

# Record \$27 million in new construction, new businesses, 964 building permits pulled over last 12 months

■Growth boom in Fenton continues on all fronts

**By Sally Rummel**  
news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282  
TJ Maxx, Petco, Five Below and Domino's Pizza are just a handful of national retailers and

restaurants that will soon have a Fenton address. They are all part of a business and new construction boom in the city of Fenton, adding national chains and new independent businesses to the tune of more than \$27 million in new construction value this year, said Mike Reilly,  
**See BUSINESSES on 14A**

**TRI-COUNTY TIMES**  
FILE PHOTO  
The new construction on Owen Road is part of the wave of new builds in Fenton.





**RICHARD McNALLY**  
FOR CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE  
Paid for by Richard McNally for Circuit Judge | 717 S. Grand Traverse, Flint, MI 48502

# Weekend Times

SUNDAY, JULY 1, 2018

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## Freedom Festival just three days away

■The 28th annual event brings Fourth of July parade, fireworks and fun for thousands of people

**By Sally Rummel**  
news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282  
Spray on your sunscreen, grab your sunglasses and plan to enjoy every minute of outdoor fun during the Fourth of July in Fenton.  
The 28th annual event will unofficially begin on Tuesday, July 3 with the Silver Lake Ski Show at 7 p.m. at Silver Lake Beach, and will also include the crowning of the 2018 Fenton Freedom Festival Queen by 2017 Queen Molly Gundry.  
**See FESTIVAL on 15A**

## Uplifting journey

WATCH THE VIDEO  AT TCTIMES.COM



**TRI-COUNTY TIMES** | TIM JAGIELO


On Sunday, June 24, a balloon crew tames the balloon "envelope" as the pilot begins to fill it with hot air, at 250 degrees Fahrenheit, at the Michigan Challenge Balloonfest in Howell. The festival brings thousands of people who can watch morning and evening flights, weather permitting, and enjoy the carnival, art festival, food and performances. **See story on 17A.**

**No Freedom Center event on the Fourth of July**  
**By Sally Rummel**  
news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282  
Bigger is not always better. That's why The Freedom Center in Fenton has cancelled its 23-year tradition of hosting a massive Fourth of July free community event on its church grounds, which used to draw between 3,000 to 5,000 people. Instead, the church is shifting its Fourth of July focus from big to small.  
**See FREEDOM CENTER on 16A**

## Property owners battling Holly Hills expansion plan


■**Could result in adding another 191 manufactured homes**  
**By Vera Hogan**  
vhogan@tctimes.com; 810-433-6823  
In 1990, a consent judgment prohibited Holly Township from preventing the use of 164 acres located north of East Holly Road and east of Falk Road.  
As a result, the first phase of the Holly Hills Manufactured Home Community was built with 276 homes. By the  
**See HOLLY HILLS on 10A**


PHOTO: HOLLY HILLS FACEBOOK  
Phase II of expansion of the the Holly Hills Manufactured Home Community would bring in an additional 191 homes.




**TEXT YOUR HOT LINE**  
810-771-TEXT  


“It actually is easy to stop illegal immigration. Go to the best neighborhoods in Southern California and make every lawn, garden and pool worker show ID. Then brutally fine and punish the wealthy people who hired them. Bus the illegals back to Mexico. Problem solved in six months.”  


“Kudos to Fenton High for recognizing just the top two students, unlike Lake Fenton, that had six valedictorians. Six! What a great way to water down an achievement. Stick with the top two in the class and be done with it.”  


“Thank you, Times, for the Hot lines. Some are silly, some are enlightening and some are critical, but all are freedom of speech and a forum to express our joy, our sorrow or our anger. Thank you for providing it.”  


**COMMENT OF THE WEEK**  
“The problem we are currently dealing with regarding illegal immigration is nothing new for our country. In fact, the American Indians even had a special name for it. They called it 'white people.'”  




# LEGACY REALTY

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7+ ACRES

OPEN  
SUNDAY  
1-3PM

### VERNON TOWNSHIP

11590 Prior Rd,  
**Custom built home in 2016** on 7.5 acres.  
Home sits at the back of the property for  
Privacy. This home is very energy efficient.  
Garage plus studio workshop  
and So Much More!!  
A MUST SEE!!

**\$375,000**

Call Laura Pennington 248-245-5351



10 ACRES

OPEN  
SUNDAY  
1-3PM

### HOWELL

4146 Pinckney

**Drive into this private road**, pass the apple  
trees to see 10 acres of tranquility. This home  
boasts 3500 sq ft of living area, on the main  
floor, including 4 beds and 4 baths. Many op-  
tions w/this home including 10 acres already  
been split into 4 parcels for future builds.

**\$429,900**

Call Dawn Placek 810-223-1341



GREAT  
LOCATION

OPEN  
SUNDAY  
1-3PM

### SHELBY TOWNSHIP

53629 Sophia

**Ranch home** with 1900 sq ft.  
3 bedrooms, finished basement,  
Great Location,  
Come see what this  
home has to offer!!  
Utica Schools.

**\$269,900**

Call Diana Beckemeyer 810-877-2167



NEW LISTING

OPEN  
SUNDAY  
1-3PM

### FENTON

805 Oakwood Circle

**Quality Built**, originally a builders model condo.  
Great location in a nice private setting. Condo  
features vaulted ceilings, open floor plan, very  
spacious loft could easily be turned into a 3rd  
bedroom. 2 car garage and a full basement.  
Hurry! Great location and priced to sell!

**\$225,000**

Call Frank Cramer 810-869-5701



NEW LISTING

OPEN  
SUNDAY  
1-3PM

### CLAYTON TOWNSHIP

3350 Seymour Road

**This updated ranch** sits on a beautiful lot  
with majestic trees and beautiful landscap-  
ing. 16x24 two story barn would make a great  
workshop and provide lots of storage. Heated  
12x20 four season room offers a wonderful  
view of the yard and wildlife that ventures thru.

**\$177,900**

Call Shelia Rhoades 810-348-7357



NEW LISTING

### GRAND BLANC

2355 Lake View Ridge

**Beautiful 2 Story home!** Perfect family home  
nestled in the cul-de-sac with a peaceful lake  
in backyard to enjoy. Large Basement ready  
for your imagination to finish with rough  
plumbing for bathroom and walkout to the  
backyard and lake. Hurry!

**\$370,000**

Call Alicia Faille 810-247-2293



NEW LISTING

### LINDEN

6396 Acorn Way

**Linden Schools**, River Oaks Hollow sub,  
1940 sq ft home with 3 bedrooms 3.1 baths.  
Attached garage and Finished walkout base-  
ment with large entertainment room, bedroom  
and kitchen area. Beautiful yard.  
Hurry this one won't last!

**\$269,900**

Call Patrik Welty 810-240-0418



NEW LISTING

### OTISVILLE VILLAGE

400 W. Main Street

**Vintage home.** Quadruplex. This is a diamond  
in the rough, but with a little TLC it could be a  
wonderful bed and breakfast, one family sprawl-  
ing home, or continue to use as a rental. Lots  
of original woodwork including beautiful curved  
staircase. 24x30 attached garage & storage.

**\$149,000**

Call Shelia Rhoades 810-348-7357



GREAT  
LOCATION

### FENTON

16155 Lydia

**Great Location** in Orchard View Estates!  
On CUL-DE-SAC, property backs up to woods,  
retention pond, and Genesee County park.  
4 Bedrooms, 2½ bath colonial. Over 2000 sq ft.  
of finish living space. Includes large great room  
and partial finished basement. Hurry!

**\$219,900**

Call Patrik Welty 810-240-0418



1 ACRE LOT

### FENTON

15125 Eddy Lake Road

**Great Location!** Brick ranch with 3 bedrooms  
and 2 full baths on an acre lot.  
This home features a heated programmable  
tile floor in main bathroom.  
Attached 3 car garage with a service pit.  
MUCH MORE!

**\$219,900**

Call Tammy Harper 248-459-8688



20 ACRES

### VENICE TOWNSHIP

9980 E Brooks Road

**4,100 Sq Ft Ranch** on 20 acres,  
with 3 car garage and  
large 40x60 attached pole barn.  
Come see what this  
home has to offer!!!

**\$389,000**

Call Judy Wright 810-845-4414



GRAND BLANC  
SCHOOLS

### GRAND BLANC

2375 Gibson Road

**Ranch home** on 1.18 acres.  
Spacious 2014 sq ft home  
close to shopping, and expressways.  
2 car detached garage.  
Unfinished huge basement.

**\$160,000**

Call Tammy Harper 248-459-8688



PRIME  
COMMERCIAL

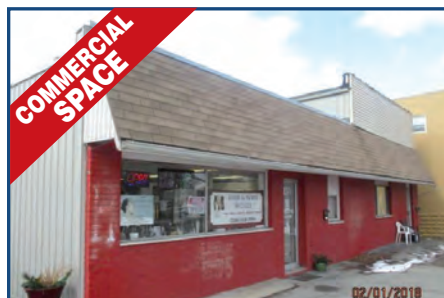
### HOLLY

507 N. Saginaw

**Prime Commercial location**  
in the Village of Holly.  
Excellent visibility, high traffic count.  
Free span building with lots of possibilities.

