Michigan enters next phase of vaccinations

Those over 65, some frontline essential workers, teachers, daycare employees and more can schedule vaccination

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer and Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) officials announced Wednesday, Jan. 3, that the state is moving to a new phase of vaccination Monday, Jan. 11.

MDHHS is moving forward with vaccination of Michiganders age 65 and older; frontline essential workers including police officers, first responders, frontline state and federal workers and jail and prison staff; and preK-12 teachers and childcare providers.

To date, 80 percent of deaths have occurred among those age 65 and older. In addition to vaccinating Michiganders who are 75+ in Phase 1B (Phase 1B, Group A), MDHHS is accelerating to vaccinate individuals 65-74 years old

See VACCINATIONS on 9

County searching for suspect in animal abuse case

Three dogs neglected, abused, results in one death

By Hannah Ball

The Genesee County Sheriff’s Office is seeking a man who faces three felonies of animal abuse.

See ANIMAL ABUSE on 20

Fenton Township resident sworn in as sheriff

Swanson commits to continuing programs to help reduce jail population, combat opioid crisis

By Hannah Ball

A Fenton Township resident has officially been sworn in as Genesee County sheriff. Chris Swanson has been in the role since Jan. 6, 2020, when he began serving as sheriff after his predecessor, Robert Pickell, announced his retirement.

At this first weekly briefing of the year, See SHERIFF on 18

COMMENT OF THE WEEK

“God, help heal this country.”

“Bye bye social media. Facebook and Twitter are destroying this country and the relationships between families and friends. So many judgmental people and fake bots get on there and spew hatred. Why do we put up with that? I'm done.”

A MEMO FROM THE PUBLISHER

Delivery of the Tri-County Times

If you are a subscriber of this newspaper living in the tri-county area, you’ve already discovered something is different about how your paper was delivered today — it was in your mailbox.

As we all deal with the changes brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic, it became clear to us that shifting delivery of our weekend edition to the U.S. Mail is necessary.

See DELIVERY on 12

Upgrades will be made to Fenton Township sewer system

Bryan Bridenstine from Lawrence Engineering opens the sewer pump station at Petts Road on Tuesday, Jan. 5. Engineers will convert it from a dry pit station to a submersible pump station, which is safer. Fenton Township has approval to use Community Development Block Grants funds for this project. See story on Page 5. Photo: Hannah Ball

TEXT YOUR HOT LINE

810-771-TEXT

“Comment of the week 'the other day my wife took her mask off. She’s prettier than I remembered.’ My husband sent that message. Ok he didn’t, still it makes me smile so I placed the note on the refrigerator.”

“Longing for the days when the biggest debate and argument we had was whether Michigan or Ohio State would win the big game.”

“Bye bye social media. Facebook and Twitter are destroying this country.”
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Labor and delivery nurse received second dose on Jan. 7

By Hannah Ball

One local resident is fully vaccinated against COVID-19.

Melissa DeLong of Linden received the first dose of the Pfizer vaccine at work Dec. 18, 2020. She’s a labor and delivery nurse at Ascension Providence Hospital in Novi. She received her second dose Jan. 7.

“This is for my children who deserve to be seated in a classroom,” she wrote in her Facebook post. “This is for my immunocompromised brother that hasn’t been out in public nor able to work in nine months. This is for my grandparents who deserve to enjoy meals with their children and grandchildren. This is for my family so we may never spend another holiday apart,” she wrote on Facebook after receiving the first dose.

The injection wasn’t any more painful than receiving other vaccines, but DeLong said her arm was “pretty sore” for two days. The following day, she did experience waves of hot flashes, nausea and a slight headache.

“But other than that, I was completely fine,” she said. “It’s been physically and emotionally draining to work during this pandemic. Between wearing all the PPE in COVID-positive patient rooms to the emotional toll it takes when dads sometimes can’t be present for their baby’s birth,” she said.

DeLong said it’s an individual’s choice if the vaccine is right for them.

“Unfortunately, there seems to be a lot of misinformation about the vaccine especially on social media. I trust science and believe that this will help us get back to a state of normalcy,” she said.

The rest of her Facebook statement: “This is for small business owners and workers that have lost their source of income. This is for healthcare workers that sacrifice themselves for their patients. This is for pregnant mothers who shouldn’t have to wear a mask while giving birth. This is for fathers who deserve to hear their baby’s heartbeat on ultrasound. This is for patients that did not deserve to die alone.”

Local resident fully vaccinated against COVID

This is for small business owners and workers that have lost their source of income. This is for healthcare workers that sacrifice themselves for their patients.”

Melissa DeLong
Linden resident
Happy New Year!

I t is no secret the past year has been challenging for many people. I have written about some of the challenges Fenton Area Public Schools faced during these unprecedented times, including the difficulty of providing a consistent high level of education with so many barriers to overcome.

I have often included in my staff and family newsletters the statement, “we will be stronger after this is over.” That statement is based on the fact that when people battle through adversity, rely on one another’s strengths and support each other to progress toward a common goal, we grow as individuals and we grow as a collective group. A great example of how past support has allowed us to find success in times of adversity is the bond the Fenton community passed in 2014. Before we were forced into remote learning last March, and before we knew we would have to distribute over 2,000 chromebooks so our students had the tools to learn from home, the community supported a bond to help FAPS fill a large technology gap for our students and staff. The research, the planning, and the thoughtful roll out of our technology plan, allowed us to meet the many challenges of remote learning that many school districts could not. We have made great strides in filling our teaching and learning toolbox with the right technology tools and adjusting our instructional practices to advocate using technology in purposeful and meaningful ways. The support the greater Fenton community continues to provide, the innovative thinking of the FAPS Board of Education and the grit of our FAPS staff, students and families, have not only helped us navigate through these challenging times, but will prove to be the catalyst for becoming a stronger school community when this is over.

On behalf of the FAPS Board of Education, FAPS Administration and the FAPS school community, Happy New Year!

Adam Hartley
Fenton Area Public Schools superintendent

What book or movie had a big influence on your life?

“The Jungle’ by Upton Sinclair. I was vegan for a number of years after.”

Kyle Austin Switala
Fenton

“Ego Is the Enemy” — Ryan Holiday.”

Drew Shapiro
Fenton

“The Sound of Music.”

Beth Campeau Wallace
Fenton

“Man’s Search for Meaning,’ Viktor Frankl.”

Elizabeth Glen
Fenton
Upgrades will be made to Fenton Township sewer system

By Hannah Ball

On Monday, Jan. 5, the Fenton Township Board of Trustees voted to use Community Development Block Grant funds to conduct sanitary sewer upgrades.

These upgrades include converting the pump station at Petts Road from a dry pit system to a submersible pump station, as well as using an Omnisite wireless monitoring system for the site. These are upgrades the Township has been doing throughout the municipality on the sewer system in recent years.

Other upgrades include installing Omnisite wireless monitoring systems on pump station #23, at Firestone Drive and at #27, at Pomona Court.

The township is expected to receive approximately $117,573 in CDBG funds for 2022-2024. Any left over funds would be used for repairs of gravity sewer mains in the low-moderate income area in the township.

The submersible system that will be installed at Petts Road is safer, said Bryan Bridenstine of Lawrence Engineering. They can bring the pump on land and fix it.

The sewer system is near 50 years old. It’s been in operation since 1972.

The Omnisite system uses cellular service instead of landlines.

“It comes up on the screen and I can go to the computer, bring it up, and I can see each station and it shows how many times the pump has been pumping, how many gallons are going through the pumps and everything,” Bridenstine said. “We can see what’s happening and see what’s wrong before we get there.”

The landline technology only tells them when there is a problem, but it doesn’t say what the problem is. It requires workers to come to the site to investigate.

