Increase in outdoor recreation due to COVID

State parks experience an ‘extreme escalation’ of users

By Hannah Ball

When the COVID-19 pandemic came to the U.S., shutdowns followed and many people were stuck indoors unless they worked an essential job.

What followed was a surge of people participating in outdoor recreation as a way to get out of the house. According to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, that surge is still happening.

Ron Olson, chief of parks and recreation for the MDNR, said back when COVID-19 pandemic and the shutdowns began, the parks had to stay open because they are considered an essential service, but they had to keep the parks sanitary and safe. They curtailed interactions between the public and staff for safety.

“Whenever the weather warms even a little, because I suppose people have been sequestered, we’ve seen an extreme escalation in people wanting to get outside and coming to the parks,” Olson said.

People were not allowed to camp at state parks until June 22, but their parking lots were “inundated” with cars, he said. They had to periodically close some parks because too many people used them at once. The MDNR also experienced a delay in hiring short-term staff, which made it more difficult to staff the parks and keep them open.

Olson said they don’t have an exact number of how many people have been using the parks. However, long-term staff have expressed to him that they haven’t ever seen this many people at the parks before.

“It’s definitely a clear escalation of people,” Olson said. This brought the challenge of enforcing social distance rules.

In one popular fishing spot, the Tippy Dam Recreation Area, they had to close it down for a few weeks because it was so crowded that people were fishing shoulder-to-shoulder. The area is now open.

The start of summer always brings more people to the parks, and the state has fewer restrictions now compared to when the pandemic began. Olson said they’re still seeing a surge of people.

“Weekends are busy as they normally are, but during the week, we’re seeing a lot more people than we normally would have by in large,” he said.

Diego Villasenor and Ashley Ogle, a Fenton resident, enjoy the Fenton Millpond on the afternoon of Thursday, July 23. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources reported that more and more people are visiting parks as a way to get out of the house during the pandemic. Photo: Hannah Ball

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OUTDOOR
Continued from Page 35

They’re asking people to be patient when they visit a state park, to social distance and to wear masks while inside a facility. They encourage people to avoid large gatherings and to be respectful of each other. Olson said if someone doesn’t feel well, they should stay home.

Paul Stark, recreation and athletic programmer of Southern Lakes Parks & Recreation, said their program numbers are down this summer for a few reasons.

“The obvious number one reason is COVID-19. Parents are hesitant to send their children to sporting activities and some have stated they are not willing to sign up because of health concerns,” he said. “People want to send their kids out to organized activities to help relieve boredom and to get them off their video games but for some, they do not want to risk catching the virus.”

Currently, they’re running programs for children ages 2-9 and youth tennis at Fenton High School and Lake Fenton High School. Their most popular activity is a new program called Speed and Strength training.

There are sessions for middle and high school students.

“We have over 50 participants combined. These students are getting great training from the trainers at Ultimate Athletic Performance in Holly,” he said.

SLPR is also running several fitness classes outside at Rackham Park behind the Fenton Community and Cultural Center. People are able to sign up online for the fitness classes at slpr.net.

The swimming and gymnastics programs are closed at this time.

“I do know that there has been a huge spike in people buying kayaks at the local sporting goods stores. They cannot keep them in stock.

Bicycles have been hot sellers as well. We have noticed tons of people walking outside in the neighborhoods. Tennis is very popular as well as golf. People feel more safe playing golf and tennis during the pandemic,” he said.

Stark said because the virus doesn’t show any sign of going away, people are looking for ways to exercise that keeps them socially distanced from other people.

SLPR is also running several fitness programs closed at this time.

It’s getting colder . . .

According to FBI statistics, there were approximately 17,225 murders in 2016. The July 30, 2016 slaying of Alexandra “Ally” Brueger was one of them.

Ally was 31 years old when she was shot in the back while jogging on Fish Lake Road near her Rose Township home that Saturday afternoon. She was a registered nurse and looking forward to receiving a masters degree in creative writing, which was presented to her parents after her death. She had her whole life in front of her.

