

Fixing traffic on Silver Lake Road

■ This is part three in a series on Silver Lake Road traffic and area population growth

By Hannah Ball

How do you fix the traffic on Silver Lake Road? Fenton officials have discussed the idea of widening

Silver Lake Road from two lanes to four underneath the U.S. 23 overpass. They're also working to implement recommended changes from a traffic study done in 2018.

Fenton's population increased 7,824 from 1950 (4,226) to 2020 (12,050). Along with residential and neighborhood growth, Fenton also experienced an increase in business development over the past few

decades. This all adds to increased traffic on Silver Lake Road, which has remained two lanes in most sections.

Fenton City Manager Lynn Markland said when "Big Box" stores started coming to the city in the 1990s, the city started becoming a regional hub for commercial shopping.

See **TRAFFIC** on 10



SALUTE TO VETERANS
Special section included with this edition

Midweek Times

VOL. 28 NO. XLV

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2021

\$1.00

City decides on water meter opt-out fee

■ Linden works to upgrade water system, install more efficient meters

By Hannah Ball

Linden — Linden City Council will charge residents who opt out of receiving new water meters \$35.19 a quarter.

The council voted 6-1 on Monday, Nov. 8. Two weeks prior, the council approved a 20% upcharge fee for residents who were non-responsive when the city reached out to change their meters to an upgraded system. Residents who chose to opt out entirely will be charged \$35.19 per quarter to read the meters.

See **WATER** on 8



Photo: Hannah Ball

The Fairview Cemetery Veterans Monument in the Linden cemetery has flags from every branch of the military, along with dedication plaques and a memorial bench. Recently, the committee working to bring a Veteran's Memorial to Fenton's Freedom Park was reconvened. **Read more in the Salute to Veterans section in this edition.**

County faces unique EMS ambulance challenges

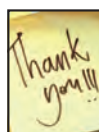
■ EMS professional describes the issues facing Genesee County residents

By Hannah Ball

Local municipal leaders have expressed frustration over long wait times for ambulances. One EMS professional attributes it to Genesee County's unique system.

During a Monday, Nov. 1 meeting in which Fenton Township entered

See **AMBULANCE** on 7



“Thank you to our great American Veterans. Your patriotic service and the hardship you endured on behalf of this great country are truly appreciated. Your dedication to honor, duty, and loyalty is an ideal standard for the rest of us. Thank you.”



“Stop the time-change. How do we get it on ballot? They talked about stopping it but never do. Totally hate it. Depressing. I'm not the only one.”



“From one veteran to another, thank you for your service. Anywhere, anytime: I got your six.”





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Hundreds of people attended Linden's That What She Shed event on Saturday, Nov. 6 for shopping, prizes, raffles and more. Photo: Hannah Ball

Ladies Night Out returns to Linden

■ Downtown full of people shopping for That's What She Shed


By Hannah Ball

Linden — Linden's That What She Shed had one of the biggest attendances for a Ladies Night Out in the city.

Hundreds of people walked around downtown Linden on Saturday, Nov. 6 to shop and support local businesses. Shops had sales and drinks available, and they gave out "Ladies Night Out bucks" to customers. These tickets were used to enter drawings to win gift baskets, which were donated from dozens of businesses from Linden and


Fenton. Attendees enjoyed walking through the Linden VFW Hall and talking with a dozen local vendors setting clothes, Linden merchandise, candles, jewelry and more. The event was put on by Happening in Linden. New this year was the beer tent set up outside the VFW Hall.

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Sharin' the spotlight

By Editor Sharon Stone

Tomorrow, Thursday, Nov. 11 is Veterans Day. An Act approved May 13, 1938 made the 11th of November in each year a legal holiday — a day to be dedicated to the cause of world peace and to be thereafter celebrated and known as “Armistice Day.”

In today's Midweek edition of the Times, we honor our veterans and the sacrifices that the men and woman made to serve our country.

For nearly two years, the Times has been running the Honoring Our Veterans column on page three in every issue. Sharp Funeral Homes sponsors every one of these columns. Please keep sending me information your military service or about the veteran in your life to sstone@tctimes.com. We are honored to present so many of our veterans to our readers.

There are local Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFWs) and American Legion posts in the tri-county area. Most are seeking new members to keep their posts vital and a source to help other veterans. In Holly, veterans and their families are welcome to reach out to the Holly Area Veterans Resource Center. Veterans are invited any Tuesday or Wednesday to play cards, socialize, tell

Thank you, veterans

stories and more.

We all have a veteran or veterans in our life, whether we served ourselves or a loved one did. Although I did not serve, my late father, Don Richey, served stateside in the U.S. Air Force during the Korean War time. Speaking of the Korean War, it was an honor to interview Ken Maxwell, another veteran of the Korean War, for a story in today's edition. He's 91. The Times featured him in 2012 when he received his Purple Heart because of all of his injuries he sustained.

Some of our veterans come home injured, traumatized, overwhelmed,



Sharon Stone

depressed and more. It also was encouraging to hear how Jill Haas of Warrior Path Home has helped so many veterans who have either reached out to her for virtual therapy sessions or those who have been referred to her by a loved one. There is help for veterans who need help getting their lives back on track after a possibly life-altering experience.

Some of my closest friends served in the military or have children in the military right now. I commend my friends Patricia and Toby Morris who both served.

See **SHARON** on 9

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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.

SIX OF US ladies attended Linden's Ladies Night Out on Saturday, Nov. 6. I want to say a big thank you to Flair Salon and Miracle on Broad Street for the extra nice goodie bags you handed out.

■■■

I HOPE THE new litter ordinance is also used to charge anyone who dumps illegal business yard signs on parkways, intersections, and utility poles.