**\$269,900**

Call Patrik Welty 810-240-0418



COMMERCIAL  
SPACE

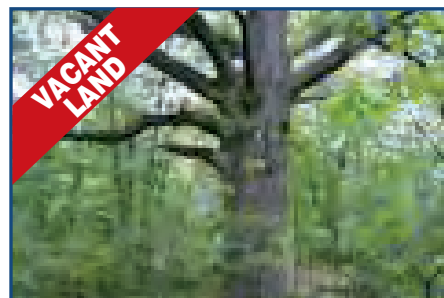
### HOLLY

113 Saginaw

**Great Opportunity** for Commercial Space & in-  
come property in the Village of Holly within walking  
distance to the Historic Downtown Village shops,  
Restaurants, Battle Alley & The Holly Hotel. Excel-  
lent Cash on Cash return on investment. Hurry!

**\$300,000**

Call Patrik Welty 810-240-0418



VACANT  
LAND

### DEERFIELD TOWNSHIP

Cohoctah Road

**Great Buy.**  
Survey And Copy Of Original Perk - Excellent  
sandy soils - On File For Review. Incredible  
Seclusion With Beautiful Trees  
And A Nice Rolling Parcel.

**\$53,900**

Call Patrik Welty 810-240-0418



VACANT  
LAND

### BYRON

Murray Road

**Byron schools.**  
Affordable residential  
1.27 acre build lot  
across from Myers Lake.

**\$30,000**

Call Patrik Welty 810-240-0418





TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

This garage sale at South LeRoy and Rockwell streets in Fenton was held on one piece of property, but included items from six nearby families. Here, a shopper looks for items on Thursday, June 21.

# Having a garage sale?

■ Now's the time to get rid of clutter and collect some cash

By Sally Rummel

news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

It's garage sale season in Michigan and you still have plenty of time to get in on the action. With some careful planning, you can de-clutter your home and collect some extra cash. The hardest work is in going through your items and deciding what to sell, keep or donate.

## Pick a date

You can't go wrong in Michigan with a summer garage sale, when the weather is more likely to be cooperative. Popular garage sale days of the week in the tri-county area are Thursday, Friday and Saturday, but

you can choose what works best for you. If you can only hold a one-day sale, Saturday might be your best option.

## Pull your permits

Don't forget to check with your municipality for rules about permits and other regulations regarding garage sales. In the city of Fenton, you are limited to holding three garage sales per year, but no permit is required, according to Carol Couture, front office receptionist. "You also can't put any garage sale signs on telephone poles or easements," she said.

## Get your items together

One method that works well is to set aside garage sale items all year long, designating a space in your closet or attic for clothing and household items you no longer want to keep that still might have value to someone else. When you've collected enough items, it's time to have a sale.

See **GARAGE SALE** on 9A

Summer is garage sale time in Michigan and there is still plenty of time to choose a date for yours and get organized.

# VG's grocery

## gets high-tech makeover

New products, features and amenities in every aisle

By Sally Rummel

news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

Shopping at VG's Grocery stores in Fenton is about to become less of a task and more about the joy of good food.

Both stores, at 18005 Silver Pkwy. and 1390 N. LeRoy St., began major remodeling projects in April that will feature new and innovative concepts in interactive food preparation and customer service.

See **VG'S** on 8A



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

The exterior, as well as the interior of the local VG's stores in Fenton were recently renovated.

## Fenton 4th of July Freedom Fest

July 3rd & July 4th



brought to you by the Fenton Freedom Festival Committee with sponsorship by the Fenton Regional Chamber, City of Fenton and Fenton DDA

**28TH** Fenton Freedom Festival

PARADE ★ 10am  
Begins at Industrial Way Drive

5K & FUN RUN ★ 9:45am  
(Sponsored by Fenton Freedom Center)  
Begins on West Street behind Ellen Street Campus

AWARD CEREMONY IMMEDIATELY  
FOLLOWING AT RACE START

## MUSICAL FIREWORKS

# JULY 4TH

## 10PM, SILVER LAKE PARK

(No parking in Silver Lake Park)

For more information: 629.5447 • fentonchamber.com

TRI-COUNTY TIMES

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## Andrew Heller

andrewheller@tctimes.com

# Come *Heller* high water...

Last week, I asked readers to send me examples of things, no matter how basic, that most people, no matter who they are, can agree on.

I did this for me. I've been truly dispirited lately about how angry and divided the country seems to be right now — more so than any time in my adult life. (I was a kid in the '60s — that seemed worse.)

We, of course, don't agree on politics. People seem to have flocked to the fringes and don't seem terribly inclined to come back to the center, where compromise lives.

Maybe that's not surprising. The internet has brought us wonderful things. Think of

it: the entirety of human knowledge is right there in the cell phone in the palm of your hand. It's amazing.

But it's also fractured us as a society. We don't watch the same TV shows anymore. We don't read the same newspapers. (No wonder we don't agree on politics — we're all singing from different hymnals.) We don't listen to the same music. We don't consume the same anything anymore.

So what is there to talk about then?

Viva la difference? Yeah, sure. I'm all for everyone marching to the beat of their own drummer, but there's something to be said for having things in common with everyone else.

That's what I was looking for with my request — just something, anything, that we can more or less agree on.

In response, Carole C. said, "Summer is here, fall is next, then winter and spring. Can you agree to that?"

Yup, I can. It's not much, but it's a start. And that's what we need — a

start, a baseline of things that are truly inarguable.

Marshall B. says this qualifies: "Ex-Lax in the PM yields a BM in the AM."

Um, OK, I think we can all agree that's funny but crude. Thanks, Marshall. I needed that. Not ExLax. I mean the joke.

C.B. says the following are inarguably true:

1) "We all need to belong to some kind of subset, either a tribe, a group or a club. This primal need transcends culture."

2) "We are most likely to welcome different ideas and cultures when it comes to us in the form of new foods or music. Our senses are designed to reward novelties in the form of nutrition and entertainment."

3) "None of this current political discord is new. It ebbs and flows in predictable cycles. This climate of juvenile bantering will pass."

I agree. But could we hasten its passing by finding common ground? I think so. And I suspect a lot of you do, too.

Ann P. says she knows where the common ground lies for Michiganders:

1) Nothing beats a good hot dog in the summer, especially a Flint-style Coney;

2) The Detroit Lions need ownership to support a winning team;

3) You can't beat a long summer evening around a campfire in Michigan;

4) Freedom and the right to vote;

5) Ice cream cones on a warm summer day;

6) The look of pure joy and wonder on a child's face as he or she learns a new skill.

Let's keep this going. Please send me your list of things you think we should all agree on. No politics, please. Send them to andrewhellercolumn@gmail.com.

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.



Andrew Heller  
FEATURED COLUMNIST

## 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.

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** In the interest of allowing our employees to enjoy the upcoming holiday with their families, the Times will not be publishing an edition of the newspaper on the Fourth of July.

**HOW CAN FIVE** morons all vote to allow a Muslim cemetery to be built in an area with homes all around it. No coffin, no embalming, no regard for home values for the homes around it. I notice none of you that voted live around that area.

**REGARDING THE TENTS**, clean out your garage and park in there.

**FENTON POLICE, FOR** God's sake, enforce the law. Example, new 'no parking' signs on the west side of Elizabeth and Adelaide are ignored daily, causing dangerous situations for all motorists. I live on Elizabeth Street so I see it every day. Do your damn job, you're endangering my family.

**I'M CURIOUS HOW** the city of Linden is charging '\$5 event parking' to park in a public elementary school parking lot that the taxpayers have paid for. Do I get this reimbursed and have to pay fewer taxes next year? Where exactly does this money go?

**AMERICA IS FACING** a shortage of workers and our Social Security system

is in danger due to the lack of younger workers. Importing workers will change our culture. These are the results of America's suicide by abortion.

**I'M JUST READING** in the paper about a housing shortage in Michigan. If they would stop taxing the living crap out of us, somebody might be able to afford something.

**TO HOT LINES** expert citing Timothy Geithner's book, Stress Test, as proof Obama was responsible for Quantitative Easing. Wrong again. 'The Fed had overseen monetary policy. Ben Bernanke launched a quantitative easing program,' (page 254). Once again, please come up with better lies.

**WILL YOU RANTERS** about parent/child separation please get the facts before the ranting.

**WHY ARE THERE** no street lights on Silver Parkway or Silver Lake Road until you get into town? Could the DDA help us with this?

**THE MICHIGAN HOUSE** and Senate should represent our area not Rochester Hills. The gerrymandering of my district M-8 is crazy. My state senator, Mike Bishop, covers part of Fenton, part of Brighton, part of Lansing, part of Howell, then across I-75 to part of Rochester Hills. Very sad.

**MY SON AND** daughter-in-law are on an EBT program. You sure as hell can get cash back on certain ones. They get the money and go to the casino.

**I CAN THINK** of no dumber hobby than fireworks.

See **HOT LINE** throughout Times

*Beautiful Golfing Destination*  
*Offering Weekday Rates*  
*on 4<sup>th</sup> of July &*  
*Labor Day!*

Hunters Ridge  
GOLF COURSE A Jerry Mathews Design

★★★★½  
RATED BY  
Golf Digest

517-545-GOLF

8101 Byron Rd. in Howell

Make your tee time online!

www.golfhuntersridge.com

Directions to Hunters Ridge From Fenton:  
West on Silver Lake Road, thru Linden and Argentine, to edge of Byron. Left on Byron to Cohoctah Road. Right on Cohoctah Road thru the village, and continue west for 1 mile to Byron Road. Left (south) on Byron Road 3 miles.

