

# Not everyone is home for the holidays

■ Eighty million Americans will work on Christmas Day

By Hannah Ball

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While many families will spend Christmas Eve and Day opening presents and sipping on hot chocolate, it's important to remember that not everyone has the holidays off work.

According to 2014 numbers from USA Today, more than a quarter of Americans work on Christmas Day, which is more than 80 million people. Police will still be patrolling the streets and dispatchers will still be taking 911 calls.

Fenton Dispatch Supervisor Sa-

mantha Sturgis has worked numerous holidays, from Christmas to Easter to Thanksgiving. She usually works on Christmas but is excited to have it off this year.

“It's definitely harder for those of us who have little ones at home.”

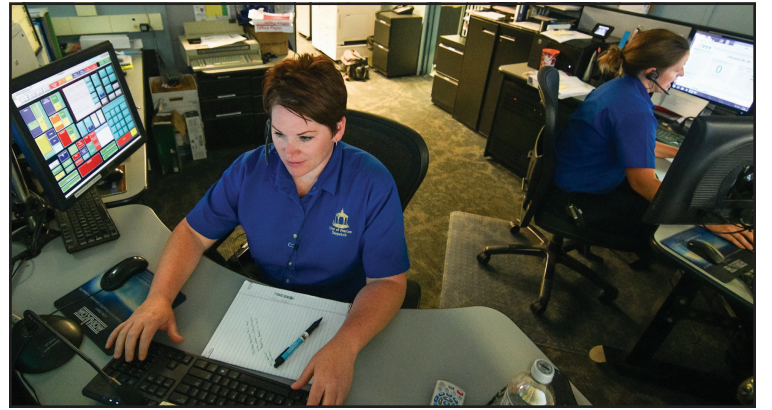
**Samantha Sturgis**  
Fenton Police Department  
dispatch supervisor

“We're here 24 hours a day,” she said. Some holidays are slower than normal days because people are usually at home with their families.

She's worked every Christmas and Thanksgiving for the past few years.

“I work days so I get out of work at 3 and we just eat later in the day,” she said. Some families celebrate the holiday on a different day.

See **WORK** on 20A



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | FILE PHOTO

Fenton dispatchers Susie Haney (left) and Samantha Sturgis operate the dispatch center, which is open 24 hours every day. First responders will be working on Christmas Day and New Year's Day.



Happy Holidays

From our family to yours



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## Help!

**Red kettles still short of \$800,000 goal**

By Tim Jagielo

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**Fenton** — A lot of money is raised with a smile and a jingling bell.

At the Fenton Walmart, Duane Arnold, a volunteer Salvation Army bell ringer, said shoppers have been generous. “It's a busy spot,” he said. He volunteered for 90 minutes on Wednesday, Dec. 20, the sun in his face and shoppers streaming by.

See **RED KETTLES** on 17A

To help the red kettle drive online, go to [www.salarmygenesee.org](http://www.salarmygenesee.org) and click the ‘donate’ button; money can be accepted until Wednesday, Dec 27.

TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

Volunteer Salvation Army bell ringer Duane Arnold works at the Owen Road Walmart on Wednesday, Dec. 20. He said Fenton residents tend to be very generous during the nearly two-month red kettle campaign.



## Linden man facing more CSC charges

■ Husband of daycare owner arraigned

By Sharon Stone

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The husband of a Linden in-home daycare owner was arraigned on two more charges of second-degree criminal sexual conduct (CSC) in Genesee County District Court on Monday, Dec. 18. His case was then bound over to Genesee County Circuit Court.

See **CSC CHARGES** on 18A



Douglas Walsh

## Crash victim identified

■ Scott Graham, 32, killed Tuesday morning

By Vera Hogan

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An early morning crash in Grove-land Township on Tuesday, Dec. 19 has claimed the life of Scott Graham, a 32-year-old Holly man.

According to Casimir C. Mi-arcia of the Oakland County Medical

See **CRASH** on 15A

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YOUR  
HOT LINE  
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“How could anyone criticize the Times for providing a public forum for citizens to vent their frustrations, or say ‘thank you,’ or comment on decisions made by our politicians, both local and national? You need to watch ‘It's A

Wonderful Life’ to see what our communities would be like without the Times and the Hot lines.”

“To all residents who are fortunate to live in our area, thank you for making the Fenton area one of the nicest places on the planet to live. Little crime, premium police, vibrant retailers, premium school systems and friendly citizens all make for the good life. Give thanks to God for all we have.”

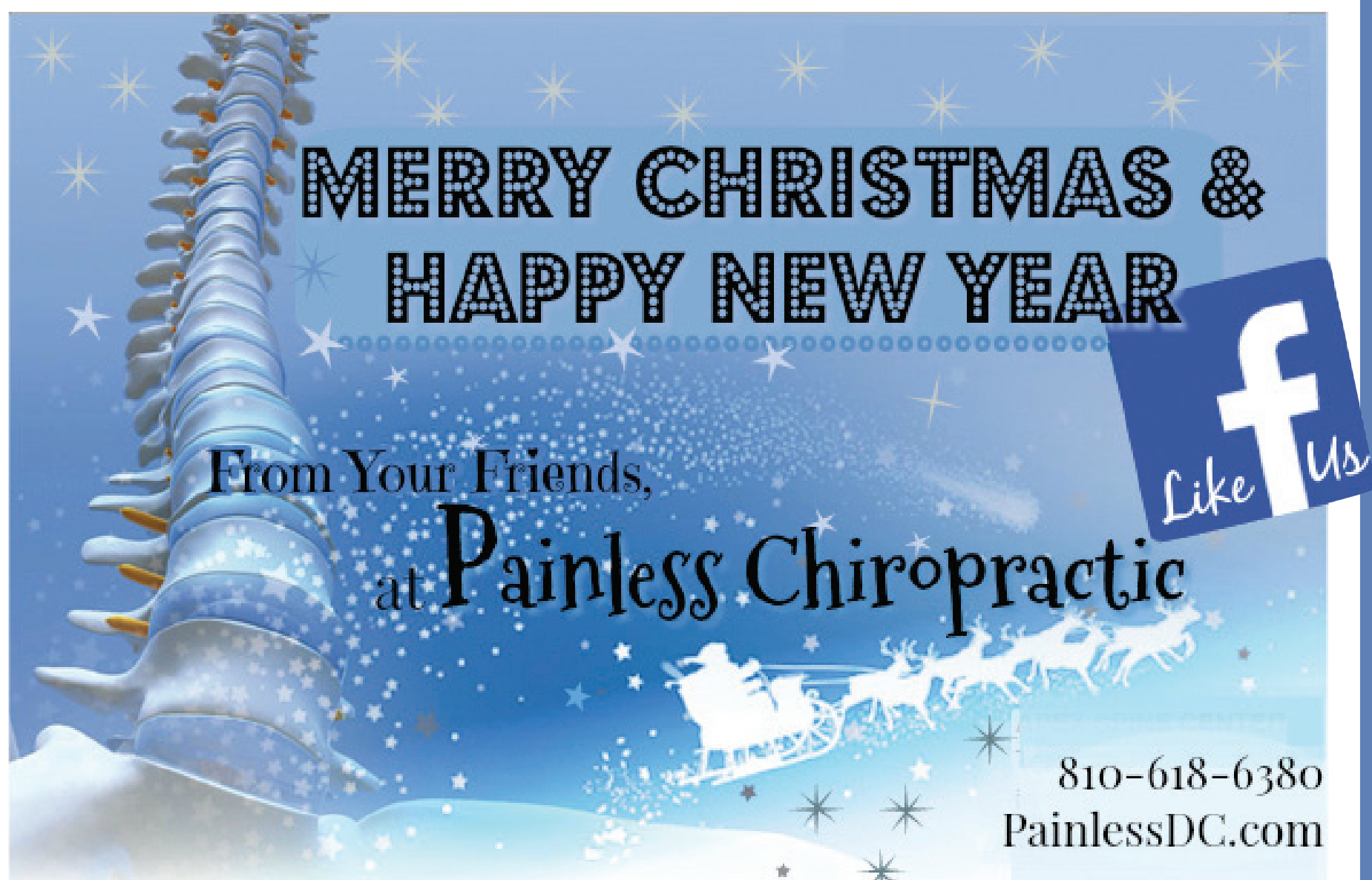
“Just answered our doorbell (we live in Hills of Tyrone) and to our amazement a group of 15 to 18 adult and child Christmas carolers serenaded us with three songs. What a wonderful gesture for the season. Thank you so much.”



COMMENT  
OF THE WEEK

“Who on God's good Earth would ever want any American citizen to ever pay more in taxes? Any lessening of any taxation is good for all.”





**We are so excited to see what 2018 has in store for us!**

In reflection, 2017 was an amazing year. We were so blessed to have had tremendous growth, served hundreds upon hundreds of our wonderful neighbors and had our hearts warmed by the wonderful personalities that have come into and out of our doors. **Man, we truly live in an amazing community of fabulous people.** I can not say enough about how lucky we are to have been led back to Michigan and into Fenton to open our Chiropractic office in 2014. God works in wondrous ways.

**We would like to take this moment to say Thank You,** to everyone who has helped us grow our office to what it is today and let you know that we will continue to grow and change and improve because we want to offer true health and we feel very strongly that the very best form of health is achieved through prevention and can start at any age.