■■■

REMAIN ENGAGED LOCALLY -- school board, council, county commissioners, etc. They were used to carte blanche because nobody was paying attention.

■■■

ACCORDING TO THE Birdwatcher's website, the 65,000 wind turbines in American kill 540,000 birds annually. Cats kill 135 million. House collisions kill 16 million. A cleaner environment will more than make up for the minor turbine loss.

■■■

SCOTTISH PHILOPOHER DAVE Hume observed that 'there is no such thing as freedom of choice unless there is there is freedom to refuse.' I agree.

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

What's a great book you've read recently?



"The Last Thing He Told Me' by Laura Dave. She's a talented writer that takes you on a heartfelt journey with a bit of mystery. I liked her writing so much that I checked out her other book 'Eight Hundred Grapes from the Library.'"

—Adrienne Conner, Hartland



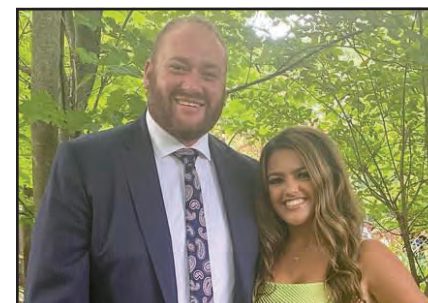
"Got a free book at Fenton library today. 'The Women of the Copper Country' about Calumet MI. It is historical fiction about copper mines in the U.P."

—Barbara Harris
Fenton



"Project Hail Mary' by Andy Weir. One of the best books I've ever read. Great science fiction story of friendship, struggle, overcoming obstacles, etc."

—Nancy Vance
Fenton



"'Extreme Ownership'-Jocko Willink."

—Drew Shapiro
Fenton

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Ask the

judge

Small Claims Court

In 1981, a television show called "The People's Court" debuted. It starred retired Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Joseph Wapner and featured trials of small claims cases in a courtroom setting.

Believe it or not, it took six years for the producers to convince any station to air it because it was believed that viewers simply wouldn't be interested. Of course, Judge Wapner proved them all wrong and today, there are so many similar court shows on television that it's hard to keep track of them all.

Since these shows have a widespread appeal and people are clearly interested, I will present some additional information on small claims in Michigan.

Michigan's Small Claims Court is a division of the District Court created by statute in 1968.

There are no lawyers, no jury trials, and no appeals.

Currently, the maximum amount that a plaintiff can sue a defendant for is \$6,500. This amount increases to \$7,000 on January 1, 2024.

Small claims cases can be for

almost any type of money damages, but claims for fraud, libel, slander, assault, battery, and other intentional wrongs are prohibited.

At the trial the rules of substantive law apply but other procedural rules do not, including the Rules of Evidence. The judge conducts the trial in an informal manner so as to do substantial justice to the parties.

All witnesses are put under oath and each side is then allowed to present their respective sides of the story in their own words. If the plaintiff prevails, a judgment for damages and court costs is entered which can be collected as any other civil judgment.

A defendant then has the right to request that the judgment be paid in installments. If the request is granted, the plaintiff cannot attempt to collect it using any other method as long as the defendant's payments remain current.

There is much more to small claims cases but I can't detail everything here. However, for those interested, the Michigan Supreme Court and Michigan Legal Help websites have a wealth of additional small claims court information.

Small claims court gives litigants a quick, inexpensive and fair determination of their disputes and has proven to be an important part of our system of justice.

HOT LINE CONTINUED

■■■
I WOULD LIKE to thank my neighbors David and Kelly for always having a well-manicured lawn and helping me take care of mine as well.

■■■
HOT LINES PRINTS some of the most stupid statements. Some are funny, though the writers are really serious about what they believe.

■■■
GOOD TO SEE the street bond passed. During construction, the city should also curb and grass all parkways in Dibbleville. Help stop the classless and illegal act of parking on front lawns and parkways.

■■■
WHEN ARE THE Fenton police going to start patrolling Silver Lake Parkway, Silver Lake and Owen roads? The tailgating and speeding are insane. Do your jobs, FPD.

■■■
MY TAXES WENT up \$500 last year and are going up at least \$400 to pay for roads being fixed. Fenton is being taxed to death.

■■■
HOW COME NOBODY cares or reports on the long-term lead poisoning occurring in Benton Harbor, Michigan? Higher levels of lead and a much longer delay in response from the state than occurred in Flint. But there is no coverage or outrage. Why?

■■■
IT IS NEVER appropriate for exposed undergarments including bra straps. Sick of this disgusting slovenly trend. Get a clue.

■■■
WHAT HAPPENED TO common sense? If it did not work the first time, nor the second? Will it work the third?

AMBULANCE

Continued from Front Page

into an agreement with Medstar to provide ambulance services, Medstar CEO Kolby Miller said the way Genesee County operates with EMS ambulance services has oddities that only exist within this county.

In other Michigan counties and in other states, counties or municipalities have a dedicated EMS ambulance provider that contracts under service agreements. "In those places, there is an identified EMS provider for every city, township, village," Miller said.

This is not the case in Genesee County. In this county, multiple EMS ambulance companies provide coverage, and Genesee County 911 Dispatch Authority assigns the closest ambulance to respond to a scene.

Miller said this results in ambulance crews parking in areas and cities with the highest density population. Those living farther away from downtowns and highly populated areas experience longer wait times for emergency medical care.

"To get the number of calls to be sustainable, you have to be close to where incidents happen. The downside is that the

farther away ambulances are, the longer the response times," Miller said.