Currently, 10 out of 57 stations have the Omnisite system. The goal is for every station to have it, but Bridenstine said that will take time.

The township board has been discussing doing more video monitoring of the sewer system, which would allow them to find issues faster and more efficiently.

Melissa Lawrence, from Lawrence Engineering, said during the pandemic, they saw more rags in the sewers and more flow because people have been staying home. There were no major incidents with the system this past year.

“It was smooth,” she said.

Upgrades they’ve done in the past few years include adding generators to three pump stations in 2019. Currently, 11 stations have them. These stations, such as the one on Butcher Road, tend to have power outages or handle more volume.

“It’s staggering the importance of this sewer system in the township. Most of us never even think about it, it just happens it is a very complex system and I certainly support any improvement we can make,” said Trustee Kade Katrak.

The board considered a list of other projects that they sent for approval to the Genesee County Community Development staff, including street improvements and installing barrier-free improvements at the Thompson Road Regional Dog Park. However, the dog park project was determined ineligible, according to meeting minutes, due to “no architectural barriers being removed.”

City council approves projects

By Sharon Stone

During a work session Monday, Jan. 4, the Fenton City Council approved recommended projects using Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds.

The city is finishing the third year of its three-year (2019-2021) CDBG program as administered by Genesee County Metropolitan Planning Commission (CDP). The city was allocated $61,995, which was utilized for the benefit of its low income or disabled residents, per the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) guidelines.

For the upcoming 2022-2024 grant program, the Genesee County Metropolitan Planning Commission See PROJECTS on 12
Fenton Township waste collection changes to Friday

Republic Services makes changes to operations

By Hannah Ball

The trash and recycling collection schedule will change in Fenton Township starting in February. Trash will be collected on Fridays, with recycling being collected every other week.

On Monday, Jan. 4, the Fenton Township Board of Trustees discussed how Republic Services plans to change operations with waste, recycling and yard waste pick up.

Republic Services sent the township a letter stating that effective the week of Feb. 1, the company will pick up waste and recycle bins on Fridays.

“Your new service day will be Friday with your first collection on February 5. Weekly yard waste collection will restart again in April on Fridays as well. We are committed to providing our customers with the best, most cost-efficient service and we look forward to working with Fenton Township for a smooth transition,” according to the letter.

Currently, Republic Services does collection in Fenton Township throughout the week in different areas of the municipality.

Gary Hicks, municipal services manager for Republic Services, said they’re working on consolidating their operations to make collection days run smoother.

“2020 was a year unlike I’ve ever experienced in the trash industry,” he said, attributing that to the pandemic because they had to delay service at times. Their employees often had to quarantine or they were out with COVID. He apologized to the Board for that.

“It was just a very very very trying year,” he said.

There’s been a significant increase in waste since the pandemic began.

“Every closet has been cleaned out,” Hicks said. “We’ve picked up more compost than we have ever picked up... I’ve never seen volumes like we’re seeing.”

In some areas, it’s up 30 percent. They see more food waste at home because people are eating at home.

“The volumes are just off the charts,” he said. “I’ve never seen more garbage in my life.”

Republic is working to switch most municipalities to a single-day service plan.

Trustee Kade Katrak asked why Friday was chosen for Fenton Township.

“We find that lake-type communities either want Monday or Fridays,” Hicks said. Monday wasn’t possible for Fenton Township because of a contract with another municipality.

“A lot of work has gone into trying to make it work for everyone,” Hicks said. He anticipates service to “dramatically improve.”

Township attorney Jack Belzer said he doesn’t believe a formal amendment needed to be made to the contract because it states “Monday through Friday.”

Hicks said getting verbal confirmation from the Board is good enough for him.

Those with questions can call the Republic Service customer service department at 1-800-438-0966. The 2021 recycle calendar is available at fentontownship.org.
Sheriff asks for help in finding missing endangered teen

Not seen since Dec. 1, 2020, has contacts from Dearborn Heights to Flint

By Sharon Stone

On Dec. 1, 2020, Brooklyn Spears fled from Oakland County Children’s Village where she had been a resident. She fled on foot at approximately 7:30 p.m. into a field near the rear of the building.

She has no known contacts in the Pontiac area, but has previous contacts in Dearborn Heights. Spears is also known to frequent the Lansing and Flint areas.

Brooklyn is a 14-year-old Black female who has brown hair and brown eyes. She is approximately 5-feet, 3-inches tall and weighs 100 pounds. Her information has been entered into the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) database as well as into the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children database.

If you have any information regarding the whereabouts of Brooklyn, contact Crime Stoppers at (800) SPEAK-UP. There is a $1,000 reward and you will remain anonymous.

Child killed in auto crash

Father charged after losing control of SUV on northbound U.S. 23 in Livingston County

By Sharon Stone

A 4-year-old girl from Fayetteville, North Carolina was killed in automobile crash on U.S. 23 in Livingston County on Friday, Jan. 1.

According to the Livingston County Sheriff’s Office, on Friday Jan. 1, at approximately 11 p.m., deputies with the sheriff’s office were dispatched to northbound U.S. 23 south of Highland Road on the report of a single vehicle crash with possible injuries.

The investigation revealed that a 36-year-old man from Fayetteville, North Carolina, later identified as Jonathan Osborne, was operating a 2006 Ford Expedition northbound when he lost control of the vehicle causing it to leave the roadway and strike several trees. Osborne’s 33-year-old wife, 8-year-old son and 4-year-old daughter were in the vehicle at the time of the crash. During the crash, the 4-year-old girl was ejected from the vehicle and succumbed to injuries at the scene. The other occupants of the vehicle were extricated by personnel from the Hartland Deerfield Fire Authority and transported to the University of Michigan Hospital for treatment of injuries.

Speed and alcohol appear to be factors in the crash.

Deputies were assisted at the scene by the Michigan State Police Brighton Post and Livingston County EMS.

Osborne has been charged with one count of moving violation causing death, two counts of moving violation causing serious injury and one count of open intoxicants in a motor vehicle. Bond has been set at $30,000. Osborne’s wife and son are currently at U of M Hospital in Ann Arbor recovering from their injuries.

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**VACCINATIONS**

Continued from Front Page
(Phase 1C Group A). MDHHS is accelerating implementation of vaccination of individuals 65-74 years due to concern around disparity in life expectancy by race/ethnicity for this group (Phase 1C, Group A).

Genesee County residents who fall into a Phase 1B category can visit the health department’s vaccine webpage at gchd.us/covid19vaccine to access the registration form and for additional information and updates regarding COVID-19 vaccination.

“The more people we can get the safe and effective vaccine, the faster we can return to a sense of normalcy,” Whitmer said. “I urge all seniors to get the COVID-19 vaccine as soon as possible and that all Michiganders to make a plan to get vaccinated when it becomes available to you. And as always: mask up, practice safe social distancing, and avoid indoor gatherings where COVID-19 can easily spread from person to person. We will eliminate this virus together.”

“We are pleased to move the state forward in the next stage of vaccinations,” said Dr. Joneigh Khaldun, chief medical executive and chief deputy for health. “These vaccines are safe and effective, and we especially want our first responders, teachers and older adults to get vaccinated as soon as possible. The strategy we are announcing today is efficient, effective, and equitable, focusing on making vaccine available to those who have the highest level of risk, whether it is because of where they work or because of their age.”

All counties may begin vaccinating residents over age 65 and seniors are urged to visit Michigan.gov/COVIDVaccine to find local health departments and other local vaccine clinics near them that are ready to book appointments.

Eligible essential workers, teachers and childcare workers will be notified by their employers about vaccine clinic dates and locations. Eligible individuals should not go to any of the clinics without an appointment.