**It's not from the outside in, but from the inside out. Give your body what it needs and it will perform the way it was created to. Remove the interference and the body will work and respond as it was designed to.**

When I say interference I am referring to things like preservatives, additives, coloring and dyes, lack of motion (we were made to move people, get up and do it) and most importantly interference from pressure that is being placed on the nervous system, (which are the lines of communication from the brain to the organs, cells and tissues of the body). Pressure due to a bone that has slightly shifted out of place. That is where we come in! **We remove that pressure with a scientifically focused chiropractic adjustment (based on motion study x-rays analysis) and your body will heal.** You will experience less pain, better sleep, a heightened immune system, and all sorts of other amazing things based on what nerves the pressure was on and what organs they led to. **2018 is going to be amazing and**

**we will be here saving lives, not just getting people out of pain but I can assure you that will be happening as well!** If you and your family would like an evaluation to determine how we can help your family improve its health and prevent future illnesses and ailments in 2018, please do not hesitate to call our office and schedule a consultation. There is no fee for this. If we do not hear from you, don't worry, **this will not be the last you hear from us!**

We will be spreading our message of health louder and more consistently in the coming year because we love this community and want to help it become as healthy as possible!

Thank you so much for reading until the end. **We would like to wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas and a whole hearted HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

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# Flint Capitol Theatre a renewed gem

■ Not yet open, programming will include comedy, plays and musical performances

By Tim Jagielo

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**Flint** — Walking into the theatre balcony from the classically adorned hallways at the Capitol Theatre is a breathtaking experience.

High above, hundreds of LED lights twinkle against a deep blue sky. Classic theatre architecture and detail give the feeling of an outdoor theatre from a past era. It's like walking back in time, to when the building was constructed in 1937.

Contrasting with the renewed architecture is the state-of-the-art projection and sound mixing equipment.

There are myriad details and stories about how every inch of the theatre, hallways and entrance were restored with original pieces and replicas.

For example, 81 floral medallions were glued into the entryway and hand painted, according to Ashley Schoen, marketing and communications manager.

The overall project spending goal was \$37 million. According to Jarret Haynes, The Whiting executive director, \$24 million was spent on hard construction costs, such as the renovation,

**“We see the Capitol as the most significant project in the city in the past 20 years to bring economic benefit and redevelopment.”**

**Phil Hagerman**  
The Hagerman Foundation  
president



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

The 1,600-seat theatre renovation began in July 2016. A soft opening was held in December. The theatre will use the newest audio and lighting technology, set in a classic theatre environment. On Wednesday, Dec. 20, a small group toured the building, including Technical Director Chris Everson (left), spokesperson Ashley Scheon, and Rachel Priesel (right) of Davison.

tion, updating the HVAC and electrical systems and upgrading and installing new equipment.

The rest was spent on design work, consultants, theatre planning and capital reserves.

Completed this month, the project “broke ground” in July 2016. It was spearheaded by The Whiting/Flint Cultural Corporation and Uptown Reinvestment Corporation.

The project received several grants, including \$4 million from the Hagerman Foundation.

“We see the Capitol as the most significant project in the city in the past 20 years to bring economic benefit and redevelopment,” said Phil Hagerman of Fenton Township, along with his wife Jocelyn.

Earlier this month, a ribbon cutting and soft opening was held along with a brass band musical performance.

The Capitol Theatre building, however, is not yet open to the public. Haynes said there will be a short series of “soft” programming as they work the bugs out of the new lighting and sound equipment before a live audience.

The theatre will be programmed and operated by The Whiting, and is expected to include musical performances, plays

and select movie screenings. Programming will complement, and not compete with the performances held at The Whiting’s auditorium.

Haynes expects to announce actual programming in January. Watch [www.thewhiting.com](http://www.thewhiting.com) for announcements.

Aside from the Hagerman Foundation, the C.S. Mott Foundation donated \$15 million, and \$5.5 million came from the Michigan Economic Development Corporation.

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VIDEO



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WITH THIS STORY



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

Much of the original 1937 style details were used, with both original and replica pieces.



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

The Capitol Theatre at 140 E. Second St. in Flint is not yet open to the public. A full performance schedule is expected to be announced in January.

From all of us at Pointe Animal Hospital

*Merry Christmas & Happy New Year*



**Pointe Animal Hospital**  
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TRI-COUNTY TIMES



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## Andrew Heller

andrewheller@tctimes.com

# Come *Heller* high water...

• **People seem to** either really love or hate “The Last Jedi.” Me, I’m in the squishy middle, as I am with all Star Wars movies except the first. There were moments that were so incredibly Star-Warsy awful (many involving that damned round robot and its seeming superhero powers) that I groaned out loud. But there also were moments I thought were genuinely exciting and well done. In the end, it was a Star Wars movie — we’ve seen it all before so we shouldn’t expect anything too new or fresh,



Andrew Heller  
FEATURED COLUMNIST

right? You don’t expect a pizza to taste like a banana. Or you shouldn’t anyway.

• **Speaking of pizza,** Little Caesars is installing windows at its new corporate headquarters shaped

like a pizza slice, only without the grease and the cheap pepperoni slices.

• **Does anyone else** call it Little Squeezers, or is it just us?

• **So glad the** Michigan Supreme Court sided with teachers in ordering the state to repay 3 percent of their pay kept from them by Gov. Rick Snyder, who had pursued the case with vigor, continuing to argue against returning the money to teachers administration to pay for retiree health care. The decision to have Michigan teachers contribute a percentage of their pay for retiree health care was made by former Gov. Jennifer Grandholm in 2010. The money was collected between 2010 and 2013. Snyder spent \$200,000 of our tax money fighting the teachers’ lawsuit, even after his own attorney general dropped the case. He should pay us back that money.

• **If you’re over** 40 and ever wondered why your parents seemed to live better back in the day than your family does today, even though you make way more money, I recommend a

column by P.J. O’Rourke in American Consequences with the headline “The Price of Being Middle Class.”

By his estimation, it cost about \$20,000 (in today’s dollars) for a family of five to live an ordinary middle-class life back in 1952, including mortgage, a new car every five years, an annual vacation, and schooling the kids. Today it costs \$145,000 to live the same life. Stunning, right?

• **Last year, I** crabbled about what I consider the worst Christmas tune ever — Paul McCartney’s “Wonderful Christmas Time” (I just threw up in mouth as the tune entered my head.) So now, here are my all-time favorites: “White Christmas” by Bing Crosby, “Silver Bells” by Johnny Mathis, “Most Wonderful Time of the Year” by Andy Williams, and “All I Want for Christmas Is You” by Mariah Carey. Aside from Carey, I don’t think there’s been a Christmas tune made after 1970 that’s worth a darn.

• **Heck, while I’m** at it, my two favorite Christmas movies are “A Christmas Story” and “Love, Actually.” I’d add “Die Hard” but everyone gets mad at me when I say it’s a Christmas movie (which it is.) “Home Alone” also never gets old.

• **Most overrated Christmas** movie ever: “It’s a Wonderful Life.” I love Jimmy Stewart but, good grief, is his acting over-the-top in that.

I have an 18-year-old son so I end up hearing a lot of hip-hop songs. In seemingly half of them, one of the “singers” (not sure singing is what they actually do — emoting, maybe) makes a cricket sound, like “bddd-bddddd!” I tell him the Beatles would have never made cricket sounds, then I do a few bars of “Yesterday” with cricket sounds inserted. He rolls his eyes and goes back to staring at his phone. Tormenting kids with dad humor is great fun.

“He who has not Christmas in his heart will never find it under a tree.” — Roy L. Smith

Opinions offered in Come Heller High Water are the author’s alone and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Tri-County Times or its staff. Email the Andrew at andrewheller@tctimes.com.

## 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.

**CHRISTMAS, TO A** child, is eventually the disappointing corroboration that it is the journey, not the destination, that the magic lies in. It is the beginning of the end of childhood.

**WHAT IS GOING** on with that road commission? Every year it seems to get worse. Just went to Detroit this morning. U.S. 23 is closed and as soon as I hit the county line, the roads are fine. Where is our money going?

**I JUST WISH** this holiday wasn’t all about getting somebody something for Christmas. How about just all get together, have a good time, and enjoy one another’s company? A lot of us can’t afford to buy anybody anything.

**AS I SING** Christmas carols and prepare to celebrate the holiday with my family, I would like to say that I am more confident in the direction of our nation under the leadership of President Trump. I thank God for his leadership every day. Merry Christmas to all my Fenton residents.

**HIT THE ROAD,** Jack, don’t you come back. No Judge Moore.

**THREE MAJOR COMPANIES,** GE, Aetna, and Alexion, have announced that they are moving out of the state of Connecticut due to the high taxes. The state not only has high taxes but they are preparing to raise taxes. This

is what happens under Democratic leadership and why the Trump economic platform makes so much sense.

**NOW THAT THERE’S** some snow on the ground we have to deal with the snowmobilers on our lawn, across the farm field, and down the side of the road. Don’t they know there’s no land down here for snowmobiles?

**DID YOU KNOW** that Obama never held a real job? He never employed anyone. He never wrote business or payroll checks so is it any wonder that he gave us an additional \$10 trillion debt over eight years and he nearly destroyed our economy?

**I’D JUST LIKE** to give a shout-out to Lake Fenton High School ninth-grade class for giving back to our community for random acts of kindness. What a nice gesture it was for the neighborhood on Jennings Road. Much appreciated.

**FOR THE NEXT** few years, people will be asking why the Democrats were against low taxes. Why are they against low unemployment, a simplified tax code and improving the economy for most middle-class Americans?

**SAD TO SAY** that way back in 1951, when I was just a little tyke, my sister used to tell my dad that he should quit smoking as it was bad for his health. So, people did know.