During that November meeting, Fenton Township Supervisor Vince Lorraine and Fenton Township Fire Chief Ryan Volz mentioned how for one tier one call, which includes cardiac arrests, it took an ambulance 22 minutes to arrive. Miller mentioned a report from the State 911 Committee that found that always calling the closest ambulance is an unstable EMS system.

"There have been more ambulance companies that have come and gone from Genesee County than any other county in the state," Miller said. "For the rest of the county, we use designated providers."

Police and fire departments are entities dedicated to serving a designated area. Fenton, Linden, Argentine Township and Holly provide their own law enforcement, and other municipalities, such as Fenton Township, choose to contract with the Genesee County Sheriff's Office.

Miller said they need to look at how other communities work to bring stability to their EMS systems. With a designated ambulance system, there will occasionally be instances when an ambulance that's

farther away will be sent to an incident as opposed to an ambulance that's in a different municipality but physically closer.

Miller warns against using theoretical "what if" questions "to justify the broken delivery model where there's a 40 minute response time in Atlas Township."

"When it's municipal based, the system improves and response times improve. What's more beneficial is an EMS system that consistently provides appropriate response times," he said.

Miller said there's a lack of accountability allowed at the municipal level.

If a supervisor or mayor from a Genesee County municipality makes a complaint, Miller said the review committee reviews the complaint, but does not discuss outcomes or findings with the person who made the complaint because it's a protected committee.

"In this county, mayors and councils have no input into who provides medical assistance in ambulances," he said. This is why Fenton Township entered into the agreement with Medstar. This company has similar contracts with multiple municipalities in the county.

Miller said with this model, local lead-

HOT LINE CONTINUED

■■■

TO RECENT HOTLINER: I would love to know where the source of the statistic that 'a single, wind turbine kills 100,000 birds annually.'

■■■

I JUST ENJOYED my first take-out since before 'COVID times.' Thank you, Panera and Starbucks employees, for wearing your mask and gloves while making food and working hard all day to make people happy! It really matters to me.

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ers have more input. However, Genesee County 911 still has final authority on who is called to medical emergencies. In September, Genesee County 911 made a motion to recognize certain EMS contracts between municipalities and EMS providers. However, they also voted to dispatch the closest ambulance despite the contracts.

See **AMBULANCE** on 8



Pucks For Paws Friday Night!

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Friday Nov 12, 7PM



VS.



Double Header Weekend!



Saturday Nov 13, 7PM



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WATER

Continued from Front Page

Interim Public Works Director Thomas Trice said they considered equipment costs, administrative costs, treasurer costs and other factors to arrive at the number.

Linden has been working with Ferguson Water Works to conduct a citywide water meter upgrade program beginning Sept. 14. The project, which costs approximately \$520,735, entails replacing about 900 old water meters in Linden buildings with upgraded

and more efficient Neptune water meters, along with using Neptune 360 software.

Much of the old equipment was from the 1970s and needed to be replaced. With the updated software, the information can be read on command.

They'll be able to use handheld devices so they don't have to go into homes to obtain the readings.

The city will have to physically go into the houses of the residents who opted out in order to read the meter. These customers will be required to

sign a waiver.

At the beginning of the program, they identified 875 obsolete meters in the system. As of late October, Utility Metering Solutions successfully upgraded 778 obsolete meters, or have made appointments to do so, and 97 remain. This is 89% completion. Of these, 63 are listed as non-responsive.

Staff recommended an up charge fee of 20% the average water usage to encourage compliance.

City Manager Ellen Glass said they've had staffing issues and switch-

ing over water meters will make water monitoring more efficient in the city by helping them detect leaks and water loss. During housing inspections during a change of ownership, these meters would be changed out. Credit will be given or they will compensate these residents with a check.

During the June meeting, Steve Berra with Ferguson said there are people who have reservations with radio signals going through their house, and in these situations, usually the municipality will allow an exception. Treasurer Brooke Card said two residents are opting out due to health concerns and two others are temporarily opting out due to personal health situations.

With the decision on Monday, Nov. 8, the city will have an official record of who chooses to opt out.

Councilor Ray Culbert thanked the staff for their work. "I think if these numbers are correct, which I believe they are, this is a good solution," he said.

Councilor Aaron Wiens said based on what other cities have done, he thinks it is "perfectly acceptable."

Councilor Brad Dick was the dissenting vote. He said he would prefer a \$25 fee instead.

AMBULANCE

Continued from Page 7

One other factor is the impact response times have in providing medical care. Miller said the standard for emergency response time is 8:59, and this does not include first aid provided by a fire department, who responds to most critical calls.

"We are finding that response times have less of a medical outcome on patients with the exception of cardiac arrest," Miller said, adding that a shorter wait time is not going to have an impact on situations where someone breaks a bone. There's also an added risk to ambulance crews and other motorists when EMS crews put on the lights and drive through traffic.

Some municipalities fund EMS services through a millage, such as Livingston County, and Miller said that's not always necessary.

"In the communities that we engage in for community level service agreements, there's not a need for subsidy or support from communities. The volume provides enough support," he said.

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Dr. Bobby Mukkamala elected to Mott Foundation board

From Charles Stewart Mott Foundation

Flint —Dr. Bobby Mukkamala, a nationally renowned otolaryngologist in private practice in Flint, has been elected to the board of trustees of the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, which is headquartered in the city. Mukkamala will begin serving on the board on Jan. 1, 2022.



Dr. Bobby Mukkamala

“My parents moved to Flint in 1972 as immigrants from India,” Mukkamala said. “Flint is where I grew up and where I returned after I finished my medical training. I left here as an individual and came back as a family with my wife, Nita, and our newborn twin sons, Nikhil and Deven.