MDHHS is following the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommendations for prioritization of distribution and administration of COVID-19 vaccines.

CDC recommendations are based on input from the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), the federal advisory committee made up of medical and public health experts who develop recommendations on the use of vaccines in the United States.

**PHASES ARE AS FOLLOWS:**

**Phase 1A:** Paid and unpaid persons serving in healthcare settings who have the potential for direct or indirect exposure to patients or infectious materials and are unable to work from home as well as residents in long term care facilities.

**Phase 1B:** Persons 75 years of age or older and frontline essential workers in critical infrastructure.

**Phase 1C:** Individuals 16 years of age or older at high risk of severe illness due to COVID-19 infection and some other essential workers whose position impacts life, safety and protection during the COVID-19 response.

**Phase 2:** Individuals 16 years of age or older.

These prioritizations may change as more information on vaccine effectiveness and additional vaccination products become available. MDHHS has provided additional prioritization guidance within these categories.

It is important to note that vaccination in one phase may not be complete before vaccination in another phase begins. There may be vaccination of individuals in different phases that occur simultaneously. The timing of the start of vaccination in a phase is dependent on the supply of vaccine from the manufacturer, how vaccine is allocated from the federal level to Michigan and the capacity to administer the vaccine to populations.

Decisions on moving to the next phase will be made at the state level.

There will be no out-of-pocket costs to individuals for the vaccine, however, healthcare providers may bill insurance for administrative costs. The COVID-19 vaccine will require two doses, separated by three or four weeks depending on the manufacturer. Michiganders should receive both doses in order to have full protection from the virus. Individuals who receive the vaccine may experience mild side effects such as low-grade fever, sore arm and general discomfort, which indicate that the vaccine is working. There is a robust state and national process for tracking vaccines and reporting side effects.

Michigan residents seeking more information about the COVID-19 vaccine can visit Michigan.gov/COVID-vaccine. As additional information and resources become available, it will be posted to this site.

**Genesee County** residents should keep checking http://gchd.us/covid-19vaccine/ for updates. Suzanne Cupal, MPH director, Community Health Services, said this page is being updated daily as more information become available regarding availability of doses and vaccination sites. Senior centers will be receiving information packages to assist their local residents.

**Livingston County** residents can check for latest updates at https://www.livgov.com/health

**Oakland County** residents can check availability of vaccine appointments at https://www.oakgov.com/covid/best-practices/prepare/Pages/vaccine.aspx
**Sheriff warns of more scams**

- Trust your instinct and call local police to verify the claim with them first.

**By Sharon Stone**

Last week, the Oakland County Sheriff’s Office released information regarding scammers making calls claiming family members were incarcerated, prompting citizens to potentially send money for bond.

Recently two additional scams have been reported.

A case in Orion Township involving a 78-year-old woman resulted in her losing over $29,000 to scammers. This scam involved a call placed to the victim claiming to be an Amazon employee verifying the victim had purchased $8,000 in Apple products. When the purchase was disputed, the employee claimed to transfer the caller to the Michigan State Police (MSP) to make a report. The person claiming to be a trooper from MSP told the victim she must make a report, which included giving this alleged trooper all of her banking information. The victim became suspicious and asked for a phone number for the alleged investigator and was provided a legitimate MSP phone number, but with instructions not to call the number as whomever would answer might not be familiar with her case. The victim was then transferred to an alleged US Treasury agent who told her she was a victim of identity theft. In the span of three days, the victim was told to withdraw funds from her bank account and to use QR codes given to her by the scammers to make deposits at a Bitcoin ATM to deposit money in Independence Township.

Detectives from the Oxford Township Substation were alerted to the case and have since possibly identified other victims who recently made deposits at the same Bitcoin ATM.

On Dec. 22, the sheriff’s office was sent a voicemail received from a citizen living on the west side of the state. The voicemail stated the name of a former sergeant of the sheriff’s office and needed the person to call them back immediately as they had documentation that required immediate attention. The number left to call back was a (248) number but was not a number associated with the sheriff’s office. This scam has been used many times over the years where the scammer uses a legitimate name of someone in law enforcement to intimidate the victim and extort funds.

“Scammers continue to evolve their tactics and try to find ways to outsmart citizens,” said Sheriff Michael J. Bouchard. “This year the number of reports on scams has risen dramatically. As a reminder, law enforcement will never ask you to supply funds, use Bitcoin, or put money on gift cards to pay for services or fees over the phone. If something does not seem legitimate, trust your instinct, call your local law enforcement agency, and verify the claim with them first.”
New office building coming to Thompson Road

Township sells tax-reverted properties

By Hannah Ball

Thompson Road is one step closer to seeing more development.

On Monday, Jan. 4, the Fenton Township Board of Trustees accepted an offer from Owen Road LLC to buy two parcels on Thompson Road. Municipal reports say the company plans to build an office building.

In the purchase agreement, Fenton Township agrees to sell 3095 Thompson Road and a vacant, adjacent property for $415,000 to Owen Road LLC. Both are tax-reverted properties.

“I think it’s time the township sells the property,” said Supervisor Vince Lorraine.

The vote was 6-1 with Trustee Mark Goupil dissenting.

During a December 2020 meeting, Lorraine stated that he wants to improve the Thompson Road Corridor since it is the “entrance” to Fenton Township from the U.S. 23 freeway. He hopes the sale and development of this property could jump-start more projects and more investment in the area.

The property is currently an old oil change station that is no longer being used, along with the vacant land next to it. Combined, they’re approximately 1.3 acres. Owen Road LLC plans to build an office building at the site.

Discussion surrounding the property, which has been owned by the township since approximately 2013, centered on developing the Thompson Road Corridor and the problem of not having a municipal water supply in the area. The property that was sold was identified as a site that could be used as a water tower location to supply water for businesses on Thompson Road.

According to meeting minutes from a previous meeting, “Treasurer (John) Tucker said he was previously against selling the property because it could be a water tower location. His opinion changed when he learned that other locations could be obtained for a “reasonable cost,” according to the minutes. This could either be a purchase agreement or an easement.

Township engineer Allen Lawrence told the board that other potential water tower locations could include an area near the Fenton Road/Thompson Road intersection or near the Thompson Road/U.S. 23 interchange.

Thomas Broecker, operations manager/deputy clerk, said it’s been several years since the township looked at potential costs to bring municipal water to the area so he didn’t have a current estimate, but the cost discussed several years ago was $8 million.

He said the sale of the tax-reverted property is a “step in the right direction” to develop the Thompson Road Corridor.

“The recent PUD approval for 11 industrial sites in that same area is also an indication that the township may see more development activity along the Thompson Road corridor,” he said.

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DELIVERY
Continued from Front Page
We truly value and appreciate our newspaper carrier partners. The federal and state rules that still allow 1099 workers to file for unemployment insurance benefits factored into our timing of this change.
We also thank the U.S. Postal Service and their carriers, route managers and local postmasters, with whom we and the entire newspaper industry have enjoyed a long partnership. We appreciate their hard work and continued essential service throughout the pandemic.

Finally, we thank you, Dear Reader, for your support of local journalism. We will continue to provide the best local coverage and updates on COVID-19-related developments and their impacts on our local communities. We also remain dedicated to telling stories of friends, neighbors, nonprofits and businesses doing great things in the communities we love. Now, that news will be delivered right to your mailbox twice a week.
Thank you for reading the Tri-County Times.
— Wes Smith, publisher

HOT LINE CONTINUED
TRUMP NEVER HAD full support from the GOP from the start. In the last four years, all that was accomplished was done by the one-man-band, President Trump.