**CRUDE BEHAVIOR ATTRIBUTED** to the liberal media is ridiculous. This is a long-time culture used by men of power.

See **HOT LINE** throughout Times

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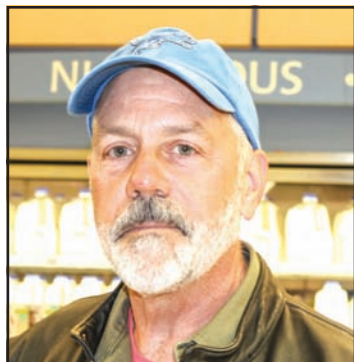
Compiled by Gracie Warda, intern

## How do you feel about the way we tip in the U.S.?



“It’s nice that we do, because some other countries don’t. I think it helps people enjoy their job more.

**Julie Hughes**  
Holly Township



“I think it’s fine. We’re generous tippers if we have good service. If you do a good job you should get rewarded.

**Dave Cunningham**  
Fenton Township



“We tip well here, I think.

**Sharon Schmidt**  
Rose Township



“I think it’s alright. I’m not out that much, but I don’t have a problem with it.

**Patricia Randle**  
Deerfield Township



“I think it’s a good thing, it’s important because most of the people we tip have low hourly wages.

**Larry Armstrong**  
Fenton Township

## street talk





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# MICHIGAN VOTES

LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY

*MichiganVotes.org is a free, non-partisan website created by the Mackinac Center for Public Policy to provide concise, non-partisan, plain-English descriptions of every bill and vote in the Michigan House and Senate. This report was released Friday, Dec. 15.*

## Senate Bill 274: Restrict opioid prescription quantities

To restrict the amount of opioid pain pills a doctor may prescribe for acute pain to a seven-day supply. The bill would also allow pharmacists to issue a smaller supply of painkillers to patients with longer prescriptions for chronic pain if requested by the patient.

**Passed 97 to 13 in the House**

Rep. Joe Graves (R-Dist. 51)

☒ YES

Rep. Hank Vaupel (R-Dist. 47)

☒ YES

## Senate Bill 478: Ban drivers license renewal if three unpaid parking tickets

To repeal the Jan. 1, 2018 sunset on a 2014 law that reduced from six to three the number of unpaid parking tickets a person can have before the Secretary of State will not renew a drivers license until the tickets are paid along with a \$45 "clearance" fee. The bill would leave the more stringent regime in place permanently.

**Passed 74 to 36 in the House**

Rep. Joe Graves (R-Dist. 51)

☒ YES

Rep. Hank Vaupel (R-Dist. 47)

☒ YES

View stories at  
tctimes.com



## HOT LINE CONTINUED

MY VERY BEST friend said she gets a lot of mail from charities. She just donates to some and throws the rest in the garbage. If it is sent from direct marketing it may not be as regulated as you may think.

TO PRESIDENT TRUMP on the suggested Mars mission. I will gladly buy his ticket.

I MADE A generous contribution to the Fenton dog park several months ago. To date, no thank you note or recognition of any kind. Not the way to encourage community participation.

HERE WE GO again. Republicans wanting to cut Medicaid and Medicare to pay for the tax cuts for the rich. Medicare isn't an entitlement. It's paid for out of everybody's checks when they work, and our medical is taken out of our Social Security check each month.

RONALD REAGAN'S LANDSLIDE victories boosted the confidence for all Americans. He controlled inflation, lowered taxes, raised employment, and created prosperity. He ended the Cold War, improved our military and he was pro-religion, pro-life, and pro-family values.

I TRAVEL FOR business frequently and dine out often. For years now, portion sizes and prices have been increasing. The portion sizes are so big it's nearly a meal for two or three people. Having to waste all that food is a shame. Give me a normal sized portion at a reasonable price.

WHAT FENTON REALLY needs is for everyone to quit saying 'what Fenton needs is...'

# Keep your calories in check

Surprisingly, the average American only gains one pound or less over the holidays

Compiled By Vera Hogan

vhogan@tctimes.com; 810-433-6823

Christmas has arrived and food is everywhere, from festive, fat-laden holiday dinners to decadent, sugar-laden desserts.

Despite the visions of calories dancing around in our heads, it is OK to indulge on occasion, without the guilt, and without gaining weight. The trick is to enjoy what you are eating, and to eat mindfully while avoiding overindulging and gaining weight in the process.

According to research published in the "Journal of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics," Americans, on average, gain just about one pound during the holiday season, with overweight individuals gaining a bit more. This is really not too bad, as long as we keep it to just one pound and get back on track come the New Year.

The following are some strategies to help avoid gaining weight this holiday season while also enjoying your favorite foods:

### • Eat healthy most of the time

Make healthy low-calorie choices when you can and do not waste calories nibbling at home while watching TV. Celebrate only at a holiday dinner party or during a holiday event. Plan your day and even plan for your occasional splurge.

### • Eat the best-for-you offerings first

For example, hot soup as a first course especially when it's broth-based, not cream-based can help you avoid eating too much during the main course.

### • Stand more than an arm's length away from munchies

Avoid the temptation of being able to raise your hand to your mouth with chips and other munchies every few seconds.

### • Concentrate on your meal while you're eating it

Focus on chewing your food well and enjoying the smell, taste, and texture of each item. Mealtime multitasking can make you pop mindless calories into your mouth. Dinner party conversation is only natural, but try to set your food down until you're finished chatting so you are more aware of what you're taking in.

### • Eat what you love

Do not waste calories overeating on cookies and junk food that you do not like just because they are sitting there or because someone else is eating them. Save your extra calories for special foods



PHOTO: PENBAYPILOT.COM

This festive veggie and fruit Christmas tree will help people maintain their dietary goals.

you enjoy during this time of year.

### • Mind your portions

Portion control allows you still to indulge in your favorite foods instead of banning them completely. And you do not have to eat tiny portions. The trick is to eat larger portions of healthy foods balanced with smaller portions of more indulgent and high-calorie choices.

### • Eat more fruits and veggies

High in fiber, rich in nutrients, and low in calories, enjoying colorful fruits and vegetables is a win-win. Try filling half of your plate with fruits or vegetables at each meal.

### • Limit liquid calories

When we drink our calories instead of eat them, we do not feel full and often end up consuming extra unnecessary calories. Liquid calories such as soda are pure empty calories. Many alcoholic drinks also tend to be high in calories and drinking tends to decrease our resistance to temptations. It is OK to enjoy an occasional glass of red wine, or white wine spritzer, but best to have the drink with dinner and not on an empty stomach. And, fill up on water or seltzer, both calorie free, before your meal.

### • Keep up your exercise routine

Choose an exercise routine you enjoy and pick a time that works for you so that you will stick to it.

### • Drop the guilt

It's the holidays — enjoy!

Source: huffingtonpost.com; realsimple.com

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# Many still divided over gratuities

■ Some believe tipping is becoming an outdated practice

By Vera Hogan

vhogan@tctimes.com; 810-433-6823

On Jan. 1, 2018, the minimum wage for most employees goes up to \$9.25 (from \$8.90 this year), but for workers who count on tips as part of their earnings, that means the minimum wage goes up to \$3.52 (from \$3.38 this year).

If restaurant servers, for example, don't earn \$9.25 an hour once the \$3.52 is added to the tips they receive for service, the employer must pay the \$5.73 difference. According to state law, this means that employers may take a tip credit of up to \$5.73 an hour, as long as the employee makes at least \$9.25 an hour with tips.

Some employees have dual jobs and spend some of their shift doing non-tipped work. Under federal law, if an employee spends more than 20 percent of the work week doing non-tipped duties, the employer may not take a tip credit for those hours.

For example, a waitress spends five hours of her shift waiting tables; she spends her remaining time cleaning the restaurant after customers leave, taking inventory, and doing other work for which she doesn't receive tips. The employer must pay her the full minimum wage, without taking a tip credit, for those three hours. It can claim a tip credit for her five hours of work waiting tables. Many states, including Michigan, allow employers to require tip pooling or "tipping out."

All employees subject to the pool have to chip in a portion of their tips, which are then divided among a group of employees. An employee must be able to keep at least the full minimum wage. In other words, if the employer takes a tip credit, the employer can count only the tips the employee gets to take home against its minimum wage obligation.

In other countries, tips are not expected. Some will accept tips for good service, but the gratuity is not required. Other countries just don't allow tipping.

"Here in Germany servers get tips, too, but just if the service was good," said Meike Blonsky, a legal assistant living in Rodenbach. "We have no rules about how much you give. It just depends on how the service was."

"Waiters are not paid that well, but they can live without tips," she said.

In countries like China, at fine restaurants in larger cities, if you are satisfied with the service, you can leave small change to your waiter, or give one or two



dollars as a tip. It depends entirely on how you rate the service. Leave more if you are happy with the service or none if you are not. But a tip is not required or expected.

## To tip or not to tip?

Area residents are never at a loss for words when it comes to the subject of tipping. The Times questioned its readers via Facebook and this is what many had to say:

"I think that tipping is an outdated requirement of going out to eat. I actually look for places where tipping is not accepted and try to eat at those places," said Brian Stillman. "I like the idea of tipping for good performance, not just because you have to, but that is what it has become."

"In fact, most wait staff don't even try to work hard for tips (in my experience) because they are expected. I would much rather the cost of food include a 'tip' and as a result the pay for the staff is increased so that tipping is not even a thing anymore ..."

"I don't think that a restaurant should split tips," said Debra

Williams. "Some servers are better than others and go out of their way. I always tip them more than mediocre servers. Now servers tipping bus boys, food runners, bar backs is different because they help with providing good service but I think the server should decide how much to tip them. Bartenders should split (depending on bar) because they are all providing service together."

