# Genesee County to vote on 911 surcharge

■Would renew \$1.86 monthly fee on all landline, wireless and VoIP users

#### By Sharon Stone

On Tuesday, May 4, registered voters in Genesee County will vote on renewing the monthly 911 surcharge of \$1.86 on all landline, wireless, and voice over the internet protocol (VoIP) service users within the county.

The Genesee County Board of Commissioners voted 6-2 on Jan. 27, 2021 to approve Genesee County 911's request to place the topic on the May 4, 2021 ballot.

#### GENESEE COUNTY 911 ANSWERS QUESTIONS COMMONLY ASKED BY RESIDENTS

#### WHAT DO WE USE SURCHARGE FUNDING FOR?

The surcharge funding is used to run the total operation of the Genesee County 911 Dispatch Authority. We are 100-percent funded by the surcharge and this is the only source of income for 911 emergency call answering and dispatch services within Genesee

See 911 SURCHARGE on 6



VOL. 28 NO. XVI

## Preparing for May 4 election

Locally, Genesee County residents have two ballot items

#### By Sharon Stone

Genesee County citizens will cast their vote on two ballot items in the May 4 election. Ballot items include the Genesee Health System Community Mental Health Millage and a renewal of the 911 surcharge. See related stories on ballot items in this issue.

People can vote in person on election day at their regular polling location or vote with absentee voter ballot. Below are the details

on voting absentee, according to the Michigan See **ELECTION** on 34

## Genesee County to vote on Community Mental Health Millage

Proposal is .94-mill property tax for 10 years, would generate \$9.5 million in first year

#### By Sharon Stone

Voters in Genesee County will vote on a proposed Genesee Health System Community Mental Health Millage on Tuesday, May 4. Genesee Health System is a behavioral health organization set up under state law to serve the mental health needs of Genesee County.

The Genesee County Commissioners voted 5-3 to place the millage See **MILLAGE** on 8

### **Impressive season-starter**

SUNDAY, APRIL 18, 2021



The Flint Metro League track season began last week all around the tri-county area with Fenton, Linden and Lake Fenton hosting track meets. Jack Larson was one of five Fenton Tigers to compete against the Swartz Creek boys in the long jump. Larson's best leap was 16-feet-O-inches. See story on Page 35. Photo: David Troppens

## The state of Fenton Township roads: Part III

Assesses roads along Owen Road, around Pine Lake and west side of Silver Lake

Local roads in Fenton

Township along Owen

Road, around Pine Lake

and the west side of Silver

Lake, are considered a mix

By Hannah Ball

ranging from "very poor" to "excellent."

\$1.00

These ratings come from a 2020 PASER study, which stands for Pavement Surface Evaluation and Rating. The system rates paved roads on a 1-10 scale with a rating See **ROADS** on 10

# Shiawassee River events planned for 2021

River cleanups, moonlight paddles, Riverfest and more

#### By Hannah Ball

Organizations dedicated to maintaining and promoting the Shiawassee River have multiple events planned for 2021, including moonlight paddles and cleanup days.

Groups including Keepers of the Shiawassee River, Headwaters Trails, Friends of the Shiawassee River, and the Shiawassee See **EVENTS** on 12



**ff If you use** the neighborhood shortcuts of W. Caroline, West and Grant streets to avoid

construction on Shiawassee, Adelaide or Silver Lake roads, please don't continue to drive like you are still on a major thoroughfare."



**44** This is for the couple in Linden whose 57th wedding anniversary is on the same

day as ours. Thanks you for the surprise gift. My husband and I appreciated the gift. Happy 57th anniversary to you and your husband." **L**'d like to express my appreciation to the gentleman who bought my cans from me at Alpine on Thursday morning so I wouldn't have to stand in line. Thank you for your act of kindness. I will pay it forward. From a 78-year-old lady."



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## **April is Distracted Driving Awareness Month**

Lawmakers in Lansing to look at package of bills regarding mobile devices and driving

#### By Sharon Stone

The Michigan House is expected to look at a package of bills regarding mobile electronic devices while driving a vehicle in Michigan.

According to a House Fiscal Agency analysis, taken together, House Bills 4277, 4278, and 4279 would amend the Michigan Vehicle Code to revise prohibitions and penalties regarding a driver's use of electronic devices while driving.

House Bill 4277, introduced by Rep. Mari Manoogian (D-Dist. 40), would amend section 602b of the code, which now prohibits a person from reading, manually typing, or sending a text message on a wireless two-way communication device located in his or her hand or lap while operating a commercial motor vehicle or school bus or while operating a noncommercial motor vehicle that is moving.

The bill would instead prohibit a person from using a mobile electronic device while operating a motor vehicle or a school bus.

Mobile electronic device would mean a handheld or portable electronic device capable of providing wireless



The Michigan House will look at a package of bills that would include stricter rules regarding electronic devices and driving, and harsher penalties for violators.

data or voice communication between two or more individuals, or providing amusement.

There are some exemptions, including those responding to an emergency. A complete list of prohibitions and exemptions can be found at legislature. mi.gov.

Currently, an individual who violates section 602b is responsible for a civil infraction and must be ordered to pay a civil fine of \$100 for a first violation and \$200 for a second or subsequent violation. Under the bill, an individual

responsible for a first violation would have to be ordered to pay a \$100 civil fine or perform 16 hours of community service. An individual responsible for a second or subsequent offense would have to be ordered to pay a \$250 civil fine or perform 24 hours of community service, or both. If the individual was involved in an accident at the time of his or her violation of the section, these civil fine amounts would have to be doubled and an officer investigating the accident would have to note in a written accident report that the individual was using a mobile electronic device at the time of the accident.

House Bill 4278, introduced by Rep. Mike Mueller (R-Dist. 51), would amend section 320a of the code to provide for the assessment of one point against the driver's license record of an individual for his or her second violation of using a mobile electronic device while operating a motor vehicle or a school bus. Two points would be entered for a third or subsequent such violation.

House Bill 4279, introduced by Rep. Joseph N. Bellino, Jr. (R-Dist. 17), would amend sections 602c and 732 of the code. Section 602c currently prohibits an individual with a level 1 See **DISTRACTED DRIVING** on 8

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## A message from the director

his article is a companion to my March correspondence regarding statewide summative assessments. In that correspondence I stated, "It is my most fervent hope that we will not have to administer the M-Step assessment this year, rather, provide the academic and emotional support that our students need during this unprecedented time. At this time in our history, children do not need more testing, they need more normalcy." Last Tuesday, Michigan's request to the United States Department of Education (USED) to waive the federal requirement for state summative assessment was denied. The USED did waive the following:

• That the state measure progress toward long-term goals and measures of interim progress;

• That the state meaningfully differentiate, on an annual basis, all public schools;

That the state access with a participation rate of at least 95 percent; and
That the state identify schools for comprehensive, targeted, and additional targeted support and improvement based on data from the 20/21 school year.

In summary, there will not be normal accountability for schools given

## **Summative testing**

the results of testing, but we must test!

The US Department of Ed is requiring summative testing so schools can identify gaps in learning that have resulted from school closures last spring and this school year. The interesting piece of this is that MDE (Michigan Department of Education) has stated that districts are expected to administer the state tests as planned to students who are completing some, or all, of their instruction in person. However, MDE also indicated that districts would only be required to offer the assessment to students who are receiving instruction in a completely remote manner, and that it does not support bringing students into school for the sole purpose of taking a state test. While I agree with the sentiment here, I don't see the logic in needing to identify the gaps regarding learning in a pandemic, when the very stu-

dents not receiving in-person instruction are the ones that are not required to take the assessment.

Julie Kildee

Holly Academy

director

Holly Academy staff and students "dare to be remarkable" under all circumstances, yet this ruling by USED and MDE is contrary to what is best for our Huskies.



Compiled by Hannah Ball, staff reporter \_\_\_\_\_ Question asked to Tri-County Times' Facebook followers

## What's your happiest childhood memory? What makes it so special?



"My Dad renting cabins on Runyan Lake where we vacationed. We lived in Flint so to the lake we went!"



"In my teens, I used to walk my horse Summer in town almost every day. I took her all over Fenton and she made a lot of friends back then. I miss her."



"My Grandpa had me called down to the office at school. Gramps said for me to grab my books. He had packed a picnic and I did my homework on a Lake Michigan beach while he was looking at a job that he was bidding. He came out and helped me with my math while we ate my Grandma's fried chicken and apple pie." **Kim Weber.** Fenton

#### Submit Hot lines online at myfenton.com or text to 810-771-8398 All submissions, if approved for publication, must be 50 words or less and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Tri-County Times. We reserve the right to edit for clarity, length and liability.

I'M GLAD I live on the Canada border.

FOR ANYONE WATCHING the Floyd trial, I'm sure you see the dishonesty of the media by omitting most of the video on Floyd's death but only showing the 9 minutes and 29 seconds which is definitely not the 'whole' truth.

VACCINE PASSPORTS ARE not harmless. They are the first step in full government control over your life. Your ability to access lines of credit, services, etc., dependent on your willingness to obey. A similar points system is how China currently controls its people.

I AM NOT going to ever vote for school millage, police or emergency financial support until the rich start paying taxes in relation to their income. I have voted every single time to support school and police, not anymore.

TUCKER CARLSON NEEDS to have Gov. Whitmer as a guest on his show. I bet the ratings would be off the charts. She won't go though. She's a coward.



"Having my mom watch me play Little League baseball. It meant a lot to me."

Jamie Jones Fenton Tamara Read Fenton

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COMPILED BY SHARON STONE

#### Holly Township Library hosts Earth Day Clean-up

In celebration of Earth Day, the Holly Township Library invites the community to join them as they clean up trash on the library property and in the surrounding area. This event is open to all ages, Thursday, April 22 from 4 to 6 p.m. Attendees can drop in whenever they can. The library staff will provide trash bags and disposable gloves, and you'll join other volunteers to help keep the community clean. Register at https://form.123formbuilder. com/2415744?wwwNgRedir or find the link on Holly Township Library's Facebook page. Attendees are reminded to wear a mask and maintain social distancing while participating in this Library event.

### 911 SURCHARGE

**Continued from Front Page** County, including our facilities, equipment, maintenance and operating costs. If approved by the voters the surcharge will assess a charge on all landline, wireless, and voice over internet protocol service devices located within Genesee County of up to \$1.86 per month, for a period ending Dec. 31, 2026.

#### WHEN WAS THE ORIGINAL \$1.86 SURCHARGE SET AND BY WHOM?

This fixed rate was set in 2017 by a vote of the residents of Genesee County and accepted by the State of Michigan.

#### WHO IS GENESEE COUNTY 9-1-1 DISPATCH AUTHORITY?

Genesee County 9-1-1 Dispatch Authority represents 31 local units of government and dispatches for all EMS, fire and police agencies within Genesee County with the exception of Fenton City.

The city of Fenton has its own 9-1-1 Dispatch Center that dispatches EMS, fire and police within the city of Fenton.

#### WHAT IS THE SUNSET DATE AND WHY IS THIS VOTE NEEDED IN MAY 2021?

The Board of Commissioners had questions about timing and associated costs. Genesee County 911 spent a large amount of time in 2020 forming an operational surcharge committee, organizing virtual meetings and reaching out to executives at the state level to determine what might be the state's course of action when the legislation sunsets Dec. 31, 2021. We have received no response to date and decided a ballot proposal was the best course of action to secure our future.

Ballot language was drafted and on Dec. 8, 2020, the General Membership Consortium Commission adopted a resolution to the Board of Commissioners requesting placement on the May 4, 2021 ballot, a renewal of \$1.86 per device, per month.

Genesee County 911 handles more than 400,000 calls annually. With the surcharge intact, Genesee County 911 will continue to help the 400,000-plus citizens it serves 24/7/365.

Source: geneseecounty911.org

### BALLOT LANGUAGE

#### 911 Surcharge

Shall the County of Genesee, Michigan, be authorized to assess a charge on all landline, wireless, and voice over the internet protocol service users located within Genesee County of up to \$1.86 per month, for a period ending Dec. 31, 2026, to be distributed exclusively for funding of 911 emergency call answering and dispatch services within Genesee County including facilities, equipment, maintenance, and operating costs?





## Linden declares local state of emergency

■Linden COVID-19 cases up to 322 as of Thursday, April 15

#### By Hannah Ball

During the Monday, April 12 Linden City Council meeting, the Linden mayor redeclared a local state of emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The city originally declared a state of emergency March 16, 2020 due to rising threat caused by the virus.