MY NEIGHBORHOOD IS so beautiful and most everyone takes pride in their property. However, there is always one in every crowd. I’ve never understood why people hold on to their old junk cars.

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Times

CAUSE & AFFECT GALLERY donates to FARR
Money will help local residents in need

By Hannah Ball
Cause & AFFECT Gallery in Fenton is helping people in need.
On Thursday, Jan. 7, owner, director and curator Annie Anglim presented representatives from Fenton Area Resources and Referral Network, Inc. (FARR) with a check for $1,630.
Every quarter, Cause & AFFECT donates 10 percent of its proceeds to a different organization. This past quarter was FARR, which helps people in financial need. After this current quarter, they will donate to Motherly Intercession, a group that helps the children of incarcerated mothers.
“It’s always been a thing with my business to give back,” Anglim said. “I’m just giving money back to those people that help support us. I stay within Genesee County to do that.”
FARR representatives who accepted the check were Carla Juarez, client care specialist, and Shelly Day, chairman of the board.
Juarez said they’re helping a 78-year-old woman whose home’s plumbing is bad, a young man who’s homeless, and more people who are struggling.
“We appreciate everything the community did by shopping at Cause and Effect, and that they were so generous to donate back to us,” she said. “The need for housing and food is greater now than it’s been all year.”
Day said many people don’t realize these struggles exist “right in our backyard.”
Donate to FARR at farrnetwork.org or by calling (810) 750-6244.

PROJECTS
Continued from Page 5
(GCMPC) notified the city that it has a projected $88,708 in CDBG funds to use.
Michael Hart, Fenton city assistant manager and Downtown Development Authority (DDA) executive director, recommended that the city council approve a few projects.
Those projects include property acquisition including demolition (properties to be determined) with a cost estimate of $65,000 (73.3 percent of the CDBG grant); parks programming for seniors with a cost estimate of $10,000 (11.3 percent of the CDBG grant); and a home improvement program (HIP), with a cost estimate of $13,708 (15.4 percent of the CDBG grant).
Percentages are used in case the amount approved for expenditure through the GCMPC changes for the city.
According to a Dec. 22, 2020 memo, the GCMPC approved funds to be allocated for senior programming through Southern Lakes Parks and Recreation. It also approved CDBG funds to be used for the demolition of blighted properties in various locations of the city.
At a crossroads?

Consider a career in healthcare as a home caregiver

By Sharon Stone

Considering a career change? You’re in good company — 18 percent of the deskless workforce who had a job during COVID-19 plan to leave for better benefits or job security, according to a recent survey by Quinyx.

Experts say that if you’re looking for meaningful work in a reliable, recession-proof industry, the field of home healthcare might be the right career path for you.

“At a time when work and life are blurring together more than ever, home caregiving allows for greater mobility and flexibility for professionals like LPNs, RNs and therapists, as well as home support aides and companions,” said Jennifer Sheets, president and chief executive officer of Interim HealthCare Inc. “Compassionate and mission-driven professionals within and outside of healthcare can bring their unique skills to these positions to ensure patients get the care they need.”

To encourage people from all professional backgrounds to consider whether a career in home healthcare is right for them, Sheets offers the following insights into the field:

- **Previous home care experience** is not required. For certain roles, you don’t need a degree or industry experience to qualify for a home caregiving position, you just need a compassionate heart and a willingness to help others. Whether you’re a licensed healthcare professional (like a nurse or therapist) or you’re employed in a service industry like hospitality, retail or food service, you likely have people skills and a desire to positively impact others, both of which are needed to step into this field and begin a rewarding career.

- **The work is rewarding.** Seeking a career path with purpose? Caregivers have the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of others every day. And, if you decide to take your career further, you can. The industry offers much potential for career growth.

- **Positions offer autonomy.** If you already work in the healthcare industry, you may discover that providing personalized care to patients at home offers greater flexibility and autonomy than other sites of care in the industry.

For more safety tips, visit oakgov.com/covid.

PROTECT YOUR LOCAL LOCALS.

We can’t forget the danger. Wear the mask. Wash your hands. Practice physical distancing. Consider virtual gatherings. Curbside food pickup.

For more safety tips, visit oakgov.com/covid.

Paid for by Oakland County Health Division.
By Sharon Stone

The Mott Community College (MCC) Law Enforcement Regional Training Academy (LERTA) graduated 13 recruits in a virtual ceremony that can be viewed on YouTube by searching for “LERTA Class of 12-20 Graduation.”

The keynote speaker was MCC Public Safety Chief Michael Odette, and the class spokesman was Austin Jerome. Graduates of the fall 2020 term are:
• Aundreana Allen
• Carly Arnett
• Abel Bandy
• Robert Barron
• Daundria Frye
• Austin Jerome
• Christopher Keller
• Cole Kemper
• Evan Myers
• Perry Dakota
• Michael Roper
• Brandon Smith
• Todd Willis

Fall 2020 represents LERTA’s 17th session since the Academy offered its first class in September 2012. LERTA, operating under the authority of Chief Theresa Stephens-Lock, executive director of MCC’s Department of Public Safety, offers an educational opportunity for individuals interested in pursuing law enforcement careers.

LERTA is a 16-week, intensive program that meets the Michigan Commission of Law Enforcement Standards (MCOLES) training requirements and prepares students for the Law Enforcement Licensing Examination. LERTA holds two sessions each year, designed to coincide with the Fall and Winter Semesters at MCC.

LERTA is a professional learning environment designed to give the basic training and education needed to begin a career in law enforcement. Academic excellence and personal integrity are stressed during the Academy. Recruits are mentally and physically challenged on a daily basis. The learning environment is a combination of traditional classroom instruction, skill area instruction and practical exercises conducted by members of the LERTA staff as well as regional instructors.

The LERTA is conducted during MCC’s fall and winter semesters (one training class/semester). Those interested in enrollment in the LERTA are strongly encouraged to review the MCOLES requirements for law enforcement officers at michigan.gov/mcoles. LERTA is located at MCC’s Southern Lakes Branch Center at 2100 Thompson Road in Fenton Township. For more information, visit lerta.mcc.edu or call (810) 410-1900.
JANUARY IS SCHOOL BOARD RECOGNITION MONTH

January is School Board Recognition Month, a time to recognize the work of our volunteer school board members and to celebrate public education.

Since March 2020, schools across the country have been faced with many challenges no one saw coming. The members of our local school Boards of Education have been steadfast leaders, helping navigate our school districts through this unprecedented time.

School board members in Linden Community Schools, Fenton Area Public Schools, and Lake Fenton Community Schools develop policies and make tough decisions that help shape the future of our education system. They bear responsibility for the annual budget and the welfare of our students, employees, and school buildings. They are citizens whose dedication and decisions affect our children and build our communities.

Showing appreciation for the important work of school boards should be a year-round process, but too often we neglect to recognize the dedication and hard work of these men and women. This January, the staff and students of our districts are asking all members of the community to take a moment and thank a school board member.

Each school will be presenting its board with tokens of appreciation during scheduled board meetings:
- **Fenton Area Public Schools**: via Zoom, Jan. 11, at 6 p.m.
- **Lake Fenton Community Schools**: via Zoom, Jan. 11, at 6 p.m.
- **Linden Community Schools**: via Zoom Jan. 20, at 7 p.m.

We salute the public servants of all districts whose dedication and civic responsibility make local control of public schools in our community possible.

