

# Captain now a firefighter after tense meetings

■ Firefighters must respond to 20 percent of calls; sexual harassment lawsuit mentioned

By Hannah Ball

A Fenton Township man, who has been with the Fenton Township Fire Department for 17 years and a captain for eight years, resigned as

captain Monday, June 24.

Had Kirk Stephens not resigned his officer position, he would have been fired. He is now a firefighter. This came after a tense Monday,

June 3 Fenton Township Board of Trustees meeting when Fire Chief Ryan Volz recommended to the board that the employment of

See **FIREFIGHTER** on 15A



Kirk Stephens



## Weekend Times

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SUNDAY, JULY 7, 2019

\$1.00

### Cornerstone parking situation reviewed

■ Many recommendations approved including \$250 parking permits to businesses, residents

By Vera Hogan

It's been an issue since the Cornerstone building was constructed at the corner of N. LeRoy Street and Silver Lake Road in 2014—and with all of the new businesses and restaurants that have located downtown since then, finding a parking space can be an exercise in patience.

See **PARKING** on 16A

### Community center fountain to be refurbished

■ Selling miniature sculptures for \$300 each; DDA to contribute \$30,000

By Hannah Ball

**Fenton** — Currently, it's dirty and doesn't work, but the Fenton Community and Cultural Center

See **FOUNTAIN** on 11A

### Happy Independence Day



A representative with the Linden Community Schools bus drivers hands out candy at the 2019 Fenton Freedom Festival parade on Thursday, July 4. Thousands of people lined the streets to watch the parade, which consisted of local businesses, schools, charities, organizations and more. See more photos on 24A. Photo: Hannah Ball

### Butterfly garden price tag reaches \$65,200

■ Last item is new stainless steel handrails with anti-skateboarding devices

By Vera Hogan

Skateboarders beware — the new downtown Fenton butterfly garden will not be a good place to “shred” on the rails.

One of the final items to be purchased will be a stainless steel

See **BUTTERFLY** on 7A



The butterfly garden next to Fenton City Hall is flowering in the hot summer weather. Photo: Tim Jagielo

TEXT  
YOUR  
HOT LINE

810-771-TEXT



“Dogs’ paws can easily be burnt when walking on asphalt when the temperatures are hot. Please stop bringing your pets to fairs, etc., and walking them down the hot asphalt roads. If it burns your bare feet, it is burning their paws.”



“Why do boomers rant about participation trophies? You all invented them. We tossed them out.”



“I feel that the city of Fenton finally showed some fiscal responsibility by patching the roads. They are more functional than they were. That should be good enough if that's all we could afford.”



COMMENT  
OF THE WEEK

“WOW! Kudos to Fenton for throwing such an awesome Fourth of July festival. We had family in town and we all thoroughly enjoyed everything.”





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Real estate market remains better for sellers; sales and home prices still increasing

**By Tim Jagielo**

"Lack of inventory is really what's hurting us," said Kim Thompson, CEO of ECAR (East Central Association of Realtors.)

What has been true for the last few years is still true today — interest rates are still low, and demand for homes is still strong, leading to a limited inventory of available homes and bidding wars on many properties. Sellers can easily sell a home if priced right, but will struggle to find something in the \$150,000 to \$175,000 range in some areas.

**See REAL ESTATE on 14A**

# High prices, low inventory



## Aging population reveals shift in retirement savings

■ Individual plans become more popular than pensions as life expectancy increases

**By Hannah Ball**

Baby boomers are getting older, and as more and more retire every year, the Great Lakes State is seeing a shift in retirement plans.

In 1988, 63 percent of full-time workers had a pension and 45 percent had a 401(k), according to the U.S. Department of Labor. In 2007, 32 percent had a pension and 53 percent had a 401(k).

Noah Morgan, MBA, CFP, and private wealth advisor at Acorn Wealth Advisors, said, "Most companies that are hiring today and almost all publicly traded companies have some sort of defined contribution, also known as, 401(k) plan where employees can save up to \$19,000 per year and if over age 50

**See SAVINGS on 13A**

## DISCOVER & EXPLORE SCOTLAND

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## Mark my words

By Mark Rummel



Mark Rummel

### How much profit is the right amount?

**T**his isn't a trick question, but I expect most people won't know the correct answer: What is the profit margin for an average business in the U.S.?

Many Americans think companies make massive profits, mostly because the products or services they sell cost so much. They think owners might keep 50 percent or more for themselves, after all expenses are paid — or 50 cents of every dollar in sales. All owners are rich, right?

In reality, American companies make an average of about 10-percent profit, or 10 cents of every dollar they take in. That's according to multiple government and private studies. Larger corporations might make more, but Ford Motor Company's 2018 net profit was 8.8 percent, while General Motors had a 6.02-percent net profit last year. Even Amazon's net profit was under 5 percent in 2018.

Many small businesses in the U.S. lose money for their first few years in operation. That's why many don't last — they run out of funds to stay open. One study found that 90 percent of all U.S. businesses with sales under

\$1 million have 10-percent profit margins or less. That doesn't leave much room for error.

Experts say a corporate profit goal should be 20 percent of sales, after all materials and equipment are bought and all workers are paid. However, owners have to take business taxes out of that amount, which brings that profit closer to the 10 percent figure again.

The biggest risks are taken by manufacturing companies. They must buy, rent or lease buildings and equipment, buy raw materials, then hire and train staff members to produce the needed products. Making just one or two mistakes in any of these areas can result in unprofitability, and might eliminate their entire profit margin. Remember the auto company bankruptcies of 2009?

Think of a doughnut shop: owners need to find a building, get equipment, hire and train staff and then buy the raw ingredients to make the doughnuts, often seven days each week. An error in any of those areas — maybe hiring too much staff or setting prices too low

— can result in disaster.

Service companies — think accountants, lawyers, barbers, lawn care businesses, tutors and dry cleaners — usually don't create items, but fix or improve them. These can be less costly to open, but they are the first to lose business if the economy declines.

There's no magic answer or solution to making enough profit in the business world. Success takes a sometimes lucky combination of needed products or services, made by caring people with good leadership, sold at prices that are fair yet provide enough profit to keep a company alive.

Opinions offered in this column are the author's alone and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Tri-County Times or its staff. Email Mark Rummel at [news@tctimes.com](mailto:news@tctimes.com).

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**Times**

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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.

■■■  
**HOW MUCH DID** Fenton schools pay to send out these sinking fund flyers?

■■■  
**TO THE DOG** walker on Tickner Street on Monday, July 1. Thanks for letting your dog leave a giant dump on my sidewalk in front of my mailbox. I thought we had better people in this town. Honestly, how do you just leave it and walk away?

■■■  
**YES, IT IS** clear, at last. Thank you, sir, for your acceptance that women have choices about their own bodies. Women will be grateful you paid for your own vasectomy. How lucky you are to be able to afford it along with your health care. Not everyone is that lucky.

■■■  
**BOOMERS SURE DO** love complaining about young people on this site. If it weren't for young people, none of you would have successfully set up your internet connection. Don't bother asking for help the next time you mess it up.

## How do you feel about food trucks?

Compiled by Logan Shanafelt, intern

## streettalk



"I have never tried them, but I would like to. I would like to see more around. It is nice to have that variety of food."

**Denise Lorence**  
Fenton Township



"As long as they are regulated and you can trust the food is prepared in a sanitary condition, I think it is okay. As a former iron worker, I have eaten off hundreds."

**Glenn Peach**  
Fenton Township



"I am pro food trucks. I think it is a great option for chefs to have a low cost entry to the food service. It helps people who do not have the funds to open a restaurant, or if they just don't want to take that on."

**Katie Cook**, Denver, Colorado



"I do not think much about them. I have only had food from trucks at a fair."

**Russ Bradley**  
Argentine Township



"I like food trucks because you have so many choices. I really like the Mexican-styled ones."

**Eva Benore**  
Fenton Township



# MICHIGAN VOTES

LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY

— Compiled by Sharon Stone —

*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, June 28.*

*The legislature has scheduled intermittent session days through July that are likely to be mostly pro-forma, with no recorded roll call votes. Rather than votes this report contains some interesting or noteworthy recent bill introductions.*

## Senate Bill 251: Mandate universities admit students from charter schools they authorize

Introduced by Sen. Betty Jean Alexander (D), to mandate that a state university that authorizes (charters) a public school academy (charter school) must admit any student who applies from that school, and provide "remediation" if the student is unable to perform at the same level as those who must meet the university's usual admissions standards. Referred to committee, no further action at this time.

## Senate Bill 262: Free marijuana prisoners

Introduced by Sen. Sylvia Santana (D), to adopt a "marijuana violation sentence reduction act" that would require courts and the state parole board to terminate the sentences of individuals in prison that were imposed for offenses based on the use, possession or distribution of marijuana that have been entirely decriminalized. Referred to committee, no further action at this time.

## Senate Bill 310: Require merchants accept cash in face-to-face transactions

Introduced by Sen. Sylvia Santana (D), to define refusing to accept cash in a retail transaction that is conducted in-person as an "unfair trade practice" under the state consumer protection act. Referred to committee, no further action at this time.

## House Bill 4441: Repeal 65 mph truck speed limit on fast freeways

Introduced by Rep. Sarah Lightner (R), to repeal the 65-mph speed limit for trucks on freeways with 70 mph and 75 mph speed limits. Referred to committee, no further action at this time.

# Fenton public works director resigns

■ Will work as DPW director in Lowell, under former Fenton Assistant City Manager Mike Burns

By Vera Hogan

Dan Czarnecki, the city of Fenton's director of public works since January of 2011, has resigned. His last day with the city will be July 24.

Czarnecki replaced the late Leslie P. Bland, who served in that position for more than 41 years before retiring in 2011.

"I am leaving Fenton because I have an opportunity to return to the west side of Michigan and end my career near where it began," Czarnecki said. "I am from the Grand Rapids area originally, my mother, in-



Dan Czarnecki

laws, and the rest of our families live in that area. I will be returning there myself with this change of employment. While it was a very, very hard decision to make, I think the move will be for the better for me and my family.

"I was offered the Public Works director position for the city of Lowell, Michigan," he said. "It was a very good offer that was hard to turn down. My last day working at the city of Fenton will be July 24. Although I will be in the area until the end of the month. I start in Lowell on Aug. 5."

Czarnecki will be joining former Fenton Assistant City Manager Michael Burns, who left in 2016 to accept a position as city manager in Lowell. Burns said this week, "I am very excited to work with Dan again. Dan is an excellent Public Works director and stood out amongst me and my staff during the interview process. We have some needs in our Department of Public Works where I

**See RESIGNS on 16A**

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## Gaines police funding question goes to voters

■ Residents oppose \$115 per year assessment; will vote in November election instead

**By Hannah Ball**

After months of discussions and talks of petitions, it was decided that Gaines Township residents will vote on a referendum for police funding.

The Gaines Township Board of Trustees recently approved putting the question on the Nov. 5 ballot.

Supervisor Paul Fortino said they haven't decided yet on the ballot question wording but he expects they will start discussions soon.

In March, the Gaines Township Board of Trustees voted to direct Fortino to create a tax roll and calculate the assessment for each improved parcel.