Compiled by Gracie Warda, intern

## What's your most notable garage sale find?

## streettalk



"I found a crumpled up \$100 bill in a small ceramic pot. I was really surprised, and I felt bad, too."

**Cheryle Johnson**  
San Luis Obispo, California



"I found this decorative piece with nine mini-drawers for my house. It matched perfectly with the theme. I was excited to find it."

**Ellen Leahy**  
Fenton Township



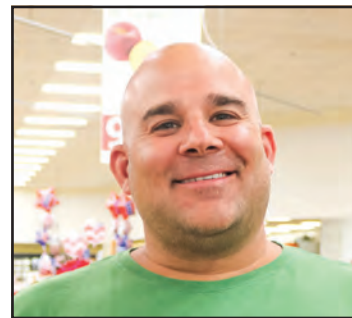
"I've sold better things than I've bought. I got these shoes in Las Vegas, they were purple suede and leather with high heels in a size 10. I couldn't believe someone actually bought them."

**Shirley Herzog**  
Argentine Township



"We found some beautiful hanging art pieces once. They were these pretty sea animals. It was great to find them at such a low price."

**Diana Asbel**  
Fenton Township



"I bought a Total Gym for my wife at a garage sale. She had wanted one, but I didn't want to spend so much money on it. I ended up finding one for very cheap."

**Jason Warda**  
Fenton Township



It's time  
you had  
some..

# FUN

## A Family Entertainment Center located in nearby Clarkston!

- A gigantic 3-story play structure with slides, obstacles, a zip line and our signature 3-story bear slide!
- Cub Cove for the little ones is a smaller version of our big play structure with a variety of age-appropriate toys.
- Wavy slides, bumper balls, rope climbs, kiddie rides, skeeball, games, arcades and more!
- Café and Bar serving beer, wine, wraps, paninis, salads, and fresh pizza for lunch & dinner.
- Big screen TVs and Massage Chair for mom and dad!

There's  
no party like a  
Fort Party!!!  
We offer premium  
themed birthday  
parties!!

## Basic Party Package

# \$150

Includes 10 children/20 adults  
Party room for 1 hour  
2 pitchers of pop  
Colored birthday party decor



Relax with  
a craft beer or  
glass of wine  
while the kids  
have a blast!



 /FortClarkston/

## www.FortClarkston.com

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**HOT LINE** CONTINUED

■■■  
**I HOPE ROSE** Township voters are watching our officials. Remember these ridiculously high raises next election.

■■■  
**WHO NEEDS TO** hear fireworks at 2 a.m. in the morning or 11:30 to 12:30 a.m. at night steady? Repeal the fireworks code. There is no adherence to the law and the law enforcement will not enforce law. So time to repeal the law and go back to what we had prior to that law.

■■■  
**I AM AMAZED** at the extreme views in the Hot lines. I am happy that most people I encounter in the Fenton area are thoughtful and compassionate.

■■■  
**ONLY IN AMERICA** are criminals rewarded for their behavior. Cut entitlements to illegals and they will not come.

■■■  
**THE DRIVING FORCE** of the hate on the left directed at Trump and conservatives is the result of Democrats losing power. Can you say 'sore loser?'

■■■  
**THE HATE INCITED** by the left is not moral. Liberal media, Hollywood elites and Democrats such as Maxine Waters are spewing hate and inciting mob mentality.

■■■  
**WHY DIDN'T THE** media care when Obama was separating the kids from the families? They no longer report news, they manufacture news.

■■■  
**IGNORANT? SERIOUSLY? YOU** say 'DDA money didn't pay for the new sidewalks, bricked sidewalks and better parking.' So who is really ignorant of the fact that city money is still not going to our neighborhoods' dilapidated streets and sidewalks where it truly belongs? But hey, our downtown looks nice.

■■■  
**PUT DOWN THE** damn phone and drive.

**News** briefs
**'LIGHTS ON THE LAKE'  
 DECORATING COMPETITION  
 STARTS JULY 1 ON LAKE FENTON**

Now is the time to get your Lake Fenton home decorated to celebrate pride in America and summer on the lake. Decorate your home, porch or boat to create a festive view for evening boat tours, invite organizers Pat O'Keefe (810) 750-9327, Wade Pyles (810) 845-6759 and Sharon Davis (810) 964-2144. Prizes will be awarded for the brightest display, most animated and most creative house. Judging will take place July 5 and 6.

**FOURTH OF JULY HOUSE  
 DECORATING CONTEST**

Light up Ponemah, Squaw and Tupper lakes (PST) with a house-decorating contest. Everyone is encouraged to decorate their home, deck, patio, yard, or dock in any theme in celebration of America's birthday on July 4. The judging will occur the evening of July 4 and there will be one winner with a cash prize of \$300. PST membership is not required to participate. Sponsoring the event are Brett Deweese from Deweese and Associates, Kreg Hasse from Leisure Works Hot Tubs and Master Spas, and Mark Holsbeke from Michigan Community Insurance Agency.

**'Anchored' in Fenton**

■ Chene Anchors are manufactured at Epic Machine, Inc. and sold at local and national retailers

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

They may not be the biggest fish in the sea, but they're certainly the most unique.

We're talking about Chene Anchors, one of the last American-made boat anchors in the marine marketplace. One of the most interesting things about them is that they are made right here in Fenton, Michigan, compared to most other anchor brands that are now made in China.

Chene Anchors are fluke, slip-ring anchors, most sought after by fishing boat and pontoon customers, but applicable for most boats. Kayak anchors are a new market item, expanding with the popularity of this sport.

These anchors are welded with 100 percent American-made steel, and are all manufactured by Epic Machine, Inc. in Fenton.

"One of my passions is about helping young people," said Mike Parker, owner of Epic Machine, Inc. "We hire kids from the Genesee Career Institute, and when they graduate, we can hire them in our factories. They're the ones who are doing the welding on these thousands of anchors."

Chene Anchors are not a new product; they were invented by Jim Chene in Fenton, back in the 1960s. Parker bought the company, which started in Argentine Township, because he had the buying power for the steel and the people to do the work.

They've become an anchor of the marine industry, especially in Michigan, for the past decade. Their unique engineering design and durability with a lifetime guar-



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

CNC Machinist Jorge Marure boxes Chene anchors at Epic Machine Inc. in Fenton on Thursday, June 28.

antee have made these anchors a popular marine product.

"We're registered with 'Pure Michigan,'" said Chip Gardner, an avid boater and fisherman who helps manage and expand Epic Machine's growing account list. "Things really began to kick in for Chene Anchor in 2013. Now we've grown into Ohio and Indiana."

Gardner, who handles sales of the anchors with heavyweight retailers like Cabela's, Bass Pro Shops, Gander Outdoors, Walmart.com and Meijer, said that the products really sell themselves once retailers see them at a boat show or trade show.

In addition to their national presence, Chene Anchors are sold at 31 other Midwest independent retailers, including Freeway Sports Center.

"We owe a lot to Jim Adams at Freeway Sports," Gardner said. "He's the

'guru' of fishing boats and he worked really hard to get us connected into the boat shows and trade shows."

For more local and inspiring stories, be sure to check out the "Love where you live 2018—Shop Local" featured section in this issue.

“One of  
 my passions  
 is about  
 helping young  
 people.”

Mike Parker  
 Epic Machine, Inc.  
 owner

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Chene Anchors are proudly manufactured by  
**Epic Machine Inc. Fenton, Michigan**



## News briefs

### Grand Marshal Reception honors this year's "Hometown Heroes" of the Fenton Freedom Festival Parade

Every year a grand marshal is chosen to lead the Fenton Freedom Festival parade, held on July 4. There will be a free community-wide Grand Marshal reception honoring the "Hometown Heroes" at **8 p.m. on July 3** at the Fenton Community & Cultural Center. This year, a group of first responders "Hometown Heroes," who were involved in saving the life of a local woman following an October 2016 car accident, are being honored. The first responders include: Mike Peterson, firefighter; Al Morea, firefighter; Cpt. Nick Will, firefighter; Lt. Dustin Lucius, firefighter; Mike Johnson, firefighter; David Siburt, firefighter; EMT Chris Bowen, STAT EMS; Matt Hadfield, firefighter; and Paramedic Rob Beggs, STAT EMS; Fenton Police Officer Tom Cole, Frank Carpenter, Ryan Jenema and Casey McLaughlin-Smith.

## WHAT YOU MISSED in the MIDWEEK TIMES

Compiled by Vera Hogan

The following are stories you may have missed in the **Wednesday, June 27, Midweek Times**. To subscribe and receive both the Midweek and Sunday Weekend editions, please call (810) 629-8282.

### Linden property to be razed for parking lot

DDA buys property for \$180,000, city to send out eviction notices.

### Suspected Owosso killers will stand trial

Trio face life in prison if convicted for stabbing California man to death.



### Gus Macker 3-on-3 scores big!

Stories and photos of this popular annual event in Linden.

### It's official: Tents no longer allowed in Linden front or side yards

Existing tents will not be grandfathered. The decision by the Linden City Council was unanimous.

### Long-time teacher takes over as assistant principal

Stefanie Roberts will take over as the assistant principal at AGS Middle School in Fenton on July 1.

### Shiawassee Riverfest a sunny success

Annual event attracts hundreds to downtown Linden.

### A look back at 1968

CBS's "60 Minutes" first aired 50 years ago in 1968.