Andrea Teuber said, "In most cases, I think wait staff get enough tips. While there are some people who do not tip or do not tip enough, that is not always the case. My significant other is a manager of a restaurant and makes far less than the servers."

Mary T. Johnson said, "I do not think that tips should be shared among all wait staff. A person is tipped based on his or her service not the service of everyone."

Christine Campbell Roche said, "I hate tipping (and I was once a waitress). Pay decent wages and let's eliminate this for all services. Seems like that's all you do, everywhere you go ..."

## HOT LINE CONTINUED

■ ■ ■  
**I NEVER SAID** turn signals weren't the law. I just said they were a law based on courtesy. I never said I don't use my turn signals. I always use my turn signals. Somebody should learn how to read my entire message, which was turn signals are a courtesy and that is why the people of Fenton don't seem to use them.

■ ■ ■  
**I CAN'T BELIEVE** the comment that there's only been 40 years of the Hollywood directors couch. Excuse me, that's been happening for over 100 years, honey. I'm glad this is happening. It's been a long time coming.

■ ■ ■  
**YOU LEFT OUT** family values of the Ten Commandments when talking about Roy Moore, Giuliani, Gingrich,

and many other conservatives. You seem to forget that one.

■ ■ ■  
**MOM AND DAD**, please remember that the best gift you can give your child is your time. Merry Christmas.

**MY SUGGESTION FOR Fenton** needing a nice home theater is invest \$10,000-\$15,000 in your own home theater. It'll pay for itself in a year and half.

■ ■ ■  
**OUR PRESIDENT IS** a pathological liar. When he uses the phrase 'believe me' in a speech, get yourself ready for the biggest lie of the day.

■ ■ ■  
**ONE OF THE** most beautiful messes in the world is the mess created by children in the living room on Christmas morning. Don't clean it up too quickly.

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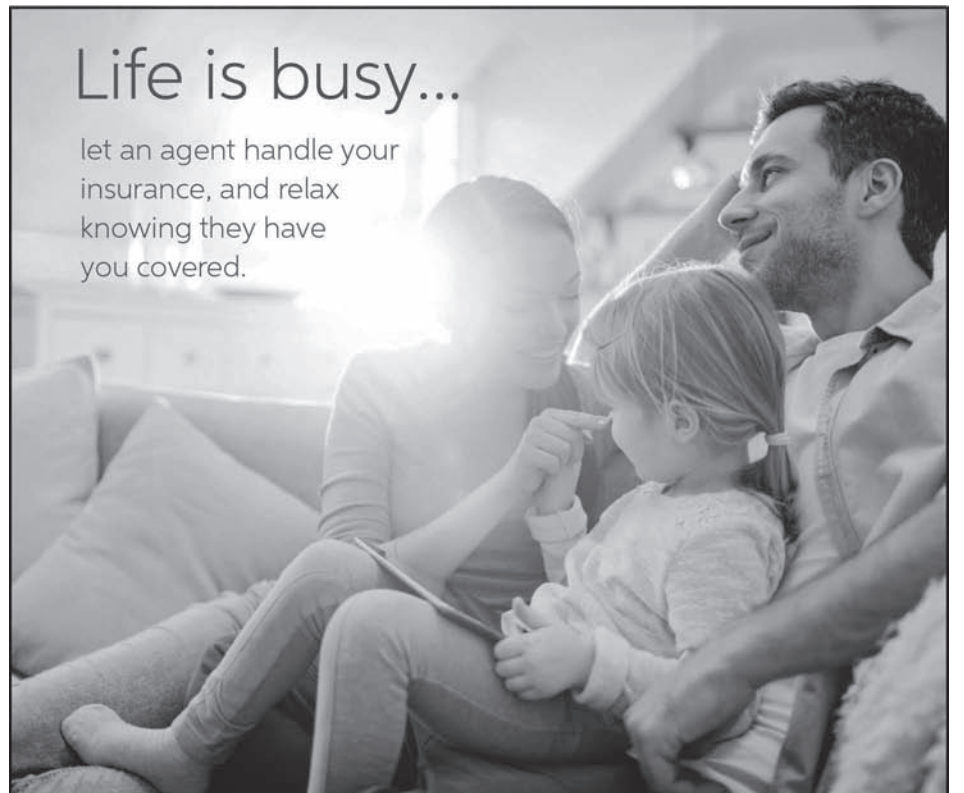
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# Bell choirs — music to lift the soul

■ Fenton church to ring in Christmas 2017 with unique bell choir concert

By Tim Jagielo

tjagielo@tctimes.com; 810-433-6795

**Fenton** — Watching the bell choir in the church sanctuary is like being inside a Christmas grandfather clock.

The members are lined up, their brassy instruments set on blue felt until they are snatched up to play. Together, they create a delicate but icy sound, perfect for the coming Christmas service.

WATCH THE VIDEO



AT TCTIMES.COM WITH THIS STORY

Area churches often have a special concert to mark the occasion of the birth of Jesus Christ. At St. Jude Episcopal Church in downtown Fenton, the Bell Choir is performing three pieces for the Christmas morning program.

Music Director Marlene Weston said bells are special because they're already associated with church, and church bells. "It really adds to the festiveness of the Christmas season," she said. "It just



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

Michele Peters plays the hand bells during rehearsal at St. Jude in Fenton on Thursday evening, Dec. 21. The choir is preparing for the Christmas concert. Peters plays two different sets of bells and chimes — sometimes in the same song.

makes it even more special."

On Thursday, Dec. 21, these 11 musicians rehearsed in the church sanctuary ahead of the Monday, Dec. 25 Christmas service.

The church's modest music program

includes the adult choir, and the bell choir. Weston usually plays the pipe organ during regular services.

They ring in three octaves to medium and medium-advanced skill level musical pieces. "Sometimes we get a difficult



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

Along with hand bells, hand chimes like these complement the delicate sound.

**"It really adds to the festiveness of the Christmas season. It just makes it even more special."**

Marlene Weston

St. Jude Episcopal Church music director

piece that's really challenging and we like working on that," she said.

They use a few different techniques and instruments. They'll play the tuned bells with a flick of their wrists, or tap it with a small mallet. Hand chimes are also used, which resemble tuning forks with mallets.

They'll add percussion like hand drums, chimes and finger cymbals as needed. A violinist accompanies one piece, and on another, the bell choir will accompany the congregation. "We like to do various techniques and sounds," said Weston.

On Christmas morning, caroling at St. Jude starts at 10 a.m., with a prelude performance for the 10:30 service. The bell choir will also play during the service.



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

There are approximately 11 members of the bell choir, which includes parishioners and community members.

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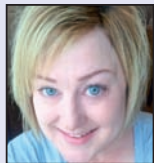
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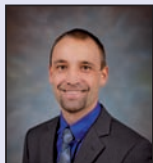
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Jodi Barcey



Tim Ambrose



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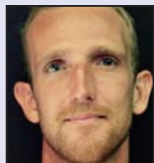
Susan Blessing



Andrea Bonk



Michael Brack



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Bill Burke



Christine Champlin



Jason Diedrichs



David Goldstein



Nancy Hanks



Tim Hense



Natasha Jones



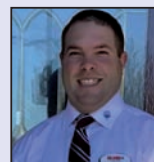
Joe DeKroub  
Owner



Tom Jones  
Manager



Carolyn Kessie



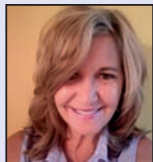
Justin Kubiak



Kimberly Lewis



Deb Wargo



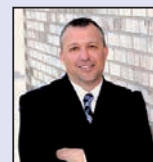
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**HOT LINE** CONTINUED

**TURN SIGNALS DO** not give you the right-of-way. If you put them on that doesn't mean anyone has to yield for you.

**EVERYONE KNOWS THAT** opioids have been addictive for thousands of years and they know that when they put them in their mouth. You can't sue the drug companies over something that you did.

**WHY DO THE** Republicans always have to talk about trickle-down effect? Why not give the tax break directly to the people who need it and cut out the middle man, not the middle class?

**ABORTIONS WERE LEGAL** and widely practiced until about 1869 in the U.S. The Catholic Church accepted abortions until 1869. Get the facts.

**I RECEIVE MY** favorite Christmas gift twice a week. It's the TC Times. They give me the ability to use my freedom of speech and read the opinions of my fellow Americans. What a great gift. Merry Christmas to all.

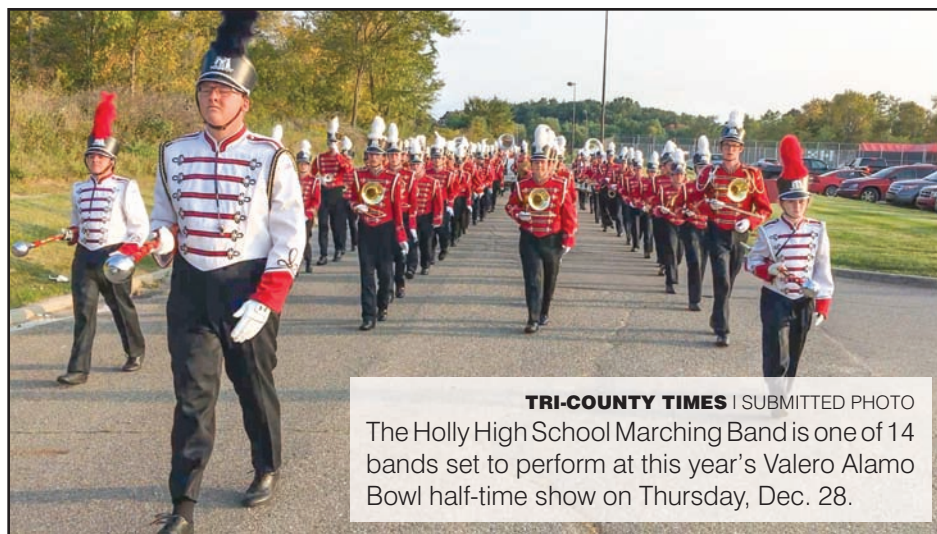
**'IN HIS NAME,** all oppression shall cease.' Happy Holidays.