The press release reads, "As of April 9, 2021, the State of Michigan has 723,297 confirmed cases, 16,400 deaths, and a positivity rate of over 18 percent due to COVID-19."

As of Thursday, April 15, Michigan had 770,822 confirmed cases, 16,731 deaths and a positivity rate of approximately 18 percent. Linden had 322 COVID-19 cases.

"New and unexpected challenges continue to arise and threaten the population in the city of Linden including the confirmation of the COVID-19 variants within Genesee County. The city of Linden must take all necessary precautions to protect residents and staff against COVID-19," according to the press release.

In accordance with MCLA 30.410 (1)(b), Cusson redeclared a local state of emergency as of April 12, 2021. The local state of emergency will remain in effect until an order from the Linden City Council is issued to terminate.

Cusson also authorized City Manager Ellen Glass to act as the emergency response administrator.

"The City is continuing to operate essential services to support the safety of our community and to focus efforts in limiting the spread of COVID-19 within the City's jurisdiction," according to the release.

View all stories online at myfenton.com



# Oakland County seeks volunteers

To partner with Road Commission to Adopt-A-Road for cleanups in April, July and September

Tired of viewing roadside litter? If so, the Road Commission for Oakland County (RCOC) has just the opportunity for you. There are many roads still available as part of the Adopt-A-Road program. "This is a great opportunity for the public to help clean up our environment and beautify Oakland County communities," RCOC Chair Andrea LaLonde said. "Over the years, groups and organizations have committed volunteer time to clean up our communities by clearing litter along roadsides. They are tremendous partners in this effort and greatly appreciated." Volunteer groups that adopt a road segment are asked to pick up litter along the road during two of the three available cleanup periods each year (spring, summer and fall). Cleanup dates for 2021 are: April 17-25, July 18-25 and Sept. 25-Oct. 3.

For the spring clean-up, RCOC wants volunteers to be safe and reminds all See **VOLUNTEERS** on 34

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COMPILED BY SHARON STONE

#### URGENT ASPHALT AND CONCRETE REPAIR ON N. LEROY STREET APPROVED

Three recent watermain breaks on N. LeRoy Street near Dauner Road in Fenton resulted in asphalt roadway, concrete curbing and sidewalk having to be removed to access and repair the breaks. The two areas have been temporarily repaired until hot mix asphalt is available. In a memo from Dan Brisson. the Department of Public Works (DPW) director to City Manager Lynn Markland, Brisson recommended that the city approve Asphalt Specialties, Inc. to perform road, curbing and sidewalk restoration at a cost of \$22,500 based on their April 2 guote. Fenton City Council approved the motion Monday, April 12.

### MILLAGE

#### Continued from Front Page

language on the May 4 ballot. The measure would add a new 0.94-mill property tax on Genesee County residents to be in place until 2030. It's expected to raise \$9.5 million in the first year.

One hundred percent of monies raised will be allocated to the Genesee Health System for mental health crisis, stabilization and prevention, and to meet mental health needs in an appropriate setting, thus reducing the burden on jails and improving care of all Genesee residents who seek help.

## Ballot language:

For the purposes of reinforcing the Genesee Health System with sufficient public health infrastructure to improve the treatment of people with mental health needs, to address law enforcement/first responders with crisis intervention teams and mental health response training, to address law enforcement/ mental health co-response and jail diversion, to address court/ corrections mental health supports and services, to address suicide and



crisis prevention, to address schools crisis and de-escalation, to address crisis center and crisis stabilization, and to address health and wellness for vulnerable populations, shall the limitation on the total amount of taxes which may be levied against taxable property within Genesee County, Michigan, as provided for by Section 6 of Article IX of the Michigan Constitution of 1963, be increased up to the amount of \$0.94 per \$1,000 of taxable valuation (0.94 mills) for a period of 10 years, beginning with the 2021 levy and extending through the 2030 levy?

This would raise in the first year an estimated \$9,595,118 to be used as follows: 100 percent shall be allocated to the Genesee Health System for mental health crisis, stabilization and prevention, and to meet mental health needs in an appropriate setting, thus reducing the burden on jails and improving care of all Genesee residents who seek help.

In Genesee County, local authorities capture and use for authorized purposes tax increment revenues from property taxes levied by the county. Such captured revenue would include a portion of this proposed millage levy. The total amount of captured tax increment revenues from the proposed millage levy in the first calendar year of the levy is estimated to be \$298,584.

The following local authorities presently are expected to capture and receive disbursement of a portion of the County's property tax levy:

• City of Clio Corridor Improvement Authority (CIA), Downtown Development Authority (DDA) and Neighborhood Improvement Authority (NIA);

• City of Davison DDA and Local Development Finance Authority (LDFA)

- City of Fenton DDA and LFDA
- City of Flushing NIA and CIA
- City of Grand Blanc DDA
- City of Linden DDA
- City of Montrose DDA
- City of Swartz Creek DDA

 Genesee County Brownfield Redevelopment Authority and Land Bank Authority

- Davison Township DDA
- Flint Township DDA
- Beecher Road CIA and Bristol Road CIA
- Grand Blanc Township DDA
- Hill Road CIA
- Mt. Morris Township Business Development Authority
- Mundy Township DDA and Hill Road CIA
- Vienna Township BDA
- Village of Lennon DDA
- Village of Otisville DDA
- Village of Otter Lake DDA

## DISTRACTED DRIVING

Continued from Page 3

or level 2 graduated driver's license from using a cell phone while operating a motor vehicle. This prohibition does not apply to an individual who is using a voice-operated system that is integrated into the motor vehicle. The bill would remove this exception. The bill would also provide that compliance with the prohibition in section 602c is in addition to the requirements of section 602b. Section 732 currently exempts violations of section 602b or 602c

from being entered by the secretary of state on an individual's master driving record. The bill would eliminate this exemption.

In a press statement issued by Joseph Richardson Jr., president and CEO of AAA-The Auto Club Group, "The Auto Club Group supports this proposed legislation because of its focus on saving lives and preventing injuries. Our research shows that education and legislation are key factors in changing driving behavior. Please join us in encouraging your state legislators to support these much-need updates to our state's distracted driving law."



#### **WEEKEND TIMES**

Sunday, April 18, 2021 9



### ROADS

#### **Continued from Front Page**

of 10 being the best. It's used by municipalities and road commissions across the state.

This is part three of a series on Fenton Township roads that were evaluated with PASER in 2020. This article contains roads in Fenton Township along Owen Road, roads around Pine Lake and the west side of Silver Lake.

#### **Very Poor**

- Oak Tree Trail: rating 2
- Oak Tree Court (from Oak Tree Trail to dead end): rating 2
- Sleepy Hollow Drive (from Oak Tree Court to Redwood Court): rating 2

## HOT LINE CONTINUED

CREEPED OUT AND don't understand all the live immunizations on local TV news? It's because the mockingbird media is indoctrinating the population into complying with immunization agenda. Personally, I'm not getting vaccinated until I see a live immunization in the Tri-County Times.

**ANSWERED LIVE!** 

A 🗖

## • Hi Land Trail: rating 2

Marl Drive: rating 2

#### Poor

• Autumn Wood Drive (from Aspen Hollow to Jennings Road): rating 3 • Aspen Hollow: rating 3

- Aspen Hollow Court: rating 3
- Silvershore Drive: rating 3
- Lake Forest Drive (from Owen Road
- to Oak Tree Trail): rating 3
- Springwood Court: rating 3
- Sleepy Hollow Drive (from Redwood Court south): rating 3
- Whittaker Road (from Owen Road south until pavement ends): rating 3

Data Dashboard: double-check if you

over 400,000 residents, that's less than

two deaths per day. The current COVID

LOOKING FOR THE COVID vaccine?

don't believe me). From a county of

- Eleanor Drive: rating 3
- Becker Street: rating 3
- Cutler Drive: rating 3

hysteria is a scam.

WEEKEND TIMES

#### Fair

#### • Autumn Wood Drive (from Silver Chase Boulevard to Aspen Hollow): rating 5

- Quail Ridge Court: rating 4
- Lake Forest Drive (from Oak Tree Trail to dead end): rating 5
- Oak Tree Court (from Oak Tree Trail
- to Fountain View Court): rating 5
- Fountain View Court: rating 5
- Harp Drive: rating 5

#### Good

- Silver Landings Drive: rating 6
- Carrie Lane: rating 6 • Silvercrest Drive: rating 6
- Oak Tree Court (from Fountain View
- Court south until end): rating 6
- Stepping Stone Lane: rating 6

- Sleepy Hollow Drive (from Stepping Stone Lane south): rating 6
- Jacob Road: rating 6
- Island View Drive: rating 6
- · Lobdell Road (from Whittaker Road to Coachlight Drive): rating 6

#### **Very Good**

- North Shore Drive: rating 8
- Eleanor Drive: rating 8

#### Excellent

- Silverwood Drive: rating 9
- Spirit Rail Lane: rating 9
- Shadow Oak Court: rating 9
- Pebble Ridge Court: rating 9
- Autumn View Court: rating 9
- Pine Ridge Court: rating 9

spring break. Of course, Whitmer said the complaint is just a partisan hit job on her colleagues.

#### 

IF THE JUNIOR class parents get seniors quarantined for their special events, due to their parent organized junior prom right before commencement. I guarantee there will be many unhappy senior parents.

## GET BACK TO YOUR ACTIVE LIFE, PAIN FREE **HURLEY** HEALTHY LIVING SERIES ON **JOINT REPLACEMENT** MAY 3<sup>RD</sup> @ 3PM LIVE 🗳 VIRTUAL EVEN Learn about your options for knee and hip replacement **GET YOUR QUESTIONS**

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RSVP to hurleymc.com/live to get link for FREE virtual event.

Go to vaccinefinder.org/search. FACT: IN THE last 30 days, there have been 35 COVID deaths in Genesee

CAREFUL WHAT YOU ask for. All those calling for 'no police' fail to realize that County (Source: Genesee County COVID the presence of the police is the factor restraining the pro-police supporters. 

WONDER IF THAT reporter is allowed to attend another press conference. He actually asked about top Michigan leaders who traveled out of state for

myfenton.com





### Closing April 24 for new exhibit installation. Reopening with new exhibit May 15! Reserve tickets at SloanLongway.org/Courtland

NEW ENTRY TIME: Open Saturdays, 9:00-11:00 a.m. Wed./Thurs./Fri./Sat./Sun.: 12:00-2:00 and 3:00-5:00 PM Closed Mon. & Tues. Masks are required throughout your visit. We will close for an hour of cleaning between ticket times. Capacity is limited to ensure social distancing.

### **Genesee County Resident Discounts**

Genesee County residents receive **free** general admission and discounted admission to the traveling exhibit *Treasure*! **Traveling** exhibit admission is \$3 per person.

When you arrive, please present ID with your address on it to confirm your residency.

Sloan Museum is funded in part by the Genesee County Arts Education and Cultural Enrichment Millage. Your tax dollars are at work.

## **TREASURE - CLOSES APRIL 24**

## **ABOVE AND BEYOND - OPENS MAY 15**



Sloan Museum at Courtland | 4190 E. Court St. Burton, MI 48509 | 810-237-3450 | SloanLongway.org/Courtland

## 

## Admission

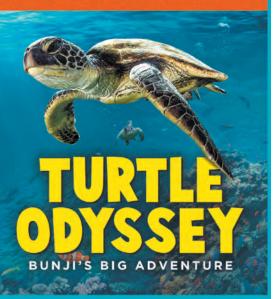
**Tickets:** \$7 adults, \$5 seniors 60+, and \$5 youth ages 2-11

**Genesee County Residents:** \$3.50 adults, \$2.50 seniors 60+, and \$2.50 youth ages 2-11

## SHOWTIMES

**Through June 20:** 1:30 PM Sat. & Sun. 4:30 PM Wed./Thurs./Fri./Sat./Sun.

Through April 24: 6:00 PM Thurs./Fri./Sat.



Longway Planetarium | 1310 E. Kearsley St. Flint, MI 48503 | 810-237-3400 | Longway.org

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Sec 105 - within Oakland County and Sec 105 (C) - contiguous counties



### **EVENTS**

#### Continued from Ere

**Continued from Front Page** River Water Trail Coalition have meetings and events planned for the rest of the year.

See events at right.

The Shiawassee River was declared a National Water Trail by the U.S. National Park Service on Oct. 22, 2020. The river also was declared a State Water Trail by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources in December 2018.

In 2020, organizers reported an uptick in river usage due to the pandemic.