Ally’s killing is being investigated by the Michigan State Police. I don’t know how many detectives have worked this case over the past four years but I do know there have been more than one. They tell Ally’s parents very little. They tell us even less.

Other than normal investigative procedures — checking out family, friends, boyfriends, coworkers and Ally’s activities around the time of her murder, I hope detectives stepped outside of the box and checked a few other things.

For example, there is a large state park campground on the same road less than four miles from where she was shot. Did MSP check the registrations of everyone staying there at the time of and before the murder?

There was a big drug bust at an assisted living home a few miles south of where Ally was gunned down. People visiting that home would have no choice but to get off the small side road and go either north or south on Fish Lake. There was a conviction in that case and the homeowner was jailed.

I wonder if MSP detectives got a hold of that file for review from the Oakland County Sheriff’s Office.

At the time of the murder, there was a major road construction project underway on a nearby well-traveled roadway. While there were no video cameras in the area where Ally lay dying, what about the construction area and detour points. MSP initially asked for information about a white or light-colored four-door sedan.

Could it have come from a possible detour?

These are just a few things an amateur like me thinks of. I may be way off the mark — but this case is getting colder, isn’t it.

Just sayin’!

Vera at vhogan@tctimes.com.

Opinions offered in Just Sayin’ are the author’s alone and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Tri-County Times or its staff. Email me at vhogan@tctimes.com.
It’s time to enjoy the buttery taste of Michigan sweet corn

Compiled by Vera Hogan

A little birdy told us that this year’s sweet corn is ready to buy at local farms and farmers markets. Here are a couple of ideas to make your corn prepping and eating much easier and more enjoyable:

**MESS-FREE MICROWAVE CORN**

Place an ear of corn (husk and all) on a microwave-safe plate. Put it in your microwave and cook for 4 minutes. When the cooking is done, use an oven mitt or towel to hold the ear of corn steady. Use a sharp knife to cut off the bottom end of the corn, and then squeeze near the top of the husk. The corn should slide right out, leaving the husk and silk behind. Add whatever toppings or seasonings you like and enjoy.

**BUTTER USING THE BOILING METHOD**

This tip only really works for boiled corn, but it’s really easy and effective. When your boiled corn is just about done cooking, drop about 8 tablespoons of butter into the water. The butter will melt and float to the top of the pot. When the corn is done cooking, use a pair of tongs to pull it out. It will emerge with a coating of butter already on it.

**BUTTER USING BREAD METHOD**

One of the most vexing corn conundrums is how best to butter it. Rather than fumbling with a butter knife, many people prefer to roll their corn onto a stick of butter. Here is something easier using a piece of buttered bread. Just wrap your buttered bread around the corn and twist a couple of times to spread the butter around. (And when your corn is perfectly buttered, you can pass it on for someone else to use, or just eat it as another side dish to your meal).

GET A HANDLE ON IT

When you’re prepping corn for the grill, peel back the husk without removing it entirely. Remove and discard the silk from the corn, then use a piece of cooking twine to tie the husk together at the bottom of each ear of corn. Tying the husks together creates a handle on the end of your corn, which makes it much easier to move and flip your corn while grilling.

Source: onegoodthingbyjillee.com
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Answers in this edition of the Tri-County Times

Tyrone Township Planning Commission Notice of Public Hearing

Notice is hereby given the Tyrone Township Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, August 11, 2020, beginning at 7:30 p.m. via Zoom teleconference. Information to join this meeting will be posted to the township’s website prior to the meeting. The purpose for the Public Hearing is:

To receive public comments regarding proposed amendments to Zoning Ordinance #36:

1. Article 21, Section 21.55 – Medical Marijuana Uses, to modify requirements for caregiver operations and to include references to recent State of Michigan amendments affecting the MMMA.

Additional information is available at the Tyrone Township Clerk’s Office, 8420 Runyan Lake Road, Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. 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.