### 911 fire reports

Fire alerts from Tuesday, June 19 to Monday, June 25. These 911 fire reports can only be seen in the Midweek Times.

## From the editor

Sharon Stone



### Hockey families say goodbye to a good friend

I learned of the sad news Wednesday evening from another former hockey mom. As I read her news that Gale Cronk had died, it brought back a flood of wonderful and bittersweet memories.

Gale was 89 years old and had lived in Fenton since 1955 but we met Gale at Iceland Arenas when our oldest son Brad started playing youth hockey as a mite. I learned the game while watching those little kids race around the ice. Gale came across as some crotchety old man walking around the arena, but we knew otherwise. He loved those kids and he loved hockey.

I remember interviewing Gale back in 2005 for a Talk of the Times article. He told me then that he got his first pair of skates from Sears & Roebuck in 1934 at Christmas. He married Gayle in 1951 and they were married until she died in 2013. He was quite the family man.

I can still picture Gale walking around Iceland Arenas, grabbing discarded pop cans from the trash that he turned in for cash to use for the young players. I also can picture Gale rounding up hockey gear for a player whose family could not afford the equipment.

Gale was the face of the Eastern Michigan Hockey Association. He was such a huge proponent for hockey, families and academics. For years we attended the Academic Awards banquets where grade point averages were recognized as well as achievements made on the ice. Plaques were presented and trophies were held up high by those young players. Gale made sure as many EMHA players as possible won college scholarships. Education and good grades came first, then hockey.

The Stone family owes a ton of gratitude to Gale and his associates at EMHA. When our son, Brad, died 18 years ago today, on July 1, 2000, it was Gale who suggested that the EMHA retire his hockey jersey number 61. On his own, Gale arranged to have Brad's framed photo and hockey jersey hung on the walls at Flint Iceland. It was Gale who suggested that our family take over a fall tournament and make it about Brad and raising funds to go toward college scholarships. We did that and for years, the Stone family and our close friends hosted what became a very well attended tournament. Teams came from as far away as California and Toronto to play. One year, when our youngest son, Jake, was playing on his 1995 travel team, we had so many teams in that bracket, 16 to be exact, we had to schedule one weekend of the tournament just for that bracket. It was awesome and a lot of work.

Gale was by our side the entire time. He'd be standing at one end of the rink watching a game and cheering on the players. That ice arena was his second home. Over the years, Gale's health declined but he will forever be the face of the EMHA. I'm sure all of those young players will have their own Gale Cronk story. RIP Gale.

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**VG'S**

Continued from Page 3A

"The transformation of the two VG's stores will include full-store resets to make it easier for store guests to navigate the perimeters and aisles," said Bruce Emery, SpartanNash divisional vice president, retail operations-east. New signs, flooring, décor and energy-efficient lighting will be installed to update the interiors of the store. The exteriors will also undergo a facelift, including a new sign at the LeRoy store.

A Fresh Divide station will encourage customers to select their produce and have it chopped, diced or sliced on-site. Betty Kaye's Smokehouse, where smoked meats are prepared by expert pit masters, will offer a complete take-home, family style meal when paired with special recipe rubs, sauces and hot sides such as mac-and-cheese and cornbread.

Watch for expanded bakery and deli sections, featuring a menu of specialty, made-to-order bakery items and grab-and-go meal solutions, including sushi, guacamole station, salad bar, mocha bar and Panini (grilled sandwich with artisan breads) and Piadina station (thin Italian flatbread). There will be a wider variety of organic and local farm-fresh products, broader wine and beer selections, and enhanced meat and seafood departments.

"You'll notice expanded selection and variety, including locally made, gluten-free and natural products, throughout the center of the store to satisfy every need in every aisle," Emery said.

Fast Lane online shopping with curb delivery will continue, along with a pilot at-home delivery program through VG's Grocery at Silver Parkway. The program, in partnership with The Grocery Run-



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

New frozen seafood cases are part of the renovation at the Silver Parkway VG's. New wall headers are being built above the meat department as well.

**“With new products, features and amenities to surprise and delight in every aisle of the store, we look forward to better serving our VG's store guests and delivering when they want it, fast and friendly.”**

**Bruce Emery**

*SpartanNash divisional vice president,  
retail operations-east*

ners, offers Fast Lane at-home delivery to Fenton area customers in zip codes 48430 and 48451.

"Our own VG's associates shop customer orders in-store, and then The Grocery Runners take the orders 'the final mile' to our customers' doorsteps," Emery said. A fee is charged per delivery service.

The stores will also be improving their energy efficiency, Emery said. The Silver Parkway's store lighting will be upgraded with LED bulbs and the refrigerated sections in both stores will feature doors to improve energy conservation.

"At SpartanNash through our VG's stores, we pay close attention to what our customers expect in a grocery shopping experience," Emery said. "With new products, features and amenities to surprise and delight in every aisle of the store, we look forward to better serving our VG's store guests and delivering when they want it, fast and friendly."

Watch for the VG's Grocery stores in Fenton celebrating their grand reopening this fall.

# crust DINNER DAYS

Join us Sunday - Wednesday  
4pm to 9pm • Dine In Only

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Oven fresh bread served with sea salt butter  
Cup of house made soup or Bibb salad

Choice of one:

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## GARAGE SALE

Continued from Page 3A

The sorting process can be the most difficult part of deciding what to sell at your garage sale, especially when you have an emotional attachment to some items.

HGTV.com suggests you start small and begin with one drawer or one cabinet at a time, then move on to the next. When you've finished an entire room, begin the same process in another. Ask yourself the questions, "What can I let go of?" and "What can I live without?"

### Clean it up

Give all your garage sale items a thorough cleaning to get rid of layers of dust and dirt — a big turnoff to buyers.

### Advertise your sale

The Times can be your best marketing tool to get the word out about your garage sale. It offers a garage sale packet that includes your ad in the Times on either Wednesday or Sunday editions or both, plus signs, stickers and tips for a successful sale.

"We'll also send out a Text Blast advertising your sale," said Kathleen Smith, who handles classified advertising for the Times. "Your sale will be featured online, along with the print edition. You can also include a photo with your ad for no additional cost."

She advises garage sale advertisers to be specific with some of the items they have for sale to attract more buyers. Let people know if you have items for infants and kids, or if your sale features vintage items or antiques. This is the kind of information that will attract buyers to your sale.

### Price it right

Your main goal is to sell your clothing and household items you no longer want or need, so make sure and price it attractively to sell. Here is a pricing guide from Angie's List:

- **Baby clothes:** \$1 to \$2 for gently used, 25 cents to 50 cents for well-worn clothes

Name brand items with original tags can be priced higher. If you have a bunch of clothes to sell, bundle them together for a specific price.

- **Adult clothes:** \$3 to \$5

Clothes with original tags can be priced higher.

- **Shoes:** \$5 to \$7

- **Coats:** \$10 to \$15

- **Jewelry:** 50 cents to \$2

- **Books:** \$1 for hard covers, 25 cents to 50 cents for paperbacks

- **DVDs, CDs, cassettes:** \$3 to \$5 each for DVDs and CDs; \$1 for cassettes

- **Records:** \$2

- **Electronics/computer equipment:** No more than one-third the retail price for used items, or price new items with original packaging at half the original cost

- **Toys and games:** \$1 to \$3

Consider making a "free" box with inexpensive items for kids who come with their parents to take something home, too.

- **Furniture:** lower quality, \$10 to \$30; higher quality, one-third of original price

- **Antiques:** \$100 or more

Consider having items appraised first.

- **Home décor:** \$3 to \$5

Decide in advance when you might want to cut the prices in half, maybe during the last hour of your sale, or the entire last day. That will make your job easier when it's time to clean up and donate your unsold items.



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

Shoppers peruse the garage of the yard sale on Rockwell Street in Fenton on Thursday, June 21. Sales tend to kick off on Thursdays, and run through the weekend.

### Think like a merchandiser

Make your sale well laid out and attractive. Big-ticket items, like furniture or baby strollers, should be front and center so motorists can easily see them. Put something equally eye-catching at the back of the sale, like a large painting, mirrors or floor lamp, so people wander-

ing through your whole sale can stop and take note of it.

Keep your sale looking fresh all day so it never appears "picked over," which is a big turnoff for buyers.

Add thoughtful touches, like wrapping sets of linens or fabric with twine or ribbon; displaying jewelry on card stock;

The largest garage sale in Michigan will be the US12 Heritage Trail Garage Sale on Friday to Sunday, Aug. 10-12, a total of 180 miles from New Buffalo to Detroit.

[US12heritagetrail.org/garagesale](http://US12heritagetrail.org/garagesale)

hang clothes on garment racks to add a boutique feel to your sale; display similar items in groups.

Consider offering refreshments and snacks to make your garage sale "fun" for buyers.

### Follow the signs

When the day of your sale arrives, make sure people can easily find you with clear, consistent signage. Place signs at every entrance to your neighborhood and include arrow signs at every turn. Make sure and take all signs down after your sale.

SOURCES: HGTV.com and Angieslist.com

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**BENNINGTON**



**HOT LINE** CONTINUED

**DEAR PARENTS, BE** advised that it is illegal for your unlicensed kids, under the age of 16, to drive your family's golf cart on our subdivision streets.

■■■■ **AS REPORTED BY NPR**, a non-profit organization, Southwest Key Programs will be paid to temporarily house 5,000 illegal immigrant kids. All while 15 million legitimate American children live in poverty. This is perfect liberal logic.

