things work. Good luck to all those that will get a pay increase. Manage your money wisely."

Norman Bacon said the only one that makes out when the minimum wage goes up is the government. "They get more tax money," he said.

The other thing that happens is the wages go up, so the prices go up, so it takes more money to buy the same thing you bought yesterday, Bacon added.

"If minimum wage worked, let's make it \$30 — ha, won't work," he said.

Dawn Middleton said it doesn't make sense to increase the minimum wage for a

generation of people who either don't want to work, or won't get a job, "while the rest of us who've been working for years and years get nothing. Makes sense to me."

Tiffany Hyvonen agrees with the majority of those sharing comments.

"Unfortunately it just means that new hires will make the same amount that employees with more seniority make," Hyvonen said. "I work in an industry that cannot 'increase prices to compensate.' We are a nonprofit so this just means less resources available to cover expenses."

Currently, the federal minimum wage is \$7.25 per hour. States like Michigan have raised their minimum wages above the minimum or are planning to do so.

Both New York and California have revealed plans to raise their minimum wages to the aforementioned \$15 per hour. The emerald state of Oregon is not too far behind with plans to steadily increase wages to \$14.75 inside Portland's urban growth area.

While minimum wage increases may offer a small benefit to workers small business owners may struggle with the effects of raising minimum wage. Payroll is one of the most expensive things any business has to deal with, and a mandatory increase could put a major cramp on profit margins.

Paying an employee more means more expense for the employer than just wages. With more money being earned, it also means an increase in the employer's part of payroll taxes; and potentially more money being matched in 401(k)s and other benefit package plans. Many states, like Michigan, are raising minimum wage over longer periods of time to soften the blow to businesses' bottom lines, but there still will be a blow.

Source: forbes.com



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**HOT LINE** CONTINUED

■■■  
**OBAMA APPROVES RECORD** (over 30 million) in aid to Israel. Now that, my friends, is one heck of a stab in the back.

■■■  
**OFTEN THINK, WHEN** reading some Hot lines that they fit under the listing of 'fake news.'

■■■  
**YOU'RE STILL HARPING** on Hillary winning the popular vote. I think it was because of the women out there who had no idea what was going on in the world and just wanted a woman president. And she said Trump couldn't be gracious if he lost. What a jerk she is.

■■■  
**AS ONE WHO'D** spent some time near a 'Green Line' I can promise you that one look at the 'Health Care Marketplace' functionality would show why Falangists line up Communists against walls and perforate them.

■■■  
**TO THE PERSON** who says two million more people voted for Hillary and saying Americans have not spoken. Well, Trump won 2,626 counties as compared to Clinton's 427 so I would say the majority of Americans have spoken. If you take into consideration Democratic California and New York, they have a huge population — that is why there is the electoral college. It's called being honest and fair.

■■■  
**QUOTE OF WILL** Rogers — I don't make jokes. I just watch the government and report the facts. That couldn't be any better than being said today.

■■■

**Cold weather, no snow offers rare chance to sail on ice****'Adrenaline junkies' take iceboats to Lake Fenton**

By Tim Jagielo

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**Fenton Twp.** — Lake conditions had to be just right. Ice had to be at least 3 inches thick, and with no snow obstructing the slick, hard surface.

On Dec. 22 and 23, 2016 Lake Fenton offered these rare conditions.

That was what Don Niles with the Lake Fenton Sailing Club was hoping for. He scouted the ice on the north end of the lake, and started making calls to other iceboat enthusiasts.

Lake Fenton happened to be the only spot to sail in Michigan that week.

During the morning of Thursday, Dec. 22, 2016, members of the International DN Ice Yacht Racing Association (ID-NIYRA) club, including Niles, came from all over the state to assemble their wind-powered iceboats, and zip silently across the lake.

With the right conditions, they can reach speeds of 60 miles per hour. Iceboat owner George Reis of Ottawa Lake said he does it for "the thrill of going fast on ice." He calls it an adrenaline sport. "The adrenaline junkies are out here."

Niles said he enjoys the exercise, the competition and getting outside. "It's kind of an odd sport," he said. He also sails regular boats during the summer.

**“We had the only good ice in the state last week.”**

**Don Niles***Iceboat owner, Lake Fenton Sailing Club member*

TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

George Reis of Ottawa Lake finishes assembling his iceboat on Thursday, Dec. 22, 2016. Reis built his boat himself.

These boats are made of wood. They are 12 feet long and 22 inches wide, resting on three long blades called "runners." There are different types of runners depending on the ice conditions. Either way, they steer from the front.

A 14-foot-tall sail pulls them up, and downwind as they lean back and steer in a similar manner as small sailboats. Sailors bring them in

by trailer and assemble them on the lake ice.

If conditions look like they may be favorable, members scout the lake ice and share information with other members. If it's sailable, they descend upon the lake and take to the ice.

Niles estimates there are hundreds of iceboaters in Michigan, and a few live in this area. The sport has an international following, with locations for world championships alternating between Europe and the U.S.

It probably costs a minimum of \$1,000 to get into the sport. The best sailors in the world spend up to \$12,000 on their boat, said Reis, who drove nearly two hours to sail that morning on Lake Fenton.

Sailmichigan.org, a resource for Michigan iceboating, expects that Michigan's ice boating season will be short, start later and have less snow interference. Other spots for ice sailing include Lake St. Clair and Grand Traverse Bay.



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

George Reis of Ottawa Lake attaches his runners to the iceboat. He has several different blades to match the ice conditions.

**Michigan origin to popular iceboat**

The lengthy acronym for the club is IDNIYRA. The "DN" stands for their particular class of iceboat. Specifically, "DN" is short for "Detroit News," the original inventor of this type of iceboat. In the 1930s, the newspaper had a hobby shop, where a master craftsman designed what would eventually become the "DN60." The DN class is the most common and popular iceboat design.

*Source: Detroit News*

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## FENTON

Continued from Front Page

"I expect that 2017 will be a very busy construction year for the city with several projects in various areas of the city," said Fenton City Manager Lynn Markland.

He said the city of Fenton will undertake the following projects in 2017:

"A pedestrian walkway will be built between Elizabeth Street and Shiawassee," Markland said.

This will allow pedestrians to access the businesses and Elizabeth Street on street parking in the middle of the block. Bids for the project will be solicited during the winter and construction should begin in the spring, he said.

"Caroline Street will be extended/restored between LeRoy Street and Walnut Street," Markland added. "The new street will have the same appearance as the streetscape. This will restore the historic configuration of the streets in the downtown area. The new connection will allow for better traffic flow in the downtown area and allow for better access to the library and city fire hall."

Fenton residents who remember downtown before Urban Renewal in the 1970s will notice at least a partial return to "the old days" when Caroline Street is extended.

Peter Hughes of SkyPoint Ventures, the company that spearheaded the project, said the intent was to tear down the south end of the building there to allow Caroline Street to go through. Fenton Flowers and Guenter Beholz Jewelers have already relocated.

"Part of the plan of the Caroline Street extension is the mutually agreed upon move of these tenants," said Hughes last summer.

"Poplar Street will be improved with grant funds and matching funds from the city of Fenton," said Markland. "The improvement will include curb and gutter with storm drainage. The street will also be reconstructed so that Poplar Street will intersect Silver Lake Road at a perpendicular angle. This will make the intersection safer and easier to navigate."

Last August, the Fenton City Council approved spending \$77,500 for engineering fees needed to get funding for a Poplar Street rehabilitation project.

Federal funding in the amount of \$499,909 has been made available for this project through the Genesee County Metropolitan Planning Commission as part of the 2017 County Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP).

The city of Fenton will need to contribute \$124,977 toward the project, which brings the overall projected cost to \$624,886.