Mark Meisel, Chairman
Tyrone Township Planning Commission
**Service Directory**

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**Weekend Scrambler**

Unscramble the letters within each rectangle to form four ordinary words. Then rearrange the boxed letters to form the mystery word, which will complete the gag!

```
 Hemisphere
 Urges
 Trumble
 Seupt
 Garnish
 Alfysh
 Common
 Peach

TODAY’S WORD
```

“Ours is a house of the — nothing ever gets done today!”

Answers in this edition of the Tri-County Times

**Weekend Sudoku**

**FUN BY THE NUMBERS**

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

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DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: Moderate Challenging Huzza Revi!

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Weekend Crossword

ACROSS
1 Had mercy on
2 Good-sized combs
3 Dilettante
4 Fictional detective
5 Tiger cat
6 Model oneself after
7 Cereal invented by actor William
8 Reference showing an urban area
9 Downed food
10 Lathering up
11 Electric bit
12 Hoppy drink
13 Vocalist Della
14 Utter a fib
15 Airheaded
16 "Mack the Knife" singer Bobby
17 Cereal that's more than enough?
18 Cereal that turns kids into imps?
19 Cassini of fashion
20 Baby hooter
21 "Nope!
22 Judo room
23 Had mercy on
24 Good-sized combs
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42 Baby hooter
43 "Nope!
44 Judo room

DOWN
1 Fused desert
2 For now
3 Slumbering
4 Chilli's color
5 Propyl ender
6 Lions' lairs
7 Finnish, e.g.
8 Rocker Ric
9 Old soda brand
10 Big African antelope
11 Kid who challenges gender stereotypes
12 Rds.
13 Hunting lures
14 Despot Idr
15 Except
16 Muckraking Nelle
17 Heddy of old Hollywood
18 Latin "and"
19 Be contrite
20 Clue of "McQ"
21 "Any problem with that?"
22 Lava emitter
23 Dressed with football
24 Sailboats with white coats
25 Sushi fish

Solution Time: 21 min.

Weekend Crossword Answers:

KING FEATURES

ACROSS
50 Attended, as an event
51 Nut's partner
52 Large
53 Very skilled
54 Good-sized combs
55 Burden
56 "My Fair —"
57 Model oneself after
58 Cereal endorsed by first-year athletes?
59 Vintage auto Lupin
60 Turkish commander
61 "The Grinch"
62 Cereal flavored with really hot peppers?
63 "Mack the Knife" singer
64 Big name in fables
65 Young man, of football
66 "Mack the Knife" singer
67 "Tin Cup"
68 "Northeast"
69 "Northeast"
70 "The Grinch"
71 "The Grinch"
72 Cereal that looks like it's been polished?
73 "The Grinch"
74 "The Grinch"
75 "The Grinch"
76 "The Grinch"
77 "The Grinch"
78 "The Grinch"
79 "The Grinch"
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49 "The Grinch"
50 "The Grinch"

Puzzle Clue:

REFORMULATED CEREAL
**HOT LINE CONTINUED**

I SUPPORT SCIENCE, which supports wearing masks.  

IN RESPONSE TO 'Sixteen million people out of work.' Do you recall jobs were plentiful? Manufacturers are coming back. COVID-19 put us under. Rioting and looting in large cities is not because of our President Trump.  

TO THE HOT-LINER who won’t vote for Trump. Good luck with Biden, Pelosi, AOC and the rest. I suggest you read the history of communism and revolutions. There has been only one revolution that was good for the common person. It ended in 1776. Think about it.  

THE REASON DISEASES are becoming more resistant is because we’re becoming more resistant to them. They adapt. We should delay the inevitable (resist disease) and not let the inevitable come after us.  

IF YOU THINK wearing a mask is a ‘slippery slope’ that will lead to you not having guns, maybe you shouldn’t have them.  

FAUCI MAY NOT be an expert, but he’s the smartest person we’ve got. I trust him.  

YOU ASK FOR mail-in ballot. The township sends form to sign. You mail back. They in turn send a ballot. You check boxes and then sign and return. They check both signatures. Where’s the fraud?  

ARE WE CREATED equal? Are we born equal? Are we educated equal? Do we have equal opportunity to purchase housing? Think. Answer silently and honestly in your heart and mind.  