The Board of Trustees planned to create a 10-year assessment and charge each improved parcel \$115 a year to

pay for police services. This would cost each assessed property approximately 32 cents a day.

However, this move was opposed by residents. In April, residents submitted a petition to the board with enough signatures to stop a board-proposed assessment to pay for police.

When asked if the police department is funded through this year, Fortino said, "Toward the end of the year, we're going to have to cut back hours, I presume. It'll depend on the vote."

Five years ago, Gaines Township passed a 0.5-mill tax to pay for police, which recently ended. This brought in approximately \$85,000 to \$90,000 a year and wasn't high enough to pay for police, Fortino said. The township dipped into the general fund to make up the difference. The department has grown and the general fund cannot completely support it.

## HOT LINE CONTINUED

**I'D MUCH RATHER** have healthcare reform than a parade.

■ ■ ■  
**OBAMA-ERA RULE** policing for-profit colleges axed. The decision proves that DeVos only cares about protecting for-profit colleges, no matter how many students they swindle.

■ ■ ■  
**MONEY IS FUNGIBLE.** What Planned Parenthood gets from Feds, it can use on its propaganda and use donations for non-approved things, like abortions.

■ ■ ■  
**WELCOME TO THE** longest U.S. economic expansion in history, one perhaps best characterized by the excesses of extreme wealth and an ever-widening chasm between the

unfathomably rich and everyone else. Indeed, as the expansion entered its record-setting 121st month on Monday, signs of a new Gilded Age are all over.

■ ■ ■  
**THREE CHEERS TO** the new owners of the Times. The coverage of the Fourth of July festivities was both informative and interesting. Thanks for the great coverage.

■ ■ ■  
**TRUCKS IN MICHIGAN** can weigh as much as 180,000 pounds. In Ohio and Indiana, it's 110,000 pounds. That extra 70,000 pounds is killing our roads.

■ ■ ■  
**IT IS TIME** for a complete turnover in our legislature. Vote 'em all out.

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## BUTTERFLY

Continued from Front Page

handrail for both sides of the stairs. The \$14,200 handrails were approved by the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) at its April meeting. The price includes delivery and installation.

"I am working on approval of the final design sketches and they will be going into production soon," said Michael Hart, assistant city manager and DDA executive director. "They (handrails) will have the anti-skateboarding devices installed and to the best of my knowledge, will be the first handrails with this application in the state of Michigan."

The Butterfly Garden project has been over a year in the making. The garden has been built near the butterfly sculpture on S. LeRoy Street, just north of city hall. The butterfly sculpture was paid for in 2017 by Gerald and Kay Willey, owners of Fenton Home Furnishings. They donated \$17,000 so that the city, through the DDA, could acquire the sculpture.

"The idea was to place the sculpture first and then figure out how to improve



The back steps of the butterfly garden are still blocked from use. They will be opened after the handrails are installed. Photo: Tim Jagielo

the area around it," Hart said.

In May of 2018, Hart said there are specific flowers and plants that attract butterflies. Fenton's garden could have approximately 12 to 18 species of flowering plants. This week Hart pointed to the city's Facebook page where on

June 14, photos of Monarch butterfly caterpillars were posted.

There are flowerbeds all around, with sidewalks so even someone in a wheelchair can have access. Hart said since last winter and spring, a steady flow of people have been visiting the

## COST BREAKDOWN

- \$35,000 was originally approved
- \$11,000 to replace existing dangerous steps with jagged stones
- \$2,000 approximate cost to pay for footings for the permanent placement of the butterfly sculpture
- \$6,000 for lighting since it was discovered people like to visit at night
- \$11,200 for handrails (both sides) with anti-skateboarding devices
- Unknown amount for flowers, plantings and other related expenses

sculpture plaza area and taking pictures by the butterfly sculpture.

Although the original price tag for the butterfly garden project was anticipated to be about \$35,000, additional features added for a variety of reasons that include safety, have resulted in that figure climbing to about \$54,000 late last summer.

Once the handrails are purchased and installed, the price tag will climb to \$65,200.

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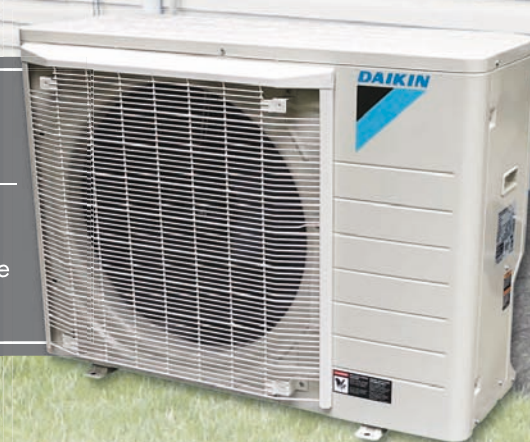
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# BUSINESS

## GST Michigan Works! helps mitigate loss for employers.

Whether you're looking for a job or trying to find employees, it's no secret that GST Michigan Works! is the go-to solution for the Region, but recently they've taken their commitment and resources to a whole new level entirely. Having introduced their new program, The Connection, GST Michigan Works! is providing even more to their customers throughout the region.

The Connection, a Business Resource Network (BRN) located in east Michigan, is comprised of local member companies who aim to increase job retention and job productivity among their employees. Member companies pay an annual membership fee to belong to the network, which allows access to a "share" (or multiple shares) of an on-site Success Coach.

"Everyone here is passionate about the work we do," said Communications Manager Diona McLaughlin. "And with The Connection, we're able to do even more. The Connection is a business resource network where a team of employers have come together to solve their retention issues. The Connection assists an employee with the resources needed to keep them employed, while simultaneously helping the employer by keeping them on the job. It's very costly to replace employees, and nobody wants to have to let people go, but with The Connection, we assist with a lot of barriers like childcare, or transportation issues, housing, many different things that most employers are unable to address. We provide assistance with utility bills, or to buy a car — things that your typical HR department can't do."

With The Connection, once membership is established, a Success Coach is scheduled to immediately begin working with a company's employees who may be facing individual

challenges. The Success Coach is trained to begin connecting them with resources and assistance to resolve or improve their circumstances. Issues the on-site Success Coach can help navigate include:

- **Work attendance issues** — Solving issues and overcoming barriers- Conflict resolution — Family or co-worker conflicts
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- **Substance abuse** — Treatment and support
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- **Tuition assistance**
- **Financial stability** — Credit counseling, 401K, college, savings plans — Public assistance — Applying and navigating
- **Housing** — Affordable rentals or home buying
- **Transportation** — Public, repairs, car purchases

"Our Success Coaches act as an extension of our members' human resources department," said McLaughlin. "With a one-share membership, the coach will be at your office four hours per week, and available via phone or email through the entire work week. They will work with employees to address any issues they're having at home or at work and help them create an action plan to resolve them."

As of now, The Connection is available in all six counties in the region and as demand grows, more Success Coaches will be added to the team. The program has quickly and steadily grown since first being deployed last year and is available to all employers looking to retain and assist their employees.

For more information about The Connection or GST Michigan Works! visit [www.gstmiworks.org](http://www.gstmiworks.org).

Cindy Thornthwaite  
810-233-5974 ext. 352

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**The Connection**  
AN EAST MICHIGAN BUSINESS RESOURCE NETWORK



A Cinco de Mayo fundraising event brought hundreds of St. John School supporters and community members together and helped raise funds for the \$45,000 that was recently presented to the St. John School Educational Foundation. **Photo: MDC Photography**

## St. John School benefits from \$45,000 donation

■ St. John Educational Foundation Cinco de Mayo event provides educational support, scholarships

By Sally Rummel

Families and supporters of St. John School in Fenton enjoyed a special Cinco de Mayo night out, but it is the students who will benefit from all the funds raised at this event.

Barbara Walstrom, executive director of the St. John School Educational Foundation, recently presented a check for \$45,000 to Rev. Robert Copeland and Andrew Schmidt, interim principal. This money was raised from the Cinco de Mayo event at Coyote Preserve in Tyrone Township, and other donations.

Of this donation, \$30,000 will go to the Resource Program at St. John's, which served 43 students with mild to moderate learning challenges this year. The resource teacher works closely with classroom teachers, administration, parents, and Fenton

Schools Special Services in creating an educational plan for various types of learners.

"St. John's is one of a few K-8 Catholic schools in the Diocese of Lansing to offer a resource program of this kind," Walstrom said.

The remaining \$15,000 will go to scholarships for 14 students to be able attend St. John School.

**“The support we are able to give positively impacts our school and would not be possible without the generous donations and support of our parishioners, school families and community members.”**

**Barb Walstrom**  
St. John Foundation  
executive director

The St. John Foundation was formed in 1981 by several longtime parishioners of St. John Church to ensure that St. John School would stay in existence and serve the community for many years in the future. Every year, the foundation and school designate a particular cause to support with a fundraiser.

"The support we are able to give positively impacts our school and would not be possible without the generous donations and support

of our parishioners, school families and community members," Walstrom said.

St. John School is now enrolling students for preschool through eighth grade.



**HOT LINE** CONTINUED

**WE CAN'T GET** roads fixed. I was in Texas recently. They were building an entirely new freeway, from Dallas to the gulf coast. If the feds can spend over a billion dollars for that, why can't Michigan maintain the roads it has? We pay more gas tax than Texans do.

■■■■ **OUR ROADS CARRY** much heavier trucks than Texas. Perhaps that is why our roads fall apart in two or three years. I'd bet on the 'good old boy' network stuffing the pockets of contractors who donate millions to campaign accounts.

■■■■ **I HAVE TO** make a small correction to the person that says medical procedures are none of my business. They certainly are if I have to pay for them through my tax money.

■■■■ **RAIN FALLS BECAUSE** the droplets (dew) form when the water vapor (a gas) reaches the dew point and condenses into drops. The drops come together until they are heavy enough to fall. Gravity is what makes everything fall.

NEWS  
**BRIEFS**

COMPILED BY SHARON STONE

**McLaren welcomes vascular surgeon to medical staff**

Edgar Guzman, MD, board certified in vascular and general surgery, has joined the medical staff at McLaren



Flint. Guzman is seeing patients at Vascular Institute of Michigan, 1325 S. Linden Rd., Flint.

Guzman completed a fellowship in vascular and endovascular

surgery at the Cleveland Clinic in Cleveland, Ohio. He completed his residency at University of Illinois Metropolitan Group Hospitals in Chicago, Illinois. Guzman earned his medical degree from Universidad Nacional de San Agustin in Arequipa, Peru. Guzman is accepting new patients and can be reached by calling (810) 535-5555.

**TYRONE TOWNSHIP  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING SYNOPSIS  
HELD JULY 2, 2019 AT 7:00 P.M.**

1. Present: Supervisor Mike Cunningham, Clerk Marcella Husted, Treasurer Jennifer Eden, Trustees Al Pool, David Walker, Chuck Schultz, and Soren Pedersen.
2. Approved the agenda as presented; approved the consent agenda as presented.
3. Received and placed on file Communication #1-2 as presented.
4. Pledged the Township's full faith and credit for the Laurel Springs and Irish Hills Road Improvement Projects.
5. Accepted the resignation of Trustee Allen Pool.
6. Accepted the bid of \$198,000 from contractor Sorensen Gross for the renovation of the 8420 Runyan Lake Rd. building.
7. Accepted the bid of \$239,106.55 from contractor Allied Construction for the parking lot improvements to the 8420 Runyan Lake Rd. property.
8. Adjourned at 7:09 p.m.