Brad Jacob, from Keepers of the Shiawassee River, said, "We have seen a great uptick in visits and new friends on our Facebook page. Nearly doubling our number just in the last year. Being a safe, healthy outdoor activity, the numbers of

healthy. **77** Brad Jacob Keepers of the Shiawassee River

**66**By

counting

what is

living in the

river. we

can assess

the water

quality,

and we can

report that

the river is

paddlers have definitely increased."

Multiple groups have been out on the water, clearing out trees and branches. Their next major cleanup is May 22 and 23 at 9 a.m. They will split into teams and clear any blockages and remove any trash they find. The largest event this year will be Riverfest on July 16, 17 and 18, which is planned in collaboration with the Happening in Linden. The event also will celebrate Linden's 150th birthday, which is called a sesquicentennial.

"If someone likes to volunteer, they can message or comment on our Facebook page," he said. The Facebook page is called "Keepers of the Shiawassee River, Michigan."

"We will have a better picture of what condition the river is in after our cleanup. We do have people alerting us to downed trees via our Facebook page. And we will soon have a brand new website that people will be able to let us know about any issues," he said.

Volunteers also collect samples and have the water tested to monitor the river. "The Keepers have been testing for macro invertebrates ... and reporting those results to the Fenton, Linden, Argentine areas. By counting what is living in the river, we can assess the water quality, and we can report that the river is healthy," Jacob said.

Thanks to the Saginaw Bay Watershed Initiative Network Grant, the public can go online to shiawasseewatertrail.org and see an interactive map of the Shiawassee River. It includes information on rest stops, put-in sites, mill ponds, dams and more.

## **EVENTS**

## APRIL

April 24 to May 1 — water monitoring, five sites over two weeks with exact dates to be determined

**TBA** — water monitoring make up day if necessary

#### MAY

**May 5** — Headwater Trails Meeting, location TBA, 7 p.m.

May 13 — Keepers of the Shiawassee meeting, location TBA, 7 p.m.

No Headwaters cleanup training, email Chuck.julian@gcs3d.com with questions

May 22 — Shiawassee River cleanup starts at 9 a.m.; email Chuck to volunteer

**May 23** — Shiawassee River cleanup day two starts at 9 a.m.

**May 27** — Keepers Moonlight Paddle on Lobdell Lake begins at 7 p.m.

#### JUNE

**June 2** — Headwaters Trails Meeting, location TBA, 7 p.m.

**June 10** — Keepers of the Shiawassee meeting, location TBA, 7 p.m.

**June 24** — Keepers Moonlight Paddle at the Fenton Mill Pond begins at 7 p.m.

**June 24** — Shiawassee Water Trail Coalition meeting via Zoom, 6:30 p.m.

**June 26** — Fenton river cleanup if necessary, details to be determined

#### JULY

TBA — Invasive Species Paddle July 13 — Keepers of the Shiawassee meeting, location TBA, 7 p.m. CONTINUED on next page

#### **WEEKEND TIMES**

**CONTINUED** from previous page **July 16 to 18** — Riverfest / Linden 150th Celebration

**July 22** — Keepers Moonlight Paddle at Linden Mill Pond begins at 7 p.m.

#### AUGUST

August 4 — Headwaters Trail meeting, location TBA, 7 p.m. August 19 — Keepers Moonlight Paddle on Lobdell Lake begins at 7 p.m.

#### SEPTEMBER

**September 1** — Headwaters Trail meeting, location TBA, 7 p.m.

**September 9** — Keepers of the Shiawassee meeting, location TBA, 7 p.m.

September 16 — Keepers Moonlight Paddle at Linden Mill Pond begins at 6 p.m.

**TBA** — Weekend Afternoon Paddle **September 23** — Shiawassee Water Trail Coalition meeting via Zoom, 6:30 p.m.

September 26 to October 9 — Water monitoring five sites over two weeks, dates TBA

#### OCTOBER

**TBA** — Headwaters Color Paddle, Holly to Fenton

**TBA** — Water Monitoring make up day if necessary

**October 6** — Headwaters Trail meeting, location TBA, 7 p.m.

**October 14** — Keepers of the Shiawassee meeting, location TBA, 7 p.m.

#### **NOVEMBER**

November 3 — Headwaters Trail meeting, location TBA, 7 p.m. November 11 — Keepers of the Shiawassee meeting, location TBA, 7 p.m. TBD — Committee for Christmas

parades, decoration kayak

#### DECEMBER

**December 1** — Headwaters Trail meeting, location TBA, 7 p.m.

**TBA** — Keepers march in Christmas parades **December 9** — Keepers of the Shiawassee meeting, location TBA,

7 p.m. **December 23** — Shiawassee Water Trail Coalition annual meeting via Zoom. 6:30 p.m.



Shi-Tri ~ Shiawassee Triathlon May 23

> **Stream Monitoring** April 26 to May 10

Garlic Mustard "Pestival" Fundraiser May 13

Annual River Cleanup July 24 to 31

### HOT LINE CONTINUED

I HOPE ALL of those non-thinkers are happy that the governor has been stripped of her COVID powers. We now lead the nation as a result of loose controls. The happiest people should be the bone heads in the Michigan capitol.

#### 

YOU DID NOT hear much about nation's deficit with the last administration because they were investing in America. That's like remodeling your home; hardly what is taking place with current administration.

CNN NEWS DOESN'T know how to report the truth. That says a lot about the individuals working there.



NOTICE OF REGULAR PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING TO BE HELD ELECTRONICALLY CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF FENTON GENESEE COUNTY, MICHIGAN MAY 6, 2021

#### THIS HEARING WILL BE HELD TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING:

#### NEW BUSINESS:

SUP21-001 Hagerman Riding Arena and Stable, SL Farms, LLC., 601 S. Saginaw St., Flint, MI 48502: Requesting a Special Use Permit to allow an Agricultural Tourism Facility (Event Barn) located at 15135 Pinewood Trail. Parcels #06-28-200-035 and #06-28-200-043.

SUP21-002 David Bubnar, Owen Road LLC, PO Box 158, Holly, MI 48442: Requesting a Special Use Permit to reestablish an automobile service station (car wash, oil change, and auto maintenance) at 3095 Thompson Road, Parcels #06-03-576-004 and #06-03-576-005.

**<u>R21-003</u>** Adam Shoemaker 13529 Lakeshore Drive: Requesting to split off the area of 11394 Torrey Road (parcel # 06-03-400-011) directly behind 11428 Torrey Road to combine with 11428 Torrey Road (parcel # 06-03-400-030) and rezone from R-3 Single Family Residential to C-3, Highway Commercial.

To the residents and property owners of Fenton Township, Genesee County, Michigan, and any other interested parties. Please take notice that a regular meeting of the Fenton Township Planning Commission will be held on Thursday May 6, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. by ZOOM video meeting. In accordance with Public Act 254 of 2020, the use of electronic remote access (online video meeting) will be implemented in response to COVID-19 social distancing requirements. The public may participate in the meeting via the following web link:

#### http://bit.ly/FentonPC

Or by telephone by calling into the following number: Phone Number: (312)626-6799 Meeting ID: 998 2931 8197 Passcode: 258667

Members of the public will only be able to speak during the public comment portion(s) of the meeting and such comment will be limited to three minutes per person. To provide for orderly public participation, when the Chairperson or meeting moderator calls for public comment, a person wishing to speak must state their name and wait to be recognized before speaking. The Chairperson or moderator will recognize all persons wishing to speak during public comment. Prior to the meeting, if members of the public have certain questions or wish to provide input on any business that will be addressed at the meeting, such persons may contact the Planning Commission members through Michael Deem, Zoning Administrator, by email at mdeem@fentontownship.org, or by mail at 12060 Mantawauka Drive, Fenton, MI 48430. Comments received prior to 3:00 p.m. on May 6, 2021 are guaranteed to be received by the Planning Commission. A copy of the meeting material may be found on the Township website homepage at www.fentontownship.org.

The Township will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services to individuals with disabilities at the meeting upon 72 hour advance notice by contacting Robert Krug, Township Clerk, by email, phone, or mail at the below.

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# Holly Township man arrested for OWI, leaving scene of crash

To be arraigned on charges in Oakland County April 28

#### By Sharon Stone

A 66-year-old Holly Township man was arrested for operating a vehicle while intoxicated and leaving the scene of a crash. He is expected to be arraigned April 28 in Oakland County 52-2 District Court.

The man's case stems from an incident in Holly Village on Friday, Feb. 19 when Holly police officers made a hit and run, drunk driving arrest Friday, Feb. 19.



Holly Police Chief Jerry Narsh reported that an on-duty Holly police officer was stopped at the red light on westbound Grange Hall Road at N. Saginaw Street. A driver of a vehicle that was northbound on Saginaw Street made a wide turn east onto Grange Hall Road, hitting the officer's patrol car head on. The officer exited his vehicle, spoke with the male driver and advised him to pull into a nearby driveway. Instead, the driver continued driving eastbound on Grange Hall Road.

Holly police officers pursued the man and stopped his vehicle. It was determined the driver was intoxicated and placed under arrest. He was transported to the Holly Police Department for processing and became uncooperative with officers, Narsh reported.

The driver was lodged at the Oakland County Jail for leaving the scene of a traffic crash and drunk driving. The officer that was struck was checked out by medical staff for a minor injury, and was cleared to return to duty.



#### Sunday, April 18, 2021

#### **2021 SPRING HOME & GARDEN**

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#### **By Alex Petrie**

N eglecting a home's exterior can be a disservice to homeowners, particularly those looking to increase the value of their homes. Curb appeal is important, as a home's appearance can greatly affect prospective buyers' perceptions.

Knowing which projects can offer the most bang for their remodeling buck can help homeowners make the right choices when improving the exterior of their homes. The entrance, veneer or siding and garage doors are some of the bigger projects to help you boost your home's value. But a new front door and a simple coat of paint are two more affordable areas where homeowners can direct their focus if their end goal is a great-looking home with added value.

An attractive front entrance area gives a home curb appeal that invites both guests and potential home buyers. If you're looking to simply clean up the front of your home's exterior, paint goes a long way. When painting, make sure to look at garage doors, porches, shutters, doorsteps, flower boxes, furniture, mailboxes/stands, and window trim are other potential projects.

Other small projects can include changing the front door hardware or replacing molding and trim, particularly if they're worn from the weather.



If you're looking to make a bigger impact, installing new windows or adding a patio can also help.

#### **Biggest value boosters:**

• Garage door replacement: Homeowners can recoup 97.5 percent of their investment on a new garage door. The average cost for replacing an existing two-car garage hovers around \$4,000.

• Manufactured stone veneer: Replacing a portion of vinyl siding with stone veneer can greatly improve curb appeal, adding style that can set a home apart. Homeowners can expect to recoup a 94.9 percent return on their investment.

• Wood deck addition: A wooden deck on the rear or side of a home enhances homeowners' ability to enjoy

the outdoors year-round. A wood deck addition recoups 75.6 percent of the cost of homeowners' initial investment.

• Siding replacement: Not only does old or weathered siding look unsightly, it can impact the energy efficiency of a home. Even though a siding replacement project is costly – coming in at roughly \$16,000 – it offers a 75-percent return and peace of mind that the home is being wellprotected from the elements.

• New entry door: Replacing an existing door with a 20-gauge steel door, new jambs and an aluminum threshold can also improve resale. The new door isn't only about looks, either. A door that isn't well-insulated or secure can be problematic.

Replacing windows, gutters and downspouts; adding molding to a door; a unique mailbox and stand; installing flower containers; and adding or expanding a patio area/porch require some investment of time and money, but also can help you earn more when you sell.

In addition to these improvements, homeowners would be wise to focus on some upgraded landscaping, an upgraded roof, new windows, and improved exterior lighting as surefire ways to add curb appeal and potential value to their homes. Thereast and the second of the second part of the second

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# 5 OUTDOOR PROJECTS THAT ADD VALUE

Exterior renovations can enhance the appearance of a property and make it more enjoyable for homeowners. Certain renovations have the potential to add value to a home, while others may do the opposite. Learning which ones have the largest return on investment can help homeowners select features that will have the most positive impact.

Curb appeal goes a long way toward attracting potential buyers. According to the National Association of Realtors (NAR), first impressions of a property have a strong influence on buyers. Landscaping and external features can do much to influence such impressions.

• Low-maintenance lifestyle: When choosing materials for projects, those that offer low-maintenance benefits can be preferential. These include low-maintenance patio materials, composite decking, vinyl fencing, and inorganic mulched beds.