IN A DECEMBER 2019 study, Federal Reserve researchers concluded that Trump’s tariffs ‘have not boosted manufacturing employment or output, even as they increased producer prices.’ Moody’s concluded in Sept 2019 that the trade conflict with China has reduced unemployment by 300,000 jobs. Yeah, the greatest president ever.

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**TYRONE TOWNSHIP ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

Notice is hereby given of a public hearing to be held on Monday, August 10, 2020, by the Tyrone Township Zoning Board of Appeals. Due to continuing public meeting and gathering restrictions associated with COVID-19 a Zoom video meeting will be held in lieu of an in-person meeting. A meeting link will be provided on the township’s website for public participation. The meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m., to consider the following variance applications:

**APPEAL NO. 1:** Appeal of a Planning Commission decision. A request by Mark & Molly Betley to appeal the Planning Commission’s sightline determination as set forth in Section 20.02.X made on July 1, 2020 regarding their proposed single-family home located at 10466 Runyan Lake Road, Fenton, Michigan 48430, Parcel ID: 4704-09-202-004. The property is zoned LK-1, Lake Front Residential. Reference Tyrone Township Zoning Ordinance No. 36, Article 7 – LK-1 Zoning, Section 20.02.X, Section 28.03.B, and 28.04.C.

**APPEAL NO. 2:** A request by David & Peggy Galka for a 1’ 6” side yard setback variance in order to add a landing & steps to the south side of their home, and a request to replace & extend their existing deck along a nonconforming setback as permitted in Section 26.04.A.3.a-e, located at 6240 Bullard Rd, Fenton, Michigan 48430, Parcel ID: 4704-34-401-029. The property is zoned LK-1, Lake Front Residential. Reference requirements set forth in Tyrone Township Zoning Ordinance No. 36, Article 7 – LK-1 Zoning, Article 20 - Schedule of Regulations, inclusive of building setbacks, height, and sight lines, and Section 26.04.A - Enlargement, Extension or Alteration of a Nonconforming Structure.

**APPEAL NO. 3:** A request by Eric & Katie Skalski for a yard location variance and a 110-foot front yard setback variance in order to build a 28’ x 32’ accessory building in their front yard located at 13233 Holtforth Road, Fenton, Michigan, Parcel ID: 4704-36-300-027. The property is zoned FR – Farming Residential. Reference requirements set forth in Tyrone Township Zoning Ordinance No. 36, Article 4 – FR/RE Zoning, Article 20 - Schedule of Regulations, inclusive of building setbacks, height and sight lines, and Section 21.02 – Accessory Buildings and Structures.

Additional information, legal descriptions, and location maps are available at the Tyrone Township Clerk’s Office, 8420 Runyan Lake Road, Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. 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.

Gregory Carnes, Chairman  
Tyrone Township Zoning Board of Appeals

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**NOTICE OF PRIMARY ELECTION TO BE HELD ON AUGUST 4, 2020**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that a Primary Election will be held on August 4, 2020 in:

**HOLLY TOWNSHIP AND THE VILLAGE OF HOLLY,**  
County of Oakland, State of Michigan  

THE POLLS will be open 7 o’clock a.m. until 8 o’clock p.m. for PRECINCTS 1, 2, 3 AND 4 at the Polling Place listed as follows:

**KARL RICHTER COMMUNITY CENTER GYMNASIUM**  
300 EAST ST.

ALL POLLING PLACES ARE HANDICAP ACCESSIBLE  
BRaille & audio versions of voting instructions are available

**THE AUGUST 4, 2020 PRIMARY ELECTION WILL BE CONDUCTED IN ALL VOTING PRECINCTS OF HOLLY TOWNSHIP/VILLAGE FOR THE PURPOSE OF NOMINATING CANDIDATES OF ALL PARTICIPATING PARTIES FOR THE FOLLOWING OFFICES:**

Representative in Congress 8th District, Representative in State Legislature 51st District, County Executive, County Prosecuting Attorney, County Sheriff, County Clerk/Register of Deeds, County Treasurer, County Resource Commissioner, County Commissioner 2nd District, Township Supervisor, Township Clerk, Township Treasurer, Two Township Trustees and Seven Township Park Commissioners.