“I have watched our city’s struggles and our successes, and I have always been thankful for the legacy and vision of Charles Stewart Mott and the Mott Foundation,” Mukkamala said. “Our trajectory as a community would be much different without Mott support. I am humbled and honored to be in discussions about the future of our city, our country and our world with my fellow trustees and Mott staff. I look forward to learning more about and contributing to our capacity to make our world more just, equitable and sustainable.”

Mukkamala is a board-certified otolaryngologist/head and neck surgeon who earned his medical degree from the

University of Michigan Medical School and completed his residency at Loyola University Medical Center in Chicago. He is chair of the board of trustees of the American Medical Association and a past recipient of the of the organization’s “Excellence in Medicine” Leadership Award. He is past president of both the Michigan State Medical Society and the Genesee County Medical Society. He also is a past chair of the board of the Community Foundation of Greater Flint and chair emeritus of the Crim Fitness Foundation.

“The Mott Foundation is grateful that Dr. Mukkamala has agreed to bring not only the breadth of his knowledge and experience to the board, but also his passion for helping residents of Flint and the state of Michigan to be able to live their best and fullest lives,” said Ridgway White, who chairs Mott’s board of trustees and serves as the Foundation’s president and CEO. “As a tireless advocate who works to ensure all people have equitable opportunities to succeed and thrive, he’s a leader in the Flint community. We know his guidance will be invaluable.”

With his election, Mukkamala will become the 15th active member of the Mott Foundation’s board of trustees, which includes four family members who are descendants of Charles Stewart Mott. There are also two trustees emeriti.

it’s difficult to watch the news and not be worried. They, too, will be veterans.

Other friends proudly post photos of their sons and daughters and provide updates of their military service. I appreciate those updates.

As we honor our veterans today, try to make a point of thanking one when you see them. If you can, pick up their tab when you see them dining at an area restaurant. A ‘thank you’ can go a long way and a nice gesture of paying for someone’s meal feels good to the payer. We’ve done it so I know.

To all our veterans and their families, thank you for all of your service and sacrifices.

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING - PAVING PROJECT FOR GOLDEN SHORES DRIVE, GOLDEN CIRCLE & GOLDEN COURT CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF FENTON, GENESEE COUNTY, MICHIGAN

To the residents and property owners of the Charter Township of Fenton, Genesee County, Michigan, and any other interested persons:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that as a result of petitions of property owners within the township signed by the record owners of land whose frontage constitutes more than 50% of the total frontage of the proposed district, the Township Board of the Charter Township of Fenton proposes to repave Golden Shores Drive, Golden Circle and Golden Court, and to create a special assessment district for the recovery of the cost thereof by special assessment against the properties benefited therein.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the District within which the foregoing improvements are proposed to be constructed and within which the cost thereof is proposed to be assessed is more particularly described as follows:

All properties fronting Golden Shores Drive, Golden Circle and Golden Court

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the Township Board has received preliminary plans showing the improvements and an estimate of the costs of such construction in the approximate amount of \$456,000, has placed the same on file with the Township Clerk, and has passed a Resolution tentatively declaring its intention to make such improvement and to create the special assessment district. The Township Board has also tentatively found the petitions for the improvement to be in compliance with statutory requirements.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that said plans, estimates of cost, proposed special assessment district and petitions may be examined at the office of the Township Clerk from the date of this Notice through the date of the public hearing and may be examined at such public hearing.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that a public hearing upon such petitions, plans, district and estimate of costs will be held at the Fenton Township Civic Community Center at 12060 Mantawauka Drive, Fenton, Michigan, commencing at 7:30 p.m. on Monday November 15, 2021.

At the hearing, the board will also consider any written objections to any of the foregoing matters filed with the board at or before the hearing as well as any revisions, corrections, amendments or changes to said plans, estimates, costs or special assessment district.

All interested persons are invited to be present at the hearing and to submit any comments they may have.

ROBERT E. KRUG
FENTON TOWNSHIP CLERK
12060 MANTAWAUKA DRIVE
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SHARON

Continued from Page 4

Actually, that’s where and how they met in 1985. Toby was a staff sergeant in the U.S. Air Force, stationed in Fort Walton Beach, Florida. Pat was a U.S. Air Force administrative assistant, staff sergeant. Oh, the stories they can tell.

Other good friends Joe and Lisa Holzwarth are always in my thoughts as they miss their son, Dakota, who is in the U.S. Air Force and stationed in Colorado. Dakota graduated from Lake Fenton High School.

I’m sure my old college roommate Dawn Davidson misses her son Connor, who is a marine. As a mom, I’m sure

TRAFFIC

Continued from Front Page

"The continued development of the industrial park and the redevelopment of the downtown area has enhanced the attractiveness of the area for business and residential living. When you combine a great school system, it makes the community a very desirable place to live and raise families," he said. "The walkability of the downtown helps attract people and businesses to the downtown. The business growth in the community has been strong and has continued to be strong during the pandemic."

Traffic is a common complaint city officials receive, and it was made worse this past summer due to the resurfacing of Silver Lake Road, from Poplar Street west to city limits, and the continued construction on the U.S. 23 overpass, which travels over Silver Lake Road and North Road.

In 2018, the city commissioned a traffic study be done on Silver Lake Road that encompassed all major intersections from Silver Parkway to LeRoy Street. Progressive AE conducted the study and determined that four traffic

points received a failing grade. Progressive AE rated the intersections from an "A" to an "F" based on techniques outlined in the Highway Capacity Manual, published by the Transportation Research Board.