• **Softscaping:** Hardscaping refers to structures like outdoor kitchens or decks. Softscaping involves the living elements of the landscape. Hiring a landscape designer to install trees, shrubs, natural edging, and rock elements can do wonders toward improving the look and value of a home.

• Fire pit: A fire pit can be used

for much of the year. In the spring and summer, the firepit is a great place to congregate to roast marshmallows or sip wine and gaze into the fire. In the fall, the fire pit can make for a cozy retreat. A fire pit that has a gas burner is low-maintenance, and the National Association of Landscape Professionals says that most can recoup about \$4,000 of their \$6,000 average price tag.

• Pool or water feature: In certain markets, particularly hot climates, a pool or another water feature is a must-have. However, in other areas where outdoor time is limited, a pool or water feature can actually lower the value of a home. Speaking with a real estate professional can give homeowners an idea of how a pool will fare in a given neighborhood.

• Lawn care program: Investing in a lawn care program that consists of fertilizer and weed control application and can be transferred over to a subsequent home owner is an attractive feature. NAR says such a care program can recover \$1,000 in value of the \$330 average cost, or a 303 percent return on investment(ROI).

Outdoor improvements can improve the marketability of a home, as well as enhance its appearance and function. Source: Metro Creative Celebrate A Celeb

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Sunday, April 18, 2021



#### Sunday, April 18, 2021

#### **2021 SPRING HOME & GARDEN**

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# **TOOLS** FOR DIY SUCCESS

Pride tends to swell when homeowners successfully complete do-it-yourself projects on their homes. In addition to saving homeowners money, DIY projects provide a unique way for men and women to personally connect with their homes. The ability to look at a finished project and say it's a result of your own handiwork can make a home feel more your own.

As fun and fulfilling as DIY projects can be, they also can be nervewracking and induce anxiety. When DIY projects falter, fixing them can prove costly, as homeowners typically must call in contractors to correct their mistakes and get a project back on track. That results in additional labor and material costs that might have been avoidable.

Preparation may be the most important aspect of any DIY project. This includes a number of aspects and precautions that many homeowners might not take into account. In order to ensure success, one must be ready to commit to their project and avoid common mistakes. The planning process is one of the most exciting parts of a home renovation project, and with social distancing keeping us indoors, now is the time to dream big and get ready.

Make sure to secure any necessary permits. Even though you may own your home, that does not mean you have carte blanche to do what you want with them. Many renovation projects require homeowners to secure permits before projects can commence. Some may even



If you're thinking about becoming a DIYer, there's plenty you should know before jumping into any construction projects.

require additional permits as the projects advance. If proper permits are not secured, homeowners may be fined and projects may be nixed, regardless of how much money they'd have spent up to that point. Before beginning a home renovation project, homeowners should always contact their local permit office to determine if any permits are required.

One of the biggest mistakes anybody can make in their preparation is overestimating their own abilities. DIY television shows make home renovation projects look easy, but reality suggests otherwise. Homeowners with little or no experience renovating a home may want to take classes before they think about starting a project on their own. Even online tutorials tend to make jobs appear easier than they are. Roofing, electrical and plumbing projects tend to be best left to the professionals, as these projects

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 can be either dangerous or vulnerable to disaster if not addressed by trained professionals.

You also should know whether your tools are up to the task. Ensure that you have the right instrument for the job, and though it may sound obvious, always read the manual and always use the tool as instructed. Got your permits and training all squared away? Now you'll need materials. Whether it's to save money or a byproduct of inexperience, DIYers do not always choose the correct materials for a job.

See SUCCESS on 32



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# HOW TO PREPARE A GARDEN FOR SPRING PLANTING

The final weeks of winter, and even the first few weeks of spring, can prove to be quite chilly in Michigan. Despite those last vestiges of winter chills, late winter is a great time to begin preparing gardens for the coming planting season. Gardens in our region are forced to withstand months of harsh weather each winter, and such conditions can take a toll. Gardeners can consider the following tips as they try to restore their gardens and get them ready for spring planting.

### **Disinfect your tools**

It's common to clean tools in late fall or whenever they're typically placed in storage for the winter. But cleaning and disinfecting are not necessarily the same thing. If tools were not disinfected at the end of the previous gardening season, disinfect them before doing any work on the garden. Doing so can ensure any lingering bacteria or fungi on tool surfaces are killed prior to the beginning of gardening season. Though it may seem like overkill, plant pathogens, including bacteria and viruses, can be transferred to and infect plants through bits of soil and plant debris left on shovels and blades. Thoroughly disinfecting such tools prior to using them in the spring is a great way to reduce the risk of disease in your garden.

#### Clear debris from garden beds Leaves, twigs, sticks, and other

debris may have gathered in the garden over the winter. Such debris can inhibit the growth of plants and vegetables, so make sure all of it is removed prior to planting. Weeds might even begin to sprout up in early spring, so remove them before they go to seed.

### Test the soil

Testing the soil prior to planting can help gardeners determine what their gardens will need to thrive in the coming months. Garden centers and home improvement stores sell home testing kits that are effective and easy to use. Once the results are in, speak with a professional at your local garden center about the best time to amend the soil, or go online to figure out what's best for your garden.

### Loosen compacted soil

Soil can become compacted over winter. If compacted soil is not loosened prior to planting, plants will have a hard time getting the water and nutrients they need to thrive. Loosening the soil also provides another opportunity to inspect the garden for any underlying issues, such as fungi or weed growth, that you may have missed when clearing debris or testing the soil. Early spring is a good time to assess a garden and address any issues that developed over the winter so plants and vegetables can thrive come the spring planting season.

Source: Metro Creative



## When Comfort Matters!







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# AIR CONDITIONING made easy

#### **By Alex Petrie**

t's hard to believe it's almost that time of year again, but the Michigan heat will soon arrive, likely forcing all of us to depend on our air conditioners until midway through September. Depending on the type of air conditioning unit you have — or which kind you need — there are many things to consider in the installation and service of your home's system. Much like an automobile, air conditioning systems must be maintained, repaired and cared for.

Homeowners may not know where to begin in regards to finding the right air conditioning system for their home, but the decision to upgrade your current system is significant, so it's important to be prepared. The best air conditioning systems will provide your home with steady, dependable performance for many years when sized correctly for the home. Correct installation and routine maintenance also can ensure your air conditioning systems withstand the test of time.

When shopping for new air conditioning systems, homeowners must consider a host of factors to ensure they



get the best match. The home's age, the number and quality of its windows, how well it's insulated, the number of stories it has, and its square footage are among the factors to consider. Homeowners can benefit from working with trained technicians who can investigate each of these factors and recommend the correct system. Trained experts can help to determine the size of central air conditioner needed, and advise you as to other considerations needed for your new air conditioner to work at its optimum level.

The installation of a new central air conditioning system should always be performed by a licensed HVAC professional. Attempting to install an air conditioning unit without the proper training and knowledge can be very dangerous, and improper installation can cause damage to the cooling system or reduced efficiency — which will more than likely end up costing you much more than if you'd just hired that professional from the beginning.

Energy efficiency is another important consideration when purchasing a new air conditioner for a home. Energy rates vary depending on where a person lives, but rates remain pretty high across the board. An energy-efficient unit can help homeowners save considerable amounts of money, so make sure to ask your technician to recommend energyefficient units that suit your home. A unit that adequately cools a home without consuming a lot of costly electricity should be every homeowner's goal.

Your local expert will answer any and all questions you have about system types, helping you choose the right option for your comfort and financial needs.

Home air conditioning systems can be costly. But the right choice of unit can keep your home cool without costing a fortune in energy costs. In times like these, unexpected heating and cooling costs have the potential to be financially devastating.



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## EXPLORING DIFFERENT BACKYARD STRUCTURES

#### **By Sharon Stone**

Designing an ideal backyard space requires forethought and an eye for style. Knowing which features to include in a yard often boils down to what homeowners want to achieve in the space. Will it be a relaxing oasis or a central entertaining focal point?

People often look to various structures to add height and visual interest to outdoor spaces. Homeowners will likely come across structures like arbors, gazebos, pergolas, and even trellises as they wade through the variety of features they can incorporate into backyard plans. Each of these structures can add appeal, but they also can offer shelter from the sun and privacy when enjoying the yard. There are significant differences between each structure, so here's an indepth look at what sets them apart.

• Arbor: An arbor is one of the more simple garden structures. It is usually a frame that is arched or square-cornered. Most home-owners use it as an entryway to a garden or even the front of the home. Those with green thumbs may cover the arbor with climbing and trailing plants. Arbors date back to early Egyptian and Roman gardens and were used throughout Europe by the late 16th century.

• **Pergola**: The words arbor and pergola are often used interchangeably, but to suggest the two structures are the same would not be accurate. Pergola comes from the Italian word "pergula," which means "projection." Pergolas were once projected from exterior walls and supported on one side by pillars or columns. Today, arbors are usually freestanding units with two or four See **STRUCTURES** on 26

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#### Sunday, April 18, 2021

#### **2021 SPRING HOME & GARDEN**



Sun-blocking ideas like awnings, shade trees and large umbrellas can help people enjoy their yards all day long.

# ADD SHADE to a deck or patio

#### **By Sharon Stone**

Who isn't eagerly awaiting the arrival of the warm weather so we can cast off the remnants of cabin fever and bask in the sunshine? However, as summer nears its dog days, the same sun we once coveted can contribute to uncomfortable conditions in outdoor entertaining spaces.

Meteorologists took to their own neighborhoods in July 2020 to test just how hot surfaces can get in the sun during peak daytime temperatures. Concrete sitting in the sun almost all day reached a temperature of 134.7 degrees F, while the same concrete in the shade clocked in at just under 80 degrees. When air temperatures are around 90 degrees, unshaded concrete and asphalt can be 125 degrees and 140, respectively. While wood decking may not be as hot as asphalt and concrete, it still can get steamy underfoot.

Homeowners who want to be able to enjoy their outdoor spaces in an array of temperatures can think about investing in shade solutions. Sunblocking ideas like awnings, shade trees and large umbrellas can help people enjoy their yards all day long.

• **Canopy**: A patio canopy is typically a freestanding unit that can be installed over a patio or a deck. Some people prefer to bolt it down so it will not be knocked over in windy conditions. The fabric on the canopy can be removed during the offseason, helping to improve its longevity. • **Awning**: Awnings may be stationary or retractable. Many are installed directly onto a home and can cast shade on specific areas of outdoor entertaining spaces.

• Shade sail: Similar to an awning but a bit less structurally rigid, shade sails are large pieces of triangular fabric installed over areas of a patio, pool or landscape, according to The Family Handyman. Shade sails are light and airy and can be customized.

• **Trees**: A natural way to increase shade in a yard is to plant more shade trees. If sun glare is an issue all year long, and it's not just the heat of the sun that is troublesome, think about planting evergreen trees. Deciduous cousins will drop their leaves in fall and only be effective during the warm weather.

• Patio umbrellas: Many umbrellas start at around \$25. Umbrellas can be paired with patio tables, while stationary cantilever umbrellas sit out of the way on their own heavy-duty stands. A cantilever umbrella tends to provide more shade than patio table umbrellas.

• **Curtains**: Homeowners can block sunlight outdoors the way they do inside. Hang curtains from the sides of canopies or between posts on a deck to provide shade and cozy spaces. Cloth shower curtains work nicely for this.

Shade is in high demand when the sun is hot. Options abound for making outdoor areas more comfortable.



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# **DID YOU KNOW?**

According to the Environmental Protection Agency, air currents can carry pesticides that were applied to nearby properties. That

means even people who do not apply pesticides in their lawns and gardens can still be at risk of exposure to these potentially harmful chemicals. People concerned by the prospect of being exposed to the pesticides being applied by their neighbors can stay indoors with their children and pets while the substances are being applied. Those who live near fields and parks where pesticides are routinely applied can plant hardy, thick-branched trees to reduce their risk of airborne exposure. The EPA notes that such plants and shrubs can serve as buffers against airborne pesticides

can serve as buffers against airborne pesticides, essentially acting as walls around a property that prevent gusty winds from blowing pesticides into yards and gardens.

#### STRUCTURES Continued from Page 24

posts. Pergolas may be connected on one side to a home or another structure. Some are freestanding units supported by four posts. Pergolas tend to be larger and offer more privacy and shade than arbors.

• Gazebo: Gazebos are more defined garden buildings, according to the contractor referral site Network. Gazebos are freestanding units that can be built in various shapes. Some are octagonal, others are square. Like a pergola, a gazebo is supported by columns and may have low railings or built-in benches. Gazebos also may have a more solid roof than arbors or pergolas, providing sun and other weather protection. The roof may have added architectural appeal, like a cupola.