In order to perform this work, which will be administered through the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT), the city needs to have design engineering completed.

The city's engineering firm, Orchard, Hiltz & McCliment, Inc. (OHM), has prepared a scope of services for the project. As Markland indicated, their design services will cost \$71,000, with another \$6,500 to perform the signal study work to create a model to provide for the proper timing of signals at Poplar Street and North Road.

The water main on Riggs will be re-

placed this year with an 8-inch water main. This will replace the 1½- to 2-inch main currently in service on the street.

"The current main is inadequate," said Markland.

Demolition of the house at 206 East Caroline St., next door to the library will clear the way for a new parking lot at the library.

"There will be some new landscaping at the Industrial Park sign on Owen Road," Markland added.

The big construction projects downtown will include the Horizon Building at the northwest corner of Silver Lake Road and LeRoy Street, he said. Also, 111 LeRoy Place will be built just north of the Methodist Church on LeRoy Street.

## PICKERS

Continued from Page 3

While the visit was completely planned, what they bought that day was not.

The pickers bought a classic Mini Cooper, 1960s Norton Motorcycle, some automotive corporate artwork and other odds and ends.

"They were impressed, they were happy," said Lauve. "They got some good deals. I didn't sell them everything they wanted." He wasn't willing to break up complete sets of historical Buick artwork. At the end of the day, crewmembers wrote separate checks from Wolfe and Fritz for the items they bought.

Another piece of artwork up in his home is the portrait of Lauve, done by his father. In the episode, he said, "My father was an artist." At that moment, he was overcome with emotion and comforted by the Pickers. Lauve said it was an unprompted moment. "(I was) emotional, and thinking about how lucky I was to have known him."

After the visit from the Pickers, Lauve



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | FILE PHOTO

Unmarked and labeled vans wait on John Lauve's Holly property before filming on June 30, 2016.

has become a fan of the show. He said it's fun to watch, and "see the treasures that different people have saved through the years, preserved."

Lauve is surprised by the community reaction, and he received several calls about it. Watching the show, he thought it was interesting how they chose what to use out of an eight-hour day, edited into 15 minutes or so, and felt the show was fair in portraying him. "I have a little more storage space in my garage," he added.

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## GAS PRICE

Continued from Front Page

a year from the state's general fund to fix and maintain Michigan roads and bridges. The \$1.2-billion won't be fully devoted to transportation until 2021.

The road package is aimed mainly at funding major road fixes in Michigan. The bill was signed by Gov. Rick Snyder on Nov. 3, 2016.

Average retail gasoline prices in the Flint area have risen 24.8 cents per gallon in the past week, averaging \$2.57/gallon on Monday, Jan. 2, according to GasBuddy's daily survey of 212 gas outlets in Flint. This compares with the national average that has increased 5.6 cents per gallon in the last week to \$2.34/gallon.

In Fenton, prices at the pump were \$2.39/gallon at the Marathon station on Silver Lake Road and 76 station on North LeRoy and as high as \$2.59/gallon at several gas stations on Owen Road.

Including the change in gas prices during the past week, prices yesterday were 66.8 cents per gallon higher than the same day one year ago and are 37.2 cents per gallon higher than a month ago.

Areas near Flint and the tri-county area and their current gas price climate:  
Ann Arbor — \$2.53/gallon, up 12.3 cents per gallon from last week's \$2.41/gallon.  
Detroit — \$2.47/gallon, up 8.1 cents per

gallon from last week's \$2.39/g. Lansing — \$2.55/gallon, up 20.5 cents per gallon from last week's \$2.35/g.

"In 2016, motorists spent an average \$2.13 per gallon on gasoline, the cheapest yearly average since 2004, and 28 cents lower than 2015, but if motorists made a resolution to pay less in 2017, they either broke it already or aren't planning on driving for a while," said Patrick DeHaan, senior petroleum analyst for GasBuddy. "While nearly

100,000 gas stations in the country were selling for \$1.99 per gallon a year ago, fewer than 3,000 are today. Though we may see rising gas prices take a brief break in early February, we're unlikely to come anywhere close to last year's low levels."

"Overall, the national average price of gas stands 35 cents higher than where it was a year ago on this day and the gap is likely to continue widening. For the upcoming year,

it's not a rosy picture at the pump: GasBuddy's 2017 Fuel Outlook, being released today, Wednesday, Jan. 4, will detail when motorists will be seeing the highest prices of the year and how many more billions we'll spend at the pump in the year ahead," DeHaan added.

Find out the lowest gas prices wherever you travel by downloading the GasBuddy app on your smartphone.

**“Overall, the national average price of gas stands 35 cents higher than where it was a year ago on this day and the gap is likely to continue widening.”**

**Patrick DeHaan**  
GasBuddy senior  
petroleum analyst



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### THE TRADITIONS OF NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS AND LAME DUCK LAWS

During my years on this good earth, I have observed many, many things. Among these are what we call 'traditions.'

I think for the most part traditions are a good thing and as we head into 2017, one of our annual traditions is the making of New Year's resolutions before the end of 2016.

Unfortunately, a study showed that only 15 percent of resolutions are kept after one year. All I can only say is keep on trying.

Another type of tradition that I've observed also involves an end of the year deadline and occurs every two years in Michigan's legislature when it meets in what is called 'lame duck session.'

This occurs after the elections in November and has the legislature heading back to Lansing to try to finalize the passage of bills before the end of their two-year session.

Any bills that aren't passed before this deadline die and it's up to the new legislature to take them up again. The term 'lame duck' comes to us from the 18th century London Stock Exchange and referred to a stock broker who defaulted on his debts.

It first became a political term in 1863 when Abraham Lincoln referred to out-of-office representatives or senators as lame ducks.

In the just concluded lame duck session a number of bills were passed including a law of special interest to me as a District Court Judge, which represents a change in the Minor in Possession (MIP) law. The new law makes a MIP first offense a civil infraction as opposed to a misdemeanor. It is punishable by up to a \$100 fine, substance abuse screening, and treatment and community service. Second and subsequent offenses remain misdemeanors punishable by a fine, jail and the other possibilities referenced above and a mandatory driver's license suspension.

This isn't the first time the laws have changed in this way with the most widespread change in my lifetime occurring in 1978 when many traffic offenses such as speeding, illegal turns and running a stop sign became civil infractions rather than jailable misdemeanors.

This amended law takes effect Jan. 1, 2018 and is clearly intended to give first time offenders a second chance. Let us all hope it has its intended effect.

## HOLLY

Continued from Front Page

that took place during 2016 was predicated on the Design Charrette and resulting report entitled, "Imagine Mid-Town," said Holly Village Manager Jerry Walker.

The charrette was done in August of 2015 and was a joint project between the Village of Holly DDA/Main Street and Oakland County Main Street programs. Results of the report were presented to Village Council and every Commission of the Village, as well as the Holly Township Board over the following six months.

The number one issue reported by persons who attended the charrette or responded to a survey electronically was blighted properties along the N. Saginaw St. corridor; followed by pedestrian safety, lack of parking and the desire for bike lanes.

"While bike lanes were the most controversial, a traffic study conducted supported the concept and Village Council authorized them for a one-year trial basis," said Walker.

After all the presentations were completed, implementation of steps laid out in the study began to be addressed, Walker added. Four major blighted properties were identified as top priorities to be addressed. They are the diesel repair facility at 242 N. Saginaw St., a vacant car dealership on N. Saginaw Street, a Quarter Car Wash at 610 N. Saginaw St., and a vacant industrial building at 714 N. Saginaw St.

According to Walker, each of the properties listed above have been addressed.

The diesel repair facility consists of three separate parcels of land. "All three parcels have been sold and remediation of the site has started," Walker said.