The two U.S. 23 entrance/exit ramps at Silver Lake Road nearest Fenway Drive operate at a level of service (LoS) of F. The eastbound traffic movement on Silver Lake Road at LeRoy Street operates at a LoS of E, and the eastbound left-turn movement on Silver Lake Road at LeRoy Street operates at a LoS of E. The study was done during peak rush hours from 7 to 9 a.m. and 4 to 6 p.m. It also found that approximately 20,000 drivers pass through this area on a daily basis.

The study states, "The city of Fenton and its surrounding communities are experiencing significant growth, along with the related increases in traffic, particularly during peak hours. As one of the key arterials in the city, Silver Lake Road has been burdened with much of the traffic increase and appears to be approaching its capacity during those peak periods, especially in the sub-area just east of U.S. 23."

Progressive AE suggested extending the two-lane northbound off-ramp cross section from 75 feet to 200 feet, and converting the eastbound right-turn lane to a through/right lane. Other suggestions included extending the westbound left-turn lane on the U.S. southbound ramp by 200 feet and extending the right turn lane from 50 feet to 200 feet. The study states that to turn left onto Silver Parkway, the westbound left-turn lanes on Silver Lake Road should be extended by approximately 100 feet.

The Fenway Drive/Silver Lake Road intersection was identified as the worst intersection. Progressive AE suggested revising the cycle length and timing of the light so it operates more efficiently. It was also suggested to convert the eastbound right-turn lane on Silver Lake Road heading to Fenway into a through/right lane.

At Poplar Street, Pete LaMourie, lead transportation engineer from Progressive AE, said the pavement markings on Silver Lake Road should provide a second eastbound through lane until approximately 500 feet east of the intersection. Signal light timing should be improved at the LeRoy/Silver Lake

roads intersection.

Suggested improvements for the whole Silver Lake Road corridor include converting all signals to 80-second cycle length, optimizing signal offsets and individual intersection phasing and timing. The study also projected future problems into 2028 with an annual population growth of 1.6 percent.

"Perhaps the most significant result of those noted above is the eastbound through movement on Silver Lake Road at Fenway Drive," the study states. "Further, the growing traffic volumes will make the projected queues on the U.S. 23 northbound off-ramp even more extensive and lasting most of the entire afternoon peak hour if a signal is not installed."

Markland said they are in the process of trying to implement these recommendations.

"Once the bridge is complete, the traffic situation should get better. However, we will still be working on the recommended changes," he said. "I believe widening the road to four lanes under the U.S. 23 bridge would help reduce the traffic congestion."

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Broad Street traffic

In Linden, the population has increased 3,209 from 1950 (933) to 4,142 (2020). Linden City Manager Ellen Glass believes that Silver Lake Road, which is called Broad Street in Linden, handles the traffic volume.

"Linden is a great community and offers a good quality of life that includes our wonderful school district, recreation opportunities, low crime, and location to amenities and economic opportunities," she said.

She estimates that Bridge and Broad

streets are similar in traffic volume. Recently, Beaubien Engineering conducted a traffic study on Linden/Lahring roads and found that there were approximately 6,854 trip generations per day.

"In the past several months, there has been a significant amount of increased traffic on Bridge Street with all the detours and projects in the surrounding area," she said. "With the growth in Linden and surrounding areas, we do see the impact it has on our streets but overall I think that Broad Street handles the traffic volumes adequately."

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Times
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A day to honor all veterans

The month of November is a special time for the nation's veterans. While Memorial Day honors fallen soldiers and service people, Veterans Day, which takes place each November, is an opportunity to commemorate the efforts of all who have been in the armed forces, with a special emphasis on living veterans.

While people are encouraged to thank veterans throughout the year, Veterans Day is a particularly poignant time to show your appreciation for the men and women of the military.

Veterans Day takes place on Nov. 11 and marks an important moment in history. On Nov. 11, 1918, World War I, known at the time as "The Great War," unofficially ended when an armistice, or temporary cessation of hostilities, took place between Germany and the Allied nations on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month. World War I ended on paper when the Treaty of Versailles was signed on June 28,

1919. In Nov. 1919, President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed Nov. 11 as the first commemoration of Armistice Day, according to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.



Armistice Day became a federal holiday in the United States in 1938. However, after subsequent wars, including World War II and the Korean War, veterans' service organizations lobbied for Armistice Day to be revised so it would be more inclusive of all veterans. On June 1, 1954, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed legislation to strike the word "Armistice" from the holiday's name in favor of "Veterans." Since then, Nov. 11 has been known as "Veterans Day" and has honored veterans of all wars.

Veterans Day was moved to the fourth Monday in October for roughly seven years under the Uniform Monday Holiday Act, which sought to ensure three-day weekends for federal employees by celebrating certain national holidays on Mondays. But since Nov.

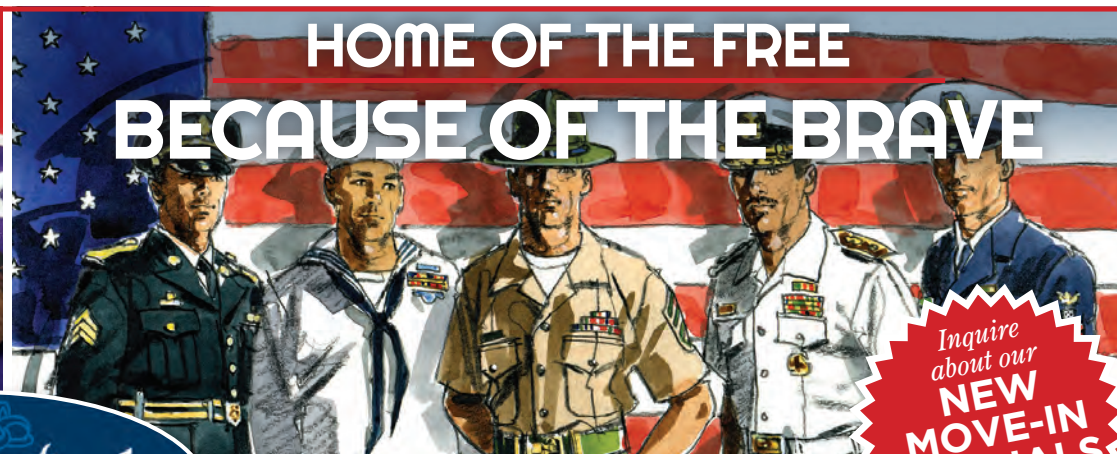


Veteran's Day is an important time to show your appreciation for those who have served in the armed forces. **Submitted photo**