The men and women serving our areas schools are:
- **Linden Community Schools**: Scott Maker, Shari Luck, Michelle Shayna, David Haney, Steve Losey, Jarrod Montague and Steve Murphy
- **Fenton Area Public Schools**: Dana Jones, Pam Dickie, Scott Pushman, Emily Rossmaessler, Kim Gruber, Matthew Welch and Keith Reynolds
- **Lake Fenton Community Schools**: Chris Fletcher, Larry Godlewski, Heidi Howieson, Bob Hutchins, Mike Cicalo, Katherine Carswell and Michelle Curtain

Sincerely,

Adam Hartley, Fenton Area Public Schools superintendent;
Julie Williams, Lake Fenton Community Schools superintendent;
Russell Ciesielski, Linden Community Schools superintendent
Fenton’s senior swimmers excited to get one more shot

By David Troppens

Fenton — When one walks into Fenton High School’s pool these days, practices look pretty much as they always have as the varsity girls prepare for a Division 2 state swim meet.

But, of course, the practices are anything but normal. First off, the calendar reads January, and traditionally the girls swim season ends in November. This is the third time the girls have started practice sessions for the state swim meet, and the squad knows nothing is guaranteed in today’s COVID-19 pandemic era. The next chance of having a D2 state meet will happen Jan. 15 and 16 with the swimming portion happening on the 16th. The Tigers are hoping this third attempt at a state meet ends up being the final attempt.

“I am a little worried about it because we never know what is going to happen,” senior swimmer Abigail Dolliver said. “We found out the week before our state meet that it was going to be canceled (earlier this season). ... I wouldn’t be surprised at this point. I’m not going to just not be hopeful and not be excited for it because I’m so excited.”

“I definitely would not be necessarily surprised if this didn’t happen but I am hopeful that it does,” fellow senior Maddie Kazmierski said. “I won’t be too disappointed. I’m not getting my hopes up as much as I did the first time because I know there is a good possibility it may not happen. I just hope it does.”

The seniors have experienced one of the craziest senior seasons ever. The season started with outside pool practices as the team waited to see if there would be a season. Eventually the season happened, but with many changes to the schedule and many changes to the format of all meets.

The team was preparing for the state meet when it was suspended and then preparing again with their own personal practices outside of Fenton’s pool for a second meet when it was called. The Tigers have made the most of their experience.

“I think from the get go right at the beginning of our senior season we knew it wasn’t going to be normal,” Dolliver said.

The Fenton varsity girls swim team practices Tuesday after school in preparation for the Division 2 state swim meet. The event is scheduled for Jan. 16 at Grand Rapids Northview High School. This is the third different date the event has had this season. Photo: David Troppens

CONTINUED AT TCTIMES.COM

Fenton won two more professional boxing matches in 2020

By David Troppens

Editor’s Note: Today will be the end of our look back at 2020. We have more stories remaining. Enjoy.

Linden’s “Small-town Solider” had a pretty strong 2020.

Linden resident and the tri-county’s most popular professional boxer had a pretty successful 2020, despite probably not boxing as much as he would’ve hoped due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Joey Spencer faced Erik Spring in his 10th bout of his professional career and earned a six-round unanimous decision against the much taller and much older southpaw. He also boxed in an empty arena on Aug. 22 when he defeated Shawn West by knock out, improving to 11-0 during his young career.

Against Spring, Spencer fought on FOX’s national network and earned the easy verdict. The two opponents kept their distance in what was a cautious bout. Spencer controlled the fight by landing 51 punches at a 29 percent clip. Spring only landed 20 at a 13 percent clip. When it came to power punches, Spencer enjoyed a 44-18 edge. Spring was 35 and held a 13-3-2 record.

“I was in there with a cagey, long southpaw tonight,” Spencer said. “To be honest when a guy is fighting as cagey as he was, it’s really hard for a guy with my style to just pull something out of nothing.

See SPENCER on 17

Wings of Mercy 5K found a way to run it’s annual event

By David Troppens

With COVID-19 attacking our country in March, the tri-county area saw a lot of the annual sporting events canceled during 2020. Road races were called off, with some being done using alternative methods. The FirstTry Triathlon had to cancel as did Linden’s Gus Macker 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament. They were all sound decisions, obviously.

However, one event did figure a way to compete. While it wasn’t during the same time of the year as usual and the event had to deal with many adjustments, the Wings Of Mercy Runway 5K race still figured a way to have an actual event in 2020. The event was scheduled for late June, but had to be moved to late August. And the numbers were limited to just 99 people and two different races.

Still, the actual event happened.

CONTINUED AT TCTIMES.COM
Fenton girls golfers finish fifth place at 2020 state meet

By David Troppens

The Fenton varsity girls golf team has been one of the area’s top teams for the last four to five years and that trend continued in the fall of 2020.

The Fenton girls golf squad had its share of honors during the fall, including earning a co-Flint Metro League championship with the Goodrich Martians. They also captured the county league championship.

However, their top moment came during the state tourney postseason. The Tigers qualified for the D2 state meet by taking third at the regional meet with a team score of 362.

One wouldn’t think a squad that qualified for the state meet by placing third could place particularly high once there, but that wasn’t the case.

The Tigers finished in a tie for fifth place with Dearborn Devine Child at Forest Akers West Golf Course at Michigan State University.

A handful of seniors capped their outstanding four-year careers with the Tigers. Brook Herbstreit, a senior, finished 10th overall with an 18-hole score of 84, while Victoria Carnell, also a senior, shot an 89. The other senior to compete at the meet was Olivia Herbert who placed 62nd with a 99. Katelyn Burkett was the young performer on the team. The sophomore posted a 94, placing 39th. Junior Elise Roberts placed 53rd with a 96.

Fenton was one of just four teams to have all of its golfers shoot a score less than 100.

The Fenton varsity girls golf team finished in a tie for fifth at the Division 2 state meet during the fall of 2020.

SPENCER
Continued from Page 16

“I felt like he was a real defensive guy,” Spencer said. “No excuses though because at the end of the fight I really just pressed him and I said ‘I am going to finish strong and hit him with some good shots.’ I feel like if I did that the first or second round I think I probably would’ve ended it early, but I’m glad to get the six rounds in. Experience is everything. You are only as good as your next fight and I am happy to get in there, get some good experience and do my thing and get the shut out.”

COVID created a seven-month layoff. He had one bout canceled due to it, but Spencer looked strong in his knockout victory against Shawn West during another national broadcast match. Spencer enjoyed a 17-8 punches landed advantage in the opening round and started to take over in the second round when he used a left hook, some right hands and some punches to the body to set up his first knock out. The six-round fight ended in the fourth when Spencer used another combination that ended with a right hook, resulting in the end of the fight.

“I felt great about it. I think that every-thing I’ve been working on (I execut-ed),” Spencer said after the fight. “After I got the knock down I took my time, threw a good flurry. When I realized how tough he was (and that he was) going to be able to take some shots I calmed down, picked the right shot when it came again and it presented itself. I was really proud of myself.”

CONTINUED AT TCTIMES.COM

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Mon. Tues. Wed. 11am-7pm | Thurs. 8am-3pm | Sat. by appt only
I have committed to giving you the best of me.

Chris Swanson
Genesee County sheriff

Continued from Front Page

livestreamed on Facebook on Wednesday, Jan. 6, Swanson was officially sworn in as sheriff for the next four years by Circuit Court Judge Brian Pickell, Robert Pickell’s son.

Swanson was voted in during this past election cycle and won by a wide margin. He is the 40th sheriff of Genesee County.

“I have committed to giving you the best of me,” he said.

Swanson made a commitment to continue to “protect, serve and unify” in his role as sheriff, three words he uses when he describes the role of the GCSO.

Swanson joined the department at age 18 as a seasonal marine deputy. When asked about his career aspirations then, he said he “wanted to run the place.”

Before he served as the undersheriff, Swanson served as sergeant, lieutenant and captain. He is a licensed paramedic.