One of the sites already has a new business, which has relocated some operations but future vision for the property is that it will become home to various talented artists of all types of goods available making it a destination location, Walker added.

He said the dealership is currently being evaluated for development by its owners.

Quarter Car Wash was purchased by the Holly DDA/Main Street and plans are to demolish the building and remarket the property for commercial use or perhaps a mixed commercial/residential use, Walker added.

The industrial building: property was sold on auction and the new owner has submitted a new site plan for preliminary review. "While the property will still be used as industrial, a make-over and overall rehabilitation will be a vast improvement," Walker said.

Other steps included in the study to be addressed involve the "Road Diet."

Walker said bike lanes were a part of it, but they were not the major reason for implementation of the road diet. Other aspects of the diet were for pedestrian safety on sidewalks, pedestrian safety in crosswalks with the addition of crosswalks, slow traffic down, decrease rear-end accidents and provide a center turn lane.

"The lack of public parking was also an issue addressed and is currently being studied for possible solutions," said Walker.

"All in all, 2016 was a very productive year for the village and we saw a marked economic improvement in the commercial areas of the village as well as housing prices on the rise which was a good sign," Walker said. "The historic downtown is vibrant with the biggest problem being that of parking, which while it is a problem it is a good problem to have."

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TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

Drew Shapiro takes his seat as Genesee County Commissioner for District 6, which represents Fenton, Fenton Township, Linden and Argentine Township on Tuesday.

## SHAPIRO

**Continued from Front Page**

voted vice chair of the County Commission.

This is the first time a Republican will be in either role at the county level. Shapiro said he believes this will create a strong voice for the sixth district, which includes Fenton, Fenton Township, Linden and Argentine Township.

Shapiro will serve a two-year term and is one of five new faces on the board of nine. His term as Fenton Area Public Schools (FAPS) Board of Education member expired on Dec. 31, 2016.

As vice chair of the Board of Commissioners, he will lead the board when Chair Mark Young is not present. In that role, he can direct the commission's discussions and influence the agenda.

**“I want to follow through with that promise I made to constituents.”**

**Drew Shapiro**  
County Commissioner

During the meeting on Tuesday, Shapiro was appointed by Young to lead the finance committee for one year.

He'll bring his background in finance to bear for the role. Shapiro said the finance committee is important, as it will review the budget and make recommendations.

According to the proposed 2016-2017 county budget, the commission will be controlling \$90,704,465. Commissioners work collectively to direct money to various county departments and projects.

Shapiro stood for photos with his family, other commissioners and elected officials, and began meeting members of the various trade unions.

His first order of business was to propose making county commission meetings more transparent, by getting the meeting minutes online. Shapiro said he'll work with County Clerk John Gleason to get it done.

## LINDEN

**Continued from Front Page**

short-term and long-term plan for its repair, maintenance and continued use within the community,” said Linden City Manager Paul Zelenak.

He said the city is working with the owner of the former Union Block property, Dr. Nicole Wax, to assist with a plan for a new development and building on the site that will attract additional residential and commercial activity to the city.

“We will continue to move forward with our road plan to repair and reconstruct local and major streets within the community,” Zelenak said.

This includes the repaving of Bridge Street in early 2018.

This year's goals also include working with the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) and “Grow Linden” to strengthen the business climate within the community, said Zelenak.

Linden's busy 2017 plans include initiating the strategies developed in the city's Parks and Recreation Plan to improve activities in the parks, its waterways and on city properties.

Zelenak said they are also working to develop a 2017-2018 budget that will ensure the city moves forward with a fiscally sound plan for short-term needs and long-term plans.

“We also will work with the DEQ and the owner of the Beacon and Bridge gas station to develop short-term and long-term plans for addressing the site issues pertaining to their property,” said Zelenak.

It is also the goal to continue to enhance the walkability of Linden and promote community activities, events and programs that attract visitors to the community.

“We always plan to continue to promote Linden as being a safe and fun place to live, work and raise your family,” Zelenak said.

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# SENIOR LIVING

**THE COUNTY Times**  
Featured Section



## ■ You may have to 'up your game' on diet, exercise and managing stress

By Sally Rummel

news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

As you get older, you may have noticed that it becomes more difficult to maintain your weight.

Here are a few ways to stop the dreaded "middle-age spread."

### BUILD MUSCLE

The more muscle mass you have, the more calories you will burn on a day-to-day basis. Incorporate strength training with weights into your routine, at least twice a week.

Don't focus on just the tummy area. Work your larger muscle groups to burn more calories and achieve a higher percentage of lean muscle mass.

### DON'T FORGET CARDIO

Hot and sweaty calorie burners like cycling and running will target body fat. You'll have to break into a sweat to whittle away your belly, according to WebMD. Experts recommend moderate aerobic activity for at least 150 minutes a week or vigorous

# HOW TO PREVENT MIDDLE-AGE SPREAD

aerobic activity, such as jogging, for at least 75 minutes a week.

### MIX IT UP

Don't just go through the motions by doing the same exercises and the same classes, or taking a relaxing ride on your bike. To keep your waist trim and cut fat around your middle, you'll have to step it up a notch by taking your exercise to the next level. Consider circuit training and interval training to work at alternating higher and lower bursts of intensity.

### EAT LESS, EAT BETTER AND BREAK BAD HABITS

Think portion control and keeping a food diary to create an awareness of how much you are actually putting into your body. Research shows

sugary beverages and alcohol are linked with greater weight gain in middle age, compared to those who eat more vegetables, whole grains, fruit, nuts and yogurt.

### AVOID CRASH DIETS

If you eat too few calories, you'll slow down your metabolism, sending your body into starvation mode. If you don't eat enough food, your body will burn muscle tissue as well as fat, slowing your metabolic rate even more.

### EAT BREAKFAST

People who skip breakfast are 30 percent more likely to be overweight and four times as likely to become obese. Focus on protein-rich foods like eggs. See **MIDDLE AGE** on 17

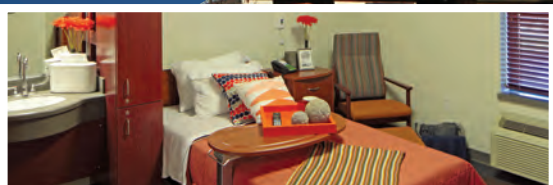


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## FIGHTING THE FRUMP

■ Here's how to look stylish and put together at any age

By Sally Rummel

news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

What do Julianne Moore, Helen Mirren and Christy Brinkley have in common?

They're all fashionistas who are over age 50, yet still confident in their style, proving that women can be stylish and elegant at any age.

Women with style have one thing in common—confidence, regardless of their age, weight, height, size or shape. Women who wear their clothes with confidence seem comfortable in their own skin.

Jean Montooth, owner of Creative Fashions in Holly, is a woman who feels confident with her own sense of style, and enjoys sharing tips for stylish dressing with women of all ages.

It all starts with knowing who you are, loving your body and wanting to dress to express yourself and feel good about what you're wearing, according to Montooth.

"I like to see older women in longer-length tunic tops," she said. "These are very much in style right now, and can help hide your problem areas."

You can be up-to-date on fashion trends, and adapt accessories to those trends while keeping your core wardrobe components true to your own sense of style.

### TIP #1: DON'T WEAR BIG, BAGGY CLOTHES

The number one fashion mistake many mature women make is wearing loose clothing, because they think it makes them look slimmer by hiding figure faults.

In fact, it does exactly the opposite, by making you look wider and bigger than you are. Instead, accentuate the positive. Play up your nice bust, your smaller waist, great legs, beautiful eyes or pretty hair.