The minutes of all regular and special Tyrone Township Board Meetings are on file and may be viewed at the Tyrone Township Clerk's office, 10408 Center Road, Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and online at [www.tyronetownship.us](http://www.tyronetownship.us). The next regular meeting of the Tyrone Township Board will be held on Tuesday, July 16, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. at the Tyrone Township Hall. The public is encouraged to attend. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Tyrone Township Clerk at (810) 629-8631 at least seven days prior to the meeting.

Marcella Husted, Tyrone Township Clerk



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EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT,  
THE WAITING ROOM IS  
YOUR LIVING ROOM.  
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ASSEMBLY OF GOD

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2473 W. Shiawassee • Fenton  
810-629-5261  
*Pastor Jim Wiegand*

Sunday Worship .....9:00 & 11:30 am  
Sunday Youth Group ..... 11:30 am & 6:30 pm  
Encounter Young Adults (*seniors in high school thru 32 years old*) Mondays ..... 7:00 pm  
Small groups meet throughout the week.  
For more information call 629-5261

BAPTIST

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF HOLLY**  
15030 N. Holly Rd. • Holly  
248-634-8772  
www.fbcholly.org

Sunday Services  
Traditional Service .....9:00 am  
Sunday School (all ages) ..... 10:00 am  
Modern Worship Service ..... 11:00 am

CATHOLIC

**ST. AUGUSTINE CHURCH**  
6481 Faussett Rd. • Howell • 517-546-9807  
*Father Gregg Pleiness, Pastor*

Saturday Mass.....5:00 pm  
Sunday Mass..... 8:30 am & 10:30 am  
Weekday Mass Wed-Fri.....8:30 am  
Confessions Saturday ..... 4 pm and upon request

**ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
600 N. Adelaide • Fenton  
810-629-2251  
*Father Robert Copeland, Pastor*  
*Father Ryan Riley, Associate Pastor*

Saturday.....5:00 pm  
Sunday ..... 8:30 am, 10:00 am, 11:30 am & 5:00 pm  
Daily Mass: ..... Monday-Friday: 8:20 am  
First Saturday of the month.....8:20 am  
Holy Days ..... See Parish Bulletin or website  
Confession ..... Saturdays: 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm  
Monday & Friday following morning Mass and Wednesday 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm  
Adoration: ..... each Friday 9:00 am - 8:00 pm  
In the church cry-room

**ST. RITA CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
309 E. Maple St. • Holly  
248-634-4841  
*Fr. David Blazek, Pastor*

Saturday Mass.....4:00 pm  
Sunday Mass ..... 8 am, 10 am, 12 noon & 6 pm  
Weekday Mass ..... Tues 7:00 pm  
Wed. & Thurs .....9:00 am  
Reconciliation after Sat. 4 pm Mass or by appt.

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE

**FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST**  
204 E. Rockwell • Fenton • 810-629-3211

Church Service ..... 11:00 am  
Sunday School..... 11:00 am  
Wednesday Evening..... 7:00 pm

EPISCOPAL

**ST. JUDE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
106 E. Elizabeth St. • Fenton  
810-629-5681

Holy Communion .....8:00 am, 10:30 am  
Children Program-Godly Play ..... 10:25 am  
Youth Group..... 11:45 am

LUTHERAN

**HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH, LCMS**  
7355 W. Silver Lake Road  
(Behind Linden High School)  
Linden, MI 48451  
810-735-4807  
www.hopelinden.org  
*Reverend Paul K. Kollek*

Sunday Worship ..... 8:15 am & 10:45 am  
Adult Bible Study .....9:30 am  
Sunday School.....9:30 am

**TRANSFIGURATION LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA**  
14176 Fenton Rd. • Fenton  
810-629-7332  
www.fentontlc.org  
Dr. Mark Fisher, Pastor  
ALL ARE WELCOME ALWAYS!

Sunday Worship.....10:30 am  
Open Communion Celebrated every Sunday  
Adult Sunday School.....9:30 am  
Summer Wednesday Worship .....6:30 pm  
Women's Adult Bible Study Thursdays.....10 am  
Children of all ages are welcome and supported at our worship services.

**TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH, LC-MS**  
1025 Main St. • Fenton  
810-629-7861  
Fax 810-629-9877  
www.trinitylcmsfenton.com  
*Reverend Dean G. Dumbville*

Worship Services  
Wednesday in the Word.....6:30 pm  
Saturday Traditional Worship .....6:30 pm  
Sunday Traditional Worship.....8:30 am  
Sunday Education Hour .....9:45 am  
Sunday Contemporary Worship ..... 11:00 am  
Saturday .....5:30 pm, Bible Study

**SHEPHERD OF THE LAKES - WELS LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
Worship Service at  
Fenton Community Center  
150 S. Leroy St. • Fenton  
810-224-1250  
*Pastor Nathan Loersch*

Sunday Worship Service in Main Hall.....9:30 am  
Bible Study & Sunday School ..... 10:30 am  
Worship streamed live  
@ facebook.com/myshepherdchurch

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METHODIST

**FENTON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
119 S. Leroy St. • Fenton  
810-629-2132  
www.fentonumc.com  
*Jeff Jaggers - Lead Pastor*  
*Michelle Forsyth - Associate Pastor*  
*Kate Glasson - Director of Children's Ministry*  
*Ashley Bach - Director of Youth Ministry*

Sunday morning traditional-style worship in our sanctuary .....9:30 and 11 am  
Sunday morning casual-style worship in our Family Life Center..... 11:05 am  
Nursery and children's ministries at.....9:30 and 11:00 am

**HOLLY CALVARY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
15010 N. Holly Rd. • Holly  
248-634-9711  
www.hollycalvary.org  
*Rev. Cliff Schroeder*

Sunday Worship .....9:30 am  
Wednesday Worship.....6:30 pm  
Nursery Provided at all services.

**LAKE FENTON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
2581 N. Long Lake Rd. • Fenton  
810-629-5161  
*Pastor Char Shay*

Sunday Worship .....9:00 am

**LINDEN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
201 Bridge St. • Linden  
810-735-5858  
*New Pastor*  
*Reverend Michelle Forsyth*  
*Assistant Pastor Reverend Bob Easlick*  
*New email: milindenumc@gmail.com*

Worship Hour.....9:30 am  
Coffee Hour ..... 10:30 am  
Nursery Available.

NAZARENE

**ARGENTINE CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE**  
16248 S. Seymour Rd. • Linden  
810-735-7118  
*Pastor Robert Lindsay*

Sunday School.....9:45 am  
Sunday Morning Worship..... 11:00 am  
(*Junior Church and Nursery Provided*)  
Sunday Evening Worship .....6:00 pm  
Wed. Children & Teens..... 7:00 pm  
Wed. Prayer Meeting ..... 7:00 pm

**FENTON CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE**  
11075 Runyan Lake Rd. • Fenton  
810-750-6544  
*Pastor Ron Sharpe*

Sunday Worship Services ..... 11:00 am  
Sunday School for all ages ..... 10:00 am  
Nursery provided for Sunday services.

NON-DENOMINATIONAL

**THE CARPENTER'S HOUSE CHURCH**  
2740 Grange Hall Rd. • Fenton  
Corner of Fish Lake Rd.  
248-328-9844  
*Pastor Bradley Teague* 248-634-2195

Sunday Morning Service.....11:00 am  
Bread Pantry..... Wed. 1 pm - 3 pm

**THE ROAD COMMUNITY CHURCH**  
810-922-2088  
*Lead Pastor Chris Vitarelli*  
www.theroadcommunitychurch.com

Howell Campus - 4101 Clyde Rd. ....9 am  
Fenton Campus - 301 E. South Holly Rd...11:30 am  
Coat Closet and Food Pantry available on Sundays or by appointment (810) 348-4286

**THE ROCK**  
11400 S. Linden Rd. • Fenton  
810-629-2444 • www.hisrock.net  
*Pastor Wes Morris Welcome You*

Saturday Evening Service .....6 pm  
Sunday AM Service..... 8:30 am  
Sunday AM Service at Lake Fenton HS...10am & 11:30am  
Wednesday Mid Week Service  
Kidz Rock (2 yr-5th grade) ..... 7 pm  
Adult Bible Study ..... 7 pm  
Jr. & Sr. High Bible Study ..... 7 pm  
Addiction & Recovery ..... Tuesdays nights 7 pm  
BUS MINISTRY IS NOW AVAILABLE -  
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**THE WAY CHURCH**  
2940 Georgetown Pkwy. • Fenton  
810-373-2718 • findandfollow.org  
Email: contact@findandfollow.org  
*Pastor Scott Statson*

Join us Sunday's..... 10am  
Fun and engaging children's program every week.  
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PRESBYTERIAN

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF FENTON**  
503 S. LeRoy St. • Fenton  
810-629-7801 • www.ffpc.org  
*Pastor Lindsey Carnes*  
*Pastor Robbie Carnes*

Sunday Worship ..... Summer hours: 10:00 am

**LINDEN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
119 W. Broad St. • Linden • 810-735-5755  
*Pastor Dawn Russell*

Traditional Service .....9:00 am  
Contemporary Service ..... 10:30 am  
Children's Church..... 10:30 am  
(Nursery provided at each service)

**TYRONE COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
9141 Hartland Rd. • Fenton  
810-750-0350  
*Pastor Linda Living-Hawley*  
Sunday Worship Schedule

Celebratory Worship..... 10:00 am  
Children's Sunday School..... 10:30 am  
Fellowship..... 11:30 am

**TYRONE COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (PCA)**  
*Pastor Lawrence Bowlin*  
10235 White Lake Rd. • Fenton  
810-629-1261 • Tyronepca.org

Sunday Worship .....10:15 am  
Sunday School .....9:00 am  
Sunday Evening Worship .....6:00 pm





The fountain at the back of the Fenton Community and Cultural Center will be fit with new ram heads, a new automatic pump system and other upgrades. Renovations are expected to cost \$59,229. **Photo: Hannah Ball**

## FOUNTAIN

**Continued from Front Page**

(FCCC) Board of Governors hope to have the fountain on the west side of the FCCC building refurbished and working in the coming months.

Built in 1937, this fountain spouts water from seven ram heads held atop a pillar. In hasn't been operational in many years, and a fence prevents anyone from getting in the fountain.

The Fountain Restoration Committee, a subsidiary of the FCCC Board of Governors, is spearheading the project.

For renovations, the limestone surrounding the water will be raised approximately 12 inches to create a space for people to sit. A new automatic pump system will be installed, and the top of the fountain will have a new cap. Fine Arts Sculpture Centre of Clarkston cast two new ram heads to replace ones that had been stolen in the past.

The work includes the re-patina of the seven heads, which helps maintain the blue/green antique look.

The expected cost of the project is \$59,229. The FCCC will pay \$30,000 and the Fenton Downtown Development Authority (DDA) approved up to \$30,000 in reimbursement grants for the project in June.