Swanson has spent his time as sheriff working to combat the opioid crisis, bringing more education opportunities to inmates with the I.G.N.I.T.E. program, helping people during the holidays with the Walk With Us Christmas Spectacular and working with different Genesee County organizations to reduce the recidivism rate at the county jail.

He started the G.H.O.S.T. program, which has resulted in the arrest of more than 90 people in 2020 who arranged to have sexual relations with minors.

Swanson received national recognition this past spring during the George Floyd protests in Flint when he walked with protestors and the events remained peaceful.

“You should be proud because not only is Genesee County being seen when we have a protest or for human trafficking or for how we handle inmate education, but how we build this bridge between the community and law enforcement. What does reform look like? You’ve seen that with Walk With Us, our Christmas spectacular,” he said.

He said there’s a “small army of leaders” at GCSO who are working to make these programs happen.

“Everything that I just mentioned, we’re going to continue to do, and we’re going to get better at it,” he said. “We’ve got a great year ahead and I’m so glad to be your sheriff.”

On Wednesday, Jan. 6, he was sworn in with his wife Jamie standing next to him.

“We’re going to change the perception of law enforcement. We’re going to change the perception of Genesee County and the perception of Flint,” he said.

SHERIFF

EXPIRED LICENSE LEADS TO JAIL TIME FOR OUTSTANDING WARRANTS

At 6:50 p.m. on Dec. 29, Fenton police in the area of Silver Lake Road and Poplar Street observed a vehicle with expired plates. A traffic stop was initiated. A records check on the driver, a 42-year-old Harrison resident, revealed he had three warrants for his arrest. He was cited for driving with a suspended license and was lodged at the Genesee County Jail pending a hearing on the outstanding warrants.

UNDER-RINGING CAUGHT AT THE SELF-CHECKOUT

At 3:29 p.m. on Dec. 24, Fenton police responded to a retail store on Owen Road for a retail fraud complaint. A loss prevention employee reported to police that they observed two female shoppers, later identified as a 41-year-old woman and a 27-year-old woman, both of Flint, under-ringing $226 in store merchandise at a self-checkout lane. The employee watched as the women exited the store and leave in a car. A Fenton police officer in the area and spotted the vehicle and initiated a traffic stop on northbound U.S. 23. The women were taken into custody and back to the store. They were photographed and released with a court appearance citation.

SUSPECTS STEAL GLOVES FROM GAS STATION STORE

At 12 p.m. on Dec. 29, Fenton police were dispatched to a gas station on North Road, at Torrey Road, for a retail fraud complaint. While doing inventory, an employee told police that they located tags that had been torn off gloves and stuffed between snack items. A review of the store surveillance video revealed two unidentified people taking the tags off the gloves and then concealing the gloves down the front of their pants. Because of the masks, police have not identified the suspects. They were observed, however, leaving in a silver Ford Mustang convertible. Stolen merchandise was valued at $20.

LOST SOMETHING?

FIND SOMETHING?

POST IT ON TRI-COUNTY’S LOST AND FOUND FACEBOOK PAGE

A page devoted exclusively to the recovery of pets and personal property.

www.facebook.com/tricountylostfound
Weekend Crossword

PUZZLE CLUE:

21 AND SINGLE

ACROSS
1. Alcatraz Island locale, for short
2. Info-filled
3. Subjective paper pieces
4. Yeshiva student, e.g.
5. Land, in Italy
6. Fast Amtrak service
7. Salsa singer Cruz
8. Pal, in Nice
9. Concerning the effects of drugs on the mind
10. Maestro — Pekka
11. 12:00, half of the time
12. South, in Spanish
13. Flinch in fear
14. Squid feature
15. "Chill out!"
16. Belief in a national power structure
17. Acting signal
18. Blamey’s land
19. "Sometimes you feel like —"

61. Savings account addition
62. Days before holidays
63. Heaps
64. Short comic sketch
65. Ornamental haints
66. Native American film award
67. Jogged (colloquially)
68. He’s a doll
69. Michigan Machine star
70. Poate, e.g.
71. Ganzpacho, Palmé (film award)
72. Tallisman
73. Cookie for 118 China’s Zhou
74. Mil. officer
75. He or she
76. Ear, nose and throat doctor
77. National south of Sicily
78. B-ball official
79. Sneak
80. 1st Fla. Gulf city
81. “I do”
82. The same:
83. Prefix
84. — Carlo
85. Street —
86. Video file format, in brief
87. Canyon comebacks
88. Stop nursing
89. 35mm camera type
90. TV’s Griffin
91. Oaths
92. Swiss city on Lake Geneva
93. Addon
94. City in Illinois
95. Added wing
96. Fashionable
97. Christian
98. Stuffing herb
99. "I, Claudius" star
100. "To, Bronte"
101. Baby name
102. Colle."n the Spanish
103. -- Dora’s Pan
104. Greek 901
105. — Italy
106. Moo goo —
107. Short comic
108. Fist bump (colloquially)
109. Poate, e.g.
110. Ear, nose and throat doctor
111. Needle
112. "Aunt’s spouse, in Paris"
113. Art De Foe
114. "Aunt’s spouse, in Paris"
115. "Aunt’s spouse, in Paris"
116. Veteran of war
117. Honeymooner
118. — Sense
119. — Sense
120. "Aunt’s spouse, in Paris"
121. "Aunt’s spouse, in Paris"
122. "Aunt’s spouse, in Paris"

DOWN
1. Fl. Gulf city
2. Admits guilt, "with up"
3. Kobe of hoops
4. Curved path
5. "Boo —!"
6. "All right!"
7. "I do"
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ANIMAL ABUSE
Continued from Front Page
During his weekly briefing on Wednesday, Jan. 6, Sheriff Chris Swan-
son said on Dec. 30, 2020, they received an anonymous tip about dogs being
neglected at a home in Genesee County.
In this house, deputies found three
dogs in different stages of neglect.
The first dog, found in a room with fe-
ces, was dead. Swanson said when they
had the dog examined, the veterinarian
said the dog hadn’t eaten in 30 days and
starved to death. There was no food in
its stomach and no feces in its colon.
The second dog was malnourished
and weighed 20 pounds less than it
should. Both of these dogs were about
1-2 years old and potentially from the
same litter. This dog, named Maddie,
was about 42 pounds when she should
have been between 55 to 60 pounds.
The third dog, which was around 2-3
years of age, was in an “okay” condi-
tion, Swanson said. Maddie and this
dog will be able to be rehabilitated and
adopted when ready. The dogs didn’t
have any water, and food was placed in
an unreachable location for the animals.
“It was a disaster. That’s just pure
neglect,” he said.
The suspect faces two counts of kill-
ing and torturing an animal, and one
count of animal cruelty. This man is
not yet in custody.
“If you see or have an animal that is
neglected or abused, do not give one
more minute away from going after
help. Don’t wait,” he said.
Call Genesee County Animal Con-
trol, 911, or any animal rescue orga-
nization.
“All these dogs have a right to be
treated with humane service,” he said.
“The key is do not neglect an animal.
Do not abuse an animal.”