• **Trellis**: A trellis is a simple, geometrically shaped structure that provides a surface for climbing plants. A trellis also may support fruit-bearing trees. Trellis work may be used in conjunction with an arbor or pergola, or be installed on fencing.

Incorporating structures into backyard designs can provide functionality and appeal.

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# 5 tips to get your GARAGE ORGANIZED

#### By Sharon Stone

**I** s your garage in disarray? While you dream of a perfectly organized workbench or garage, your reality probably looks more like a sea of random toys, boxes and exercise equipment.

Every do-it-yourselfer knows a clean, organized garage is the key to efficient project planning and repairs around the home. As we head into warmer months, set aside the time to take charge of the space and finally create a sense of tidiness that will last year-round.

Follow these five tips to tame the mess and get your garage back in shape:

1. Invest in shelving that accommodates clear storage bins. When it comes to organizing and storing the assortment of cords, car care items, paint supplies and kid's toys littering your garage, nothing does the job better than clear storage bins. Not only can you categorize items by project or activity type, you can also easily stack them to save space without sacrificing the ability to easily find what you need, when you need it. Invest in taller, wider shelving for the perimeter of the garage to accommodate your chosen bins.

2. Fix or dispose of anything broken or past its prime. There's nothing worse than scrambling to find a specific tool or product in an urgent situation, only to realize it's broken, damaged or dried out. As you organize, pay attention to textures,

See GARAGE on 31







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#### Sunday, April 18, 2021



Ergonomic tools can benefit gardeners of all ages, but they may prove especially valuable for aging men and women.

# ERGONOMIC TOOLS can help gardeners

Gardening is a rewarding activity that has been found to provide a host of benefits beyond ensuring readily available access to fresh fruits, vegetables and awe-inspiring blooms.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) says many gardening tasks qualify as light to moderate exercise, which means raking the leaves and cutting the grass can be just as beneficial as cardiovascular activities like brisk walking or jogging.

In addition, a 2017 study published in the journal Preventive Medicine Reports found that gardening can help aging men and women offset age-related weight gain. And the health benefits of gardening go beyond the physical. In 2014, a systematic review of randomized controlled trials published in Complementary Therapies in Medicine concluded that horticultural therapy may be an effective treatment for people with dementia.

Gardeners have a host of tools at their disposal to help turn their lawns and gardens into awe-inspiring landscapes. Among those options are ergonomic tools. Ergonomic tools can benefit gardeners of all ages, but they may prove especially valuable for aging men and women.

See TOOLS on 32





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#### Sunday, April 18, 2021

# Spring **BIRD FEEDING** basics

During the global pandemic, and as coronavirus restrictions persist, sales of bird feeders and bird feed continue to skyrocket as people flock to the avian world, right outside their windows where they find the safe and fascinating world of bird watching.

Interest in birding isn't slowing down; if you haven't yet tried attracting birds to your backyard, now is a great time to start and for those who are reaping the rewards of watching the birds from home, the experts at Cole's Wild Bird Products, Co. offer information on bird feed and feeder basics to attract more birds to your backyard this spring.

Spring is a busy season when birds expend lots of energy claiming territory, seeking out mates, building nests, laying, and incubating eggs, and raising their young. It may be weeks before flowers bloom and insects emerge, which are challenges for birds this time of year. Offering quality feed invites birds to your backyard, and provides a reliable food source, which can have a positive impact on bird's reproductive success and the survival of their young.





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A variety of bird feeder types placed at different heights will always attract more birds than one feeder featuring just one type of seed. Start with two feeder types that will accommodate most feed options:

Bowl feeders are great for serving not only seeds, but also dried mealworms, fruit, and suet in either cake or kibble form. Some come with an adjustable dome cover that you can raise or lower to prevent larger birds and squirrels from getting to the food, and it also helps protect from rain.

Traditional tube feeders are a basic, all-purpose feeder and a must-have for bird feeding, especially for finches, nuthatches, and other small birds that cling.

If you have a specific bird that you'd like to attract to your back yard, such as hummingbirds or or songbirds, ACE Hardware in Linden has bird food, accessories and feeders separated by bird.

Tractor Supply Company (TSC) in Fenton also has a large section of bird feed and accessories. The store continues to do curbside pickup if that is your preference.

Another local store to find quality bird feed and accessories is Family Farm & Home in Fenton. As with TSC, peruse their websites to check out all of their merchandise.

### Most Popular Foods for Spring:

1. Birdseed: Not all birdseed is created equal. Look for quality blends without cheap filler seeds, like red millet and oats. All-natural seed, containing no chemicals or mineral oil are safer and more appealing to birds. Top seed picks for springtime are all-natural Blackoil sunflower, or try Special Feeder blend, packed with favorites including Black Oil Sunflower, Sunflower Meats, Black Striped Sunflower, Raw Peanuts, Safflower, and Pecans, this See **BIRD FEEDING** on 45

#### Sunday, April 18, 2021

#### GARAGE

Continued from Page 27 consistencies and expiration dates. Toss and replace any items that have seen better days. For broken tools that seem salvageable, like cracked hoses or broken handles, reach for a professional grade, heavy-duty duct tape like T-Rex Tape to tackle the repair.

3. Utilize ceiling and wall space with hanging storage. From bicycles and skis to rakes and shovels, some equipment is better off stored up and out of your way. Install hanging racks or shelving above the area where you park your vehicles to store larger, heavier equipment, and use a double-sided mounting tape to attach hooks along the sides of your garage for lighterweight items.

4. Stock up on the essentials so you can make repairs on the fly. While it's great to have a wide assortment of tools and supplies, for many projects and repairs you really just need the basics — think max-strength waterproof tape, bungee cords, a hammer, nails and similar essentials. Use these items as the foundation of your garage workstation and stock up on extras to keep on-hand for emergencies,



Whether you're working on your car or tackling a weekend DIY project, having all your tools and supplies in order will make all the difference. Submitted photo

camping and other on-the-go uses.

5. Give everything a home. Aim to group supplies for similar activities, tasks and repairs together, giving each category a "home." In addition to helping keep things organized in dedicated spaces, hanging frequently used tools and supplies on hooks or pegboard can make it easier to quickly scan the garage and find exactly what you need. Use your mounting tape to safely and securely create a space to store and display all your go-to items.

Source: statepoint.net





in Michigan



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#### Sunday, April 18, 2021

#### SH&G • 32

### TOOLS

Continued from Page 29

## How ergonomic tools differ from traditional gardening tools

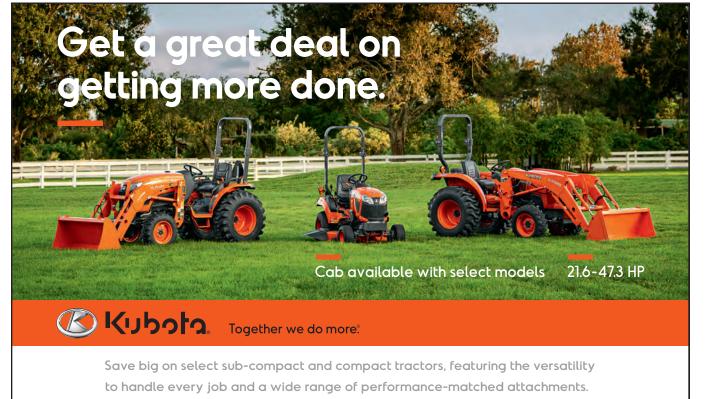
Ergonomic gardening tools are designed to ensure that using them has as little effect on the body as possible. Ergonomic tools align with how a person naturally moves his or her body, which can reduce the likelihood that gardeners will suffer any strains or sprains while gardening or experience any aches and pains after a day spent tending to their landscapes.

#### Choosing the right tools

The West Virginia University Center for Excellence in Disabilities notes that gardeners will know they have chosen the right ergonomic gardening tool for the job when they do not have to adapt the tool. Ergonomic tools should match gardeners' heights, fit their grip and feel comfortable when in use.

**Specific benefits of ergonomic tools** Ergonomic gardening tools are designed in a way that can reduce stress on the body while performing various tasks. Gardeners know that aches and pains can add up after a day spent kneeling in the garden, raking soil and carrying supplies from a shed or garage around the property. But the WVUCED notes that ergonomic tools do more than just reduce gardeners' risk of injury.

• Ergonomic tools increase efficiency. Wasted motions are less likely when using ergonomic tools. That can improve efficiency in the garden, allowing gardeners to get more done in the same amount of time. And because ergonomic tools are designed



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to work with the body, gardeners likely won't need to take breaks due to aches and pains, which also makes it easier to be more efficient when working in the garden.

• Ergonomic tools increase gardeners' capabilities. The WVUCED notes that principles behind ergonomics keep gardeners using the tools in natural positions. That means gardeners won't lose power to bending and twisting, enabling them to do more in the garden than they might be able to do when using non-ergonomic tools.

Gardening is a rewarding and beneficial activity. The right ergonomic tools for the job can enhance those benefits and make gardening even more enjoyable.

### SUCCESS

**Continued from Page 19** Experienced contractors have ample experience working with all sorts of materials and are therefore in a unique position to recommend the best materials for any given job.

Incorrect materials can be a sunken cost that derails a project, but even jobs completed using incorrect materials may need to be redone a lot more quickly than those that employed the right materials the first time. When researching materials, you should also look for energyefficient appliances, windows, walls and more to build a greener home that will last longer and save you money in the long run. You'll want to splurge on items that will boost your property value, like energy-efficient features, creating more living space and a solid foundation.

Weekend warriors should recognize that having the right tools and using them in a correct manner is essential to successful, safe projects. Tools are vital for projects, but without proper understanding and usage, they can cause grave injuries. Use tools that are the right size and right type for the job. If you are uncertain about which tools to use, watch online tutorials, contact tool manufacturers or seek advice at home supply stores. Safety is important to avoid injuries and help prevent delays on the job. Always wear eye protection and the right safety equipment when manufacturers recommend doing so. Gloves, sturdy work boots, hearing protection, and hard hats can help keep you free from injury. And remember: Always let common sense prevail. If it doesn't seem like a good idea, it probably isn't.

#### WEEKEND TIMES

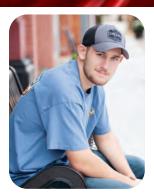
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Email a photo of your 2021 senior to comp@tctimes.com to be included in an upcoming edition. PLEASE INCLUDE GRADUATE'S NAME AND SCHOOL





#### **WEEKEND TIMES**

### **ELECTION**

**Continued from Front Page** Secretary of State's Office, Michigan. gov/sos.

#### **HOW TO VOTE ABSENTEE**

Apply online at Michigan.gov/Vote to have your absentee ballot or accessible absentee ballot sent to you. Vote and submit your ballot at your clerk's drop box or office. Be sure to sign the outside of the envelope.

#### Vote at your clerk's office

Enter your address at Michigan. gov/Vote to find your local election clerk's office. Go to your clerk's office, ask for your absentee ballot, vote, place it back in the envelope, sign it and submit it in one trip.

#### You can register to vote through Election Day

Some clerk's offices have opened satellite offices for voter registration. You must show proof of where you live. Documents must have your name and current address. You can show a digital copy of any document.

## Acceptable documents to register to vote include:

• Michigan driver's license or State ID card

- Current utility bill
- Bank statement
- Paycheck or government check

• Other government document After registering, you can vote an absent voter ballot at the clerk's office or you can vote at your polling place on Election Day.

Military and overseas civilian voters have additional options to register. For more information, go to Michigan.gov/sos

## To be eligible to register to vote you must be:

• A Michigan resident (at the time you register) and a resident of your city or township for at least 30 days (when you vote)

• A United States citizen

• At least 18 years of age (when you vote)

• Not currently serving a sentence in jail or prison

Source: Michigan.gov/sos

#### **VOLUNTEERS** Continued from Page 7

to wear a mask if they are unable to consistently maintain 6 feet or more of social distancing from individuals that are not members of the same household.

Any group interested in adopting a county road section should call the RCOC Permits Division at (248) 858-4891 or send an email to adoptaroad@ rcoc.org.

Interested organizations will receive training, orange safety vests and garbage bags. If requested, RCOC also will provide masks for volunteers.

Additionally, RCOC will erect Adopt-A-Road signs at both ends of the designated road sections recognizing the volunteer groups responsible for the sections. Road segments are approved by the RCOC Board of Road Commissioners.