■■■■ **IF THEY CAN** connect Torrey Road to Silver Lake Road on to Fenway Drive, people avoid getting on to the highway and getting off.

■■■■ **REAGAN WAS OUR** greatest president. He defeated the Soviet Union and Warsaw Pact nations giving millions freedom without a war. Another great leader, Donald Trump, has freed Americans from the grip of the socialist, UN, global government. Trump is keeping millions of Americans free.

■■■■ **THEY SURE CAN** get cash back using EBT card. Two federal programs are used with EBT card. One you can get cash back and one does not allow. It's crazy.

**CONCERNING ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS**, why is all of the time and money being spent on taking them into custody, housing and caring for them and clogging up the courts, instead of simply returning them to the border and sending them back across?

■■■■ **TO THE PERSON** who got stuck on Tinsman Road. You forgot to take your bumper with you after you were towed out.

■■■■ **DEMOCRAT LIBERALS ARE** more concerned with illegals than American citizens. In this country, children are taken from parents every day when the parents commit crimes or are found to be unfit parents. The only people Dems are concerned with, is themselves. Hypocrites.

■■■■ **LAKE FENTON PROPERTY** Owner's Association. Glad the weed treatment program is such a success. I no longer have dock fish. I haven't heard one bull frog. No more minnows. Nary a turtle. No more crickets. Thanks for annihilating everything.

■■■■ **'ALL THE PRESIDENT'S** Men' was great and since the next movie will include Congress it will be titled 'All the Presidents Wimps.'

**HOLLY HILLS**

Continued from Front Page

time Phase III comes around, there could be more than 700 homes on the site.

According to Stacy Taylor, who with her husband, Mark, owns a six-acre parcel of land on Falk Road, which they call home, said the consent judgment was the result of a "clerical error." She said this fight has been on-going since the late 1970s and it's still not over. It's the reason their group is called "Old fight to make it right."

Today, the Holly Hills owner, Meritus Communities, Inc. of Farmington Hills, plans to exercise its rights, according to the consent judgment, and begin Phase II of the project, which will bring 191 more homes and 618 more paved parking spaces into the park. Phase II will cover 36 acres of the park.

The Taylors and several other neighboring property owners have been preparing to fight this expansion for several reasons and have amassed a voluminous amount of documents to try and prove and illustrate their points.

**SUMMARY**

■ The Holly Township Planning Commission will take up the issue of the Holly Hills Manufactured Home Community's Phase II expansion, which will bring in an additional 191 homes. The meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. on July 17.

The Taylors' concerns include, but are not limited to the safety of the wells and drinking water in the township. "This is a danger to our aquifer," she said.

Another major concern is the increase in traffic on Falk Road. Stacy said the expansion site plans call for three access points into the manufactured home park from Falk Road.

Falk Road, she adds, is on track to becoming designated as a national "Beautification Road." Although it remains a dirt road, it is heavily oak-lined and canopied.

"Drive down here and you will see how beautiful it is," she said.

Other negative effects of this expansion are the additional burden on Holly Area Schools

as far as increased class sizes, traffic impact and taxes. Manufactured home owners pay \$36 a month toward taxes. "I pay over \$2,000," Stacy said. Although Meritus Communities, Inc. pay taxes as well, Stacy said that figure is about \$80,000.

The Taylors also cite the "devastating effects" this could have on the wetlands. Although documents provided by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality show there have been no wetland issues so far, Stacy believes there will be in the future.

"It is happening all over the state of Michigan," she said.

The toll this expansion will take on Holly Township roads is also a major concern, said Stacy. "More wear and tear on our already crumbling roads, gas and oil leaks ...," she said.

The Taylors and their group are worried about the additional asphalt driveways and runoff issues. Meritus is also seeking additional utilities. "The gas and oil leaks will come from 2,500 total paved parking spaces once all three phases are built. It will be leaking into the land atop the aquifer, and will be there for eternity once built," they said.

On June 5, Meritus Communities, Inc. sought preliminary site plan approval from the Holly Township Planning Commission. The matter will appear again at the July 17 Planning Commission meeting, which begins at 6:30 p.m.

Final site plan approval, however, is granted by the State of Michigan Mobile Home Commission.

Holly Township Supervisor George Kullis said that because of the consent judgment, "Our hands are tied." The property owner is required to get site plan approval for engineering from a safety standpoint. They are working with NOCFA (North Oakland County Fire Authority), which is working closely on this for fire safety matters.

The Planning Commission did agree to have an attorney review the situation and see what can be done, both Kullis and Stacy confirmed.

Stacy said she is hoping that in the past 30 years, a law has popped up that would render the consent judgment invalid somehow. She said the EPA's Safe Water Drinking Act might be that new law.

Resident Lisa Hogan asked that the Holly Hills matter be placed on all future Board of Trustees and Planning Commission meeting minutes until the matter is resolved. So far, 30 to 50 people have attended the meetings. She said she is hoping, once the public is aware of what's going on, that people will attend these public meetings and support their fight against what they believe will impact everyone in the township.

**28th Fenton 4th of July Freedom Festival**

*Brought to you by the Fenton Freedom Festival Committee with sponsorship by the Fenton Regional Chamber, City of Fenton and Fenton DDA*

**July 3rd & July 4th****INFO: 629-5447 or fentonchamber.com****SCHEDULE OF EVENTS****Tuesday, July 3rd****7pm**

Silver Lake Ski Show at  
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**8pm**

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**Wednesday, July 4th****COMMUNITY CENTER &  
GAZEBO AREA****7-10am**

Pancake Breakfast  
(American Legion #38)

**9am**

Ecumenical Blessing at  
pancake breakfast

**9:45am**

5K & FUN RUN/WALK  
Applications - Fenton  
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Or FentonFirecracker.com  
to register  
(Fenton Freedom Center)

**1:00pm**

CRUSIN; USA DANCERS

**Wednesday, July 4th****8:30 - 3:00pm**

ARTS-CRAFTS-VENDORS

**10:00am**

\*PARADE - rain or shine

**11:00am - Until Gone**

Chicken BBQ, hot dogs, brats chips & pop  
(Fenton Lions Club)

**FOLLOWING THE PARADE****12:30pm**

- Rubber Ducky Race (Rotary Club)
- Children's games (Kiwanis)
- Adopt-A-Pet of Fenton \* Pony Rides \* Petting Zoo
- Hot Dogs & pop at the Gazebo (Rotary Club)
- Inflatables (Freedom Center)
- Snow Cones (Fenton United Methodist Church)

**9:00am - 1:00pm**

Museum Open

**FREE FLAGS**

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(Boy Scouts of Fenton)

**FIREWORKS • 10 PM • JULY 4****SILVER LAKE PARK - NO PARKING IN SILVER LAKE PARK**



# Oakland County Fair in Davisburg begins Friday

By Hannah Ball

hball@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792

From July 6 to 15, those attending the annual Oakland County Fair will be able to experience livestock competitions, a carnival, family activities, prehistoric dinosaurs and more.

The event takes place at Springfield Oaks County Park, 12451 Andersonville Rd. in Davisburg, which is approximately 20 minutes from Fenton. Opening day will end with a fireworks show at 10 p.m.

## Animal attractions

Kids, and adults can experience the prehistoric adventure — featuring 8-foot tall and 16-foot long realistic “dinosaurs” with blinking eyes, swishing tails and a loud roar. Kids can pet the creatures and take photos with them. The dinosaurs are led around the fairgrounds three times a day, and attendees can learn about them at their enclosure.

At 11:30 a.m. every day of the event, people can watch as pigs race in a pen. An exotic petting zoo features all kinds of animals, from alpacas to zebras.

Farmer John will present Barnyard Express, a daily event that will teach viewers more about farm life.

## Rides

The Big Rock Amusements is a traveling carnival that offers all the usual rides, from a Ferris wheel to bumper cars, to mazes, to a zero gravity ride. Kids can ride children-friendly rides like the carousel, the fun slide, a jungle jump bungee and more.

## More

If you’ve ever wondered what a hypnotism show is like, now is your chance. Ron Diamond’s comedy hypnosis show, “Magic of the Mind,” at the fair will interact with the audience during the show, and he will break down the myths about hypnosis so people will see

## SUMMARY

■ Don’t forget to check out the annual Oakland County Fair from July 6 to 15.



PHOTO: PICSSR.COM

Big Rock Amusements Ferris wheel

it can be used in everyday life.

Diamond, who is a clinical hypnotherapist with advanced certification in clinical hypnosis, will perform three times a day.

Watch the monster truck show on July 14 at 7 p.m. at the main arena event.

## Family activities

Specific family activities take place at the events pavilion, which offers Frisbee throwing, lassoing a steer, straw throwing, best hog call, loudest burp and best rooster crow. Check oakfair.org for more activities.

The Livestock and Horse Show will take place from July 6 to 15, when young contestants can show off their 4-H skills.

## Special Days

The event kicks off with Armed Forces Day July 6 with free parking for military personnel. Military ID is required.

Ladies Day is July 7, Seniors Day is July 9,

Toddlers Day is July 10, Kids Day is July 11, and Individuals with Disabilities Day is July 12. Science Day is July 13 and Family Fun Day is July 15.

## Tickets

Daily parking/admission is \$12 with a car, \$6 with a motorcycle. Walk-in admission is \$6. Parking for the full 10 days is \$45, which includes admission for everyone in the vehicle. A Mega Pass for the carnival costs \$60.