NOTICE
ARGENTINE TOWNSHIP
Please be notified that the Argentine Township Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a
Meeting on Monday January 18, 2021 at 7:00 P.M. at the Argentine Township Hall, 9048 Silver Lake Rd by ZOOM, to consider the following Variance:

Appeal #2020-11
Mark & Liz Hering are returning with their request for a Variance for a Side Yard Setback. They have the survey that was requested and moved the setback from 14 inches to 4 feet from the property line. They would like to construct an attached garage on to the existing home. Described as
01-35-502-003, 16214 Sunset Way, Lot 3 and part of lot 4 beg at NE COR
of Lot 4 TH SELY along Sunset Way 27.5 ft TH WLY to a point on W lot
line which is 44.39 ft SLY of NW COR of Lot 4 TH NLY 44.39 ft TH ELY 120
ft to PL of BEG Sunset Beach

You can attend the meeting by ZOOM with the instructions below
Join Zoom Meeting
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87380122218

Meeting ID: 873 8012 2218
One tap mobile
+13126266799,87380122218# US (Chicago)

Dial by your location
+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
Meeting ID: 873 8012 2218
Find your local number: https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kcfLe1Sypf

A complete copy of this tax description may be viewed at the Township office
by appointment, please call (810) 735-5050 or email argentineoffice@argenti-
etownship.com.

Joseph Graves, Clerk
Argentine Township
Give blood now and earn chance to win trip to Super Bowl LVI

Red Cross teams with NFL to urge blood and plasma donation during National Blood Donor Month

The American Red Cross and the National Football League (NFL) are teaming up this January, during National Blood Donor Month, to urge individuals — especially those who have recovered from COVID-19 — to give blood and to help tackle the national convalescent plasma shortage. Right now, more donors are needed to help hospital patients.

During this critical time, the Red Cross and NFL are thrilled to offer all those who come to donate an opportunity to receive a special thank you this month. Those who come to donate blood or platelets this January will be automatically entered to win two tickets to next year’s Super Bowl LVI in Los Angeles. See details at redcrossblood.org/local-homepage/events/super_bowl.

In addition, those who come to give January 1-20, will also be automatically entered to win the Big Game at Home package for an awesome viewing experience safely at home, with a 65-inch television and a $500 gift card to put toward food and fun. See details at redcrossblood.org/local-homepage/events/super_bowl.

Individuals can schedule an appointment to give blood today with the American Red Cross by visiting RedCrossBlood.org, using the Red Cross Blood Donor App. See GIVE BLOOD on 22

Barons MC hosts blood drive

Pre-registration required at redcrossblood.org

By Sharon Stone

The community is invited to take part in the Barons Motorcycle Club’s first blood drive of 2021 on Jan. 30.

Due to previous long wait times, pre-registration at redcrossblood.org is required (no walk-ins) so that organizers can guarantee all who wish to donate blood will get their opportunity.

The blood drive is scheduled for Saturday, Jan. 30, from 10 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. The Barons Motorcycle Club is at 101 Genesee St., in Gaines.

The Barons Motorcycle Club asks that residents continue to support the surrounding communities at their most critical time of need.

Masks are expected and required for donation to ensure the safety of donors and staff because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Barons Motorcycle Club is at 101 Genesee St., in Gaines. They are hosting a blood drive with the American Red Cross on Jan. 30. Submitted photo
**CROSSROADS**
Continued from Page 13

Home caregivers have full visibility into a patient’s health and provide the unique care the patient needs to achieve their goals. What’s more, every day is different, offering diverse experiences that use every facet of your skill set.

- **Jobs are wide-ranging.** There are job opportunities in every specialty, from medically complex pediatric patients to seniors who need a little bit of help.

Sometimes, life brings you to a crossroads. For many people, that time is now. Whether you’re looking to make a difference in a new industry or you’re seeking to level up your healthcare career, consider whether the field of home caregiving might be right for you.

*Source: statepoint.net*

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**JUMBLE for Kids**

That Scrambled Word Game®
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

The letters of these crazy words are all mixed up. To play the game, put them back into the right order so that they all make real words you can find in the dictionary. Write the letters of each real word under each crazy word, but only one letter to a square.

Now you’re ready to solve today’s Jumble for Kids. Study the picture for a hint. Play around with the letters in the circles. You’ll find you can put them in order so that they make your funny answer.

Print Answer Here

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**GIVE BLOOD**

Continued from Page 21

Calling 1-800-RED-CROSS or activating the Blood Scheduling Skill for Amazon Alexa.

“Blood and plasma donors who have recovered from COVID-19 may have the power to help critically ill patients currently battling the virus,” said Dr. Erin Goodhue, Red Cross medical director of clinical services. “With hospital distributions for convalescent plasma increasing about 250 percent since October, these generous donations are vital in helping to save lives throughout the winter — a time that is often challenging to collect enough blood products for those in need.”

As COVID-19 cases have risen across the U.S., so has the need for convalescent plasma — leading to a shortage of this potentially lifesaving blood product. Like “special teams” units on the field, COVID-19 survivors have a unique ability to make a game-changing difference in the lives of COVID-19 patients. Individuals who have recovered from COVID-19 may have antibodies in their plasma that could provide a patient’s immune system the boost it needs to beat the virus.

**How those recovered from COVID-19 can help**

There are two ways COVID-19 survivors can help — through a convalescent plasma donation or by simply giving whole blood. Plasma from whole blood donations that test positive for COVID-19 antibodies may be used to help COVID-19 patients. Health emergencies don’t pause for holidays, game days or a pandemic — blood is needed every two seconds in the U.S. to help patients battling injury and illness.

**Blood donation safety precautions**

To protect the health and safety of Red Cross staff and donors, individuals who do not feel well or who believe they may be ill with COVID-19 should postpone their donation.

Each Red Cross blood drive and donation center follows the highest standards of safety and infection control, and additional precautions, including temperature checks, social distancing and face coverings for donors and staff, have been implemented to help protect the health of all those in attendance. Donors are asked to schedule an appointment prior to arriving at the drive and are required to wear a face covering or mask while at the drive, in alignment with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention public guidance.

Donate now.
Go to redcrossblood.org.

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**NEWS BRIEFS**

**BOMB THREAT AT STATE CAPITOL ON THURSDAY – NO BOMB FOUND**

On Thursday, Jan. 7, at 6:40 a.m., a call came into the Michigan State Capitol Facilities Control Office in Lansing in which a male caller made a bomb threat. Notifications were immediately made to staff who work in the building to ensure their safety. The Capitol was already closed to the public in accordance with normal protocols because there was no legislative sessions scheduled for Thursday. Out of an abundance of caution, the Michigan State Police (MSP) sent additional resources to the Capitol to assess the validity of the threat. While the building was being check and secured, it was temporarily closed to staff. By 9 a.m., the MSP determined the building was safe and staff were allowed to return. This threat remains under investigation. Every effort will be made to identify the person who made this threat and prosecute the individual to the fullest extent the law will allow.

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PUBLIC NOTICE
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF FENTON
BOARD MEETING SYNOPSIS
JANUARY 4, 2021

The Fenton Township Board held a regular meeting on Monday January 4, 2021 via Zoom and took the following actions.

1. Trustee Goupil offered the opening prayer.
2. Approved the agenda as presented.
3. Approved invoices and expenditures for payment in the total amount of $87,168.26.
4. Authorized the Township Supervisor to submit a counter-offer on the proposed sale of tax reverted property.
5. Adopted Resolution No. 2021-01, honoring Fenton Township resident Breanna Trecha, one of the first females to earn the rank of Eagle Scout.
6. Authorized the submission of a 2022-24 CDBG project application for sewer improvements.
8. Adjourned at 8:42 p.m.

A complete copy of the minutes of this meeting and any ordinances adopted at the meeting are on file and will be available for review at the Fenton Township Office, 12060 Mantawauka Drive, Fenton, Michigan 48430 when the office reopens to the public. Ordinances, meeting schedules, meeting minutes and other Township information are also available at www.fentontownship.org.

ROBERT E. KRUG
FENTON TOWNSHIP CLERK
Weekend Sudoku

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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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!