**CITY OF LINDEN,** what is wrong with your town not wanting to clear the sidewalk from the traffic light to the ice cream garage. This is the 11th winter you people will not do that sidewalk. People have to walk on it. Why not put salt on it or use a snow thrower?

**PERFECT DINNER AT** Lucky's yesterday with the wife, until two ladies walked in with their dog in a stroller and they sat them right next to us. How about our rights, our health concerns?

**WHY IS IT** necessary to vilify 'Happy Holidays?' Does it really matter? Happy Holidays is inclusive of Christmas, not in lieu of it. Here is a thought. Put your narcissism aside and just kindly greet each other without trying to influence them of your preference or opinion. Happy Holidays and/or Merry Christmas.

**WHAT IS THE** purpose of the 'McWall' between the two fast food restaurants on Owen Road? Is it to keep us in or out?



**TRI-COUNTY TIMES** | SUBMITTED PHOTO  
The Holly High School Marching Band is one of 14 bands set to perform at this year's Valero Alamo Bowl half-time show on Thursday, Dec. 28.

## Holly marching band headed to Texas

■ Will perform during half-time show at Alamo Bowl

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

The Holly High School Marching

Band will be loading buses on Christmas Day and heading to San Antonio, Texas to perform in the 2017 Valero Alamo Bowl.

Holly High School is one of 14 high school marching bands from around the United States, and the only group from Michigan chosen to perform during the half-time show of the Alamo Bowl on Dec. 28. Kick-off is at 8 p.m.

The bowl game has traditionally pitted the second place Pac 12 team against the third place Big 12 team. This year's game is Stanford Cardinal vs. TCU Horned Frogs.

Band members have been fundraising for the past year in anticipation for their trip, and are very excited of the opportunity to perform for a crowd of 75,000 spectators.

Ben Baldwin, band director said, "This will mark the second bowl appearance for the Holly Marching Band in the past three years after performing for the 2015 Outback Bowl in Tampa, Florida."

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## WHAT YOU MISSED in the MIDWEEK TIMES

Compiled by Vera Hogan

The following are stories you may have missed in the **Wednesday, Dec. 20, 2017** Midweek Times. To subscribe and receive both the Midweek and Sunday Weekend editions, please call (810) 629-8282. There will be no Wednesday, Dec. 27, 2017 edition.

### Body of missing man discovered in Hartland Township

Ryoji Aoki, 33, of Detroit had been missing for 10 days, since Dec. 6.



### U.S. Supreme Court refuses to hear Holly man's case

Claimed Governor Snyder violated Michigan Constitution by funding Little Caesars Arena without a two-thirds vote of the people.

### Victim testifies in hypnotherapist sexual assault case

Defense attorney accuses woman of making four prior rape allegations.

### Holly man killed in early morning crash

One of the drivers in two-vehicle accident lost control. One driver killed, the other injured.



Merry Christmas! from Randy Wise

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HOLLY | \$189,999



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14421 HESS ROAD  
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LINDEN | \$189,900



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7345 PARKWOOD DRIVE  
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8013 HAVILAND BEACH DRIVE  
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8401 GROVEMONT COURT  
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**SOLD OVER ASKING**

6382 COOK ROAD  
SWARTZ CREEK | \$499,999



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LINDEN | \$449,900



**SOLD OVER ASKING**

13342 ENID BLVD  
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**SOLD IN 24 DAYS**

12607 REED ROAD  
BYRON | \$209,999



**SOLD IN 41 DAYS**

8220 BURLEIGH ROAD  
GRAND BLANC | \$279,999



**SOLD IN 52 DAYS**

16445 ELDER OAK TRAIL  
FENTON | \$249,899



**SOLD OVER ASKING**

1199 SUMMERLYN DRIVE  
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**SOLD IN 11 DAYS**

122 S WEST STREET  
FENTON | \$149,900



**SOLD IN 13 DAYS**

701 SILVER LAKE ROAD  
LINDEN | \$204,999



**SOLD IN 4 DAYS**

11360 FOREST HILLS DRIVE  
FENTON | \$210,000



**SOLD IN 8 DAYS**

11410 FOLEY ROAD  
FENTON | \$234,999



**SOLD OVER ASKING**

14194 RIPLEY ROAD  
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**SOLD IN 11 DAYS**

16207 HILLTOP DRIVE  
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16074 PINE BLUFF COURT  
FENTON | \$599,999



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## Watch for January supermoons

■ Larger and 30 times brighter than a typical full moon

By Sally Rummel

news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

Mark your 2018 calendar now — the next two parts of the ‘supermoon trilogy’ will be lighting the evening sky on Monday, Jan. 1 and Wednesday Jan. 31.

The Dec. 3 supermoon was the first of three consecutive supermoons in this trilogy. A supermoon occurs when the full moon is at the closest point of its orbit to the Earth. This makes the moon look extra close and extra bright — up to 14 percent bigger and 30 times brighter than a full moon.

The Jan. 31 supermoon will also be a blue moon and occur during a total lunar eclipse, which will be visible from western North America, the Pacific and Eastern Asia.

People in the eastern U.S. will see a partial lunar eclipse and will have to get up in the morning to see it, said Noah Petro, a NASA researcher, in a press release. In the Detroit area, a partial lunar eclipse will be visible, according to Timeanddate.com.

So when is the best time to look? Most astronomers suggest watching the supermoon right after sunset and into moonrise, and minutes before the next sunrise as well.

Because of all three phenomena happening at the same time on Jan. 31, this lunar event will be the most spectacular of the three supermoons since Dec. 3.

The Jan. 31 moon will also be a blue moon, a term for the second full moon in a month. Blue moons only happen once about every two-and-a-half years, so it's worth going outside to view.

You don't need any special equipment to look at the full moon, just your eyes and warm clothing to view outdoors. To look at the moon in more detail, use a pair of binoculars or a small telescope.

Regardless of which supermoon you choose to view, be aware that it's difficult for amateur astronomers to distinguish the full moon from a supermoon — the size difference isn't all that great.

If the moon is just on the horizon, it may look a lot bigger, but that's an illusion. Scientists call it the “moon illusion,” and it may be because your brain compares it to nearby objects, or because your brain

believes objects on the horizon are larger than objects in the sky.

For more information about the moon, visit [Moon.nasa.gov](http://Moon.nasa.gov).

MORE ‘GOOD NEWS’ IN THE SKY:

### Our days are getting longer

Say goodbye to shorter days, as the shortest day of the year took place on Thursday, Dec. 21, with the arrival of the winter solstice.

That's the first official day of winter, with the shortest day — less than 12 hours — and longest night of the year in the Northern Hemisphere, and just the opposite in the Southern Hemisphere.

The winter solstice occurs at the moment the Earth's tilt away from the sun is at a maximum. It arrives at a different time each year, but usually between Dec. 20 and 22.

So if we're moving toward longer, sunnier days, why do the days still get colder after the solstice? “As the days lengthen, the cold strengthens” is an old proverb with some scientific truth.

The Northern Hemisphere receives

its least direct sunlight on the winter solstice, but in many places, including the tri-county area, the coldest average winter temperatures aren't until January.

This delay is called “seasonal lag,” and happens because the amount of solar energy arriving at the ground is less than the amount leaving the earth for a few more weeks. Oceans and bodies of water take longer than land to heat up and cool down and keep temperatures from rising very fast. Not until the Northern Hemisphere sees a net gain in solar energy (more heat coming in than going out), do average temperatures begin their ascent.

That means the warmth of spring is still quite far away, but longer, sunnier days will certainly make us feel it's on the horizon.

**You don't need any special equipment to look at a full moon, just your eyes and warm clothes to be outdoors**

**Earthsky.org**

### SUMMARY

■ Watch for two supermoons coming in January, the final two parts of the supermoon trilogy which began on Dec. 3.

**“I'm shopping local.”**

**Three words that will tell your community merchant that you appreciate them.**

### HOT LINE CONTINUED

**THANK YOU TO** the Congress people who voted for this historic tax reduction. Too bad our representatives on both sides of the aisle didn't have enough respect for us taxpayers to vote in favor of the bill.

■■■■  
**TO ALL OF** you Democrats out there, maybe you should be asking your representatives in Washington why they voted against giving you a tax cut.

■■■■  
**SOUNDS INTERESTING WHERE** a person can deduct meals, a vacation, and even a car on taxes just by forming an LLC corporation. That person will need a good lawyer.

■■■■  
**MR. LAUVE HAS** a good idea in his lawsuit regarding the millions of public tax dollars given to build the Little Caesar's Arena in Detroit. Too bad his concern fell on deaf ears. Guess I will have to study it further.

■■■■  
**TO THE KIND-hearted** woman who paid my remaining total at Dollar General on Dec. 22. Although I said thank you, I'll again say, I sincerely appreciated it. You made my holiday brighter. Bless your heart.

■■■■  
**I'D LIKE TO** thank everyone involved in helping get my husband off the ground in the Coney parking lot on Monday evening. He is alive and coming home from the hospital thanks to all of you. We cannot thank you all enough. Have a very Merry Christmas.