### TIP #2: WEAR DARK DENIM IN BOOT CUT OR STRAIGHT LEG STYLE

Skip the tight skinny jeans and get a flattering pair of boot cut or straight leg mid-rise jeans in dark blue with no fading or distressed looks. Pair with flat ballet slippers, moccasins, loafers, booties or kitten heels, and tuck them in tall boots for cooler weather.

Stretchy jeans may feel the most comfortable, but they don't define your shape as well as jeans with just 2-percent elastic fiber. These flatter your silhouette and maintain their shape.

### TIP #3: DRESSES FLATTER MOST EVERY SHAPE

Dresses make everyone feel pretty and

sexy. Keep length at the knee and choose jewel-tone colors, which are flattering to everyone. According to aarp.com, these three styles flatter best, no matter what your size or shape:

- Wrap dresses, especially those with long or ¾-length sleeves are best. Knot the belt on the side, never in front and never in a bow.
- Sleeveless sheath dresses worn with snug-fitting cardigans or jackets are perfect for almost any occasion.
- "Fit and flare" dresses are fitted on top and flare out slightly, starting at the waist, creating a flirty, swingy look.

### TIP #4: WEAR A CARDIGAN AS A YEAR-ROUND ACCESSORY

Look for long and ¾-length sleeves that hit you at or above the hip. Longer cardigans are great with straight leg jeans or pants, but not with skirts, according to aarp.com.

Get a size or two smaller than usual so you don't have an oversized sweater that looks frumpy. Never wear it closed; the point is to cover your arms and add color to your outfit.

### TIP #5: OTHER NEUTRALS ARE "THE NEW BLACK"

Yes, black is a slimming color, but wearing all black can wash out your complexion. Always make sure to

wear one colorful accessory with all black outfits. Even better, try other earth tones from cocoa to camel, navy and olive green.

### TIP #6: USE SHAPEWEAR FOR REGULAR WEAR

You might think shapewear is just for under that special occasion dress. However, the right undergarments can make you look years younger instantly by smoothing out lumps and bumps.

### TIP #7: DON'T OVERDOE CHUNKY ACCESSORIES

Chunky heels and booties look cute with fall outfits, but those types of shoes can make your bottom half look heavier. Instead, opt for more sleek styles like kitten heels or ankle strap flats.

### TIP #8: LONGER ISN'T ALWAYS LEANER

You don't want to wear mini-skirts any more, but it's also possible to wear skirts that are too long. Long skirts can have a frumpy look to them, but not if you add the proper balance with a more fitted top, cropped jacket, etc.

### TIP #9: WEAR FLATTERING NECK LINES

You'll find v-necks, boat-style, heart-shaped and collared styles the most flattering necklines because they provide more balance and attention, especially if this is an area you like to accentuate.

Source: aarp.org, lifestylefifty.com

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# BURIAL VS. CREMATION

■ Cremation has become a more widely accepted option and now accounts for about 50 percent of funerals locally

By Sally Rummel

news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

Death is a fact of life. In fact, approximately 6,850 people die every day in the United States.

However, how Americans handle deaths in their families has been changing along with society's values, shifts in family distances apart from each other, more acceptance from a religious standpoint, etc.

"There's definitely been a steady increase in cremations," said Mike Scully of Sharp Funeral Homes in Fenton, Linden, Swartz Creek and Grand Blanc/Flint. "They really became popular in the mid-1980s. Thirty years ago, when I started in the funeral business, cremations accounted for less than 10 percent. Now it's about 50 percent."

He added that most families still have a full memorial service with visitation, and cremation takes place after the service, although some people do have a service without the deceased's body being present.

Cost is typically a factor in people's decision to cremate rather than bury their loved one, although cremation is not

that much less expensive when families include the costs of a funeral service, visitation, etc. Some families still choose cremation because of the flexibility of handling their loved one's physical remains, called "cremains."

Cremains can be stored in an urn and displayed on a shelf or mantle, scattered on land or from the air by plane, floated on water, placed in a columbarium, buried in a burial plot or entombed in a crypt within a mausoleum. Part of the cremains may also be used in jewelry or other memorial keepsakes.

"Cremations are definitely on the rise," said Gordon Dryer of Dryer Funeral Home in Holly. "They're getting close to 50-50 here."

That's still less than on the east and west coasts of the U.S., where it's closer to 70 percent.

If you're looking at your own family traditions, you may want to consider the pros and cons of cremation and burial.

## TRADITIONAL BURIAL

### PROS:

- Burials are more widely acceptable, and conform to most Judeo-Christian religious traditions as well, so families are less likely to offend anyone by choosing this option.
- There's a specific place to visit to remember the deceased.
- A headstone or memorial can be extremely important to survivors, especially if it is located in a family plot near others



who were close to the deceased.

### CONS:

- Burials are usually more expensive than cremation. Costs of the burial plot, time and labor for burial, the coffin and other related costs all add up.
- Cemetery rules can be restrictive about the type of monument you can have, visiting hours, flowers and other remembrances.

## CREMATION

### PROS:

- It's less expensive because there are fewer options involved — from no coffin, burial, monument or plot, although families sometimes do choose some of these features.
- Cremations can be more flexible because families aren't restricted to a cemetery. Ashes can be distributed to appropriate places that meant something special to the deceased, and family members can re-visit that location as a place of memorial.

### CONS:

- There may be disagreement from some family members who have more traditional expectations about a proper burial.
- You'll have to consider what to do with the ashes, whether you keep them at home, disperse them in a place that meant something to your loved one or

buy an expensive option that will greatly add to the cost of the cremation.

## UNIQUE OPTIONS FOR YOUR LOVED ONE'S CREMAINS

- Create a certified diamond made out of cremains. "We've had a couple of families do this," said Mike Scully of Sharp Funeral Homes.
- Keep cremains in jewelry pieces created for this purpose.
- Create memorial tattoos using a mixture of ink and cremated ashes.
- Store ashes in a personalized urn, including sculptures that look like the deceased.
- Place cremains in a huggable stuffed animal, called "a forever friend."
- Have cremains launched into space on a real mission, or float away peacefully in a biodegradable balloon released to a height of 30,000 feet.
- Use cremains

to create an environmentally safe concrete reef that serves as a nature habitat for fish and other sea life.

- Make vinyl records using cremated ashes.
- Make firework shells using cremated ash so families can celebrate their loved one's life.
- Turn cremains to return to nature in the form of a tree.

Source: Al.com

**“Thirty years ago, when I started in the funeral business, cremations accounted for less than 10 percent. Now it's about 50 percent.”**

**Mike Scully**  
Sharp Funeral Homes



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# HAPPY 65TH BIRTHDAY IN 2017?

■Begin planning your strategy for taking Medicare long before your actual birthday

By Sally Rummel

news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

If this is the year you turn 65, you'll want to start researching your Medicare options well before you blow out the candles on your birthday cake.

Making a mistake can be costly, in terms of insurance protection loss or substantial penalties, if you miss enrollment deadlines or make incorrect assumptions about coverage.

Here are some basic rules about enrolling in Medicare, according to Judith Graham of Kaiser Health News, a health news reporting agency.

## RULE #1: BECOMING ELIGIBLE

You're eligible for Medicare on your 65th birthday. You may sign up for the program then, or delay doing so if you're working.

Enrollment is handled by Social Security and can be done online, in person or via written forms sent through the mail.

If you've already started receiving Social Security, which becomes possible from age 62 on, you'll be enrolled automatically in Medicare at age 65. If you aren't receiving Social Security, you have to take the initiative to secure coverage by filling out the required forms.

## RULE #2: THERE ARE TWO PATHS

Your first decision will be what type of Medicare you want to have: original Medicare, which allows you to go to any doctor of your choice, but can expose you to significant out-of-pocket costs; or a managed-care-style Medicare Advantage plan, which limits your choice of doctors, but tends to be less costly and often offers extra hearing and vision benefits.