Additional tickets for specific attractions can be found at oakfair.gov.

**The Oakland County Fair was founded by the Milford Agricultural Society in the 1880s. It was an annual event until World War II in 1940. The fair returned as an annual event again in 1945.**



Ron Diamond



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TRI-COUNTY TIMES | FILE PHOTO

The Holly Waterworks building at 690 S. Broad St. will be demolished following a 4-2 vote Tuesday, June 26. The building was saved by several extensions to postpone demolition, which the council ended this week.

## Holly to demolish Waterworks building

### Council nixes final motion to save 110-year-old structure

By Tim Jagielo

tjagielo@tctimes.com; 810-433-6795

It's possibly the first municipal public water pump in the Oakland County, but it's been sitting vacant and unused for more than 30 years.

It has been declared unsafe, and following a council vote, is going to be demolished.

On Tuesday, June 26, the Holly Village Council voted 4-2 against another postponement for the demolition of the Holly Waterworks building.

The building is estimated to be about 110 years old, and holds a water pump system that may have supplied the village water tower. While old, it is not historic.

The Shiawassee River runs under the building and has a parking lot, and launch site for canoes and kayaks.

Council Member Bob Allsop made the motion to postpone demolition. He and Ryan Sheil voted for the extension, while council members Suzanne Heiple, Chris Rankin, Dave Cuick-shank and President Tom McKinny voted against it.

Council Member Debra Musgrave was not present.

Village Manager Jerry Walker said the demolition project will require per-

mits, and could be underway in 30 days. The council has received estimates of \$18,000 to demolish the structure and estimates as high as \$200,000 to make the building usable.

The goal is to demolish the building, but save the old pump system to turn it into a static display, eventually.

If this feels like déjà vu, it's because this was first decided in August 2017, with a unanimous vote.

The first extension happened in October 2017, and again in November 2017, April and May of this year.

Oakland County Commissioner Bob Hoffman (Dist.-2) requested these extensions. He urged the council to give him time to create a plan to save the building, citing his experience turning other downtown properties around.

At the meeting, Hoffman brought his updates, and estimates for the first round of repairs, totaling \$69,000. He had the front door replaced, and the bottom level of the building cleaned.

Holly Township Supervisor George Kullis was also involved and was working on grant funding.

Resident John Lauve also spoke in support of saving the building.

Sherlynn Everly used public comment time to speak about the Waterworks park's recreational opportunities. "What kayakers don't need is an old building," she said. She urged them to make the park useful for paddlers.

### What kayakers don't need is an old building.

Sherlynn Everly  
Holly Village resident

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## LOOKING BACK

at this week in

### NATIONAL HISTORY

COMPILED BY VERA HOGAN

#### JULY 1

**1997:** At midnight, Hong Kong reverts back to Chinese rule in a ceremony attended by British Prime Minister Tony Blair, Prince Charles of Wales, Chinese President Jiang Zemin, and U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright. A few thousand Hong Kongers protested the turnover, which was otherwise celebratory and peaceful.

#### JULY 2

**1992:** Theoretical physicist Stephen Hawking breaks British publishing records. His book *A Brief History of Time* has been on the nonfiction bestseller list for three and a half years, selling more than 3 million copies in 22 languages. *A Brief History of Time* explained the latest theories on the origins of the universe in language accessible to educated lay people. The book was made into an acclaimed documentary in 1992, which focused largely on Hawking's own story.

#### JULY 3

**1985:** The blockbuster action-comedy "Back to the Future," in which John DeLorean's iconic concept car is memorably transformed into a time-travel device, is released in theaters across the United States. The movie starred Michael J. Fox as Marty McFly, a teenager who travels back 30 years using a time machine built by the zany scientist Doc Brown (Christopher Lloyd). He arrives in 1955 only to stumble in the way of his own parents and keep them from meeting for the first time, thus putting his own life in jeopardy.

#### JULY 4

**1776:** In Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, the Continental Congress adopts the Declaration of Independence, which proclaims the independence of the United States of America from Great Britain and its king. The declaration came 442 days after the first volleys of the American Revolution were fired at Lexington and Concord in Massachusetts and marked an ideological expansion of the conflict that would eventually encourage France's intervention on behalf of the Patriots.

#### JULY 5

**1921:** After Judge Hugo Friend denies a motion to quash the indictments against the major league baseball players accused of throwing the 1919 World Series, a trial begins with jury selection. The Chicago White Sox players, including stars Shoeless Joe Jackson, Buck Weaver, and Eddie Cicotte, subsequently became known as the "Black Sox" after the scandal was revealed.

#### JULY 6

**1946:** FBI agents arrest George "Bugs" Moran, along with fellow crooks Virgil Summers and Albert Fouts, in Kentucky. Once one of the biggest organized crime figures in America, Moran had been reduced to small bank robberies by this time. He died in prison 11 years later.

#### JULY 7

**1942:** Heinrich Himmler, in league with three others, including a physician, decides to begin experimenting on women in the Auschwitz concentration camps and to investigate extending this experimentation on males. Himmler, architect of Hitler's program to exterminate Europe's Jewish population, convened a conference in Berlin to discuss the prospects for using concentration camp prisoners as objects of medical experiments. The experimentation would take the form of sterilization via massive doses of radiation or uterine injections. They were to be done without the prisoners' knowledge.

Source: History.com

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## BUSINESSES

Continued from Front Page

Fenton city building and zoning administrator. A total of 964 building permits have been issued, include 68 new housing starts.

The city of Fenton fiscal calendar runs from July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018.

"It's nuts," Reilly said. "We've had 2,400 inspections so far for the year in both residential and commercial construction. That must be close to a record."

All you have to do is look around and see all the construction taking place, from businesses to new homes.

Owen Road Partners LLC is continuing its work on the new Owen Shoppes development on Owen Road, formerly Pizza Hut and Big Boy restaurants. This space will house a Starbucks location, a new Verizon store and possibly a Jersey Mike's Sub Shop. "I've heard Jersey Mike's is coming," Reilly said. "But I can't verify that information yet." But he did add that Pizza Hut is not going to be building in that development, as originally planned.

The former Kmart building on Silver Parkway will be the new home of TJ Maxx, Petco and Five Below to name a few.

**“We’ve had 2,400 inspections so far for the year in both residential and commercial construction.”**

**Mike Reilly**

City of Fenton building and zoning administrator

The new stores are expected to begin opening by mid-2019. "They have site approval," he said. "We're still waiting for building plans."

Aldi's discount supermarket is rumored to be coming to Fenton, although it's just in the discussion stages, according to Reilly. If so, they would locate between Fenton Schools and the football field, next to Target. "That property has all been rezoned to commercial," Reilly said.

Other office construction includes the completion of the Horizon Building in downtown Fenton and plans for Cornerstone II to break ground in 2019.

Several restaurants are still in the process of completing their construction, including:

**Ciao Italian Bistro** at 110 S. LeRoy St., is hoping to open in mid-

to late-July, "but let's just say August," Reilly said.

The **Meeting Place**, formerly Bob Evans, at 3600 Owen Rd., "is moving along," Reilly said. "They asked for a sign height variance and got a slight variance."

**Domino's Pizza** will be locating in the former The Green Olive Tree location at 913 N. LeRoy St. "They're doing the finish work right now," Reilly said. "I'd say they will be open by the middle of July."

In other business news, the McDonald's restaurant located at 1314 N. LeRoy St., as part of the BP gas station and convenience store, has closed because of a lease issue. Some of the employees have been re-located to the McDonald's store on Owen Rd.

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## FESTIVAL

Continued from Front Page

This year's queen is Jamie Elrod, daughter of Holly and Mike Elrod of Fenton. She will be a senior this fall at Fenton High School.



Jamie Elrod

The Grand Marshal Reception will follow, honoring a dozen "Hometown Heroes" from the Fenton police and fire departments and STATEMS on Tuesday at 8 p.m. at the Fenton Community & Cultural Center.

"It's really an opportunity for us to thank all the police and fire departments and emergency responders," said Pat Lockwood, festival chairperson. "It's a special tribute to all our public servants."

The highlight of the festival is the Fenton Freedom Festival Parade at 10 a.m., stepping out from Industrial Way Drive for the 1.9-mile parade route ending on West Street. "We've already got more than 100 units signed up, a week before the parade," Lockwood said. "Scott Grossmeyer will once again be handling the parade, and lineup begins at 9:30 a.m."

The 12-member Grand Marshal unit will be riding on a pontoon from Joe and Dana Ceresia, owners of Lake Ponemah Marina. "Joe and Dana are getting one of their pontoons ready," Lockwood said. "It will be all decked out in red, white and blue."

Other traditional festival events will be returning, including the American Legion Pancake Breakfast, Fenton Fire-

**“Joe and Dana (Ceresia) are getting one of their pontoons ready. It will be all decked out in red, white and blue.”**

**Pat Lockwood**

*Fenton Freedom Festival chairperson, referring to the pontoon the "Hometown Heroes" will ride on in the Fenton Freedom Festival parade*

cracker 5K Race & Fun Run/Walk, arts and crafts, parade, Rotary Rubber Duck Regatta, Lion's Club Chicken Barbecue, Kiwanis children's games, music and entertainment on the back lawn of the community center and more.