■■■■  
**TO THE PERSON** who is ‘disappointed’ at TCT for ‘fake news’ in the Hot lines. The Hot lines are a public opinion forum. It isn't advertised as ‘facts’ anywhere that I can find. Hot lines have been a valuable segment for as far back as I can remember, and I love reading them.

■■■■  
**HOLLYWOOD, CNN, AND** the like are drowning in their own cesspool. Like my mom always said, give them enough rope and they will hang themselves.

### CRASH

Continued from Front Page

Examiner's Office, the cause of death is multiple injuries as a result of the accident.

According to Michigan State Police, troopers from the Metro North post responded to Dixie Highway and Tindall Road in Groveland Township at approximately 7 a.m. for a two-vehicle fatal crash.

MSP's preliminary investigation revealed that a 2003 Ford Ranger pick-up was traveling south on Dixie Highway and a 2018 Ford F-150 pick-up was traveling north on Dixie Highway.

At this time, it appears one of the vehicles lost control, crossed the centerline and struck the other, however, police are not sure which vehicle crossed the centerline and are asking for witnesses to the crash to come forward.

Graham was driving the 2003 Ford Ranger pick-up and was killed instantly.

The 2018 Ford F-150 pick-up, driven by a 51-year-old male from Waterford, sustained front-end damage. The driver suffered minor injuries to his arm and was transported to a local hospital.

There were reports of black ice scattered across metro Detroit, although it's unclear at this time if slick roads played a role in the crash.

As an investigation continues, MSP's F/Lt. Michael Shaw said they believe that speed was a factor, but they're not sure how fast the drivers were going. Shaw said he does not believe alcohol was a factor.

Anyone who may have witnessed the crash is asked to contact the Metro North Post at (248) 584-5740.

View stories at  
[tctimes.com](http://tctimes.com)



49TH ANNIVERSARY

# BRIDAL SHOW

**Sunday, January 7th**

**HOLIDAY INN GATEWAY**  
Hill Road at US-23  
**Noon - 4pm FREE Parking**

Please bring a gift for Flint East Side Mission  
[FlintEastSideMission.org](http://FlintEastSideMission.org)

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TRI-COUNTY TIMES | FILE PHOTO

At the March town hall meeting to illustrate gerrymandering to the audience, Jordan Smellie, of Voters Not Politicians, holds a Lego model of the 14th congressional district in Michigan, as Jamie Lyons-Eddy explains. She told the audience that there are districts on the map that are slimmer than the room in which they were seated.

## End of gerrymandering in Michigan?

■ Signatures gathered to place question on November 2018 ballot

By Tim Jagielo

tjagiolo@tctimes.com; 810-433-6795

Voters might have an opportunity to change the way political districts are drawn in Michigan, beginning in 2018.

The non-partisan group, Voters Not Politicians, has been working to gather enough signatures to end the practice of “gerrymandering,” which is the political manipulation of legislative and congressional district maps.

In Michigan, the congressional party in power has the ability to draw district maps in its favor, to consolidate voters in its own party. The result of gerrymandering is complicated, oddly drawn district maps.

“Right now, it’s entirely controlled by state legislature,” said Jordan Smellie, marketing operations manager of Voters Not Politicians at a Fenton town hall meeting in March. “They’re the only ones that get any input, and they’re the ones who directly benefit from the lines that they draw.”

Voters Not Politicians announced Monday that approximately 3,500 volunteers gathered 425,000 signatures, surpassing the required 315,654.

These were turned in by hand, filling

180 boxes, to the Michigan Bureau of Elections on Monday, according to the Voters Not Politicians news release on Monday.

The Board of State Canvassers now has to vote to allow the question to be placed on the November 2018 ballot.

The goal of the group is to shift the responsibility of redistricting to a citizen committee, instead of legislators of the political party in power.

Michigan would join other states such as California, Arizona, Iowa, Montana, Washington, Idaho and Alaska, which have independent commissions to choose their districts.

While Voters Not Politicians self describe their group as “non-partisan,” the Detroit Free Press reported in August that seven of the 10 board members have contributed more than \$5,000 to Democratic Party causes.

Spokesperson Elizabeth Battiste said that

other members have continued to support Republican causes as well. “They certainly come from all walks of life,” she said.

Battiste added that board members don’t present party ID cards when they join. “It’s something they can work on toward a common goal,” she said.

She said that even conservative Ottawa County has been a “hot spot” of volunteer activity.

**“This campaign wouldn’t have been possible without each and every volunteer who lent their time and talents to the campaign.”**

**Katie Fahey**

*Voters Not Politicians president and treasurer*

## GOLDEN BUFFET

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Dine-in only. Cannot combine with other offers or discounts. Up to 5 people.  
Expires 12/30/17





TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

Bell ringer Luane Fickes greets shoppers at the Silver Parkway VG's in Fenton, on Wednesday, Dec. 20. Fickes puts energy and enthusiasm into her work, and feels it helps generate more donations.

## RED KETTLES

Continued from Front Page

Luane Fickes, a veteran red kettle ringer, worked across the street at the VG's on Silver Parkway. She estimated that she receives donations from up to 80 percent of the shoppers that pass by.

For the Salvation Army, this is the end of a long, hard-fought campaign to raise funds. In recent years, red kettle donations have lagged behind their seasonal goal.

There are 64 red kettle sites, and approximately 100 bell ringers out each day, but in most of Genesee County, donations have been falling short during the drive.

On Dec. 15, spokesperson Joy Martinbianco said that the organization was only at 47 percent of their \$800,000 goal. The most recent estimates put them at 60 percent of their goal.

While the organization doesn't accept debit or credit cards on-site, donations are accepted digitally on their website. There are also newer campaigns to raise matching funds, also online.

These efforts fund most programs through the year, and approximately 85 cents of every dollar goes into programming, strictly in Genesee County,

according to the Salvation Army. The balance goes toward utilities and staffing the administration.

Martinbianco attributes this year's fundraising deficit to several factors — when the campaign began in November, it was still relatively warm out and snow-free. "It becomes a challenge," she said, adding that potential donors aren't thinking about Christmas, or donating coats to children, when it's warm out.

Sometimes the calendar affects the red kettle campaign. The campaign lost a day of donations due to elections in November.

Christmas Day also falls on a Monday this year, and the largest donation day is always Christmas Eve, but the Salvation Army doesn't work on Sundays.

This means that the drive could miss out on \$24,000 in donations, according to Martinbianco. "If we have a major hurdle to cross, it's going to be that one," she said.

Another issue is that many customers aren't carrying cash to stores.

While the last day to drop cash into a red kettle is Saturday, Dec. 23, donations can still be accepted into the campaign via [www.salarmygenesee.org](http://www.salarmygenesee.org) until Wednesday or Thursday, Dec. 28.

## Police&Fire report



### FAKE MONEY ALERT: 'FOR MOTION PICTURE USE ONLY'

On Tuesday, Dec. 12, the Livingston County Sheriff's Office received three counterfeit money complaints. Two of the complaints originated from businesses in Genoa Township and a third report from a resident who unknowingly accepted counterfeit money after selling an item on Craigslist. The deputies who responded to these complaints collected counterfeit \$20 bills. The Sheriff's Office also received reports of individuals who have passed or attempted to pass "For Motion Picture Use Only" fake currency at local businesses. The movie prop fake money looks similar to actual U.S. currency but is marked "for motion picture use only" on the front and back. The prop money typically comes in hundred dollar bills but is available in other denominations. The Sheriff's Office encourages local businesses and residents accepting cash to check all currency collected for features such as watermarks, security threads, and 3-D marks. In addition, counterfeit detection pens are useful in detecting fraudulent currency. These complaints are currently under investigation by the Livingston County Sheriff's Office Detective Bureau. If you have any information, please call the Livingston County Sheriff's Office at (517) 546-2440. Report all suspected counterfeit bills to the sheriff's office, Michigan State Police or your local law enforcement agency.

## HOT LINE CONTINUED

**WE DEFINITELY NEED** a nice department store in Fenton with discount prices.

■■■■  
**I'M CALLING IN** regards to these tax cuts the president has reported on TV. I wonder how much of this included senior citizens. Do we get a raise in our things that we have paid for all our life or are we going to just keep cruising along on what we get now? If someone could give me information through the Hot lines, that would be much appreciated.

■■■■  
**PLEASE REMEMBER THAT** the Republicans represent the hard-working man and the Democrats represent the man who's hardly working.

■■■■  
**WHAT I DON'T** understand is if every insurance company can save you hundreds of dollars on your car insurance, then why are they all so expensive?

■■■■  
**I'M A LITTLE** disenchanted with the media, too. It's not just fake news. It's a sick, perverted, preoccupation with death, sex, drama, and promoting evil. That is what it is.

■■■■  
**IF YOU THINK** the Republican tax plan is for working people, take a look at who gets permanent tax cuts and whose tax cuts expire in seven years.

**NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR**

MPA

**Times**

256 N. Fenway  
Fenton, MI 48430  
810-629-8282  
[tctimes.com](http://tctimes.com)

f t p i

*tammy tipton*

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*Thank you for your business and friendship!*

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[timcox0917@gmail.com](mailto:timcox0917@gmail.com)

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HOT LINE CONTINUED

■■■  
**HOW CAN ANYONE** listen to Nancy Pelosi and not think what a fear-monger she is?

■■■  
**JUST WHERE SHOULD** the newspaper check the 'facts' that people submit? I've yet to find an unbiased source. And if there was one, who has time to check all the commentary that is submitted?

■■■  
**I DON'T UNDERSTAND** why some of you Christians refuse to say 'Merry Christmas.' I, for one, am not embarrassed or ashamed of being a Christian, as you seem to be. Merry Christmas.