Participating groups are reminded to call the RCOC Permits Division to arrange pick up of litter bags after the clean-up. RCOC relies on groups to call and verify that contact information is current. Groups needing additional garbage bags or orange vests also can call the Permits Division.

Motorists can help augment the effort by slowing down when volunteers are seen picking up trash along a road and by joining RCOC in reminding others not to litter.

Approximately 521 miles of RCOC roadways have been adopted by 314 groups and organizations. For more information about the Adopt-A-Road program, visit rcocweb.org/218/Adopt-A-Road.

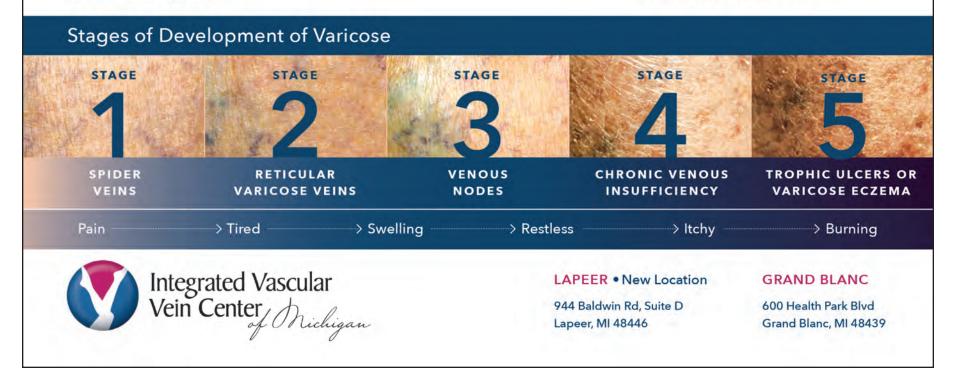


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## Eagles start league season with track victories vs. Bronchos

#### By David Troppens

**Linden** — It was a pretty impressive start to the Flint Metro League season for the Linden track program Tuesday against Holly.

The Linden boys captured 12 firsts and beat Holly 74-35. That was pretty

impressive, but the Linden girls were positive and coming every day to work even more impressive. The Lady Eagles won all but one event and beat the Holly girls 99-6.

"I am so proud of this group of kids to deal with all of the ups and downs and issues going on right now and still staying

hard," Linden varsity track coach Ben Cox said. "I think we are all just excited to be back on the track, training and racing again. It is a bonus to start the league season off with two wins, now we have See EAGLES on 37

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 18, 2021 | PAGE 35 | MYFENTON.COM/SPORTS

**Sports** Times

# Blue Devils win a thriller vs. Goodrich, 1-0

#### **By David Troppens**

Lake Fenton — Before the Lake Fenton varsity girls soccer team played the Goodrich Martians on Wednesday, one of the seniors gave the Blue Devils' young team some quick advice.

"One of our seniors told us the games with them are always close," sophomore Shelby DeRidder said. "We went out and got it this year."

The Blue Devils did just that.

Lake Fenton played outstanding defense for the entire contest and took advantage of one of the team's few great scoring chances to earn a tight and well-earned 1-0 home victory against the Martians Wednesday.

"We knew we were going to have to defend hard," Lake Fenton varsity girls soccer coach Evan Ghoujeghi said. "Goodrich is a solid team. They are figuring out their

system just as we are. We still have a lot of improvement to make, but it's a good sign to see we can win a game 1-nil."

It was a game of limited scoring chances, but most of the chances were provided by the Blue Devils. That didn't keep the first half from finishing 0-0. However, the Blue Devils broke the scoreless tie early in the second half. The Blue Devils earned a corner kick attempt, and DeRidder sent the cross to the farside post. Sitting there was fellow sophomore Makenna Dreyer who put the ball into the net.

"It was a cross and I just put it in the back of the net," Dreyer said. "I think we did a good job with our passing and making good runs."

"Our coach always tells us to about the cross.



drive it so I did that." DeRidder said Lake Fenton's Savannah Reese (front) tries to drive the ball downfield during the Blue Devils' 1-0 victory CONTINUED AT TCTIMES.COM against the Goodrich Martians. Photo: David Troppens



Fenton's Orion Schwiderson won the 110 hurdles in a dual meet against Swartz Creek on Wednesday. Photo: David Troppens

.

## Tigers' track programs open season impressively vs. Swartz Creek Dragons **By David Troppens**

Fenton — The Fenton varsity girls track and field team are four-time defending Flint Metro League champions.

The Fenton varsity boys track and field squad are three-time defending champions.

Both took the first step needed to capture titles once again in 2021.

The Fenton boys crushed Swartz Creek 92.5-44.5 while the Fenton girls also won in pretty dominant fash-See TRACK on 37



#### WEEKEND TIMES

## Tri-County golf squads start Flint Metro season with impressive victories

Tuesday was a positive day for the tricounty boys golf teams.

All four won their first Flint Metro League dual meet of the season.

Fenton scored the best round, beating Swartz Creek 179-223, while Lake Fenton had the closest match, beating Corunna 196-199. Linden defeated Goodrich 192-209 and Holly defeated Owosso 196-229.

The three-time defending Metro League champion Tigers proved they are the team to beat once again in 2021, posting the best team score of any Metro squad on Tuesday.

Dylan Davidson led the Tigers with a

match medalist nine-hole score of 38, and the rest of his teammates shot no worse than 50. Carter Will carded a 45 while Evan Brown and Andrew Hutchins each shot 48s. Hunter Wheeler carded a 49 and Caden Crandall shot a 50 at the Coyote Preserve. Swartz Creek didn't have a golfer shoot better than 50.

Linden's 192 at the Atlas Golf Course was enough to beat Goodrich by 17 strokes. Andrew Skellenger led the Eagles by earning match medalist honors with a 40. He was followed by Aiden Kruger's 49, Anthony Champagne's 50 and Ethan Acker's 53.

**CONTINUED AT TCTIMES.COM** 

## VILLAGE OF HOLLY PUBLIC NOTICE LANDOWNER'S DUTY TO CUT GRASS, REMOVE WEEDS, ETC.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to all owners of land in the Village of Holly, Oakland County, Michigan that they shall not permit grass, weeds, brush, noxious weeds, or other harmful vegetation to attain a height greater than six (6) inches. These conditions are detrimental to the health, comfort, safety and welfare of the inhabitants of the Village and are deemed to be a nuisance. This nuisance shall not be permitted to exist on property in the Village beginning May 1, 2021 and continuing through October 31, 2021.

Growth and accumulation of the offending vegetation shall be cut or removed on all lands 1) to a distance of at least 100 feet from any structure designed for human occupancy or use or 2) to a distance of at least 50 feet from any land owned by another person when no habitable structure is near and 3) to a distance of at least 100 feet from the edge of the road or curb along a street or alley, as applicable.

#### WITHOUT FURTHER NOTICE the Village will take the necessary action to maintain the property free of the nuisance during the months of May, June, July, August, September and October.

Holly Village ordinance provides that expenses incurred in the abatement of the nuisance shall be charged to the owner(s) of the land. Left unpaid, those expenses shall become a lien against the land. Landowners who refuse to destroy the noxious weeds are subject to penalties as provided for by the Village ordinance.

THIS NOTICE IS GIVEN PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 3-06, VILLAGE OF HOLLY CODE.

Deborah J. Bigger Clerk/Treasurer Village of Holly



Lake Fenton's 1,600 run crew begin their competition in a dual meet against Corunna on Thursday. **Photo: David Troppens** 

# Blue Devils open Metro League season vs. Corunna Cavaliers

#### By David Troppens

**Lake Fenton** — The Lake Fenton varsity track and field program were able to get the Metro League season started among the cool Thursday weather against Corunna.

The Blue Devils lost both duals, dropping an 88-45 verdict against Corunna in the men's meet and losing a 90-44 battle in the women's meet.

Joseph Gilbert had the strongest showing among Lake Fenton athletes. He won the 800 (2:07.48) and the 1,600 (4:47.82) while also teaming with Kevin Lewis, Nolan Pinion and Colton Dietrich to win the 3,200 relay (9:24.85). The Blue Devils won three other events. Wyatt Marsh, Sullivan Parsons, Abraham Beadner and Avery Morgan won the 400 relay (51.90) for the team's final relay first. Morgan also won the 100 (12.56) individually while Kevin Lewis won the 3,200 (11:26.40).

The Lake Fenton girls were paced by Lucianna Kamiscke who won two individual events. She took the top spot in the 400 (1:09.22) and the 100 hurdles (20.13). Three others had firsts. Claire Hunt won the 800 (2:45.50) and Emilee Porter won the 300 hurdles (1:01.69). Finally, the 1,600 relay team of Evelyn Riley, Estella Hufton, Bella Lloyd and Hunt also won their race in 5:17.80.

Other Lake Fenton female athletes to earn individual seconds were Loma Perna in the 100 (15.72), MacKenzie McCall in the 400 (1:11.23), Marcella Jenio in the 800 (3:01.30) and Poirer in the 100 hurdles (22.84).

**CONTINUED AT TCTIMES.COM** 

### NOTICE- FAIRVIEW CEMETERY CITY OF LINDEN

Anyone wishing to salvage flowers, wreaths, etc. from Fairview Cemetery should do so by Sunday, April 25, 2021. After that date, they will be removed and disposed of by the sexton of the cemetery.

Scott Fairbanks Sexton of Fairview Cemetery

#### **TRACK** Continued from Page 35

ion 80-52.

The Fenton boys took home 13 first-plcae finishes and two finished with four first-place performances — Justin Miller and Donovan Miller. Justin Miller won the high jump (5foot-8) and was a member on three winning relay teams. He combined with Donovan Miller, Evan Koch and Connor Kendrick to win the 400 relay (47.58); with Miller, Koch and Patrick Hamilton to win the 800 relay (1:38.35); and with Hamilton, Koch, Benjamin Grob to win the 1,600 relay (3:56.47). Donovan Miller took part in both sprint relay victories and also won both

individual sprint races. He won the 100 (11.87) and the 200 (24.32).

The Fenton girls had one four-time winner — Sophia Crane. She dominated the sprint events, winning the 100 (13.69) and the 200 (29.85). Meanwhile,

. . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .

EAGLES

#### **Continued from Page 35**

to use that momentum and see what we can do with it."

The Linden girls were paced by Melanea Strauss who was part of four firsts. She teamed with Shawna Schmandt, Victoria Bransford and Kennedy Hoose to win the 1,600 relay (4:59.15);



Fenton's Victoria Henson won the high jump against Swartz Creek. Photo: David Troppens

she teamed with Eva Berkey, Emma Hall and Isabella Henson to win the 400 relay (56.26) and with Delaney Moon, Victoria Henson and Ava Pyeatt to win the 800 relay (1:58.87).

#### **CONTINUED AT TCTIMES.COM**

and teamed with Nicole Palmer, Madelyn Strauss and Colleen Blackwood to win the 3,200 relay (11:36.28). She also won the 1,600 (6:12.65) and the 800 (2:49.48) individually.

. . . . . . . . .

The Linden boys were led by two athletes finishing with four firsts — Garrett Wagner and Kyle Eberhard. Wagner dominated the sprint events. CONTINUED AT TCTIMES.COM

#### PREP REPORT

#### **GIRLS TENNIS**

Swartz Creek 7, Fenton 1: The Tigers earned a victory at No. 4 singles with Mary Borg earning the win.

Elizabeth Borg lost a tight match at No. 3 singles 3-6, 6-4, 6-3.

#### **GIRLS LACROSSE**

▶ Grand Ledge 10, Fenton/Linden 4: The Heat (3-1) suffered only their first loss of the season against Grand Ledge. Lara Kemp led the Heat with two goals while Jordyn Bliss and Kaitlyn Mossett scored one goal each. Rylee Morse played her first game in net ever and made five saves.

#### **BOYS GOLF**

▶ Linden 188, Flushing 191: The Eagles improved to 2-0 with the tight victory at Spring Meadows Country Club. Andrew Skellenger was match medalist and led the Eagles with a 40. Aiden Krueger and Anthony Champagne each shot 49s while Barron Smiecinski and Connor Skellenger each carded 50s.

The Blue Devils were led by Avery Schaal's 36 at Fenton Farms. Gavin Dolliver chipped in a 52 while Nathan Damic shot a 56. Waylon Dorenzo shot a 59. **GIRLS SOCCER** 

► Linden 3, Flushing 0: The Linden Eagles (3-0) remain undefeated and have yet to allow a goal against Metro League squads this season. Maryn Rettenmund led the offense with to goals while Hannah Wasilewski provided the other Linden goal. In net, Ashtyn Gocha earned her third shutout of the season.