**In the 1940s and '50s, children played in the fountain, but the structure fell into disrepair and was overgrown with ivy. It experienced vandalism, damage, and two of the ram heads were pilfered.**

According to a letter from Vince Paris, executive director of the FCCC, to the Fenton DDA during a May 21 meeting, this committee found a document that tied famous sculpture artist Carrado Parducci to the FCCC building. Along with further investigation from Michigan architectural historians, the original ram heads on the fountain may have been contributed by Parducci.

In the 1940s and '50s, children played in the fountain, but the structure fell into disrepair and was overgrown with ivy. It experienced vandalism, damage, and two of the ram heads were pilfered. In the early 2000s, Venture Crew 212 and Eagle Scout Chris Peters, with the support of the Fenton Kiwanis Club, made the fountain operational.

When the center was expanded and renovated in 2014, the construction eliminated the mechanical operation of the fountain. In 2018, the Board of Governors approved commissioning two new ram heads from Fine Arts Sculpture Centre of Clarkston, which is the same company that created the popular "The Game" sculpture in front of the building.

Earlier this year, the Fountain Restoration Committee presented the renovation concept to Fenton City

Manager Lynn Markland and Fenton DDA Director/Assistant City Manager Mike Hart. The committee developed a proposed budget to have the fountain repaired and modernized.

"The Board of Governors and Fountain Renovation Committee believe renovating the fountain (currently the only public fountain in the Fenton area) will not only enhance the attractiveness of the center for the public, but also honor the original design by architect Eero Saarinen and the donors of the center, Horace and Mary Rackham," according to the letter by Paris.

The new limestone used on the fountain will come from the same Indiana quarry that provided the limestone for the FCCC, Paris said. Saarinen is the architect who designed the FCCC.

Paris expects the work to begin in the next few weeks.

The FCCC will fundraise to help pay the \$30,000. These efforts include accepting donations and selling miniature bronze ram heads, replicated to look like the heads on the fountain. They are \$300 a piece. To order a ram head, call the FCCC at (810) 629-2512 and ask for Vince Paris.

## NEWS

# BRIEFS

COMPILED BY SHARON STONE

### McLaren welcomes ophthalmologist to medical staff

Aman Shukaairy, MD, board certified ophthalmologist, has joined the medical staff at McLaren



Flint. Shukaairy is seeing patients at Premier Glaucoma & Eye Center, 1160 South Linden Road, Building A, Flint. Shukaairy completed both

a fellowship in glaucoma and her residency in ophthalmology at the Kresge Eye Institute through Wayne State University and Detroit Medical Center in Detroit. She earned her medical degree from Wayne State University School of Medicine in Detroit. Shukaairy is accepting new patients and can be reached by calling (810) 820-8230.

Purchase unique art, savor delicious food and drinks and enjoy a variety of fantastic music and entertainment!

Kids can engage their creative side at the Children's Area!

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JULY 13  
10AM - 7PM**

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MATT ABRAHAM





## SAVINGS

Continued from Page 3A

they can save an additional \$6,000 catch up. Plan costs have come down significantly through the advancement of technology and online applications."

Pension plans are defined benefit plans in which an organization makes a promise to pay a specific amount of money to an employee during retirement, according to Greenbush Financial Group. These are becoming less popular than defined contribution plans, such as a 401(k), in which the employee, and sometimes the employer, will put money aside that will accumulate over time for the employee once they retire.

Morgan said, "People really need to ask themselves—do we really want to depend on our company to help them save or can they take a more independent approach?"

One reason there's a shift from defined benefit plans toward contribution plans is that baby boomers are living longer and the plans are becoming too expensive to fund.

This shift in retirement plans forces younger generations entering the workforce to take an active role in planning for their future.

"Michigan has always been a great state to live, work and play, especially given our generous labor relations packages that created pensions for many automotive, union, state and municipal workers. During periods of economic boom and surplus in tax revenues, it was easy to set up plans that gave employees a check on the first of every month for the rest of their life once they retired," Morgan said.

However, many of these programs are underfunded.

Individual retirement accounts (IRAs) are also becoming more popular and accessible due to new technology and online financial services. The average American can save \$6,000 a year in an IRA, and those over 50 can save an additional \$1,000.

Even with a 401(k), an IRA and Social Security, people in their 40s and 50s, and younger, will either have to save aggressively or work longer to "live the lives of their parents," Morgan said.

"The problem is Americans have to decide whether they want to lease a new car for \$500 a month or plan for a long retirement. The average household income in Fenton, believe it or not but according to Census data, is \$49,575 annually. So saving \$6,000 a year would equal a 12 percent savings rate of income," Morgan said.

If a family saved \$6,000 a year for 30 years, they'd be able to accumulate \$505,268 if they earned a 6 percent rate on their investments.

More and more Americans are putting away money in individual saving plans compared to previous years. In 2016, of those 55 and older, 48 percent had no money saved in a 401(k)-style plan or individual retirement account, according

to the U.S. Government Accountability Office. While that number is low, it's an increase from 52 percent in 2013.

"It is a beautiful thing when savings becomes an automated habit in our lives and we can live on our net income," Morgan said.

**“People really need to ask themselves — do we really want to depend on our company to help them save or can they take a more independent approach?”**

**Noah Morgan**  
Acorn Wealth Advisors  
certified financial planner

## MICHIGAN'S AGING POPULATION

• **The U.S. Census shows** that in 2016, 23 percent of Michigan residents were 60 or older, a significant increase compared to past decades.

• **In 1930, 5.2 percent** of Michigan's population was 65 and older. By 1980, that number increased to 9.8 percent, and in 2010, it was 13.8 percent.

• **Genesee County has similar** percentages. In Genesee County, 15 percent of the population was 60 and older in 2000. From 2012 to 2016, that number increased to 22 percent.

## PUBLIC NOTICE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF FENTON BOARD MEETING SYNOPSIS JULY 1, 2019

The Fenton Township Board held a regular meeting on Monday July 1, 2019 at the Fenton Township Civic Community Center, 12060 Mantawauka Drive, Fenton, Michigan and took the following actions.

1. Trustee Goupil offered the opening prayer.
2. Supervisor Mathis led the pledge of allegiance to the flag.
3. Approved invoices and expenditures for payment in the total amount of \$269,709.58.
4. Received the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter report from Ordinance Enforcement Officer Pat Shaw.
5. Approved a construction proposal/agreement with Eastern Asphalt Company, Inc. for the Four Lakes Street Improvement Special Assessment district project.
6. Adopted a revised *Policy for Review of Assessor Department Records*.
7. Adjourned at 7:44 p.m.

A complete copy of the minutes of this meeting and any ordinances adopted at the meeting are on file and available for review at the Fenton Township Office, 12060 Mantawauka Drive, Fenton, Michigan 48430. Office hours are 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Friday. Ordinances, meeting schedules, meeting minutes and other Township information are also available at [www.fentontownship.org](http://www.fentontownship.org).

ROBERT E. KRUG  
FENTON TOWNSHIP CLERK

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**REAL ESTATE****Continued from Page 3A**

"There's no sign of decline," said Patrik Welty, owner/broker of Legacy Realty Professionals in Fenton.

He added that while the market is not declining, it's not as dramatic as last year. "It's not like a feeding frenzy 24/7," he said.

This has been the situation for a couple years, with no clear answer as to when prices will plateau.

Homes in the \$175,000 range remain "hot commodities," and can sell before

they hit the market with multiple offers. Welty said the only balanced market is the non-lake homes listed for around \$500,000. These can actually sit on the market for a few weeks with a regular pattern of offers.

Sales are still climbing. Thompson said 480 residential homes were sold in May of 2018 in Genesee County. There were 540 sold in May of 2019. Every month

so far has beaten sales for 2018.

She added that average home prices in Genesee County have also increased from \$151,000 to \$163,000.

"I can't believe we haven't reached that plateau yet. It feels like it's time," she said. She added that this won't happen until this problem of inventory is solved. There aren't enough single family homes under \$200,000 for sale.

**“I can't believe we haven't reached that plateau yet. It feels like it's time.”**

**Kim Thompson**  
East Central Association  
of Realtors CEO

**New homes needed**

To ease the lack of inventory, more new homes need to be built — especially those under \$200,000.

Lisa Sears is executive officer of the Home Builders Association of Mid-Michigan with 30 years in the industry. When asked if new builds have increased, she said that it's "complicated."

"It's pocketed," she said. "Fenton's really hot right now." Southern Genesee County is seeing more construction than northern Genesee County.

She said there are a few challenges to building new homes. One major issue is affordable land. A smaller builder won't be able to buy up an entire subdivision-worth of land and develop it. "It's a real quandary for the smaller builders," Sears said.

Another issue is that in previous years, someone building a new home would have instant equity, and it would be worth more than a similar existing home.

Today, an existing home may be a better investment. The price to build a home can only go up with the cost of materials and the impact of federal tariffs on steel and aluminum.

Still, she said in many ways the industry is doing better than during the crash of 2006 to 2009.

Welty is confident that there is no real estate "bubble" that can be burst leading to another crash. "Dynamics from 2008 don't exist today," he said. Risky, no documentation, no proof-of-income loans created back then, don't exist today.

Because he doesn't predict a crash, he can't predict when this sellers' market might change.

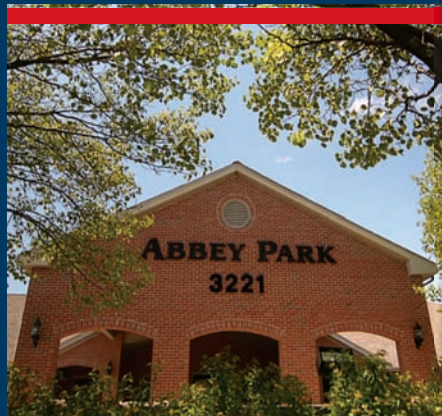
**What are sellers and buyers being advised, according to Welty?**

**Buyers:** make sure financing is in order, and be informed about what your price range can buy. Be prepared to move quickly if you like the home. Homes can sell in hours.

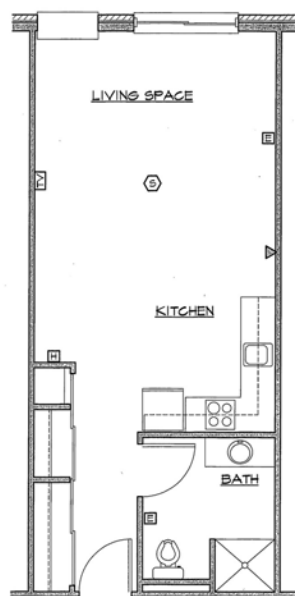
**Sellers:** homes need to be priced appropriately for the market and be in good condition. They shouldn't have major issues that could impede financing.

Sellers and buyers need to be informed about what homes will sell for, and what the personal financial impacts and process will be.

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## FIREFIGHTER

**Continued from Front Page**

Stephens and another firefighter be terminated because they hadn't responded to enough calls. After discussion, the board told Volz to better document warnings he gives to his firefighters.

Firefighters must respond to at least 20 percent of calls a month, per their contract. For officers, which includes captains, that percentage is 30 percent. If these employees fail to meet this requirement, they first receive a verbal written warning from Volz. If they don't meet these numbers for a second time, they receive another written warning. The third time, they're fired.