11 bore such significance, many states disapproved and continued to observe the holiday on Nov. 11. In 1975, President Gerald Ford signed legislation to return the observation of Veterans Day to Nov. 11 beginning in 1978. Should the day fall on a Saturday or Sunday, the federal government observes the holiday on the previous Friday or fol-

lowing Monday, respectively, according to History.com.

The United States isn't the only country to celebrate its veterans. Canada, Great Britain, Australia, and France also commemorate the veterans of World War I and II on or near Nov. 11 as Remembrance Day or Remembrance Sunday.



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Transformation, healing and hope

Warrior Path Home enables veterans to embark on a path back to themselves

By Sharon Stone

Warrior Path Home is a newer Michigan nonprofit aimed at stopping the struggle and inspiring hope for veterans and their families.

Jill Haas, a professional certified coach, certified equine guided learning (EGL) facilitator/coach and registered nurse, provides therapeutic, multidimensional coaching in her Warrior Path Home programs resulting in an experience of transformation, healing and hope.

These unique programs and approaches address the stress and resiliency of each client with goals of better coping and life skills for less stress, anxiety, post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) symptoms and essentially helping to prevent suicide whenever possible for veterans.

Additionally, a family focus may be improving communication, connection and understanding. All coaching services are customized to the client's needs, meeting each veteran and family where they are. Clients are followed for their well-being for at least six months post-program, which is measured subjectively via surveys to determine progress.

Keeping in mind that everyone has individual coping skills and life circumstances, the programs allow all clients to be themselves, learn more about individual strengths and reach their own goals. Clients of Warrior Path Home become better versions of themselves, regain control of their lives and enjoy happier, healthier relationships.

At Warrior Path Home, Haas said they strive to create programs that implement sustained behavior change. The methods are results-driven, fun and engaging for individuals seeking to improve themselves personally and professionally.

Programs are delivered through private or group coaching virtually and also sometimes may be in combination using horses as learning partners (EGL). Haas said 75% of her interactions with clients is virtual.

“Our main goal at Warrior Path

Home is getting to the root of veterans' issues and let go of them versus simply managing them, while also creating a greater awareness of self and of the world,” she said. “For veterans and their families, Warrior Path Home is truly a path back to themselves.”

Haas said she's been coaching for 18 years and started her nonprofit in 2019. She knew there was a need for this type of service after working with clients

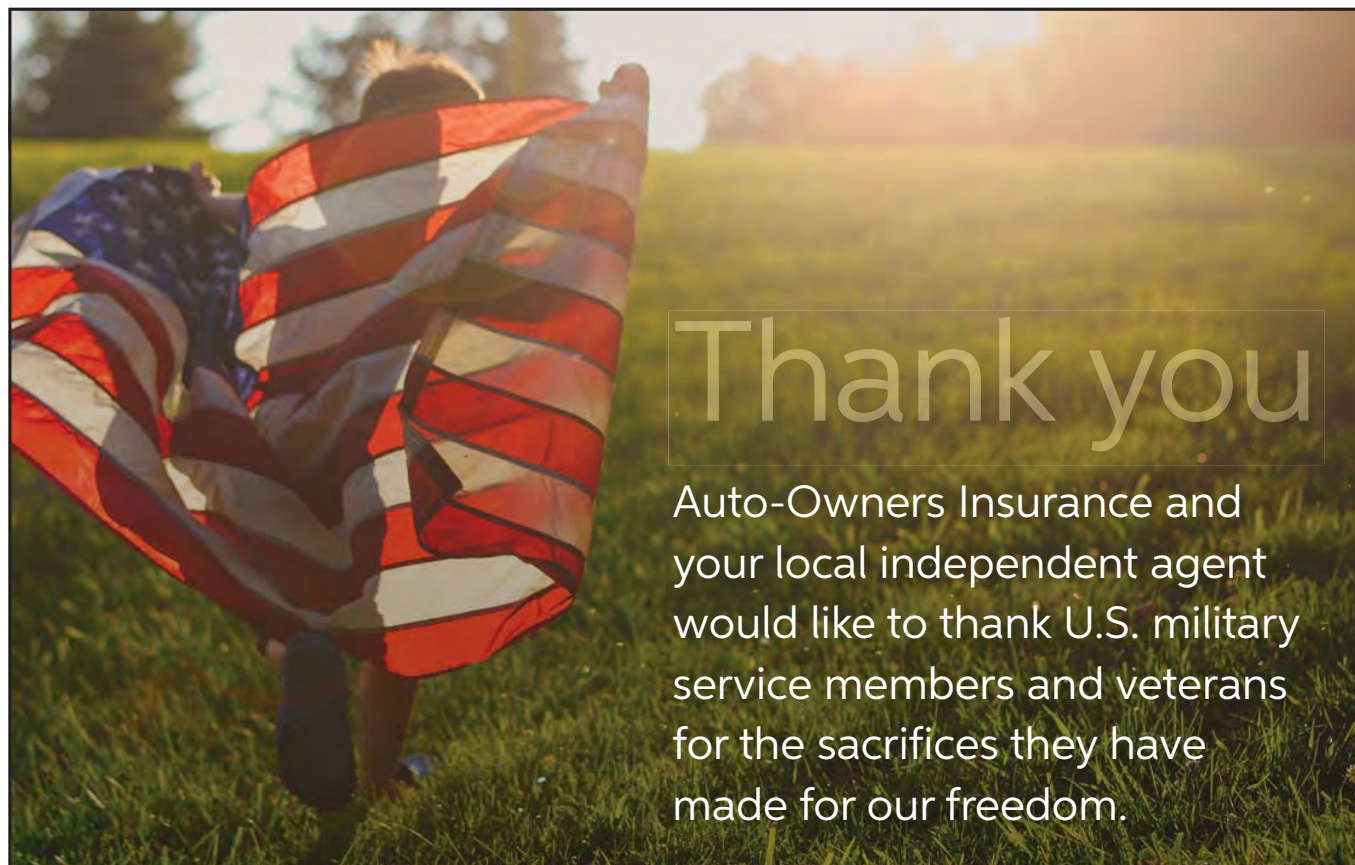
who passed through the Veterans Treatment Court. These individuals, being a veteran, had an option of going through a two-year coaching program to get their lives back in order.