If going to doctors you've been with for years is important to you, check whether they take original Medicare or the Medicare Advantage plan you're considering.

If you take a lot of prescription drugs, compare coverage available under original Medicare or Medicare Advantage, which may include drug coverage in some plans but not others.

## RULE #3: WATCH THE TIMING FOR SIGNING UP

The initial enrollment period begins three months before a person's 65th birthday and ends four months later. For comprehensive coverage under original Medicare, you'll need to sign up for Part A (inpatient hospital services and other types of institutional care), Part B (physician services and other forms of outpatient care) and Part D (prescription drugs).

Those who can afford it will want a Medicare supplemental or "Medigap" policy, which pays expenses such as deductibles — the amount you have to pay before insurance kicks in, co-insurance — your portion of the bill, after insurance pays and co-payments — the amount you pay every time you seek care.

There is a separate six-month initial sign-up period for Medigap. During this time, no one can be denied a policy, but once it expires, insurers are allowed to exclude a person based on underwriting criteria.

Before selecting a Medicare Advantage plan, check whether prescription drug coverage is included and what terms apply.

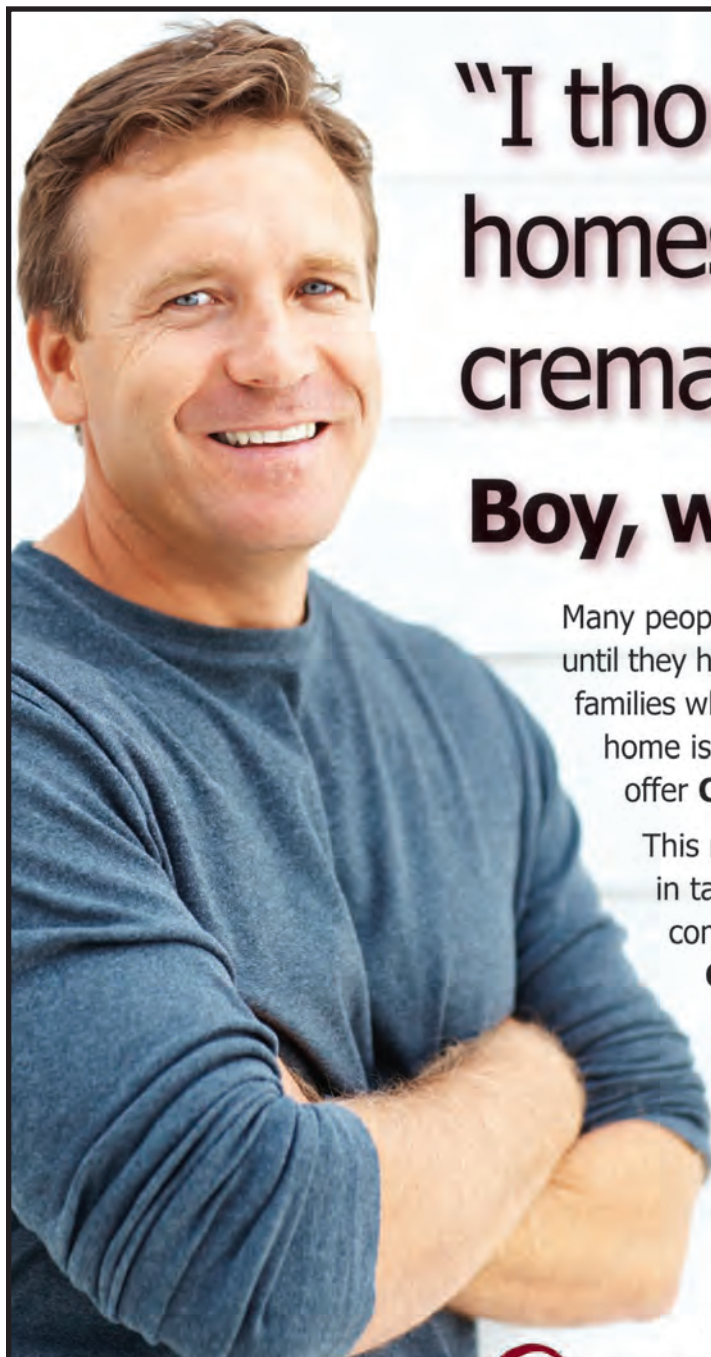
**“The big tip is to not wait until the last minute. When you turn 65, it (Medicare) typically takes effect the first month of your birthday. You can start the process three months before your birthday.”**

Susan Donnell Masak  
*U Have a Friend Insurance*

## RULE #4: CONSIDER THE COST

Part A Medicare is free to people who have worked for 40 quarters and paid Medicare taxes or those whose spouses have done so.

See **MEDICARE** on 17



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TRI-COUNTY TIMES | SUBMITTED PHOTOS

(Top) Les and Kim Beare were excited to sign the purchase agreement for their ranch-style home in The Villages in Florida in September 2014. (Bottom Left) Neighborhood driveway parties are a common event at The Villages. (Bottom Right) A typical street in The Villages, where golf carts are more common than cars.

## 'THE VILLAGES' HAS IT ALL

■ Adult community in central Florida is even bigger than its neighbor, Walt Disney World Resort

By Sally Rummel

news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

Chances are pretty good that you “know someone who knows someone” who vacations at The Villages in Florida, one of the largest 55-plus retirement communities in the world.

Boasting a population of about 157,000 people as of April 2016, The Villages ranks consistently as the fastest-growing city in the U.S., even though technically it's a census-designated place (CDP) in Sumter County. It's not far from everywhere you want to be — 45 miles northwest of Orlando and 75 miles northeast of Tampa.

It's also huge geographically, spanning three counties, three zip codes and 42 square miles — making it even larger than the 40 square miles of the entire Disney World Resort.

The Villages is an entirely self-sustaining town, complete with retail establishments, restaurants, banks, post offices, health care centers and 100 miles of golf cart-legal streets and trails. There are 25 swimming pools, 36 golf courses, 17 recreation centers, two bowling alleys, a library, theater and more.

Plus, the community features three town squares that provide residents with numerous options for recreation and entertainment.

“There's live music every night,” said Kim Beare of Fenton, who spends 10 to 12 days there every two months with her husband, Les. They bought a ranch-style home at The Villages two years ago.

They both admit that retirement is still years away, with Les, 63, still actively involved as owner of The UPS

Store in Fenton and Kim, 56, continuing her work as firm administrator at Fenner, Melstrom & Dooling, PLC, in Birmingham.

“It's just fun,” said Kim, who enjoys all the recreational and social amenities of The Villages. “We'll retire there eventually.”

To keep “Villagers” busy, there are 2,000 clubs, ranging from pickleball to tennis, badminton, golfing, old cars, etc. Every week, a 50-page newsletter and activity guide highlights all of the various clubs, activities and events for the week.

“I'm on a waiting list to get into a quilt guild,” said Kim.

The Villages is also a golfer's paradise with “free” golf for life (included in the community's amenities fee) at any of the 36 executive courses, 12 country club courses and for a nominal fee, residents can play at any of the 10 championship courses.

“It's a golf cart community,” said Kim. “We've got our own roads with roundabouts and even tunnels underneath.”

Savoring a taste of The Villages lifestyle are Fenton Township residents

Mark and Kerrie Mustola, who have enjoyed renting a two-bedroom courtyard villa. “It comes with a golf cart,” said Kerrie. “In fact, we just returned from buying groceries on our golf cart.”