► Grand Blanc 3, Fenton 1: Fenton led 1-0 when Callie Dickens scored a goal off an Evalyn Starasinich assist in the first half, but Grand Blanc scored the game's final three goals.

# Holly track teams fall to Linden Eagles



**Linden** — The Holly varsity boys track and field team began the Metro League season with three individual firsts in a 74-35 loss to the Linden Eagles.

The Holly girls had one inidividual first and lost 99-6 with the Bronchos' shorthanded team.

Josh Hart had a big day for Holly. He won the shot put (40-2) and took seconds in the discus (86-1) and the

Holly's Mason Rosa posted two second-place finishes against the Linden Eagles. **Photo: David Troppens**  long jump (16-5). Marcus Mitchell took the top spot in the 300 hurdles (49.96) while finishing second in the 110 hurdles (20.42). Finally, Nolan Weisdorfer won the 3,200 (10:31.64).

Holly's Aniya Semer won the Lady Bronchos' only event, taking the top spot in the 200. She also placed second in the 100 (13.96).

Mason Rosa had two seconds for the Holly boys, earning the runner-up spot in the 800 (2:23.06) and the 1,600 (5:19.52).

CONTINUED AT TCTIMES.COM

#### VILLAGE OF HOLLY PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Village of Holly is proposing the following ordinance on:

DATE:	May 11, 2021
PLACE:	Zoom meeting at:
	https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85153542107

The proposed ordinance number 464 amends Chapter 154 to regulate Signs in the Village.

The full text of the proposed Ordinance is available for review in the Office of the Village Clerk/Treasurer, 300 East Street, Holly, Michigan, 48442 during regular business hours. Comments concerning the ordinance should be directed to the Village Clerk/Treasurer at the above address or by telephone to (248) 634-9571.

Deborah J. Bigger Clerk/Treasurer Village of Holly



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# Holly tennis cruises to easy Metro win :

#### By David Troppens

The Holly varsity girls tennis team is off to a solid start in Flint Metro League action.

The Bronchos won every flight to defeat Corunna 8-0. Earlier this season, Holly also lost a tight non-league battle to Lakeland 5-4.

In the victory against Corunna, Calli Sokolowski (No. 1) and Makenna McGee (No. 4) won their singles battles by 6-0, 6-0 scores. In doubles action, the No. 4 team of Claire Bednarczyk and Anneliese Thisse also won their match by a 6-0, 6-0 score. Mary Grace McAninch (No. 2 singles) and Lauren Lesch (No. 3 singles) also won matches in straight sets. McAninch won 6-1, 6-0 while Lesch won 6-3, 6-1. Corunna forfeited matches at No. 1 and No. 2 doubles.

Against Lakeland, Sokolowski won her match at No. 1 singles by a 6-0, 6-0 score. The rest of Holly's wins came in doubles action.

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# LF/Goodrich girls lacrosse improving, loses to Swartz Creek Dragons, 22-9

#### **By David Troppens**

Competing with a team of mostly first-year players, the Lake Fenton/ Goodrich varsity girls lacrosse team knew its first few games would be learning lessons.

The co-op apparently is learning some of those lessons.

After losing its first game of the season to the Fenton/Lake Fenton co-op 20-2, the Lake Fenton/Goodrich squad showed great progress in its second Flint Metro League contest despite losing a 22-9 verdict against the Swartz Creek Dragons.

The squad improved its offense by seven goals from its first league game.

"We are definitely making progress," Lake Fenton/Goodrich coach Katie Dolehanty said. "We're hoping to continue improving in our game on Friday."

Goalie Danielle Jackson had 20 saves in net. Offensively, Faith Kent led the squad with three goals while Morgan Ignash and Grace Hough had two goals each. Others scoring a goal were Chloe Hnilica and Bella Marks.

Lake Fenton/Goodrich's Morgan Ignash scored two goals in a contest against Swartz Creek. Photo: David Troppens

The program played the Holly/Brandon co-op on Friday. Results were not known at presstime.

## LF softball sweeps Corunna in season opener

It was a little bit of a wait, but after a couple of cancellations, the Lake Fenton varsity softball team started its season during Thursday's cold and windy conditions.

The conditions didn't bother the Blue Devils as they cruised to a doubleheader sweep at Corunna, defeating the hosts 13-1 and 8-5.

In the opener, Camryn McMillan was the star on at the plate and on the mound. Offensively, she hit her first ever varsity home run in her first varsity at bat in the first inning, a solo shot that fought the 13mph wind blowing in as it traveled over the centerfield fence for the first of two runs scored in the first inning. She also led the team with three hits and five RBI.

On the mound, McMillan struck out 12 of the 23 batters she faced. She only allowed four hits and two walks while tossing 69 strikes among her 97 pitches. Defensively, the Blue Devils made no errors.



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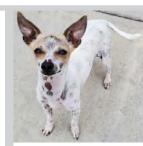


www.stitchesnthings.com

Alexa I am a curious 2 year old girl who loves snack and play time.

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BeBe is 6 months and 6 pounds. She's a tiny, playful girl with a big personality!

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# **Independent Bookstore Day is April 24**

### ■Local bookstore plans giveaways, sales and surprises

#### By Hannah Ball

Independent Bookstore Day is Saturday, April 24, and local bookstores are preparing.

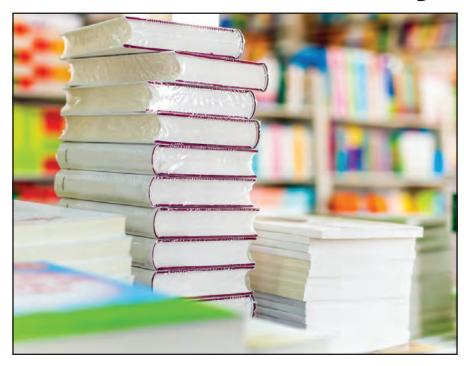
Karen Piacentini, owner of Fenton's Open Book, said the theme for this year is "amazing books, amazing bookstore."

"A town isn't a town without a bookstore," she said.

Independent Bookstore Day is a nationally recognized day to support local bookstores. Larger organizations, such as the American Booksellers Association and the Great Lakes Independent Booksellers Association, plan talks and events, and they provide support to smaller bookstores.

Glennon Doyle is a 2021 Bookstore Day Author Ambassador, and she's doing a free Zoom talk Thursday, April 22. Dan Rather, author of "What Unites Us: Reflections on Patriotism," was a spokesperson last year.

Fenton's Open Book has been open



for more than 10 years, and Piacentini has participated in the event ever since.

"We want to keep it simple with CO-VID still going on. We're still going to have lots of fun stuff inside the store," Piacentini said. Inside the store, customers will find prizes, giveaways and sales, including exclusive merchandise specific to Independent Bookstore Day. They'll have signed copies of books by local authors and nationally known authors such as Stephen King. Piacentini has been posting about these on the store's Facebook.

Local author Brenda Hasse will be there promoting her latest book on human trafficking. They'll also have copies of "How to Resist Amazon and Why" by Danny Caine.

"It's best to shop local," Piacentini said. "We appreciate everyone that supports a local store."

They'll have prepackaged food and chocolates from Sweet Variations.

One goal of the holiday is to remind people that local bookstores can order books if they're not carried in the store. They can sign customers up for an emailed newsletter through Shelf Awareness to receive information about new books. Customers also can shop online at bookshop.org. A portion of the proceeds goes to independent bookstores.

The pandemic and shut down orders forced many businesses to temporarily shut down, and bookstores in Michigan weren't an exception. However, many still fulfilled orders and kept business going.

See BOOK STORE on 45







DEADLINES: SUNDAY PAPER: Display Ads: Wednesday 3 p.m. • Line Ads: Noon Thursday • WEDNESDAY PAPER: Display Ads: Monday 3 p.m. • Line Ads: Noon Tuesday



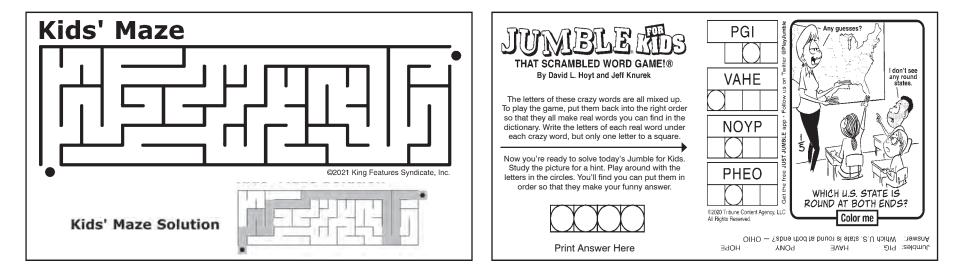
WEEKEND TIMES

# Service Directory





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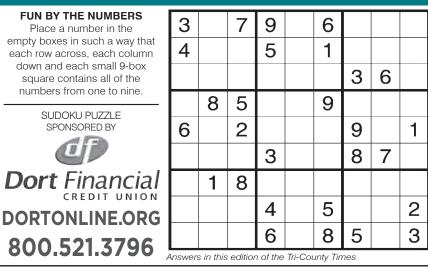
# Service Directory

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#### WEEKEND TIMES

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# Puzzle Answers

Midweek Sudoku, Crossword Puzzle and Jumbles are located in the last Midweek's issue. All other puzzles are located throughout this edition of the Tri-County Times.

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#### **BIRD FEEDING**

myfenton.com

Continued from Page 30 blend attracts the greatest number of wild birds.

2. Dried Mealworms: Full of energy, essential nutrients, fats and proteins, mealworms are a preferred food for adult insect loving songbirds. Plus, in early spring if the ground is still hard, birds may struggle to extract insects and worms from soil so providing them with a supply of mealworms can help them get the protein and energy they need. Dried mealworms are easy to feed, less messy, and there's no "ick" factor experienced with live worms.

3. Fresh Fruit: Apple and orange halves and chunks of banana are favorites for orioles and tanagers. 4. Suet: Perfect for insect-eating birds, high-fat food provides abundant calories and rich nutrition. Some believe suet should only be offered in winter months due to possible melting. Suet is a favorite of woodpeckers all year, but in spring, tanagers, warblers, and bluebirds love this high-energy treat.

\* Add water — although natural sources of water will be much more abundant, it's still a good idea to provide a fresh water supply, particularly if birds are nesting in your backyard. Providing a nearby water source means birds don't need to go too far from the nest to drink and bathe which could leave their eggs or hatchlings vulnerable to predators.

Using the right feeders and highquality feed will enhance and entice more birds to your backyard for your ongoing enjoyment.

## BOOK STORE

Continued from Page 39

Piacentini said there are new bookstores opening in Michigan and across the nation. She said the only time a bookstore is closing is when they lost their lease or they're doing more online orders as opposed to in-store business.

"For our town, we've been open since June and we appreciate everyone that's come into the store," she said. "It's been an interesting year. Last March, when we were closed until June, we did a lot of puzzles and running around. Some days would be busy, some not. After we opened in June, we felt people were coming out and trying to support us. I think sales were up, which is great." This year, Piacentini said they'll take advantage of the street closures on Thursday and Friday in downtown Fenton, which begin at the end of May, to have author events on the sidewalks and invite local authors. She was happy to hear the city decided to do the street closures again this year. Many of these events will depend on the weather.

She's also working on being a part of a few online events through the Great Lakes Independent Booksellers Association with authors Kate Moore, who wrote "Radium Girls," and Christina Clancy, who wrote "Shoulder Season."

They still require that people wear masks inside the store and hand sanitizer is available.