A Freedom of Information Act request shows that Stephens did not respond to more than 30 percent of calls for any month in 2019, but in two months, he responded to more than 20 percent. The documents also show a number of other firefighters who did not make their percentages for a few months, but they were marked with "leave of absence" or "medical leave."

Stephens said he misses calls because he often gets them when he's at work. He also agreed it's a hostile work environment.

At the June 17 meeting, instead of termination, Treasurer John Tucker asked the board if Stephens could have the option of resigning his officer post and be a firefighter because he met 20 percent. If he did not resign his officer position in seven days, he would be fired.

The board voted 6-1 on this, with Clerk Robert Krug dissenting.

### 'Hostile work environment' claim

Kristy Polidan, a plaintiff in a sexual harassment lawsuit against Volz, spoke during the June 17 meeting. She spoke in favor of Stephens and alleged that Volz wanted to fire Stephens because he supported Polidan in a lawsuit against Volz.

Polidan, who works at Station 1, said, "Station 2 is here to support the chief in firing a captain who's given

17 years of his life. Yeah, he hasn't made his percentage. You want to know why he hasn't made his percentage? Because he supported me. It is a hostile work environment. I have let you guys (the board) know that. You have been told that and you don't care about it."

Stephens and Polidan are plaintiffs in a sexual harassment lawsuit that was brought against Volz in July 2018. The Fenton Township Fire Department has two fire stations. Stephens works at Sta-

tion 1 on Bowles off North Long Lake Road.

Julie Gafkay of Gafkay Law, PLC represents Stephens and Polidan in the case, which alleges that Volz failed to stop the sexual harassment of Polidan and participating in a "pervasive" culture of sexual harassment.

Volz was accused of retaliating against Stephens for supporting Polidan by altering his hours, assigning a lower ranking lieutenant to use his office and failing to allow him to be in charge during Volz's absence.

### Case dismissed

When asked about the case Tuesday, Gafkay declined to comment but confirmed the case was dismissed.

The township conducted its own investigation. In mid August 2018, the board decided to suspend Volz without pay until Oct. 1 and included other stipulations, such as attending diversity training.

"Through this whole process, our crew has gotten tighter. We've gotten more family oriented," Volz said. "You have these problems all over the U.S., it's not just here. We're just ready to move forward and do what we do, protecting the township."

Volz said the standard operating procedures (SOPs) are simple, and it's not fair to the residents when people don't show up.

"It's just a nightmare I hope can soon be over. It's cost my family and department a whole lot of heartache," he said.

### Firefighters comment

Township Supervisor Bonnie Mathis, Volz's mother-in-law, did not abstain from voting. No one asked her

to abstain from the discussion or vote. She directed the firefighters in attendance of the June 17 meeting to direct any complaints to Thomas Broecker, operations manager/deputy clerk.

A handful of firefighters were in attendance at the June 17 meeting. One firefighter who works at Station 1 claimed they are constantly cancelled on calls, making it harder for them to make their required amount.

A few firefighters spoke in favor of Volz.

Mike Cross, who's been with the department for 16 years, said, "I've known Ryan since he was captain. I have nothing but the utmost respect for him. We're all adults in this department."

He said everyone in the department is aware of the rules.

"In spite of everything that's going on, these people, these men and women on this department I've served with, have done it honorably, under intense pressure. They've never wavered. That's a reflection of the chief," he said.

At the time, Clerk Robert Krug suggested that deputies with the Genesee

County Sheriff's Office accompany the fire department on calls for security purposes. He expressed concern that the township will be sued, which was his reason for voting no. He said Volz has suggested they realign the supervisory positions.

Trustee Vince Lorraine said what he saw at the meeting was "seriously disturbing. If our fire department, which protects constituents in Fenton Township and there is that much turmoil within, we've got a problem."

Mathis said the township will get through this and that the board did the right thing.

On June 17, Treasurer John Tucker said, "The probability of a lawsuit is 150 percent," but since learning that Stephens resigned his officer position, Tucker said he believes any lawsuit has been averted for the time being.

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## NEWS BRIEFS

COMPILED BY SHARON STONE

### LEGISLATORS HOST JOINT OFFICE HOURS IN FENTON TOWNSHIP ON FRIDAY, JULY 12

State Sen. Ken Horn (R-Frankenmuth) and State Rep. Mike Mueller (R-Fenton Township), will be hosting joint office hours in Linden on Friday, July 12. The lawmakers will be available to meet with constituents at the following date, time and location:

• **Friday, July 12 - 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Mueller's Orchard and Cider Mill 6036 Lobdell Road, Linden**

Both legislators will be on hand to answer questions and respond to concerns any residents of their respective districts may have. No appointment is necessary. For more information or to contact Horn, visit [SenatorKenHorn.com](http://SenatorKenHorn.com) or call (517) 373-1760. To contact Mueller, visit [gophouse.org/representatives/mueller](http://gophouse.org/representatives/mueller) or call (517) 373-1780.

## NEWS BRIEFS

COMPILED BY SHARON STONE

### McLaren welcomes urologist to medical staff

Roger Jump III, DO, a board certified urologist, has joined the medical staff at McLaren



Flint. Jump is seeing patients at Urological Services, PC, 1121 W. Hill Rd., Flint. Jump completed his residency at St. John

Providence Health System in Warren. He earned his medical degree from Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine in Lansing. Jump is accepting new patients and can be reached by calling (810) 232-8888.

## PARKING

### Continued from Front Page

The Fenton City Council heard recommendations for the Cornerstone public parking lot at its Monday, July 1 work session. Officials agreed with the City Council Parking Committee's recommendations, which are that:

- **All of the existing** temporary parking signs will be removed and made permanent.
- **All of the temporary** parking signs per the Cornerstone HOA (Homeowner Association) agreement, which expired Dec. 31, 2016, be removed.
- **The three parking spaces** with special parking time limits east of Rough Draught coffee and barroom will be removed.
- **The city will enter** into an annual permit

and/or lease agreement with Sawyer Jewelers for two parking spaces on the east end of the lot at Walnut Street due to their safety and insurance requirements. The cost is estimated to be \$250 per year per parking space and is revocable.

• **The three parking spaces** with special parking time limits in front of Fenton Flowers & Gifts will be removed (agreement expired Feb. 28, 2017).

Additionally, Cornerstone building residents and businesses will have parking permits available to them for \$250 per year.

According to the committee, the intent of these recommendations is to create the most beneficial and user friendly parking environment for all of the various businesses and residential customers within the downtown area.

## RESIGNS

### Continued from Page 5A

believe Dan can come in and correct those needs and put us on a proper path. Dan is from West Michigan and I've always known he's wanted to come back to West Michigan if the opportunity presented itself. We had a very good person in that role who we lost to the city of Douglas to become their city manager and while I didn't want to lose that individual, I'm glad the opportunity presented itself for Dan to come help us in the City of Lowell."

"I have very much enjoyed working for this community. There are many good people working at the city that I enjoy working with," Czarnecki said. "The entire Public Works Department, including those in the public works division, as well as the water treatment employees, water distribution workers, and water billing clerk, are the best anywhere. They are a team of dedicated people who will do what it takes to serve Fenton. I have never worked with a better

group of public works employees. The community should be very happy with the quality of workers that are here."

Czarnecki added that the Fenton community has many volunteers that are doing a great job helping to build up the area for residents and visitors.

"It's amazing to see some of these people work very hard for the benefit of the entire city," he said. "There are a couple of those volunteers I am going to miss dearly. I wish the best for the entire community."

"The direction of Fenton is positive," Czarnecki said. "There have been many improvements over the years that have been very good for the city of Fenton and the area. I wish only the best for my coworkers, my Fenton friends, and the community."

Until the Fenton City Council and administration decides how to proceed with replacing Czarnecki, there is a deputy Public Works director, Dan Brisson, who will likely handle the responsibilities of the director.

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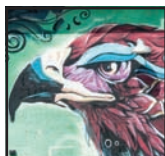
## WHAT YOU MISSED IN THE MIDWEEK TIMES

COMPILED BY VERA HOGAN

The following are stories you may have missed in the **Wednesday, July 3, Midweek Times**. To subscribe and receive both the Midweek and Sunday Weekend editions, please call (810) 629-8282.

### Murals becoming more popular in local communities

Outdoor artwork inspires thought-provoking conversation.



### Fenton mayor, three council member terms expire this fall

Deadline to turn in petitions to run for office is 4 p.m., July 23.

### Tyrone Township trustee resigns

Allen "Al" Pool moving away from community because of GM layoff earlier this year.

### Gasoline leak could be monitored for years after discovery

"Giant vacuum" will allow company to extract contaminated water.

### Building Brands

Columnist Emily Caswell says "Keep calm and enjoy the summer."

## POLICE & FIRE REPORT

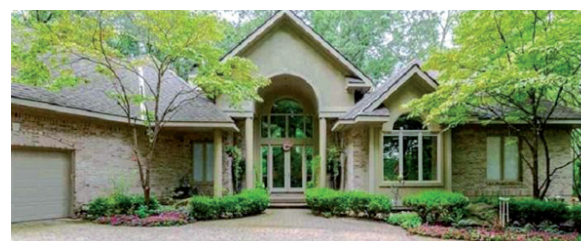
COMPILED BY SHARON STONE

### WARREN WOMAN ARRESTED FOR DRUNK DRIVING

At 1 a.m. on Saturday, June 29, a Fenton police officer following a vehicle observed several moving violations. A traffic stop was initiated on U.S. 23 near Silver Lake Road. The officer made contact with the driver, a 39-year-old Warren woman who admitted to have consumed alcohol prior to driving. Field sobriety tests were administered and she was arrested for operating a vehicle while intoxicated. She was lodged overnight at the police station and released with a court appearance ticket for OWI.

### DIRT BIKE STOLEN

The Fenton Police Department is investigating the theft of a dirt bike. Lt. Jeff Cross said a 36-year-old man living in an apartment complex off Torrey Road said sometime between 8:30 p.m., June 30 and 7:30 a.m., July 1, someone stole his orange and white KTM dirt bike, valued at \$2,000. It was parked in a carport near his apartment. The bike was not functioning at the time and the suspect(s) had to either push it or pick it up to steal. The bike has a Colorado license plate on it and the numbers 666 printed on each side. If anyone has information, they are asked to call Fenton police at (810) 629-5311.



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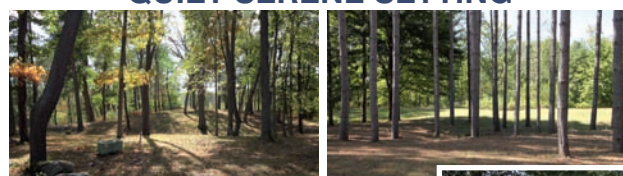


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## Get off your butt!