Kerrie says that she and Mark enjoy all the pools, golf and other activities. “You can drive to one coast or another in 90 minutes if you crave a walk on the beach,” she said. “We'd consider buying a place here when we retire, but haven't explored enough other retirement areas in Florida or other states yet.”

For Les and Kim Beare, just thinking about their next trip to The Villages is enough to get them through Michigan's next snowfall. “At least we don't have to shovel snow,” she said.

**“It's just fun. It appeals to just about everyone.”**

**Kim Beare**

*Homeowner with husband, Les, at The Villages*





# PROTECT YOUR JOINTS AND PREVENT PAIN

Joints play vital roles in the human body, forming the connections between bones and facilitating movement. Damage to the joints can be especially painful, and that damage may result from conditions such as osteoarthritis or gout.

While not all joint pain is debilitating, the discomfort of joint pain is such that it's wise for adults to take steps to protect their joints with the hope of preventing joint pain down the road. Recognizing that joint pain can negatively affect quality of life, the Arthritis Foundation offers the following joint protection tips to men and women.



## • FORGO FASHION WITH REGARD TO FOOTWEAR.

When women choose their footwear, fashion should not be their top priority. According to the Arthritis Foundation, 3-inch heels stress the feet seven times more than 1-inch heels and heels put additional stress on knees, possibly increasing women's risk for osteoarthritis. Though heels may be fashionable, the risk of developing joint pain is not worth making the fashion statement.



## • GET SOME GREEN IN YOUR DIET.

A healthy diet pays numerous dividends, but many may not know that a healthy diet can help prevent joint pain. Green vegetables such as spinach, broccoli, kale and parsley are high in calcium and can reduce age-related bone loss while also slowing cartilage destruction.



## • SHED THOSE EXTRA POUNDS.

If you start including more healthy vegetables in your diet, you might

See **PREVENT PAIN** on 18

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## TRANQUILITY ESTATES

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### Tranquility Estates is giving back to the community this season.

The residents of Grand Blanc's premier senior living facility, Tranquility Estates, are certainly feeling the spirit of the holiday season. In November they raised money by selling refreshments at their Fall Craft Fair. When faced with the daunting decision of where their profits should go, instead of buying something for themselves, they decided to help two young Cub Scouts raise money for Pack 133. Tranquility Estates agreed to match what the resident's had made to help sponsor the Cub Scouts. The boys, Aiden and Evan, were invited to come to Tranquility Estates to receive their donation. The boys' mother, Cheryl Smith, who is also their Cub Scout den leader, told the residents how their experiences in the scouts have helped the boys develop confidence and taught them the importance of integrity. The boys introduced themselves to everyone and visited for a few minutes. Resident, Judy Potter, presented the check to the boys on behalf of Tranquility Estates and it's residents. The boys were genuinely delighted with the gift. They explained that this money would help their pack with expenses for upcoming activities such as camping, archery, bowling, and hiking. The residents received a huge basket of gourmet popcorns and goodies from the Cub Scouts for their generous donation.

The residents then decided to donate the basket of goodies to the Whaley's Children Center in Flint. Plans were then set to deliver the holiday basket to the children at the Whaley Children's Center. The residents boarded the Tranquility bus and set out to Flint. Once there, they were given a tour of the facility and met the children who would be enjoying the gift basket this holiday season. It was a moving experience for both the children and the residents. The residents came away from this experience with a profound humility and a knowing that they made a difference in the lives of some deserving young people this Christmas!

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**TRI-COUNTY TIMES** | FILE PHOTO

Curtis Gavette visits with Jack DuFresne before playing Euchre in the annex room of Loose Senior Center in August 2015. Seated from left are Larry Hunt, Marilyn DuFresne and Russ Morton.

## GET A NEW LEASE ON LIFE AT LOOSE

■ **Linden's 'senior center'**  
is an active destination for  
people 50 and up

**By Sally Rummel**

news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

Probably the only thing stopping some people from walking through the doors of the Loose Senior Center in Linden is its name.

Yes, it's designed for a more mature person commonly referred to as a "senior," but that range can be from as young as 50 to a young-at-heart 99 — or older.

"We've got lots of 50-year-olds who are typically very active and may still be working," said Melinda Elmore-Hajek, 59, marketing and program director. "They'll come in for yoga, Zumba, line dancing or other activities that are more affordable here than anywhere else."

New in January is a punch card available for \$35, good for 10 classes," said Elmore-Hajek. "It's an affordable way to exercise."

Other physical activities include pickleball, volleyball, wii bowling, walking groups, biking groups (in season) and other specialty programs.

Whatever your age, from 50 on up, Loose Senior Center is a vibrant destination for active pursuits like exercise classes and outdoor groups, as well as day trips and overnight travel, plus a variety of enrichment classes and special events.

"We go to the casino several times a month, plus enjoy day trips to The Whiting, Crossroads Village, Holiday Pops, The Purple Rose Theater and more," said Elmore-Hajek. "We also travel as far as Hawaii and Costa Rica (this fall) through tour companies like Shoreline and Colette. Many of our members like

to travel with their grandchildren."

For people who enjoy the game of euchre, there's a monthly euchre tournament with pizza and prizes. "It's a great beginning place for people to get acquainted with Loose by coming with a friend," said Elmore-Hajek. "We also have free movie nights, sponsored by Tanglewood Assisted Living & Memory Care."

Loose Senior Center will boast a roster of 6,000 members in 2017, a positive testament to its people and programming.

"If you live in Genesee County, all you have to do is come in and give us your name," said Elmore-Hajek. "If you live outside Genesee County, you sign up the same way, plus pay a \$25 membership fee."

Loose Senior Center is always trying new events and marketing tools to attract even more people to use its facilities.

New in 2017 will be a DVD Concert featuring Grammy-nominated blues-rock

guitarist Joe Bonamassa Live at the Greek Theater on Jan. 5 at 7 p.m. "We try to do something special every month," said Elmore-Hajek.

A Celebrity Chef Chili Cook Off will warm things up on Jan. 17 at 5 p.m., featuring nine area chefs from local senior facilities, who will bring their best chili and dessert to the table. Diners will pay only \$5 for chili, dessert, salad and beverages. People's Choice voting will determine the winners. "We've never done

this before and are very excited about it," said Elmore-Hajek.

For a full schedule of classes, travel opportunities, regular programs and special events, visit loosecenter.org. Better yet, stop in sometime and visit for yourself. "We serve lunch here every day," said Elmore-Hajek. "For those 60 and over, it's a donation; for those under 60, it costs \$3.50."

**“If you live  
in Genesee  
County, all  
you have to  
do is come  
in and give  
us your  
name.”**

**Melinda  
Elmore-Hajek**  
Marketing and program  
director







## MEDICARE

Continued from Page 13

Part B monthly premiums were \$121.80 this year, but people with higher incomes will pay more, based on the income reported to the Internal Revenue Service.

Some Medicare Advantage plans don't cost anything more than the Part B premium; others cost more than \$100 a month. Deductibles and co-payments also can vary by plan. Unlike original

Medicare, these plans usually include a cap on out-of-pocket expenses to no more than \$6,700 a year.

Part D premiums for prescription drugs average about \$40 per month, but vary widely by plan, as do their lists of preferred drugs as to what plans will pay, plus restrictions on coverage.

For more information, visit Medicare.gov or call (800)-MEDICARE.

"They are a great resource," said Susan Donnell Masak of U Have a Friend Insurance in Linden.

## MIDDLE AGE

Continued from Page 10

and plain Greek yogurt, instead of cereals and bagels.

## CUT DOWN ON STRESS

When life gets extra stressful, levels of the stress hormone, cortisol, shoot up and may trigger cravings for high calorie foods, which are often stored around the waistline. Cortisol released during stress also changes body fat distribution to make it more likely that fat is deposited around your middle.