Weekend Scrambler

"I don't think so. I have to be home by __________."
Helen Horcha – age 103. Loving wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, died peacefully, Sunday, December 27, 2020. Private services were held. She will be buried with her husband, Joe, at Great Lakes National Cemetery. Helen was born August 16, 1917 in Youngstown, OH, the daughter of John and Katherine (Labanc) Lusick. She married Joseph Horcha on March 14, 1936 in Durand, and he preceded her in death on October 20, 1995. Helen and Joe owned and operated Joe Horcha Excavating Company, Inc. in the Flint area for many years. Along with running the office of the family business, Helen was known for her wonderful cooking skills, family meals, artistic and needlework abilities. Helen was a wonderful woman and will be deeply missed. Surviving are four children, Joan Horcha and husband, Jerry Haddad of Fenton, Jerry (Paula) Horcha of Fenton, John (Zoe) Horcha of Grand Blanc and Janice (Mike) Richards of Hawthorn Woods, IL; seven grandchildren, Dawn (Mark) Nelson, Lisa Taylor, Matt (Brenda) Horcha, Kate Bishop, Stacey Horcha, Bart (Karina) Horcha, and Patrick Richards; nine great-grandchildren; Eric Nelson, Rachel Taylor, Luke Taylor, Hannah Horcha, Isabella Horcha, Boden Bishop, Benjamin Bishop, Jonathan Horcha and Kaelyn Horcha, and several step grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Helen was also preceded in death by her parents and all siblings. Helen lived the last few years of her life at Tanglewood Assisted Living Facility. The family would like to thank the staff at Tanglewood for their loving and dedicated care of our Mother. “When someone you love becomes a memory, the memory becomes a treasure.” – Unknown. Arrangements by Sharp Funeral Homes, Fenton Chapel, 1000 W. Silver Lake Rd., Fenton. Tributes may be shared at www.sharpfuneralhomes.com.

Mildred E. Davis – age 100 passed away peacefully on Monday, December 28, 2020. She was born February 18, 1920 in Alpena, to Charles and Mildred McKenzie. She was later adopted by the Woodards then went to live with her mother’s parents, the Smiths at age 8. She married Arthur Wicks in 1937 and had two children including her beloved daughter Gail (M. Herb) Kernen. Millie loved to travel, her sewing, painting, and her collection of dolls and Joseph Original mice. Over her lifetime she lived in Michigan, South Dakota and her favorite, Florida. She had many employment adventures in her lifetime, which gave her great stories. Listening to her tell her stories was a favorite pastime of her family. She had many interesting pets made many friends there. She was very social and loved being the center of attention. She volunteered at Meals on Wheels until she was 97. She later moved to Fenton Health Care, where she spent the rest of her life. Family was very important to Millie. She was the proud grandma of seven grandchildren; 18 great-grandchildren; and 13 great-great-grandchildren. She kept all the letters and pictures her grandchildren sent to her and loved to send letters to them. A celebration of Millie’s life will be held at a later date. www.dryerfuneralhomeholly.com.

Frances H. Simpson-Rose - age 86, of Holly, passed away peacefully at home on January 2, 2021. She was born in Lansing on February 8, 1934 to Frank and Eva Redman. She enjoyed life to it’s fullest and worked until the age of 85. Her children remember her by her quick wit, her punctuality, sassiness, spunk, great sense of humor, and rides with the grandchildren looking for deer. She is survived by six children, Joni Risto, Mike Simpson, Lori (John) Albright, Chuck (Charlene) Simpson, Stephanie (Steve) Brewer, and Greg Simpson; 17 grandchildren; and 17 great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by husbands, Charles (Joe) Simpson and Merle Rose; and daughter, Sue (Rich) Marshbanks. There will be no viewing as the family has requested immediate family only. Her children will celebrate her life at a later date. www.dryerfuneralhomeholly.com.

Tresa Ostrander

Vila Irwin

Yolanda Flory
Arlene Barkman

Beatrice Lizotte

Betty Hoose

Bobby Fowler Jr.

Carl Peterson

Carol Meagher

Crystal Palmers

Danny Akers

Dolores George

Ethe Ketzbeau

Federico Vela, Jr.

Harold Anderson

Herbert Hein

Joanne Fisher

Kenneth Harrington

Larry Mariott

Lawrence Jozwiak

Michael Gaffey

Phyllis Hayes
Robert C. and Sharon L. Reigle

Robert C. Reigle passed away on December 26, 2017 and Sharon L. Reigle passed away on Tuesday, December 22, 2020. Robert was born in Flint, the son of Charles and Lucille Reigle. Sharon was born in Washington, IN, the daughter of William and Lois Brady. They were married on May 15, 1964 in Flint. They lived in Holly for many years while raising their family. Robert was an avid sportsman and both Robert and Sharon were involved with their family’s high school activities as well as 4-H horse club leaders. Robert and Sharon both retired from General Motors and then moved to Fenton. Following retirement, they loved spending time in Tawas and New Smyrna Beach, FL. They are survived by their children, Cynthia R. (Frank) Banta, Gregory S. (Linda) Reigle, Leslie A. (Marlene) Reigle and Robert F. Reigle; grandchildren, Shannon (Jim) Wood, Lucy Reigle and Nash Reigle; great-grandchildren, Kyle, Valerie and Morghanne Wood; brother, Thomas E. Reigle. Memorial Services will be privately held per their wishes. Donations in their name can be made to Alzheimer’s Association at www.alz.org. Tributes may be shared at www.sharpfuneralhomes.com.

Kevin James House

Kevin James House - age 64, of Byron, died Wednesday, December 30, 2020 at his home. A memorial service will be held at a later date. Those desiring may make contributions to the American Kidney Fund. Kevin was born May 29, 1956 in Flint, the son of Miles Howard and Shirley Ann (Little) House. He is survived by his brother, Miles Kenneth (Terri) House of Byron; sisters, Carey Lea Green of Dodge City and Lisa Kay (Bruce) Lovett of Linden; son, Corey; special friends, John Nelson and Kim Messenger. He was preceded in death by his parents and niece, Jamie Lynn House. Tributes may be shared at www.sharpfuneralhomes.com.

Kenneth R. Church

Kenneth R. Church - age 69, of Holly, died Wednesday, January 6, 2021. Funeral services will be held at 11 AM Friday, January 15, 2021 at the Dryer Funeral Home, Holly with Rev. James Garfield officiating. Due to Covid restrictions, immediate family only. Burial will be in Oakhill Cemetery, Holly. Visitation with social distancing will be from 4 - 8 PM Thursday, January 14. Mr. Church was born in Flint on August 31, 1951 to Landon and Ann (Bokusky) Church. He was a Vietnam War veteran, serving in the US Marine Corp. He was the former owner of Church’s Insulation and was a member of the Holly Masonic Lodge, Holly Moose, Eagles, and MIRG. Ken had a giving heart, loved his family and friends, going up north, and riding motorcycles. He was preceded in death by his wife Janet and is survived by two children, Cheri (Rick) Roberts and Kenneth (Melissa) Church Jr.; seven grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; three brothers, Jerry (Marie) Church, Ron (Sandy) Church, and Jim Church; two sisters, Sherry Lynn Church and Shirley Jeffrey; and step-sister, Ethel Bukosky; many nieces and nephews. Special Thanks to Sheila at Absolute Hospice. Memorial donations may be given to the family. www.dryerfuneralhomeholly.com.

Ralph Compton Sr.


Susan Morey


Rhonda Schumacher


Terry Flowers


Thomas Purcell

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SAVE $7,846
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NOW $33,051 WAS $42,825
SAVE $9,774
$194/MO + TAX
NOW $26,988 WAS $44,355
SAVE $17,367
$122/MO + TAX
NOW $29,495 WAS $36,225
SAVE $6,730

SAVE
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$17,367
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