■ Sitting at your job for hours on end can be risky to your health

**Compiled By Vera Hogan**

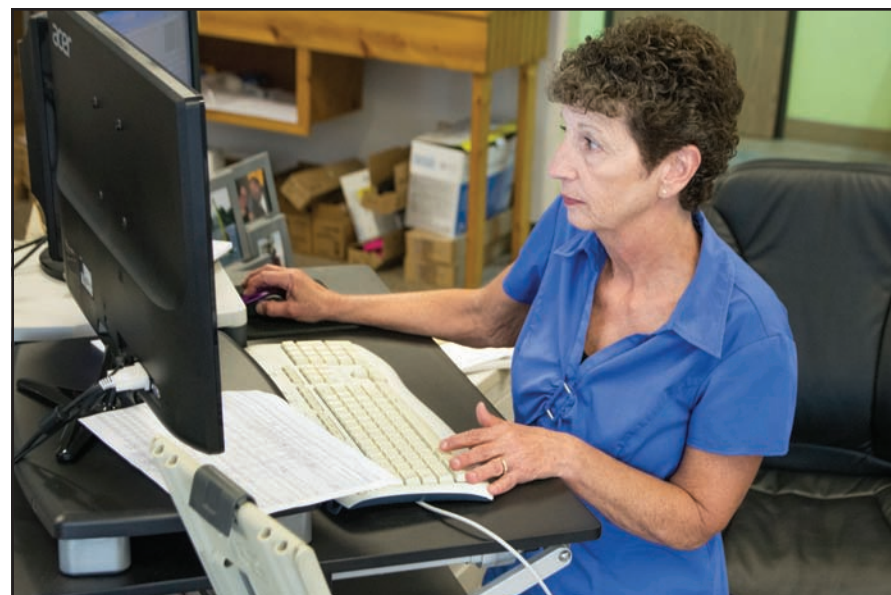
It's not just couch potatoes that have to worry — working people who sit at their jobs all day face several health risks due to inactivity.

According to [webmd.com](http://webmd.com), sitting all day hurts your heart. Scientists first noticed something was wrong in a study that compared two similar groups: transit drivers, who sit most of the day, and conductors or guards, who don't. Though their diets and lifestyles were a lot alike, those who sat were about twice as likely to get heart disease as those who stood.

They also found:

**It can shorten your life**

You're more likely to die earlier from any cause if you sit for long stretches



Times graphic designer Mary Powell uses an Attollo Desk, (cost: \$495-\$585) allowing her to stand, sit, or use an exercise ball while working. While the manufacturer is in Colorado, the founders, Nate and Kendra Poniatowski, have Fenton roots. **Photo: Tim Jagielo**

at a time. It doesn't help if you exercise every day or not. Of course, that's no excuse to skip the gym. If you do that, your time may be even shorter.

**Dementia is more likely**

If you sit too much, your brain could look just like that of someone with dementia. Sitting also raises your risk of heart disease, diabetes, stroke, high blood pressure, and high cholesterol, which all play a role in the condition. Moving throughout the day can help even more than exercise to lower your risk of all these health problems.

**You'll undo all that exercise**

The effects of too much sitting are hard to counter with exercise. Even if you work out seven hours a week — far more than the suggested two to three hours — you can't reverse the effects of sitting hours at a time.

**Your odds of getting diabetes rise**

You're more likely to have it, too, if you sit all day. And it isn't only because you burn fewer calories. It's the actual sitting that seems to do it. It isn't clear why, but doctors think sitting may change the way your body reacts to insulin, the hormone that helps it burn sugar and carbs for energy.

**You could get DVT**

Deep vein thrombosis (DVT) is a clot that forms in your leg, often because you sit still for too long. It can be serious if the clot breaks free and lodges in your lung. You might notice swelling and pain, but some people have no symptoms. That's why it's a good idea to break up long sitting sessions.

**You'll gain weight**

If you watch a lot of TV or surf the web

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## LOOKING BACK at this week in HISTORY

COMPILED BY VERA HOGAN

### JULY 7

**1981:** President Ronald Reagan nominates Sandra Day O'Connor, an Arizona court of appeals judge, to be the first woman Supreme Court justice in U.S. history. On Sept. 21, the Senate unanimously approved her appointment to the nation's highest court, and on Sept. 25 she was sworn in by Chief Justice Warren Burger.

### JULY 8

**1898:** A disgruntled city engineer in Skagway, Alaska, murders "Soapy" Smith, one of the most notorious con men in the history of the West. Born in Georgia in 1860, Jefferson Randolph Smith went west while still a young man, finding work as a cowboy in Texas. Smith eventually tired of the hard work and low wages offered by the cowboy life, though, and discovered that he could make more money with less effort by convincing gullible westerners to part with their cash in clever confidence games.

### JULY 9

**1962:** "This here ain't no protest song or anything like that, 'cause I don't write no protest songs." That was how Bob Dylan introduced one of the most

eloquent protest songs ever written when he first performed it publicly. It was the spring of his first full year in New York City, and he was onstage at Gerde's Folk City in Greenwich Village, talking about a song he claims to have written in just 10 minutes: "Blowin' In The Wind." A few weeks later, Dylan walked into a studio and recorded the song that would make him a star.

### JULY 10

**1889:** In a drunken rage, "Buckskin" Frank Leslie murders his lover, the Tombstone prostitute Blonde Mollie Williams. Leslie was an ill-tempered and violent man, especially when he drank. He sometimes claimed he had been trained in medicine and pharmacy, and he even boasted that he had studied in Europe. Supposedly, he earned the nickname "Buckskin" while working as an Army Scout in the Plains Indian Wars. None of his assertions can be confirmed in the historical record.

### JULY 11

**1656:** Ann Austin and Mary Fisher, two Englishwomen, become the first Quakers to immigrate to the American colonies when the ship carrying them lands at Boston in the Massachusetts Bay Colony. The pair came from

Barbados, where Quakers had established a center for missionary work.

### JULY 12

**1979:** As the 1970s came to an end, the age of disco was also nearing its finale. But for all of its decadence and overexposure, disco didn't quite die a natural death by collapsing under its own weight. Instead, it was killed by a public backlash that reached its peak on this day in 1979 with the infamous "Disco Demolition" night at Chicago's Comiskey Park. That incident, which led to at least nine injuries, 39 arrests and the cancellation and forfeit of a Major League Baseball game, is widely credited with dealing disco its death blow.

### JULY 13

**1990:** The romantic-thriller Ghost, starring Demi Moore, Patrick Swayze and Whoopi Goldberg, opens in theaters across the United States. The film, about a woman who communicates with her murdered husband through a sassy psychic, was a box-office hit and received multiple Academy Award nominations, including Best Picture and Best Screenplay.

Source: history.com

## NEWS

## BRIEFS

COMPILED BY SHARON STONE

### FENTON AREA STROKE SUPPORT GROUP

The Fenton Area Stroke Support Group will be hosting a session for patients, families and caregivers from **5:30 to 7 p.m., Monday, July 22**, at the Fenton Township Civic Community Center, 12060 Mantawauka Dr. Please RSVP to Mike Heaphy at (810) 406-5428 or mheaphy@elitespice.com.



## YOUR SMILE MATTERS!

By: Dr. Steven Sulfaro

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**I welcome your questions and comments. Feel free to e-mail me dsulfaro@comcast.net**

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# Store brands not inferior, just more affordable

■ Buying a private label vs. national brand has very little to do with quality of goods

By Vera Hogan

Last week, a shopper at the VG's Grocery in Fenton could buy a dozen fresh "jumbo" eggs for \$1.29. The eggs were sold under the private "Our Family" label. The same size eggs under another label could cost over \$3 a dozen.

Are the "Our Family" eggs inferior in some way? Experts say store brand products are just as good as their national brand counterparts.

A private brand is a product that is manufactured for and sold under the name of a specific retailer, competing with brand-name products. Also referred to as "private label" or "store brand," prices for private brands tend to be less than those of nationally recognized name brand goods. Private brand items can provide retailers, such as supermarkets, with a better margin than



Studies suggest store brands are, in most cases, every bit as good as their name brand equivalents. *Times file photo*

the brand-name goods they also carry.

Branding products are more expensive for many reasons, ranging from marketing and advertising to investors demanding a high return-on-investment. Also, national brand products

can carry prestige, which justify a higher price. There have been studies that suggest store brands are, in most cases, every bit as good as their name brand equivalents. Consumer Reports recently ran some blind taste tests and found 33 of 57 store-brand foods to be as good as or better than the big name brand.

According to Consumer Reports, "We found that not only are store-brand foods often much cheaper, but in nearly 60 percent of the comparisons we did our experts found them to be at least as good as the national brand. We recommend that consumers take advantage of the lower prices. After all, if they're not satisfied with the store brand, most supermarket chains will refund their money."

There may be some name brand food items that should remain in your shopping cart. For example, you might be fond of a particular brand of frozen pizza. If the store brand is made by the same manufacturer, that could be an option. On the other hand, if not it could be a disappointment. The only way to know is to give it a try.

The overall objective is to save money without sacrificing quality, so the savvy grocery shopper should go where the savings are. Sometimes that might be the advertised brand. Shoppers should be on the lookout for sales and coupons that might make the advertised brand cheaper than either a store brand or generic.

The following are a few  
**STORE BRANDS**  
sold at local retailers:



**Sold at Spartan Nash stores, including VG's, Holly Foods and Alpine Marketplace**

Our Family, founded in 1904, is an extensive line of high quality products. The Our Family label is one of the oldest and most well established in the industry.

**Compare example:**

Breyer's chocolate ice cream, 64 oz. for \$6.49. Our Family chocolate ice cream, 64 oz. for \$2.79.



**Sold at Walmart.**

Walmart relaunched its Great Value brand in March 2009 (originally 1993). The Great Value private brand is said to be the largest food label in the country. Walmart says that more consumers are switching from national brands to private label products as they look to curb costs.

**Compare example:**

Jif Creamy Peanut Butter, 64 oz. for \$8.67. Great Value Creamy Peanut Butter, 64 oz. for \$4.68.



**Sold at Walmart.**

To get a good deal on health and beauty products, consumers are buying Walmart's Equate brand. According to the Food and Drug Administration, generic drugs are required to have the same active ingredient, strength and dosage as the brand-name product.

**Compare example:** Excedrin Extra Strength Acetaminophen, 200 ct. for \$21.58. Equate Extra Strength Acetaminophen, 200 ct. for \$4.

Source: consumeraffairs.com; quora.com; ourfamily.com; shophelastlane.com; walmart.com

## HAPPIEST HAPPY HOUR AT TMP

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Officer Tony Matthews fits a new helmet on Mason Singelis, 7, at the second annual Argentine Township Bike Rodeo on Saturday, June 29.

Photo: Hannah Ball

## Four bikes raffled off at Bike Rodeo

### ■ Kids get free helmets and bike inspection

By Hannah Ball

**Argentine Twp.** — Bike rides, free helmets and hot dogs were enjoyed by attendees at the second annual Bike Rodeo hosted by the Argentine Township Police Department on Saturday, June 29 at the Linden High School.

The event helps promote bike safety. “This is the second year. We’re going to do it every year. Every year we’re going to get it bigger,” said Doug Fulton, Argentine Township detective sergeant.

Kids brought their own bikes, and police recorded the serial number in case the bike is stolen or lost. They gave parents a sticker to put on the bike that contains emergency contact information, such as the parent’s name, number, any allergies to medication and more. If a child falls off their bike and is knocked unconscious, emergency responders know who to call. Kids also got a free toy and a sticker.

The department also handed out pamphlets on Crime Stoppers and where to properly store guns in the house.