## CHECK YOUR SWEET TOOTH

Added sugars account for nearly 300 calories a day in the average American diet, including sugar-sweetened drinks, cookies, pies, cakes, doughnuts, ice cream and candy.

## LIMIT ALCOHOL

Alcoholic beverages add excess calories to your diet and increase your



risk of gaining weight.

## SEEK SUPPORT

Surround yourself with friends and loved ones who support your efforts to eat a healthy diet and increase your physical activity. Better yet, team up and make the lifestyle changes together.

Source: WebMD.com



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## PREVENT PAIN

Continued from Page 15

just start to lose a little weight as well, as the AF notes that every extra pound a person gains puts four times the stress on his or her knees. The AF also notes that research has shown that losing as little as 11 pounds can reduce a person's risk of osteoarthritis of the knee by 50 percent.

### • HIT THE POOL.



Swimming is a great full-body workout and can be especially helpful to the joints. The buoyancy of water supports the body's weight, reducing stress on the joints and minimizes pain as a result. If possible, swimmers already experiencing pain should swim in heated pools, which can help relieve pain. While you can still benefit from swimming in pools with colder temperatures, cold water may not soothe the joints like warm water can.

### • TAKE BREAKS AT WORK.



Many people develop joint pain thanks to their jobs. If you spend all day sitting at a desk or standing on your feet, try to find a greater balance between the two. Joints can grow stiff from sitting all day, while standing throughout your work day can stress the joints. Take a short break every 30 minutes to stand up and walk around if you spend most of your day at a desk. If you stand a lot at your job, stop to sit down for a few minutes once every half hour.

Joint pain and aging do not have to go hand in hand. More information about joint pain is available at [www.arthritis.org](http://www.arthritis.org).



## SPINACH SALAD WITH STRAWBERRY-POPPY SEED VINAIGRETTE

### INGREDIENTS

- 1 16 oz. container strawberries (about 20 large), tops removed
- 1 small shallot, finely chopped
- 2 Tbs. apple cider vinegar
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- Freshly ground pepper
- 1/4 cup extra virgin olive oil
- 1 Tbs. poppy seeds
- 4 ounces baby spinach (about 4 big handfuls)
- 1/2 cup crumbled feta cheese
- 3/4 cup chopped walnuts

### DIRECTIONS

Slice half the strawberries and set them aside for the spinach salad. Remove the hulls from the remaining berries so that only the red parts remain, and coarsely chop.

Place the chopped strawberries, shallots, vinegar, salt and a few grindings of pepper in a blender, and blend on high until smooth. Add the oil and poppy seeds, and blend again. Season to taste with salt and pepper if needed and transfer to a serving container.

Place the spinach, feta, walnuts, onions and reserved strawberries in a large bowl. Add strawberry-poppy seed vinaigrette (to taste) and toss the spinach salad just before serving.

Source: [arthritis.org](http://arthritis.org)

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# Fenton's Czarnota leads our TC's offense players

By David Troppens

dtroppens@tctimes.com; 810-433-6789

Just over a year ago, Josh Czarnota proved his talent when he won the starting quarterback position as a sophomore on the Fenton varsity football team.

Czarnota proved he belonged among the state's best young signal callers, leading the Fenton Tigers to a 9-2 mark and nearly 2,000 yards passing and 1,000 yards rushing in 2015.

As a junior, Czarnota got markedly better. Entering the season as a known commodity on Fenton's offense, Czarnota had what may have

been the best year by a Fenton quarterback in school history.

In a season that offense symbolized success for Fenton, no one represented that better than Czarnota. The run-pass threat threw for 2,293 yards and 27 TDs and also ran for 1,279 yards and 17 rushing scores, leading the Fenton Tigers to a school record 500-point

## Who else is on the team?

The complete 2016 Tri-County Football Team of the Year can be found on page 20.

season. He also led the team to a third straight undefeated Metro League season, leading the squad to a 7-2 regular season overall.

In the playoffs, he helped lead the team to two 49-point performances, earning victories against Carman-Ainsworth and Midland Dow.

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## JOSH CZARNOTA

The Fenton quarterback helped the Tigers score a school-record 500 points by throwing for 27 TDs and running for 17 more during the 2016 season.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 4, 2017 | PAGE 19 | [WWW.TCTIMES.COM/SPORTS](http://WWW.TCTIMES.COM/SPORTS)

Times

# Sports

## LF's Hillger is our top football player once again

■ Senior dominates on both sides of the ball

By David Troppens

dtroppens@tctimes.com

Trent Hillger only knows one way to approach any task put in front of him.

"I always try to be the best at whatever it is because that's the way I was born," the Lake Fenton senior football player and wrestling standout said. "It's just a fire inside of me. I don't like losing and I always work to be better than anyone else is. I always work to be the best, but I always know there is somebody better, so I keep working and keep training. That's what keeps my ambitions high. I always want to be the best person I can be."

When it comes to athletics, it can be argued that Trent Hillger is the best athlete to ever come out of Lake Fenton High School. He has been the school's most dominant wrestler of all time, recording back-to-back individual state wrestling championships. He's going for a third this winter. And on the foot-

## The Hillger file

Here is a list of some of Trent Hillger's numbers during the 2016 Lake Fenton football season.

### Offense

- Ran for 1,612 yards and 28 TDs on just 197 carries, averaging 8.2 yards an attempt.
- Caught 15 passes for 281 yards and five TDs, averaging 21.6 yards a catch.

### Defense

- Recorded 104 tackles, including 16 for a loss.
- Had three interceptions, with all being returned for touchdowns. One was from 99 yards out.

ball field he proved himself to be, perhaps, the best in school history as well as during his four-year career, capturing the First-Team All-State honors through the Associated Press for his talents on both sides of the ball. And for the second straight season, Hillger is going to be our Tri-County Football Player of the Year.

"He's one of the best athletes in Lake Fenton history. That goes without saying," Lake Fenton varsity football coach Eric Doyle said.

"It's a tremendous credit to him and to how hard he's worked. He

deserves that honor. He has a lot of natural ability, but he works hard too, and that's what is special about him. You might find kids who work hard without the natural ability or find kids with the natural ability who don't work as hard, but Trent has both — he's an exceptionally hard worker and has the natural ability. He's a special kid. He's a generational kid — one that comes around once every generation."

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## TRENT HILLGER

It didn't matter if it was on offense or on defense, Hillger (left making the tackle) made his presence felt on Lake Fenton foes during the 2016 football season.

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# Linden baseball, LF wrestling finish 1-2 in our top stories of 2016

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

Here is the rest of our Tri-County Top 12 sports stories of 2016. We listed the 12th through seventh stories in the weekend edition.

**No. 6 – Fenton football captures another Metro title and a district championship:** The Fenton varsity football team won all seven of its Metro League contests, capturing the team its sixth straight at least share of a Metro title and third straight outright championship. When the playoffs began the Tigers remained hot. They scored 49 points in consecutive games in victories against Flint Carman-Ainsworth and then Midland Dow, capturing a Division 2 district title for just the third time in school history. However, the team’s run ended in Midland as Fenton lost to Walled Lake Western 61-21 in the regional championship round.

**No. 5 – Lake Fenton boys basketball’s tournament run:** It was a great regular season that saw Lake Fenton go 17-3. Yet, it seemed many wondered just how good this team was anyway. During the tourney we found out how good the Blue Devils were. Lake Fenton opened the tourney with a tight 62-59 victory against Flint Southwestern and then followed it up with a 64-49 win against Godrich, earning Lake Fenton a spot in the district title. While there, the

Blue Devils captured their first-ever Class B district title in school history on Isaac Golson’s game-winning three-pointer in a 58-57 victory against Flint Powers. Lake Fenton (21-4) defeated Yale 59-40 in the regional semifinals before finally falling in an entertaining 53-50 loss against New Haven in the regional finals.