“I wanted to do something more for them,” she said. “So I started my nonprofit.”

Haas said working with horses is a very small part of her program now

and out of convenience for her clients who are busy with their jobs, families and health, sessions are usually virtual either over computers or smartphones.

See **WARRIOR** on 7



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Korean War veteran shares memories

At 91, Ken Maxwell enjoying retirement, simple life and family

By Sharon Stone

Samuel "Ken" Maxwell, 91, of Tyrone Township might be moving a bit slower these days. However, he has a lifetime of stories and a love for his country that is undeniable.

He and his wife Sharon "Sherry" have been married for 60 years. Their three sons Randy, Shawn and Scott and two daughters Dawn and Bonnie attended Linden schools.

According to the Department of Veterans Affairs, between 1950 and 1955, 6.8 million American men and women served worldwide. In 2020, there were over 1 million Korean War veterans.

By 2030, the aging Korean War Veteran population is projected to fall below 200,000.

Maxwell grew up on a farm in Nolensville, Tennessee. He enlisted in the U.S.

Army Jan. 30, 1951 and was discharged Jan. 12, 1954. He remained stateside for a period of his service and also studied medicine at the Naval Academy when

he was in Japan. He was a combat medic and a sergeant.

After being discharged, he came up to Michigan, got a job as a machinist in the Detroit area, got married and had five kids. In 1976, the family moved to their current home in Tyrone Township. Maxwell also has

his pilot's license. Their three sons all are veterans and have their pilot's license. One flies for the government.

As one of only seven survivors out of 135 men in his company after the Battle of Pork Chop Hill, Maxwell came home after the war with flecks of shrapnel still in his left leg and a tremor in his left hand that remains there today. He remembers having to retrieve wounded soldiers and having to carry some back.



Ken Maxwell while training in Colorado.



Ken Maxwell

"The Chinese took it from us," he said of the Battle on Pork Chop Hill. "We went up at 4 a.m. It was quite the battle. We finally gave up." He remembers that the others were killed or wounded, but most were killed.

After nine months in Korea, he returned home in 1953.

Almost 60 years after the Korean War, Maxwell got the biggest surprise of his life when he was awarded the Purple Heart in a surprise ceremony June 3, 2012 at the Masonic Lodge in Linden.

His nephew, Kevin Cattran, a liaison for the Veterans Administration, organized the effort to get Maxwell his Purple Heart "for wounds received as a result of hostile action."

During the surprise ceremony, retired Col. Don Neuville, of Linden, pinned the Purple Heart on Maxwell. He also had been recommended for the Silver Star for his actions on Pork Chop Hill, but received the Bronze Star with V device (for Valor), as well as a special tribute from the State of Michigan honoring his service.

Recalling his injuries, Maxwell and his wife said that he had wooden slivers in his stomach, shrapnel all over, tinnitus in his ears and a traumatic brain injury.

See **KOREAN WAR** on 14



Maxwell's medals:

- Korean Svc Medal with three bronze stars
- UN Svc Medal
- Med Badge
- Bronze Star Medal w/ V1 o/s bars
- Nat Def Svc Medal
- Good Conduct Medal
- Occupied Japan Medal
- Presidential Citation
- Purple Heart
- Korean Peace Medal



Ken Maxwell poses with his mother Margaret Maxwell and his sister Jane when he returned home.

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In this 2012 Times file photo, retired Army Staff Sgt. Ken Maxwell is emotional after receiving his Purple Heart recognition for shrapnel wounds he suffered in the Korean War in 1953. He was surprised to receive the award at the Linden Masonic Temple surrounded by 60 friends and family members. Submitted photos



The Swartz Creek Veterans Memorial features bronze statues that represent the five branches of the armed forces. The statues surround a 20-foot raised granite star. **VNG file photo**

Monumental efforts

Swartz Creek Veterans Memorial the result of grassroots support

By Lania Rocha
810-452-2652 • lrocha@mihomepaper.com

SWARTZ CREEK – The City of Swartz Creek is home to one of the most impressive veterans memorials in the state of Michigan.

Beyond the stunning vision of the life-size statues, 20-foot granite star and towering flagpoles is an equally impressive story of the grassroots effort that brought the memorial from idea to reality.