**AND FOR THE PURPOSE OF VOTING ON THE FOLLOWING PROPOSAL(S):**

Township proposals: Support and Maintenance of Township Library Renewal Millage and Support and Maintenance of township Parks Renewal Millage.

**FULL TEXT OF THE PROPOSALS AND SAMPLE BALLOTS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM YOUR CLERK’S OFFICES LISTED BELOW.**

**ABSENT VOTER BALLOTS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM YOUR CLERK’S OFFICES LISTED BELOW BEFORE 2:00 PM. SATURDAY AUGUST 1, 2020**

Karin S. Winchester, MMC  
Holly Township Clerk  
102 Civic Drive  
Holly, Michigan 48442  
248-634-9331 Ext. 301
Obituaries

Ruth McMillin  

Howard Woods  

Norma Tolbert  

Peter Deretich  
1938 – 2020

Peter and Linda were united in marriage in 1967. They both took teaching positions shortly afterward at Grand Blanc High School where they spent the remainder of their careers. Peter loved sports, old western movies, the outdoors and his childhood home of Hibbing where he will be buried. Peter is survived by his wife, Linda Deretich of Holly; four siblings and many nieces and nephews. Memorial donations can be made in Peter’s name to the Elk’s Club of Flint.

Theo Deretich  
1938 – 2020

Peter Deretich - age 82, longtime resident of Holly and formerly Grand Blanc and Hibbing, MN died Tuesday, July 14, 2020 at Vicinia Gardens in Fenton.

He was born July 4, 1938 in Hibbing, MN the son of Tomo and Bosiljka (Samardzich) Deretich. He graduated from Hibbing High School in 1956 and attended the University of Minnesota-Duluth. He later earned his Master's Degree of Education from the University of Michigan. Peter started his first teaching job in 1962 at Lake Fenton High School where he met his future wife Linda Newcomb.

Thelma Nielsen  

James Griffin, Jr.  

Shirley Felix  

Esther Stuart  

Janice Bigelow  

Sandra Gooding  

Howard Cline  

John “Jack” Acheff  

Joanne Bowles  

Kenneth Plater  

Loretta Radewitz  

Richard “Rick” Machala  

William “Wild Bill” Lennox  

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Andrew Larry “Drew” Firth
1959 – 2020

Andrew Larry “Drew” Firth - age 61, of Fenton, died Sunday, July 5, 2020. Cremation has taken place. Andrew was born April 8, 1959 to Larry Andrew and Shirley Delores (O’Mara) Firth. He was a veteran of the United States Marine Corps. Drew enjoyed riding motorcycles, hunting, archery and spending time with family and friends. Surviving are two daughters, Andrea Firth (James Demorest) and Amanda Firth; two grandchildren, Bash and Jett Demorest; sister, Cheryl Ann Justice. He was preceded in death by his wife, Dawn Firth on January 12, 2019; parents; and a sister, Sherry Cohen.

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- Mon & Thur 9-6pm • Tues-Fri 8am-6pm
- New & Used Sales:
- Mon & Thur 9-6pm • Tues-Fri 8am-6pm

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- Mon & Thur 7-9am • Fri 7-9am

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**2020 TAHOE LS DEMO**
- Lease: $299/month

**2020 BLAZER LT**
- Lease: $299/month

**2020 TAHOE LS DEMO**
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- **2009 CHEVROLET AVALANCHE**
  - Lease: $216/month  
  - Buy: $7,949

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  - Lease: $8,260

- **2008 CHEVY SILVERADO 2500HD**
  - Lease: $11,500

- **2016 CHEVY CRUZE L T**
  - Lease: $7,949

- **2009 HYUNDAI SANTA FE**
  - Lease: $7,949

- **2017 HYUNDAI SANTA FE**
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- **2009 GMC SIERRA 2500HD SLE**
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**WEEKEND TIMES**

**Sunday, July 26, 2020**

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