One of the most exciting events is the Musical Fireworks Show that lights up the sky along with patriotic music at 10 p.m. at Silver Lake Park. This year, food trucks will be providing tacos, pizza and hot dogs as people wait for the fireworks to start, Lockwood said. The fireworks show will last 38 minutes.

She also said people will notice that the fireworks are being shot higher in the air this year, because of the growth of all the trees in Silver Lake Park.



**TRI-COUNTY TIMES** | FILE PHOTO

The Fenton Rotary Club Rubber Duck Regatta is one of the mainstay events at the Fenton Freedom Festival.

Once again, Lockwood expresses appreciation to all the civic groups that make the Fenton Freedom Festival a reality every year. "We couldn't do it without all the civic groups," Lockwood said.

She also appreciates all the volunteer work that goes into the success of the festival. "It's just such a constant group of volunteers who make sure that each year it's the best festival ever."

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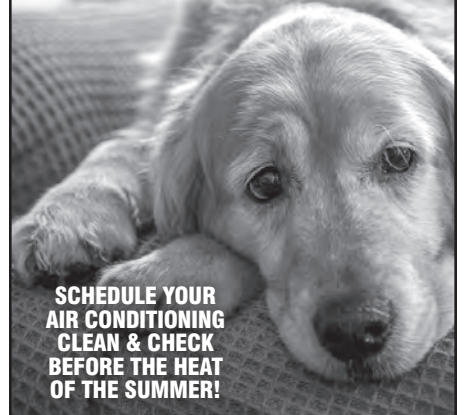
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TRI-COUNTY TIMES | FILE PHOTO

The Freedom Center is known for hosting large community events, such as the 2018 Fenton Chef Showdown. Pastor Jim Wiegand (right) has announced that the church is cancelling its Fourth of July celebration as it plans several smaller events.

## FREEDOM CENTER

Continued from Front Page

Rather than holding one large event, the congregation is creating smaller, individual celebrations, for perhaps 30 people or so at 100 different events throughout the city. Some of these events include block parties, backyard barbecues, lake hangouts or service projects on Independence Day.

“Why, you might ask,” said Senior Pastor Jim Wiegand, especially when this has been such a successful undertaking in the past. “I would like to do 100 meetings with 30 people at each, because in a group of 30 people, I can know your name. I can hear your heart. I can invite you to coffee. We can build a relationship.”

The Freedom Center has become known over the years as a proactive church with a big heart for the community. Whatever it does, it “lives large” for the sake of spreading the Gospel to as many people as possible.

But sometimes, the most effective way to reach people is neighbor to neighbor.

Wiegand said that the needs of the community have changed so dramatically that he feels the need to move away from a

large, more impersonal gathering to a setting where more meaningful relationships can be developed — like a neighborhood.

“The reason behind the change is to reinvigorate ‘community,’” said Carl Jones, associate pastor. “People are thinking outside the box (in creating small group opportunities).”

With one third to one half of the community attending this huge Fourth of July event every year, to say that this event has been successful is an understatement. But it still doesn’t accomplish what Wiegand wants to do with this event — add a personal engagement between people.

“The importance of building relationships with neighbors has officially been re-prioritized at The Freedom Center,” Wiegand said. “So if you’re in Fenton

on the Fourth of July, look for people in a gray shirt with the church’s logo on it. They are around for encouragement, prayer and to love on the city.”

If you’d like more information or become involved in this new Fourth of July “shift in focus,” contact The Freedom Center at [office@freedomcenter.church](mailto:office@freedomcenter.church) or call (810) 629-5261.

**“The importance of building relationships with neighbors has officially been re-prioritized at The Freedom Center.”**

**Jim Wiegand**  
The Freedom Center pastor

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# Defy gravity, pilot a balloon

■Howell's Balloonfest combines carnival rides, performances, food and aviation

By Tim Jagielo

tjagielo@tctimes.com; 810-433-6795

**Howell** — On Sunday, June 24, Phil Glebe of Tyrone Township and his crew of friends and family worked feverishly to get his blue and teal balloon off the ground.

In the dusk light before the eyes of hundreds of spectators, they inflated the 133,000 cubic-foot balloon, as other crews worked on theirs, forming a colorful bulging backdrop behind them.

With a roar of fire, the giant balloon righted itself and Glebe floated away in the basket. A wave of applause from the crowd followed him up into the sky.

This was the 34th year for the Michigan Challenge Balloonfest held in Howell each summer. The event draws thousands over the three-day schedule, held at Howell High School. "It helps create family traditions and memories," said Michelle Tokan, Michigan Challenge director.

The balloon flights are competition-based, and do not include public flights. The flights themselves are subject to weather and atmospheric conditions. The weather is monitored and pilots are briefed at certain times in the morning and evening.

On Sunday, flights were grounded until 8 p.m. due to wind, and weather wasn't conducive to competition. Tokan said that the competition usually entails dropping markers onto certain spots set up by the competition balloonmeister, Phil Clinger, but it didn't work out this year. Flights were mostly for fun and prizes, not national standings.

Safety is important — one pilot crashed his balloon into a utility pole Saturday, and had to land in a nearby lake. According to a statement by Michigan Challenge, there were no injuries.

According to the Howell Police Department, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is investigating the incident.

Glebe has been flying for 42 years, and only has seen a handful of incidents. "It was a very unfortunate thing, and regrettable that it happened," he said.

His flight Sunday night went smoothly. "It was absolutely beautiful, what a great night to fly," he said. "It was nice because we didn't have a lot of nice weather over the weekend."

This is Glebe's business, and he flies all over the country. "A lot of people find it intimidating, but to me, it's how I relax, it's very comfortable," he said. "You can't have a better view of the world, I can tell you that."



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

Phil Glebe of Tyrone Township fills the envelope of his balloon with hot in preparation for take-off on Sunday, June 24.

While hot air balloons are the heart of the festival, there is a variety of activities surrounding the flights. There is a large carnival with midway, arts festival, open-air market and family fun tent.

Unicycling juggler Hilby Unic juggled bowling pins and blades for a gathered crowd as he told jokes.

Announcer Tom Maynard kept the day moving along with his observations, and stories. If it was not him talking, it was classic rock filling the air.

The 2019 schedule will be determined by the end of the summer.

**“You can't have a better view of the world, I can tell you that.”**

**Phil Glebe**

*Tyrone Township resident and balloon pilot*

## Hot air balloon facts

- **The balloon apparatus** is made of several parts, the envelope is the actual colorful balloon that provides the lift. At the top of the envelope is the parachute vent, which allows the pilot to let heated air out, to descend. The burners provide the lift for the pilot and anyone in the basket.

- **Several of the** balloons at the festival were built by Cameron Balloons in Ann Arbor.

- **According to hotairballoon.org**, pilots can't "steer" hot air balloons. They are familiar with wind patterns, and can control their altitude with the burners.

- **They are run** by propane gas, and burn at 250 degrees Fahrenheit, according to howstuffworks.com.

- **The first hot** air balloon flew in France in 1783, according to adventureballoons.co.uk. The first passengers weren't humans, but a sheep, duck and rooster.

## Tyrone Covenant Presbyterian Church Welcomes New Pastor

Fenton, MI — The congregation of Tyrone Covenant Presbyterian Church is adding another exciting chapter of its long history in the community by welcoming a new pastor and his family.

Pastor Lawrence Bowlin, his wife, Ellen and their three daughters, Grace, Joy, and Hope, moved to Fenton from Coventry, Connecticut in late May. Pastor Lawrence was then officially installed as Tyrone Covenant's Senior Pastor on June 17th.

Lawrence is originally from North Carolina having been born and raised in Raleigh. He earned his undergraduate degree at the University of North Carolina in Greensboro and his master's degree at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest. He is currently working on his doctorate at Reformed Theological Seminary in Charlotte.

In his twenty years of ministry thus far, Lawrence has served churches in North Carolina, Pennsylvania and Connecticut, but he and his family are now eager to call Michigan "home."

Tyrone Covenant Presbyterian is a congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA), which is an evangelical and conservative church, fully committed to the Scriptures,



**Bowlin Family**  
Joy, Grace, Hope  
Pastor Lawrence & Ellen

**“In his twenty years of ministry thus far, Lawrence has served churches in North Carolina, Pennsylvania and Connecticut, but he and his family are now eager to call Michigan ‘home.’”**

the reformed faith, and the Great Commission of the Lord Jesus Christ. Relying on the grace of God and the work of His Spirit, the church is working to build a true Christian community where each member grows in grace, shares Christ with others, and serves Him faithfully in all spheres of life. The church emphasizes expository Bible preaching and reverent, joyful worship.

To learn more about Tyrone Covenant Presbyterian Church, visit the website at [tyronepca.org](http://tyronepca.org) or call 810-629-1261.

For more information about the Presbyterian Church in America, visit [www.pcanet.org](http://www.pcanet.org).



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# Blue Devils one step away from joining Flint Metro League

By David Troppens

dtroppens@tctimes.com; 810-433-6789

For most of his tenure as Lake Fenton High School's athletic director, Vincent Cicalo has had to deal with constant headaches concerning conference affiliations, travel distances and scheduling.

Starting with the 2019-20 academic school year, Cicalo may see the end of those frustrations.