■■■  
**WHILE I AM** thrilled that area restaurants are bringing new businesses to Fenton, it would be fantastic if there were enough parking for customers and employees.

■■■  
**TEACHERS UNIONS PROVIDE** a barrier from those who raised brats like you.

■■■  
**THANK YOU, DAVE** Lamb and family for the Merry Christmas ad in the Tri-County Times. It's good to see somebody debunking the anti-Merry Christmas sayings, especially the liberal media. Have a Merry Christmas yourself.

■■■  
**YES, VIRGINIA, THERE** is a Santa Claus and it comes in the shape of President Trump and the Republicans in Congress. It comes in one of the best tax reform packages in history. It will put money back into our pocket books and help all Americans.

■■■  
**TO APPEASE THEIR** black football players, NFL owners are donating \$89 million to social justice causes. However, this is not new money, this money is being taken from breast cancer awareness donations and salute to service donations. It will most likely go to the NAACP and the corrupt Black Lives Matter movement.

■■■

CSC CHARGES

Continued from Front Page

Douglas William Walsh, 60, of Linden was originally arraigned Oct. 3 on four counts of second-degree CSC involving two alleged victims under the age of 13. These two additional charges brings the total up to six.

If convicted, Walsh could face up to 15 years in prison, according to the Michigan Penal Code.

Linden Police Chief Scott Sutter said his department investigated the allegations and presented its case to the Genesee County Prosecutor's Office for review. Sutter said there are no criminal charges expected against the owner of the daycare.

The license of the daycare, which had been in business since 1994, was suspended July 13 by the Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA), Bureau of Community and Health Systems, after investigators found that it violated the Childcare Organizations Act and administrative rules regarding family and group childcare homes.

The owner is prohibited from operating a family childcare home at any other address and may not accept children for care. The owner has the right to appeal the suspension and revocation.

Walsh was released on \$60,000 personal bond. No new court dates have yet been scheduled.

First Christmas without your loved one?

■ Counselor gives some advice for those dealing with grief this holiday season

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

Nothing can be more painful than dealing with the loss of a loved one, especially when the first Christmas without them rolls around.

Patsy Essenmacher, a licensed master social worker from Fenton Counseling, is an expert when it comes to helping people deal with their feelings and grief.

"Be kind to yourselves," Essenmacher said. "Grieving takes a lot of energy. Don't expect to keep up with all the things you do every year. People will understand and if they don't, they've obviously never been there."

"You may have to educate people on how you are feeling and what you need," she said. "They want to help, but don't know how. Please let them be there for you. Let them do some of those things that you just can't muster the energy to do. They will feel better for it, too."

Do not walk alone, Essenmacher said. "There are bereavement support groups associated with many churches and funeral homes. Compassionate Friends is a support group just for bereaved parents and siblings," she said.

Essenmacher suggests that if doing some of your old traditions are just too painful, start a new tradition in your loved one's memory.

"One idea is to ignore Christmas and go on a cruise," she said. "Go to midnight Mass. Sponsor something in your loved one's memory. By helping them, you are helping you."

There are a lot of things you can't control about the holidays, according to Psychology Today. You may be subjected to Christmas music in the waiting room of your doctor's office or you may overhear your co-workers constantly talking about their holiday plans. While you can't prevent those things from happening, there are some things you can control.

Think about what you can do to lessen the heartache when you can. It's OK to



PHOTO: JUSTBETWEENUS.ORG

Time doesn't heal the pain associated with a loss, it's what you do with that time that matters. Grief is the process by which you heal.

limit your decorations or shop for presents online only. Pick a few things you can do to assert some control over the holiday cheer and keep in mind, that life goes on for other people and it's OK that they're happy to celebrate this year.

Even when you're in the midst of grief, you still have something to offer the world. Performing a few acts of kindness can be really good for the grieving spirit. Donate gifts to families in need, serve meals at a soup kitchen, or volunteer to help people at a nursing home make holiday crafts if

you're up for it.

Create a special way to memorialize the person you've lost. Whether you decide to light a candle every night or eat your loved one's favorite food, honoring your loved one can serve as a tangible reminder that although your loved one is gone, the love never dies.

Getting help

Those needing help dealing with their grief can seek it locally through Sharp Funeral Homes at [www.sharpfuneral-homes.com](http://www.sharpfuneral-homes.com).

Compassionate Friends chapters and locations can be found at [www.compassionatefriends.org](http://www.compassionatefriends.org).

Essenmacher can be reached via email at [patsyLMSW@charter.net](mailto:patsyLMSW@charter.net).

GROVELAND TOWNSHIP  
PUBLIC NOTICE

The regular meeting of the Groveland Township Planning Commission and Board of Zoning Appeals will meet on the following dates for the 2018 year. Meetings are at 7:00 p.m. at the Groveland Township Hall, 4695 Grange Hall Road, Holly, MI 48442.

Planning Commission

January 23  
March 27  
May 22  
July 24  
September 25  
November 27

Board of Zoning Appeals (as needed)

January 9  
February 13  
March 13  
April 10  
May 8  
June 12  
July 10  
August 14  
September 11  
October 9  
November 13  
December 11

This notice is posted in compliance with the Open Meetings Act, Public Act 267 of 1976, as amended (MCL 41.72a(2,3)) and the Americans with Disabilities Act.

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LOOKING  
BACK

at this week in

NATIONAL HISTORY

COMPILED BY VERA HOGAN

DEC. 24

**1973:** Stephenie Meyer, author of the “Twilight” novels, a vampire romance series for young adults that became a literary phenomenon, is born in Hartford, Connecticut. Meyer married at 21 and graduated from Brigham Young University with a degree in English in 1997. She was a stay-at-home mother of three boys in 2003 when the idea for “Twilight” — the story of teenager Bella Swan and her handsome vampire boyfriend Edward Cullen — came to her in a dream. Three months later, Meyer, who had never written seriously before, finished the manuscript for “Twilight.” After a string of rejections from literary agencies, she landed an agent and a \$750,000, three-book deal.

DEC. 25

**1880:** Layne Hall is born in Mississippi. When he died in November 1990, Hall was the oldest licensed driver in the United States. In 1916, Hall moved north to Silvercreek, New York, just west of Buffalo. When he arrived, his nephew taught him to drive, and he got his first license that fall. In his nearly 75 years on the road, Hall never got a speeding ticket or citation of any kind.

DEC. 26

**1973:** “The Exorcist,” a horror film starring the actress Linda Blair as a girl possessed by an evil spirit, makes its debut in theaters; it will go on to earn a reputation as one of the scariest movies in history.

DEC. 27

**1932:** At the height of the Great Depression, thousands turn out for the opening of Radio City Music Hall, a magnificent Art Deco theater in New York City. Radio City Music Hall was designed as a palace for the people, a place of beauty where ordinary people could see high-quality entertainment. Since its 1932 opening, more than 300 million people have gone to Radio City to enjoy movies, stage shows, concerts, and special events.

DEC. 28

**1938:** Silent-film star Florence Lawrence commits suicide in Beverly Hills. She was 52 years old. Though she was best known for her roles in nearly 250 films, Lawrence was also an inventor: She designed the first “auto signaling arm,” a mechanical turn signal, along with the first mechanical brake signal. She did not patent these inventions, however, and as a result she received no credit for, or profit from, either one.

DEC. 29

**1890:** In the final chapter of America’s long Indian wars, the U.S. Cavalry kills 146 Sioux at Wounded Knee on the Pine Ridge reservation in South Dakota.

DEC. 30

**1936:** At 8 p.m., in one of the first sit-down strikes in the United States, autoworkers occupy the General Motors Fisher Body Plant Number One in Flint, Michigan. The autoworkers were striking to win recognition of the United Auto Workers (UAW) as the only bargaining agent for GM’s workers; they also wanted to make the company stop sending work to non-union plants and to establish a fair minimum wage scale, a grievance system and a set of procedures that would help protect assembly-line workers from injury. In all, the strike lasted 44 days.

Source: history.com

Business briefs

SILVER SPRAY SPORTS NAMED TO 2017 BOATING INDUSTRY TOP 100 LIST


Silver Spray Sports, Inc. in Fenton has once again been named one of the Top 100 dealers in North America by Boating Industry, the leading trade publication for the marine industry. “From the thousands of boat dealers in North America these 100 dealers are the best of the best,” said Jonathan Sweet, director of the Boating Industry Top 100 Program. “The Top 100 is about more than revenue. While the financial success of the companies on the list is important, we’re also looking at factors including overall business acumen, marketing strategies, service department efficiency and profitability, customer service and dedication to the industry.” Silver Spray Sports has been in business for over 37 years, catering to the water sports industry as a premier Nautique boats dealer. “We are proud to be recognized, and we couldn’t have done it without the continued support of our amazing customers and all of those known as our Team Silver Spray members,” said Patti Smith, co-owner and vice president of operations.

Police&Fire

report

LOADED HANDGUN STOLEN FROM UNLOCKED PICKUP

On Dec. 20, the Livingston County Sheriff’s Office responded to the Tyrone Woods Mobile Home Community on Hogan Road in response to multiple reports of larcenies from automobiles. In one of the larcenies, a Sig Sauer 9mm handgun was stolen from an unlocked vehicle. The larcenies are believed to have occurred sometime between 12 a.m. (midnight) and 5 a.m. on Dec. 20. One of the neighbors reported seeing a tan Chevy S-10 pickup truck with a black tool box in the area sometime during the night but no suspects have been identified at this time. Anyone with information related to these larcenies should contact the Livingston County Sheriff’s Office Detective Bureau at (517) 546-8477.