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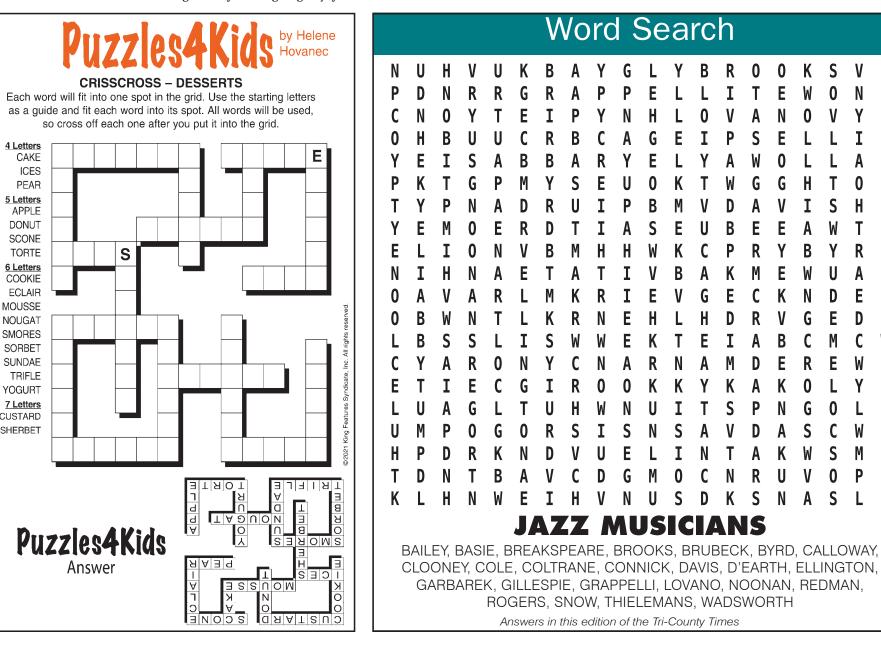
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#### WEEKEND TIMES

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# Obituaries

#### **Robert Brett Butler**

1962 - 2021 Robert Brett Butler - age 58 of Fenton, entered into rest on Friday, April 9, 2021, two days shy of his 59th birthday. A lifelong resident of Fenton, he relocated to Aiken County, SC in January of 2021. He was employed by Holland Heating & Cooling. Brett was a true example of living a "Lake Life." Anything that had to do with the lake from barefoot waterskiing to building model boats. Brett was known by many of his friends, as the person who always helped you and never once asked for help himself. Family members include his mother, Sharon Lee Branz Butler, Graniteville SC; siblings, Ron Butler, Topeka KS, and Shawn Ridgeway, Fenton; nephews and nieces. Daniel Davis. Tristan Butler, Tayron Butler. Sterlina Ridgeway, Shardon Ridgeway, Shaina Ridgeway; and his beloved pets, Donzi and Splash. Plans for a Celebration of Life service are incomplete and will be announced. The family has asked that memorials be made to the American Cancer Society (www.cancer.org) Visit www. HatcherFuneralHome.com to share memories and leave a message of condolence for the family.

#### **Walter Haiec**

Walter Hajec - age 88, died April 10, 2021. Services provided by Sharp Funeral Homes. www. sharpfuneralhomes.com.



#### **Thomas Murdoch**

Thomas Murdoch - age 81, died April 14, 2021. Services provided by Sharp Funeral Homes. www. sharpfuneralhomes.com.



James Joseph Grubba - age 77. of Fenton. died Sunday. November 29, 2020. A Memorial Gathering will be held Saturday, April 24, 2021 from 1 - 5 PM at Sharp Funeral Homes:

Fenton Chapel. 1000 Silver Lake Road, Fenton. Those desiring may make contributions to the Susan G. Komen Foundation or the American Heart Association. James was born December 24. 1942 in Hamtramck. the son of George and Veronica (Koltuniak) Grubba. He was a 1960 graduate of St. Ladislaus Catholic High School in Hamtramck. He was a veteran of the U.S. Navy where was a Corpsman. He married Sandra L. Olszewski September 5. 1964 in Hamtramck. He owned and operated J & S Sales.



### **VIEW OBITUARIES ONLINE.** MYFENTON.COM

#### Sylvia Marie-**Honeycutt Swirple**

Sylvia Marie-Honeycutt Swirple - age 70, died April 10, 2021. Services provided by Sharp Funeral Homes. www. sharpfuneralhomes.com.



#### **Roberta**"Bobbie"Pastor

Roberta "Bobbie" Pastor - age 87, died April 10, 2021. Services provided by Sharp Funeral. www. sharpfuneralhomes.com.



#### **James Joseph Grubba** 1942 - 2020



James was a member of the Fenton Loval Order of Moose Lodge #430. He was an avid golfer and he organized the annual K.G.F. Golf Memorial outina. Surviving are his wife of

56 years. Sandra: daughter. Karin and husband Dan Wilbanks of Lake Worth, FL; grandsons, Christopher and wife, Chelsea Farrell, Ryan and wife, Alyssa Farrell; brother. Thomas and wife. Carol Grubba: and nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents; daughter. Kimberly Farrell: and brother. Paul Grubba. Tributes may be shared at www. sharpfuneralhomes.com.



#### Salvatore "Sam" Cosentino

Salvatore "Sam" Cosentino - age 93, died April 9, 2021. Services provided by Sharp Funeral Homes. www. sharpfuneralhomes.com.



**Michael Hamp** Michael Hamp - age 80, died April 10, 2021 Services provided by Sharp Funeral Homes. www. sharpfuneralhomes.com.



#### John VanConant

John VanConant - age 70, died April 13, 2021. Services provided by Sharp Funeral Homes. www. sharpfuneralhomes.com.



#### **Joshua Osinger**

Joshua Osinger - age 40, died April 11, 2021. Services provided by Sharp Funeral Homes. www. sharpfuneralhomes.com.



#### **Marlene Allen**

Marlene Allen - age 82, died April 12, 2021. Services provided by Sharp Funeral Homes. www. sharpfuneralhomes.com.



#### **Patricia Keller**

Patricia Keller - age 81, died April 9, 2021. Services provided by Sharp Funeral Homes. www. sharpfuneralhomes.com.



#### **Daniel "Dan" Johnson**

Daniel "Dan" Johnson age 77, died April 7, 2021. Services provided by Sharp Funeral Homes, www. sharpfuneralhomes.com.



#### **Donna Bennett**

Donna Bennett - age 72, died April 11, 2021. Services provided by Sharp Funeral Homes. www. sharpfuneralhomes.com.



#### **Janilea Fugate**

Janilea Fugate - age 73, died April 12, 2021. Services provided by Sharp Funeral Homes. www. sharpfuneralhomes.com.



#### **William Trembath**

William Trembath - age 92, died April 12, 2021. Services provided by Sharp Funeral Homes. www. sharpfuneralhomes.com.



#### **Theresa Raad**

Theresa Raad - age 62, died April 10, 2021. Services provided by Sharp Funeral Homes. www. sharpfuneralhomes.com.



#### **Tinda Irish**

Tinda Irish - age 51, died April 9, 2021. Services provided by Sharp Funeral Homes. www. sharpfuneralhomes.com.



#### **Gareth "Gary" Chaney**

Gareth "Gary" Chaney - age 87, died April 10, 2021. Services provided by Sharp Funeral Homes, www. sharpfuneralhomes.com.



#### **James "Jim" Jones**

James "Jim" Jones - age 77, died April 7, 2021. Services provided by Sharp Funeral Homes. www. sharpfuneralhomes.com.



**i imes** 

# Obituaries

#### **Robert Landers**

Robert Landers - age 91, died April 8, 2021. Services provided by Sharp Funeral Homes. www. sharpfuneralhomes.com.



#### **Carol Streeter**

Carol Streeter - age 67, died April 9, 2021. Services provided by Sharp Funeral Homes. www. sharpfuneralhomes.com.



#### **Shirley Bryant**

Shirley Bryant - age 90, died April 9, 2021. Services provided by Sharp Funeral Homes. www. sharpfuneralhomes.com.



#### Mischele "Shelly" Walton

Mischele "Shelly" Walton - age 54, died April 11, 2021. Services provided by Sharp Funeral Homes. www. sharpfuneralhomes.com.



#### FUNERAL ETIQUETTE WHAT CAN I DO TO HELP LATER?

In the days and months to come, the family will continue to need your support. Try to write or call on a regular basis. Continue to include them in your social plans, they will let you know when they are ready to participate. It is also nice to remember the family on special occasions during the first year following the death. Don't worry about bringing up the pain and emotion of the loss, they are well aware of that. By remembering such occasions as wedding

such occasions as wedding anniversaries and birthdays, you are not remembering the death, but reaffirming that a life was lived.

Source: Thefuneralsource.org



# D. Kay Szegi

1938 - 2021 D. Kay Szegi - age 82, of Linden, died Wednesday, April 14, 2021. Funeral services will be held 12:30 PM Monday, April 19. 2021 at Sharp Funeral Homes. Fenton Chapel, 1000 W. Silver Lake Rd., Fenton, with Fr. David Harvey officiating. Interment will follow at Great Lakes National Cemetery. Visitation will be held 4 - 8 PM Sunday, April 18 and 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM Monday at the funeral home. Contributions may be made to the American Heart Association. Kay was born June 30, 1938 in Johnstown, PA, the daughter of Dean E. and Margaret (Chappel) Mardis. She married James Szegi on March 4, 1978 in Highland and he preceded her in death on September 4, 2006. Kay was a member of St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church, she enjoyed crocheting, reading and gardening. Kay loved her family and spending time with grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Surviving are three sons, Michael (Donna) Mitch of Linden, Thomas Mitch of White Lake and Barry (Jennifer) Mitch of Hartland; seven grandchildren, Jessi, Carl, Danny, Thomas, Steven, Kristen, and Barry, Jr.; six greatgrandchildren, siblings, Gretta Seageren of Milford, Barry Mardis of Howell and Jean DePlanche of Howell. She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, James; daughter-in-law, Marie Mitch; sister-in-law, Sue Mardis. Tributes may be shared at www. sharpfuneralhomes.com.

# LOOKING BACK at this week in **HISTORY**

COMPILED BY SHARON STONE

#### APRIL 18

**1906**: At 5:13 a.m., an earthquake estimated at close to 8.0 on the Richter scale strikes San Francisco, California, killing an estimated 3,000 people as it topples numerous buildings. The quake was caused by a slip of the San Andreas Fault over a segment about 275 miles long. Shock waves could be felt from southern Oregon down to Los Angeles. San Francisco's brick buildings and wooden Victorian structures were especially devastated. Fires immediately broke out and-because broken water mains prevented firefighters from stopping them, firestorms soon developed citywide.

#### **APRIL 19**

1775: At about 5 a.m., 700 British troops, on a mission to capture Patriot leaders and seize a Patriot arsenal, march into Lexington to find 77 armed minutemen under Captain John Parker waiting for them on the town's common green. British Major John Pitcairn ordered the outnumbered Patriots to disperse, and after a moment's hesitation, the Americans began to drift off the green. Suddenly, a shot was fired from an undetermined gun, and a cloud of musket smoke soon covered the green. When the brief Battle of Lexington ended. eight Americans lay dead or dying and 10 others were wounded. Only one British soldier was injured, but the American Revolution had begun.

#### **APRIL 20**

**1999**: On this day, two teenage gunmen kill 13 people in a shooting spree at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colorado, south of Denver. At approximately 11:19 a.m., Dylan Klebold, 18, and Eric Harris, 17, dressed in trench coats, began shooting students outside the school before moving inside to continue their rampage. By 11:35 a.m., Klebold and Harris had killed 12 fellow students and a teacher and wounded another 23 people. Shortly after noon, the two teens turned their guns on themselves and committed suicide.

#### APRIL 21

2016: On this morning, Prince, the polymathic musician who created more than 30 albums and won seven Grammy Awards over a 40-year career, is found dead in Paisley Park, his Minnesota home and recording studio. The cause of death was an accidental overdose of the opioid fentanyl. He was 57 years old. In the hours and days after the news broke, fans around the world mourned his death with massive memorials. As a teenager, Prince played in bands with his friends. In 1978, when he was 20, he signed his first record contract with Warner Bros., and that same vear released his debut album. For You. Nearly every year after that he released a new album.

#### APRIL 22

**1970**: Earth Day, an event to increase public awareness of the world's environmental problems, is celebrated in the United States for the first time April 22, 1970. Millions of Americans, including students from thousands of colleges and universities, participated in rallies, marches and educational programs across the country. Earth Day was the brainchild of Senator Gaylord Nelson of Wisconsin, a staunch environmentalist who hoped to provide unity to the grassroots environmental movement and increase ecological awareness.

#### APRIL 23

**1564**: The English dramatist and poet William Shakespeare is born in Stratfordupon-Avon. It is impossible to be certain the exact day on which he was born, but church records show that he was baptized April 26, and three days was a customary amount of time to wait before baptizing a newborn. Shakespeare's date of death is conclusively known, however: it was April 23, 1616. He was 52 years old and had retired to Stratford three years before.

#### APRIL 24

**1916**: on Easter Monday in Dublin, Ireland, the Irish Republican Brotherhood, a secret organization of Irish nationalists led by Patrick Pearse, launches the so-called Easter Rebellion, an armed uprising against British rule. Assisted by militant Irish socialists under James Connolly, Pearse and his fellow Republicans rioted and attacked British provincial government headquarters across Dublin and seized the Irish capital's General Post Office.