Lake Fenton — along with fellow Genesee Area Conference schools Co-

runna and Goodrich — have been approved to join the Flint Metro League. The vote was among the high school principals of the current Metro League for the three schools that applied for Metro League membership. Only one step remains for each of the three schools in order to become official Flint Metro League members. They must earn final approval from their respective boards of education. For Lake Fenton Community Schools, that meeting is July 16. Cicalo said he ex-

pects approval to be a mere formality. "We are very happy," Cicalo said. "I received a phone call a few days ago, but I was waiting for the official paper work. ... I am very excited about this process and happy it is at a conclusion and I'm happy with where we are at. It worked out very well."

Being members of the Genesee Area Conference has certainly been a headache for its members in recent years. With constant team changes and

See **DEVILS** on 19A



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | FILE PHOTO

Clint Lawhorne resigned the Linden varsity boys cross country coaching position recently. He's pictured here working on the timing computer during a past meet.

## Lawhorne resigns Linden boys XC position; Ferrara takes over at helm

By David Troppens

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In some ways Clint Lawhorne's and Brad Ferrara's cross country paths have the same starting point.

When Lawhorne took over the Linden varsity boys cross country head coach position in 2004, Ferrara was at Linden Middle School. That's when he first met Lawhorne, and that's when both started their passion for the sport — Ferrara as a runner and Lawhorne as a coach.

"I was really excited about getting to the high school and running for him," Ferrara said. "I trained over the summer with him and that was pretty awesome. I thought that was the coolest thing. And then I got to go to high school and enjoyed my four years running with him."

And now the relationship is going to continue to blossom in a different direction this fall when Ferrara replaces Lawhorne as Linden's varsity boys cross country coach after Lawhorne resigned the position, citing the desire to spend more time with his family as the primary reason.

"It was a difficult decision because I do love coaching cross country and I enjoy being part of the boys team," Lawhorne said. "But I felt like it was the right thing to do at this point. I hope it's not necessarily retiring. ... Maybe it's just a break until what my daughter is doing isn't in conflict with what I'm doing. Maybe I'll coach her one day. I hope to coach cross country again. It was certainly a rewarding experience and I enjoy it. I'm just taking a break."

CONTINUED AT [TCTIMES.COM](http://TCTIMES.COM)

## Young runners lead way at Runway 5K event

By David Troppens

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**Linden** — A year ago Jonathan Buck, 16, placed fifth at the fifth annual Wings of Mercy Runway 5K Run held at Linden's Price's Airport.

This year the Grand Blanc resident wanted to do a tad better, and he did.

Buck led the field of about 300 5K runners with a time of 17:55.8, earning first during the June 23 event held during dusk. Youth was served in the event. Howell's Connor Joyce, 15, finished second in 18:28.1, while Grand Blanc's James Lott, 43, was third overall with a time of 19:03.7. Clio's Greg Thomas (19:15.7) and Linden's Liam Sack, 15, (19:29.1) rounded off the top five overall finishers.

"I came in fifth last year, so I came here trying to win it, trying to get a personal-best — trying to get both of them," Buck said. "I was pleased."

The woman winner was an ex-Lake Fenton High School cross country runner, Alexis Cash, 20. Cash, who now competes on Bluffton University's cross country and track and field teams, posted a time of 19:39.5, earning her sixth overall. She crushed the women's field, as Swartz Creek's Anna Alexander, 14, finished second in the women's event in 22:21.1. She was 20th overall. Melissa Henry, 42, was the third-place female, finishing in 24:46.0. Swartz Creek's Karen Alexander (25:03.8) was fourth among females while Samantha Woga-

See **RUNWAY** on 19A



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The fifth annual Wings of Mercy Runway 5K Run was held at Linden's Prices Airport on Saturday night. (Above) Runners in the 5K race start their race. (Left) Runners in the one-mile run begin their race. A good chunk of that race's athletes were elementary-aged children. The overall 5K winner was Grand Blanc's Jonathan Buck, while the female victor was Alexis Cash.

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# Welch excited about race's impact

## ■Wings of Mercy race helps those needing plane rides to hospitals

By David Troppens  
dtroppens@tctimes.com

**Linden** — Cody Welch was busy on Saturday night at Linden's Prices Airport, but he didn't mind.

As President of the Wings of Mercy East Michigan, being a volunteer for the fifth-annual Wings of Mercy Runway 5K Run was just fine with him.

With about 370 participants registered to compete in the 5K run, the 5K walk or the one-mile run/walk, he knew how important the event was going to be to his operations. The race's proceeds go to Wings of Mercy of East Michigan. The non-profit organization uses the money to give free airplane rides to patients who need to use a plane to get to a major medical center. For those who qualify, the service is free.

"We give a free ride in general aviation airplanes to and from major medical centers for people whom transportation is a barrier," Welch

said. "It's a free ride if they qualify. And this is always for people that have very serious medical issues. We are not an ambulance. It's like a private car, but our private car goes 200 miles an hour. We can go 500 miles in a couple of hours."

Wings of Mercy East Michigan has about 40 active volunteer pilots and have had over 300 volunteers over the years. Pilots are reimbursed for their fuel, but that's it.

"This will generate between 10 and 15 missions," Welch said. "So by default that's 10 or 15 patients whose lives will be changed. That's a big deal."

"Our numbers are building, and you can see how popular it is. We are going to get roughly 400 runners tonight."

Over the history of Wings of Mercy, Welch said more than 2,500 missions have been completed for more than 400 patients.

"We believe that we make life-saving care possibilities



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | MARK BOLEN

Wings of Mercy East Michigan president Cody Welch leads the one-mile run run competitors at the Wings of Mercy Runway 5K Run on Saturday.

for at least 10 percent," Welch said. "So this is a very practical community non-profit. The other 90 percent of the people have life-altering and life-changing treatment."

For those who want more information about Wings of Mercy, or would like to make a donation, go to wingseast-mi.org.

## RUNWAY

Continued from Page 18A

man was fifth (35th overall) in 25:13.9.

"It feels good (to win). That was definitely the goal," Cash said.

Cash seems to be reaching a peak in her racing. As a member of Bluffton University's cross country team, she won her first race of her college career when she won the Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference's (HCAC) final league meet of the season with a time of 22:57 in the 6K race. The performance won her the individual conference championship. During the track season she won the HCAC women's 5,000 meter run title by almost 42 seconds (18:14.75) and also took fourth in the 1,500-meter run (4:59.86).

The event is a hit with runners for a few reasons. First off, it's not often runners can race on a flat and well maintained runway. Second, the race begins at 9 p.m. That means it's run during dusk. Most of the runners end the race in the dark. With Saturday's overcast conditions, there was an element of dark when all of the runners completed the event.

"I really like that it's really late and cool," Cash said. "I like the course."



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | MARK BOLEN

Alexis Cash was the first woman to finish the fifth annual Wings of Mercy Runway 5K Run.

"I like how well organized it is," Buck said. "The course is good. I love it. It is so flat. It's easy to run."

The 5K walk winner was Swartz Creek's Mike McPherson finishing in 32:47.7.

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## DEVILS

Continued from Page 18A

it made life hard. About a year ago, GAC teams Durand, Montrose, Lakeville, Byron and Mt. Morris confirmed their intentions of beginning a new league, leaving Lake Fenton, Goodrich and Corunna without a league. That intensified the process of finding a new league for the trio, eventually resulting in their addition to the Flint Metro League. The three schools will be experiencing headaches for the upcoming 2018-19 school year, but those are now temporary issues that will end about this time next year.

"We've been trying to get this to work the last 15 months and I'm excited we were able to put together a proposal they accepted," Cicalo said. "This will be a difficult year, but people will be patient knowing there is an answer coming down the road."

The move will place all four tri-county area teams into the same athletic conference for the first time ever. In the past, while Lake Fenton was neighbors for area schools like Linden, Fenton and Holly, there were many sports they rarely played against each other. This could change with the new 12-team league.

"We are excited that there is opportunity to play (neighboring schools)," Cicalo said. "We don't know if it will happen every year. I'm sure some cross-over system will take place. There could be endless opportunities."

While official decisions haven't been made as of yet, it's likely there will be some sports (football and basketball would be two examples) where the 12 teams will be split into two six-team di-

**“I’m excited we were able to put together a proposal they accepted. This will be a difficult year, but people will be patient knowing there is an answer coming down the road.”**

Vincent Cicalo

Lake Fenton High School athletic director

visions based on enrollment. The division would put Fenton, Flushing, Holly, Kearsley, Linden and Swartz Creek in the larger enrollment division, while Corunna, Goodrich, Lake Fenton, Brandon, Clio and Owosso would be in the lower enrollment division.

Cicalo said he's excited about joining the Metro League.

"If you look at how the Flint Metro League operates, they are a very professional group, and we want to be part of that group, promoting our schools," Cicalo said. "They have people with vast experience. Look at Deb (VanKuiken) at Holly and Mike (Bakker) at Fenton. These are two ADs that have a lot of experience. Some leagues don't have as many years experience as those two put together. I've been fortunate through The State Bank we've had our Athlete of the Week meetings and that has given me a weekly opportunity to ask them questions. Now we are going to be in the same league."

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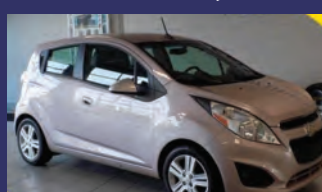
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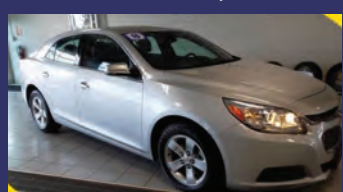
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