Representatives from the Hurley Trauma Center were on scene to teach kids about common injuries associated with biking, which include concussions. They taught parents about warn-

ing signs associated with head injuries. The children were fit with a new helmet and their bike was inspected by Cyclefit Sports. After that, they biked through the course and learned hand signals.

The Argentine Township Fire Department was on scene with a truck that kids could explore. The hot dogs were donated by Patty and Larry Davis, the buns were donated by The Deck, and the tents were donated by Tents Events with E’s.

The helmets, along with four bikes that were raffled off, were paid for by the police department through two grants from the Walmart store in Grand Blanc, totaling \$2,000, Fulton said.

The police department started this event through their crime prevention unit. They held the first bike rodeo last summer in a mobile home park that had an issue with kids on bikes running through stop signs and not riding safely.

Fulton said he once responded to a 5-year-old riding her bike on McCaslin Lake Road, which is a 55 mph road.

Rebecca Singelis walked around with her son, Mason, 7, who went to every station.

“I brought him to get his bike checked out, get a helmet. He needed one, and I wouldn’t know which one to buy. And to see all the policemen, see the fire trucks and ride his bike,” Singelis said.

**“This is the second year. We’re going to do it every year.”**

**Doug Fulton**  
Argentine Township  
detective sergeant

## MICHIGAN VOTES

### LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY

— Compiled by Sharon Stone —

*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, June 21.*

#### House Bill 4234: Authorize subsidized state farm loans for rainy weather

To authorize \$15 million in state-subsidized, below-market rate loans to Michigan farmers affected by rainy weather in the spring of 2019.

#### Passed 34 to 1 in the Senate

Sen. Ruth Johnson (R-Dist. 14) ☒ YES  
Sen. Jim Runestad (R-Dist. 15) ☒ YES  
Sen. Lana Theis (R-Dist. 22) ☒ YES  
Sen. Jim Ananich (D-Dist. 27) ☒ YES  
Sen. Ken Horn (R-Dist. 32) ☒ YES

#### Passed 99 to 6 in the House

Rep. Hank Vaupel (R-Dist. 47) ☒ YES  
Rep. Mike Mueller (R-Dist. 51) ☒ YES

#### House Bill 4694: Authorize more school retiree “double dipping”

To revise a law that allows certain retired school employees to work in schools that need more staff in particular subjects while still collecting pension checks alongside their current pay. According to the House Fiscal Agency, this would benefit some former staff brought back as instructors in a particular non-profit’s reading program used by around 150 western Michigan schools, and like other “double dipping” exceptions in the law could potentially increase unfunded liabilities in the school pension system.

#### Passed 102 to 7 in the House

Rep. Hank Vaupel (R-Dist. 47) ☒ YES  
Rep. Mike Mueller (R-Dist. 51) ☒ YES

#### House Bill 4223: Mandate dental testing and screening for children

To mandate that children entering kindergarten or first grade for the first time bring a form signed by a dentist or dental hygienist certifying that the child’s teeth were examined and assessed within the past six months. Also, to require the state welfare department to create a dental oral assessment program for children who did not get the exam before registering for school enrollment.

#### Passed 93 to 16 in the House

Rep. Hank Vaupel (R-Dist. 47) ☒ YES  
Rep. Mike Mueller (R-Dist. 51) ☒ YES

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## SITTING

Continued from Page 18A

for hours on end, you're more likely to be overweight or obese. If you exercise every day, that's good, but it won't make a huge dent in extra weight you gain as a result of too much screen time.

### Your anxiety might spike

It could be that you're often by yourself and engaged in a screen-based activity. If this disrupts your sleep, you can get even more anxious. Plus, too much alone time can make you withdraw from friends and loved ones, which is linked to social anxiety. Scientists are still trying to figure out the exact cause.

### It hurts your back

The seated position puts huge stress on your back muscles, neck, and spine. It's even worse if you slouch. Look for an ergonomic chair, one that will be the right height and support your back in the proper spots. But no matter how comfortable you get, your back still won't like a long sitting session. Get up and move around for a minute or two every half hour to keep your spine in line.

### It leads to varicose veins

Sit for too long and blood can pool in your legs. This puts added pressure in your veins. They could swell, twist, or bulge to what doctors call varicose veins. You may also see spider veins, bundles of broken blood vessels nearby. They usually aren't serious, but they can ache. Your doctor can tell you about treatment options if you need them.

### If you don't move it, you could lose it

Older adults who aren't active may be more likely to get osteoporosis (weakened bones) and could slowly



The Attollo Desk has electric controls. Photo: Tim Jagielo

become unable to perform basic tasks of everyday life, like taking a bath or using the toilet. While moderate exercise won't prevent it, you don't have to go out and run a marathon to stay mobile in your golden years.

### Your cancer risk goes up

You may be more likely to get colon, endometrial, or lung cancer. The more you sit, the higher the odds. Older women have higher odds of breast cancer. That doesn't change if you're super-active. What matters is how much you sit.

## How to take a stand

Work more movement into your day. Stand up and stretch every half hour or so. Touch your toes. Take a stroll around the office. Stand at your desk for part of the day. Get a desk that raises or make your own. Set your computer on top of a box. Talk to your boss about a treadmill desk. All these things can help stop the negative effects of uninterrupted sitting and keep you on the road to good health.

Source: webmd.com

## Reality TV series holds virtual casting call

■ Seeks Fenton area residents to help raise awareness, resources for mental illness

Compiled by Sharon Stone

Mental health charity, Journey's Dream (journeysdream.org), co-founded by Breaha Wallin of Fenton has been selected to partner with the socially conscious, award-winning media project, Charity TV Global (charitytvglobal.com), as they prepare to launch their groundbreaking adventure reality TV series in the United States.

An innovative virtual casting call is underway to find 12 people to feature in an unforgettable adventure.

"The question we're asking Fenton and greater Genesee County residents is this," said Charity TV Global founder Troy Gray, "Are you ready to go on the adventure of a lifetime, be filmed by an award-winning TV crew and be a reality TV star?"

Those who are interested can watch a three-minute video on Charity TV Global's Facebook page and visit [www.charitytvglobal.com](http://www.charitytvglobal.com) to register.

Charity TV Global is a cutting-edge fundraising platform for charities worldwide, which combines entertainment with philanthropy.

Almost 44 million Americans experience mental illness in any given year, according to the National Institute of Mental Health. From widespread maladies like anxiety and depression, to headline-making crises like post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) among veterans and opioid addiction in rural communities, mental illness takes a real toll on American families.

The partnership with Charity TV Global further equips Journey's Dream to bring these mental health challenges out of the shadows, face them head-on, and fill an enormous need for accessible resources and hope.

Proceeds raised from this project support Journey's Dream in achieving its mission to convene, develop and share the most effective and innovative solutions for mental health.

## Adopt-A-Pet PICNIC

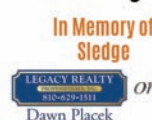
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## Fenton building department going digital

■ Office reconfiguration and new equipment aimed at improving efficiency

By Vera Hogan

The Fenton Building and Zoning Department is making a few changes aimed at making day-to-day operations more efficient.

At its Monday, July 1 work session, the City Council approved two requests by Building and Zoning Administrator Mike Reilly — one to re-arrange current office space to better accommodate staff and visitors, and two, to purchase digital equipment for the review and storage of construction plans.

Upon review of the department's functionality, Reilly proposed switching offices to place the majority of personnel in the larger office. This will put Reilly's office adjacent to that of the Public Works director. This will allow Reilly to close off the office for private discussions without "trapping" people in the center room.

As he was previously instructed, Reilly contacted Space, the company

that designed the front office work space. A representative from Space provided a design proposal that includes new work stations with adjustable desks and work space dividers.

The total cost to implement this plan will be \$12,116.40.

"I am proposing to take the department 'paperless,' which is a two-fold benefit," Reilly said. Document storage will be greatly reduced, another space saver.

Reilly proposed the purchase of a digital construction plan review table with a plotter/scanner. The construction plans will be submitted, reviewed and approved in digital format, he said. "The digital plans will be accessible to our field inspectors, fire and police emergency responders with modem access," Reilly said.

The total cost of the plan table is \$19,223. Required licensing will be \$1,037 per year. The plotter/scanner will cost \$10,995 and six printer cartridges will cost \$720.

In considering this change, Reilly said he discussed the matter with the State of Michigan Bureau of Construction Codes to ensure compliance.



## 2019 Fenton Freedom Festival

(Above) The Fenton Center of Hope brought more than a dozen parade walkers and kids who rode bicycles, some decked out in red, white and blue festive decorations.

(Left) A girl on a back of a truck blows bubbles for the crowd at the 2019 Fenton Freedom Festival parade. (Below) Freedom Festival attendees applauded members of the military who led the way for the parade. See more photos online at myfenton.com.

Photos: Hannah Ball

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# Holly's Beck headed to Saginaw Valley State

By David Troppens

Marissa Beck has wanted to play softball at the collegiate level for a long time.

Her dream will come true when the 2019 Holly graduate hits Saginaw Valley State University campus this fall as a member of the team's softball squad.

"It's been a long-time dream of mine," Beck said. "I'm super excited. I can't wait for it."

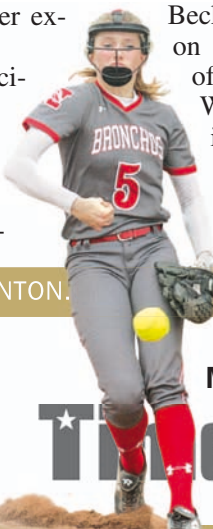
Beck, who made her decision during her senior season, said it was between Saginaw Valley State and Aquinas University.

"I picked Saginaw be-

cause I fell in love with the school," Beck said. "As soon as you walk on campus, it's like a community of people that just welcome you."

When I met the coach, he was inspirational. All the players pushed me to be better than I was before, and I absolutely

See **BECK** on 26A



Holly's  
Marissa Beck

SUNDAY, JULY 7, 2019 | PAGE 25A | MYFENTON.COM

## Sports Times

# Local runners lead pack at Firecracker 5K

By David Troppens

**Fenton** — Joseph Gilbert, 16, wanted a personal-best time at the Fenton Firecracker 5K Run held Thursday morning during Fenton's Freedom Festival activities.

He ended up doing a bit more than that.

The Lake Fenton junior ended up winning the 5K race, posting a best time of 16:48.4 during a hot and humid morning at the event. The Fenton resident edged out another teenager, Howell's Connor Joyce, for the top spot. Also 16, Joyce finished in 16:52, less than four seconds behind Gilbert. Another Howell teenager, Dan Kromberg, 14, finished fourth in 17:36.9. The top finishing woman was Fenton resident Jacklyn Juhl, who took 10th overall. She was the only woman to finish under 20 minutes with a time of 19:36.7. Am-



Some of the runners begin the Firecracker 5K Run prior to Thursday's Fenton Freedom Festival parade. More than 150 runners finished the 5K run, and plenty of others also completed the 2.5K event. **Times photo: David Troppens**

ber Armstead was the second woman to finish, crossing the finish line in 22:15.6. Fenton's Amanda Thomas was third overall with a time of 22:57.3.