Attention Argentine Township Residents:

At the December 18, 2017 meeting of the Argentine Township Board, the Board did adopt the Argentine Township Sewer Ordinance, an ordinance to provide for the maintenance, management, operation, and repair of the township sewer system, establish and provide for charges and rates and to provide penalties for violations. Copies of the entire ordinance may be viewed at the Township of Argentine Hall, 9048 Silver Lake Road, Linden, Michigan, during regular business hours. The following is a summary of the ordinance. This ordinance shall become effective thirty (30) days after publication.

SECTION 1. Title

SECTION 2. Purpose

SECTION 3. Definitions

SECTION 4. Operation, Maintenance and Control states the operation and maintenance of the system shall be under the supervision and control of the township subject to the terms of the county-township contract. The township has the right to establish, maintain, and collect rates and charges for sewage collection, treatment, transmission and debt service.

SECTION 5. Connection applications and permits explains the application process and procedure.

SECTION 6. Connection Permit Fees.

SECTION 7. House Connection—Materials. States house connections shall be in accordance with Genesee County current specifications.

SECTION 8. House Connection Fees and Inspection.

SECTION 9. Describes conditions requiring sewage pump.

SECTION 10. Sewer Connection Contractors. Any person desiring to secure permits to make sanitary sewer connections shall, prior to the issuance of such permits, provide the township specific information indicated in this section.

SECTION 11. Explains home owner connection permits.

SECTION 12. Explains contract between sewer contractor and owner.

SECTION 13. Inspection Powers; Corrective Orders. Explains the rights of the township’s authorized agents regarding inspections and corrective actions needed.

SECTION 14. Stormwater, Groundwater and Unpolluted Water. Explains the proper discharge of stormwater and groundwater and penalties for violations thereof.

SECTION 15. Grease, Oil and Sand Interceptors. Describes installation of, types, inspection and maintenance of all grease, oil and sand interceptors (traps).

SECTION 16. Special agreements and arrangements between the township and county and any person may be established by the township board within the terms and intent of this article when, in the opinion of the township board, extraordinary circumstances compel special terms and conditions whereby an unusual waste water may be accepted for treatment, subject to payment of applicable fees.

SECTION 17. Describes prohibited acts regarding sanitary sewage, garbage, industrial waste or other objectionable waste.

SECTION 18. Describes discontinuance, connection to public system.

SECTION 19. Describes maintenance of the private sanitary sewage disposal systems.

SECTION 20. Permits Restricted. Describes permits for the construction, remodeling or improvement of connecting to sanitary sewage system.

SECTION 21. Control Generally. The sanitary sewer laterals of the sewer system are under the exclusive control of the township board.

SECTION 22. Capital Charges—Existing and New Structures. Explains payment of capital charges of new and existing structures to the sewer system.

SECTION 23. Explains sewer lines unavailable on private property; owner to assume costs; maintenance of system.

SECTION 24. Usage Units Generated. The number of units generated by different types of use and occupancy shall be determined and established by separate resolution enacted by the board.

SECTION 25. Indicates notice of increase of capital charge; contents.

SECTION 26. Establishes charges for sewage disposal services; when billed and payable.

SECTION 27. Establishes delinquent charges.

SECTION 28. Indicates rates for capital fee and user fees.

SECTION 29. States penalties for violations of the ordinance.

SECTION 30. Effective date thirty (30) days after publication.

Denise Graves, Clerk  
Argentine Township

HISTORY IN THE MAKING

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## WORK

### Continued from Front Page

At Fenton dispatch, employees work eight-hour shifts. For the holidays, Sturgis said it's a big help if she and another employee who's a mother split an eight-hour shift so they only have to be gone from their families for four hours.

"It's definitely harder for those of us who have little ones at home. It's hard if your family isn't in this line of work because they're not as understanding. Fortunately, my family is very understanding. When your family holds it against you when it's not in your control, that can be frustrating and hard," she said. "If you have coworkers who are willing to share the load, it makes it easier for everyone."

Fenton Det. Dale Rauch is working on Christmas and New Year's.

"If there's a car accident or someone gets hurt or there's an assault, we'll come in on the holiday," he said. "We'll work our normal shift, too."

They've responded to drinking and driving crashes on the holidays, along with family disputes that may involve alcohol. "It's everyday things we deal with here," he said.

"Back when the kids were young and you had to come work first shift, you don't see them open presents, or they wait until you get home. Your kids kind of adjust to it. Your family adjusts to your schedule," he said.

For New Year's Eve, Rauch said they will patrol more and act as a deterrent to people who may drink and drive.

"People are a lot better now than they were 25 years ago when I started. They're more educated now more than ever," he said. "You have Uber now, that's a good thing."

Rauch urges people not to drink and drive, and make good decisions.

"Better to pay a little extra money for an Uber or taxi than hurting yourself or

someone else," he said.

Celene Howard, 24, of Tyrone Township is a registered nurse at the University of Michigan Hospital and will get paid triple time to work on Christmas Day.

"My family does presents and Christmas dinner the night before. It's a little sad on Christmas morning when I'm driving into work and everyone in my house is asleep and other families are opening presents but it's OK. I don't have kids so I don't mind it too much," she said.

Kelly Fletcher, Fenton Department of Public Works deputy director, said he has two guys on call for the holiday weekend.

When he does the schedule for the holidays, there's a seven-man rotation for working the streets and sewers, and a three-man rotation for the water department.

"Usually, we're pretty lucky.

As long as Mother Nature cooperates, we do pretty well," he said.

Christmas is a busy travel holiday, and gas station attendants need to make sure people can fuel their cars. Animals still need to be fed, so places like Adopt-A-Pet and Genesee County Animal Control will have at least a limited staff on hand.

If there's a big snow, drivers with the Department of Public Works will be out, plowing the roads so everyone else can drive safely.

Other people working on Christmas Day include the following:

- nurses, doctors, and other hospital staff working at the hospitals to provide care
- police officers, firefighters, and paramedics
- gas station attendants
- troops overseas or at their stations
- DPW workers
- Airports and airline personnel
- Certain fast-food workers
- Santa Claus

## PUBLIC NOTICE

Because the People Want to Know

### GROVELAND TWP.

#### GROVELAND TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES 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 8, 2018 and ending on December 11, 2018.

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 8, 2018	August 13, 2018
February 12, 2018	September 10, 2018
March 12, 2018	October 9, 2018 (Tuesday)
April 9, 2018	(Columbus Day)
May 14, 2018	November 13, 2018 (Tuesday)
June 11, 2018	(Veterans Day)
July 9, 2018	December 10, 2018

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: 4  
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).  
Publish in the Citizen



## our town

Meet

## BARRY BUTTERFIELD

- Driver for Gerych's Flowers
- Deliverer of good cheer
- Photographer

By Sally Rummel

news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

Barry Butterfield, 64, has been a Fenton resident since he was a year old. A delivery driver for Gerych's Distinctive Flowers & Gifts, he also delivers good cheer with him during the holiday season, and throughout the year. He has been married to Delma ("Del") for 34 years, with their anniversary coming up on Dec. 30. He's a stepdad to five adult kids, and has nine grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. **How did you get your job as a driver for Gerych's?**

I've known Jon (Gerych) my whole life, our parents were neighbors. I stopped at Gerych's one day and met Jon in the driveway. I asked if he had any work available and he told me to change my clothes and come back that same day. I've been there since I was



**"I'm always looking for an opportunity to make someone smile."**

**Barry Butterfield**  
Delivery person at  
Gerych's in Fenton

42. Now I'm semi-retired, but still do metro Detroit area deliveries for flowers, special events, etc.

**What are some of the most interesting deliveries you've made over the years?**

I've made thousands of deliveries. Once, when President George W. Bush was speaking, I delivered the podium and plants for his speaking engagement at a manufacturing plant.

I used to deliver flowers every week to Aretha Franklin's home. I could hear her singing as she'd meet me at the door. To hear Aretha Franklin sing — now that was a fun perk of my job. I've

TRI-COUNTY TIMES  
TIM JAGIELO

Barry Butterfield of Fenton has delivered for Gerych's Flowers, Events and Rentals for more than 20 years.

He still delivers even after retiring, but photography is his passion.

also provided flowers and special event items to Art Van, Mike Ilitch, and Al Taubman, to name a few.

**You also deliver laminated news stories from the Times, and frame photographs for local businesses. How did you get started with that?**

When I see names of friends and

local people in the paper, I laminate it, mat it and deliver it to them as a keepsake. I also do a lot of photography framing for businesses and friends. It's more of a hobby than anything.

**If you could have any other job in your life, what would it be?**

I'd love to make a living from my photography. I never leave home without my camera. I see life "in brackets" through the lens of my camera. When light hits an object a certain way, it catches my eye. I especially like outdoor photography, and my favorite is sunsets.

**How did you meet your wife, Del?**

We met at Johnny's Pizzeria when I was 24 years old. Del and my mother had a mutual friend, Judy, and all three happened to be there. It was the day after Mother's Day, and I was looking for my mother to give her a rose. Del says it was "love at first sight," but it took four years of her chasing me and me running, before we got married!

**How would you best like to be remembered?**

As a nice guy with a sense of humor. If I run across a difficult person, I just kill him or her with kindness. I'm always looking for an opportunity to make someone smile. No matter how small or insignificant the gesture seems, sometimes it will make someone's day.

**What is something about you most people probably don't know?**

From the time I was a child, I wanted to be an actor. My great-aunt made a couple of movies with Laurel & Hardy. I always felt I must have a little of the acting gene in me. Also, people always say how gregarious I am, but deep down, I'm a very shy person. I'm an introvert trying to be an extrovert.

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