**No. 4 – Fenton volleyball reaches the state semifinals:** For the first time in school history, the Fenton volleyball team advanced to the state semifinals in Class A. The tournament run almost ended in the district semifinals when the Linden Eagles had Fenton down two sets to none. However, the Tigers bounced back, winning that match and then winning the district title in an easy victory against Brandon. At the regional meet, the Tigers had two more thrillers, earning the regional championship. Fenton avenged a loss a year ago to Eisenhower in the tournament and then beat a second straight state-ranked foe in the finals, Clarkston. Finally, the Tigers earned a spot in the Class A state semifinals with a victory against Midland in the state quarterfinals. The run ended in the state semifinals against the eventual state champions, Novi.

**No. 3 – Fenton boys soccer reaches the state semifinals:** Fenton’s season included a co-Metro League title, but it will be

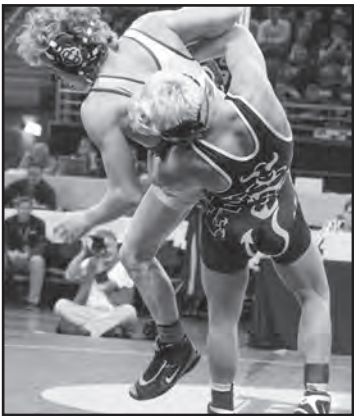
remembered for the team’s record-breaking state tournament run. Fenton’s tournament run began with an easy win against Kearsley, but then came a tough battle with area rivals Linden, a shootout victory. Fenton won the district crown in its next game, crushing Fowlerville 3-0. The Tigers hosted regionals and defeated two foes, beating Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook-Kingswood 2-1 in the semifinals, and then beating Notre Dame Prep 1-0 in the title game. It marked Fenton’s first-ever regional title in boys soccer history. Fenton’s run ended in the semifinals, when the Tigers lost to Dearborn Divine Child 2-0.

**No. 2 – Lake Fenton wrestling in both state tournaments:** The Blue Devils had another outstanding season. The Genesee Area Conference champions followed up their regular-season success with a team district title and a regional team championship. Lake Fenton advanced to the state semifinals with a win against Birch Run, but then lost to Remus Chippewa Hills in the regional semifinals by a tight 31-27 score. But the team’s season didn’t end at the team tournament. At the individual state tourney, two Blue Devils repeated as state champions. Jarrett Trombley (119) and Trent Hillger (285) won those crowns, and both will probably have a shot to make it




three straight in a few months.

**No. 1 – Linden baseball advances to the state championship game:** In the spring of 2016 the Eagles won their fourth straight district crown. However, the Eagles took their postseason success a place haven’t reached since 2004. On the strength of pitchers Jack Shore and Lucas Marshall, some great defense and the occasional late-inning or extra-inning timely hit, the Eagles advanced to the D2 state title game. In regionals the Eagles (29-10-1) defeated Frankenmuth 2-1 in eight innings in the semifinals. In the title contest the Eagles broke a scoreless tie with a four-run eighth inning, defeating Clio 4-0. In the state quarterfinals, Linden scored two runs in the top of the eighth inning to win a 2-0 verdict against Gaylord. Finally, the Eagles had a bit easier go of it in the state semifinals, defeating Dearborn Divine Child, the



**TRI-COUNTY TIMES | DAVID TROPPENS**  
Linden’s baseball team (top) went to the state title game in June. The Lake Fenton wrestling team had two individual state champions, including Jarrett Trombley.

squad that Linden lost to in the 2004 state championship game, by a relatively stressless 5-2 score. Linden’s run ended in the state finals, dropping an 8-5 verdict against Holland Christian.




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## 2016 ALL TRI-COUNTY FOOTBALL TEAM

Player of the Year	Position	School	All-State
Trent Hillger	Running Back/Linebacker	Lake Fenton	First

**Comment:** For the second straight season, Hillger is our Player of the Year. On offense, he ran for 1,612 yards and 28 touchdowns, averaging 9.2 yards a rush. He also had 15 receptions for 281 yards and five TDs. On defense, he had 104 tackles, recording five sacks. He also forced four fumbles, recovered a fumble and intercepted three passes. One he returned for a 99-yard TD.

Offensive of the Year	Position	School	All-State
Josh Czarnota	Quarterback	Fenton	Honorable

**Comment:** Czarnota led the Tigers to a school record 500 points, completing 191-of-270 passes for 2,293 yards and 27 touchdowns. He also rushed for 1,279 yards on 191 carries, scoring 17 TDs.

Rest of first team	Position	School	All-State
Aaron Sarkon	Quarterback	Linden	
Dylan Crankshaw	Running back	Fenton	Honorable
Chanse Setzke	Receiver	Fenton	
Greg Lukas	Receiver	Fenton	
Ryker Rivera	Receiver/Secondary	Linden	Honorable
Quincy Curtis	Offensive line	Holly	
Reid Thompson	Offensive line	Fenton	Second
Sawyer Bengé	Offensive line	Linden	
Grady Sondergroth	Offensive line	Fenton	
Andy Lyons	Offensive line	Lake Fenton	
Hunter Michael	Defensive line	Linden	Second
Daniel Osminski	Defensive line	Lake Fenton	
Jason Baird	Defensive line	Lake Fenton	
Paris Partee	Defensive line/RB	Holly	Honorable
Skyler Stites	Defensive line	Linden	
Jacob Henard	Defensive end	Fenton	
Jarrett Smith	Defensive end	Fenton	
Andrew Foerster	Linebacker	Lake Fenton	Honorable
Bryce Jacopec	Linebacker	Holly	
Chris York	Linebacker	Lake Fenton	
Cade Dickson	Linebacker	Linden	
Luke Tomczyk	Secondary	Lake Fenton	
Alex Marshall	Secondary	Fenton	
Kyle Staple	Secondary	Holly	
Koleton Strauss	Pace kicker	Linden	
Jonathon Lannon	Punter	Holly	

**Note:** The players on the team and the Player of the Year were selected by the sports staff, with the aid of the all-league teams.



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**Times**

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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 4, 2017

PAGE 21

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### OPEN MEETINGS ACT RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the By-Laws of the Groveland Township Board of Trustees provide for the scheduling of the regular Township Board Meetings for the second Monday of each Month; and

WHEREAS, the State of Michigan has enacted the Open Meetings Act, which requires the specific designation of the Dates, time and places of all regular meetings of the Groveland Township Board, and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Groveland Township Board to conduct all of its business in an open forum, in Compliance with said act; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Groveland Township Board of Trustees will hold its regular Meeting on the second Monday of every month of the calendar year, beginning, January 9, 2017 and ending on December 11, 2017.

The following are dates of the regularly scheduled Meeting that will begin at 7:00 p.m. and will be held at the Township Hall, 4695 Grange Hall Road, Holly, MI 48442:

January 9, 2017	July 10, 2017
February 13, 2017	August 14, 2017
March 13, 2017	September 11, 2017
April 10, 2017	October 10, 2017(Tuesday)
May 8, 2017	November 14, 2017(Tuesday)
June 12, 2017	December 11, 2017

AND, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this Notice of Meeting Dates will be published in the Citizen and Tri-County Times newspapers and posted at the Township Hall.

MOTION MADE BY: M. McGee

SECONDED BY: Mazich

YES: 3

NO: 0

Pamela Mazich, Township Clerk

This notice is posted in compliance with PA 267 of 1976 as Amended (Open Meetings Act), MCLA 41.72A(S)(3) and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).  
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