"I came here hoping to PR (personal record)," Gilbert said. "I stuck with the kid who was in front of me for most of

See **FIRECRACKER** on 26A



The Fenton varsity boys soccer team is No. 13 on our 2018-19 Tri-County Top 16 Teams list. **File photo**

# Tri-County Top 16 Teams poll looks back at past trends

By David Troppens

Wow, has it been 11 years?

It certainly has — at the end of each of the last 11 academic school years, the sports staff has bravely made out our list of the top 16 varsity teams from each school year.

People love polls, and we figure no one has a better pulse on the tri-county athletic scene than the sports staff. So we figured why not? Let's list the top 16 teams of the year. That first list after the 2008-09 school year had the Linden boys cross country team at No. 1 and included seven Fenton and Holly squads.

Since then, 48 varsity teams have made our list at least once, only one team has been on all 11 lists (we'll talk about that in a future edition),

See **TOP 16** on 27A

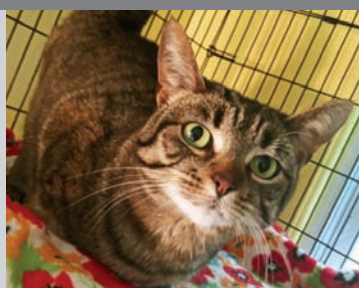
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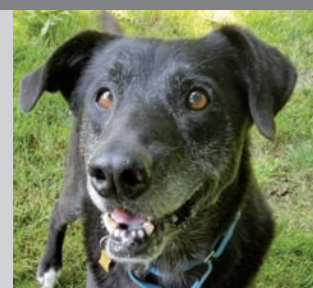


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## FIRECRACKER

Continued from Page 25A

the race, and then I had about three-quarters of a mile left, so I kind of turned it on and turned the corner to come to the chute and I felt good. I looked at the time and I got a PR.

"This is my first year ever doing this race, but I like doing 5Ks. My goal was to win the Crim 5K this year, but I have a cross country meet that same day, so I won't be able to participate in that."

Gilbert is a member of Lake Fenton's boys cross country team. The squad won a regional championship last fall and followed that up by placing 14th at the Division 2 state meet. It looks like the Blue Devils will continue their recent strong finishes while Gilbert remains at the school.

"We are hoping to do good in regionals this year," Gilbert said. "We have a lot of dedicated sophomores and a lot of them are pushing it a lot and are running in this race at this moment. We are hoping to get reloaded for another regional championship my senior year, but this year we are going for around second or third."

CONTINUED AT MYFENTON.COM



(Above and left) Many of the runners begin the Firecracker 5K Race. The overall winner was Joseph Gilbert (far right in top photo), who won with a time of 16:48.4. The event was run prior to Fenton's Freedom Festival Parade held Thursday morning.

Times photos: David Troppens

## David's Dabblings

Some thoughts about sports and others not dealing with sports at all



### GREATEST CHAMPIONSHIP TEAMS I'VE EXPERIENCED IN MY LIFETIME (PART 1)

Last week I posted my sixth through 10th most memorable championship squads in my sports lifetime.

Let's not waste that much space and let's start my top five.

**No. 5 - 2008 Linden boys cross country:** I don't think I'll ever forget that day. The Linden cross country team not only won the school's first-ever state championship for any sport, but did it in about as dominant way as possible. Linden scored 59 points, with all five scoring runners finishing within the top 29. Second place Vicksburg couldn't compete, scoring 174 points. It was complete domination.

**No. 4 - Our Monday Summer Volleyball League team:** I know, how lame can I get? This isn't even a varsity sports team. But, for this then 49-year-old guy the fact that young athletic players like Annette Rutkowski, Morgan Gavulic and Jordan Sidebottom were completely willing to include 'Mr. Fourth-best Player' on the team as I tried to prove I belonged was a complete honor. We only lost two matches all summer long and actually made more prize money than we paid into the league. But as good as they are players, they are awesome people. It was a lot of fun.

**No. 3 - 2003-04 Detroit Pistons:** Known as the 'Going to Work' Pistons, this team played outstanding defense and was balanced on offense, leading the franchise to their third NBA

See **DABBLINGS** on 27A

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## BECK

Continued from Page 25A

loved that."

Beck pitched just about every inning for the Holly Bronchos and expects to pitch at Saginaw Valley as well. She should provide a solid bat as well.

"My goal is to be a starter, so I'm going to be working this whole summer," Beck said. "I'm working with my pitching coach Mike Tomlinson over at Virtual Baseball, and he's working with me with my hitting and pitching. We are making new strides each day to get better and better."

Saginaw Valley State University is a Division 2 team from the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Association (GLIAC). The squad posted a 28-24 record overall and a 16-16 mark in the GLIAC during the spring. The Cardinals used seven different pitchers a year ago, and two were seniors.

Beck said she's ready for the next level.

CONTINUED AT  
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## TOP 16

**Continued from Page 25A**

four others have been on at least 10 polls, and seven different teams have topped the poll at No. 1. With each poll, at least one new team made the top 16 for the first time.

That's enough of a summary right now. In today's edition we'll detail the bottom six squads of our 2018-19 Tri-County Top 16 Teams.

**No. 16 - Linden softball:** The squad started the season with a 5-4-1 record, but this team filled with only sophomores and juniors started putting it together. The squad went 21-5 the rest of the season and posted a 14-2 co-championship record in the Metro League. The Eagles also won a district crown, defeating Lake Fenton and Goodrich en route to the title.

This is Linden's first time in our top 16 since placing third in 2012-13 after making it to the state semifinal.

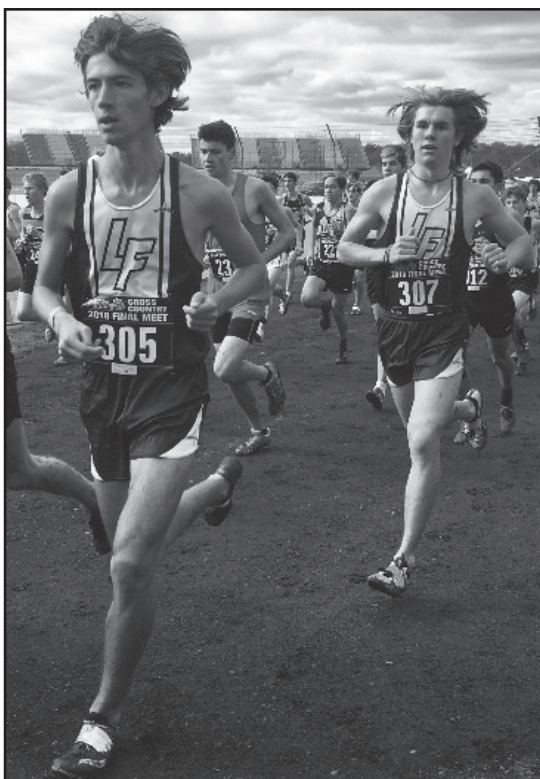
**No. 15 - Linden boys basketball:** This is the first time the Eagles have ever been on the poll. Linden flirted with posting an undefeated Metro League season until a loss to Clio in the second-last game of the year. Linden finished the season with a 15-1 Metro record, two games ahead of Clio. The Eagles also beat the Fenton Tigers three times, beating them in the district. Linden's season ended in the Division 1 district championship game, falling to Howell in overtime. Howell advanced to the state semifinals.

**No. 14 - Fenton boys swimming and diving:** The Tigers won their eighth straight Metro League title, posting a 5-0 dual record. At the Metro meet, the Tigers crushed it as well, scoring 242 more points than second-place Swartz Creek/Flushing.

The Tigers also earned eight different individual entries and three relay entries into the Division 2 state swim meet, with three entries making it to the second day. The Tigers scored 17 points, earning 25th place overall.

The Fenton boys swim team has been in our final 16 poll seven of the last eight years.

**No. 13 - Fenton boys soccer:** Seven fall teams will eventually earn a spot on this list, giving the fall season the most



Lake Fenton's Tommy Hufton (left) and Eric Niestroy (right) run in the Division 2 state meet race. The Blue Devils are No. 11 on our 2018-19 Tri-County Top 16 Teams list. **Photo: Jim Niestroy**

entries in the top 16. The Tigers finished the Metro League season with a 7-0-1 record, earning a league title. They spent a good chunk of the season ranked in the top 10. Fenton won a district title, beating the Linden Eagles for a third time during the season in the process.

The Tigers have been on our list only three times, finishing as high as fourth on our 2016/17 list.

**No. 12 - Fenton girls track and field:** The Tigers dominated the Metro League, going 8-0 in duals and then scoring 200.5 points, 64.5 points ahead of second-place Flushing. The Tigers won seven of the 17 events at the league meet.

The Tigers took third at the regional meet, earning two regional champions (Hanna Chapin in the pole vault and Cassandra Campbell in the 300 hurdles). The Tigers placed 32nd at the state meet.

**No. 11 - Lake Fenton boys cross country:** The Blue Devils are the first of three cross country squads on our list. Lake Fenton didn't capture the Genesee Area Conference title, but had an outstanding postseason. Lake Fenton captured its first-ever Division 2 regional championship, beating out Goodrich to earn the crown.

**CONTINUED AT MYFENTON.COM**

## DABBLINGS

**Continued from Page 26A**

championship ever. Ben Wallace dominated games without scoring a point. Gosh, do I miss this team. It's hard to believe that 15 years has gone by since that title already.

**No. 2 - 1988-89 Detroit Pistons:** Anyone who lived in suburbia Detroit during the Bad Boys era will never forget it. It was the Pistons versus everyone else. The world hated the Pistons, we loved them. They were about defense, mental toughness and just beating up their opposition. If you couldn't mentally deal with the Pistons' physicality, you were dead meat.

What made this team awesome was it seemed like the squad had to climb hurdles forever. First, it was beating the Celtics. Then it was figuring a way past the Lakers. The process to the first championship season was like a story book that lasted about four seasons. And when the Bad Boys got to the top, they had the entire Detroit area buzzing as much as it

has for any team in my lifetime with maybe the exception of the No. 1 team on this list. The Bad Boys were awesome.

**No. 1 - 1984 Detroit Tigers:** After a strong second-place showing in 1983, it just felt like the 1984 season was going to be the Detroit Tigers' season. And the Tigers pretty much proved that within the first few games. They won the first nine games, and among those wins Jack Morris pitched a no-hitter. The team started 35-5, and cruised to an American League East title from that point.

Once the Tigers won the division, they crushed the Royals in three straight games and then beat the Padres in the World Series in just five contests.

The Tigers captured the imagination of the state, and the entire nation. 'Bless You Boys' was the battle cry and radio stations played a song based on the saying.

It was a great summer to be alive and be a Detroit sports fan. I will never forget that season.

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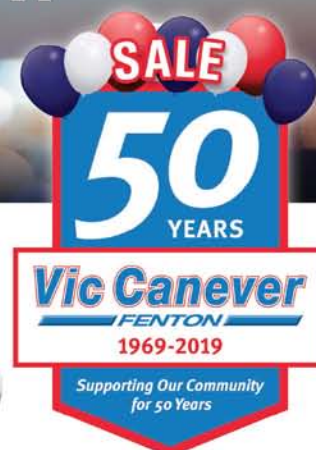
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