“We have about \$400,000 into it, all from individuals or groups,” Rick Henry, chairman of the Veterans Memorial Committee, said of the overwhelming support the memorial continues to receive from the community. “We received nothing (in funds) from the government, although the City of Swartz Creek donated the property. Everything else was from fundraisers.”

Henry said “it didn’t take as long as you might think it would” – only about a year – to raise tens of thousands of dollars needed to get the monumental project off the ground.

The committee sponsored bake sales and rummage sales, accepted monetary donations, and sold brick pavers.

In fact, they continue to sell bricks

to help pay for routine maintenance and improvements to the statue park located on Paul Fortino Drive.

Roughly 50 4-inch by 8-inch red brick pavers are still available for purchase at \$50 each. Each brick can accommodate three lines of text, with up to 21 characters per line. Most of the pavers display veterans’ names or family names, some have the names of service organizations etched into them. Club logos are allowed, but business and political logos, or other forms of advertising, are prohibited.

Anyone interested in purchasing a brick may contact the city of Swartz Creek for additional information.

The feature most notable to people passing by the memorial are the life-size bronze statues representing the five branches of the military: Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and Coast Guard, each of which cost \$28,000.

“We tried to design it as though the statues are guarding (the memorial),” Henry said.

The statues surround a 20-foot raised granite star. Situated on the west side of the star is the Fallen Soldier Battle Cross. In addition, there is a life-size statue of a German shepherd to represent all the animals used in the service, a serenity fountain, benches and the Purple Heart archway at the entrance. The archway was donated by a local resident in memory of his son.

See **SWARTZ CREEK** on 8



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The Military Sisterhood Initiative, the Michigan Women Veterans Forum on Facebook and the Women Veteran Strong Peer Support are a few of the resources available to help women veterans. **Submitted photo**

Women veterans connect

Services specially designed for, managed by women

Each woman's experience is unique, yet many women veterans face similar challenges when serving in the military and afterward when they return to civilian life. Below are services specially designed for women.

Military Sisterhood Initiative (virtual)

This is a virtual platform for women of the military (active duty, reserve, veterans). You can join almost 5,000 military women on this Facebook-like platform through Challenge America.

Some benefits of joining: You get to be in a community of women-only, it is a safe space, there are endless activities, and resources to help get you connected to the benefits you've earned.

www.challengeamerica.com/msi

Michigan Women Veterans Forum On Facebook (virtual)

Facebook for Michigan Women Veterans only. This page is monitored by a woman veteran and was initially created by the Michigan Women's Commission. It is a great way to connect locally for meetups and get to know women veterans that live nearby.

www.facebook.com/groups/michwomenveteransforum/

Women Veteran Strong Peer Support

Call (248) 519-2325 to connect to a peer support group in your community. These meetings are facilitated by Peer Support Specialists through the Walking with Warriors program at the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services.

Vet Centers

Vet Centers are community-based counseling centers that offer a wide range of mental health services to veterans, active duty service members, members of the National Guard, and Reservists. Find a Vet Center near you or contact Vet Center Staff toll free at 877-WAR-VETS (927-8387).

Women Veterans Program Manager

Each VA Medical Center has a Women Veterans Program Manager available to assist and coordinate services for women veterans. They are a great resource for understanding what kind of services you may be eligible for at the VA. Find your VA Medical Center and ask for the Women Veterans Program Manager.

Military Sexual Trauma

If a veteran has experienced sexual trauma while serving in the military, they may be eligible to receive care even if: they are not service connected, did not report the incident(s) when it occurred, or whether they have submitted a disability claim to receive care.

See **WOMEN** on 7



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WOMEN

Continued from Page 6

Find your military sexual trauma co-ordinator in Michigan and get started with the healing process.

Connect with other vets

- Call 1-800-MICH-VET to be connected to resources or the Women Veterans Coordinator.

Women Veterans Call Center is open Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. EST. A trained VA woman staff member will answer the call and assess the veteran or family members' needs.

Call or text 855-VA-WOMEN (1-855-829-6636)

Chat online at womenshealth.va.gov. Both call and chat are anonymous.



The Women Veteran Call Center is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. Submitted photo

WARRIOR

Continued from Page 3

Warrior Path Home uses a sliding scale for fees. She and her clients rely on fundraising and provide donations and corporate sponsorships.

Haas' program is not cookie-cutter for every veteran. She gauges progress

on how they feel and how they are doing with reaching their goals. The sessions can be very therapeutic.

When asked what trends she sees with issues her veterans are facing, Haas said the biggest struggles are anger, anxiety, PTSD, stress, being overwhelmed. "Those feelings aren't limited to veter-

ans," she said.

Being virtual, Haas can work with individuals anywhere. She has numerous that are local, or at least in Michigan, but she also has worked with veterans across the country.

To reach Haas, email her at peace@warriorhomepath.org.

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Honoring Our Vets

Do you have a military background?

Check out these tips for job seekers

An interview can be stressful, but with some preparation beforehand, you can confidently and concisely communicate your military training, education, experience and leadership to a prospective employer.

The following advice lays a basic foundation for your preparation.

Remember, the more time you invest, the better prepared and more relaxed you will be.

Conduct research on the business and the people you will meet prior to the interview.

Research which civilian careers are most suited to you based on your military experiences and training. Be prepared to discuss how many people you led, the various duties you were responsible for in addition to your primary job and quantify the improvements you made.

Employers want to understand STAR (situation, task, action and result).

Here are some examples:

- I worked as an Army Signal officer, which means I was a mid-level manager providing services similar to that of AT&T and Comcast in war zones or remote areas of the world.

- I procured approximately \$4.2 million in telecommunications equipment for 10,000 Iraqi National Guard soldiers and trained them on how to use this equipment during war time operations.

- I supervised 30 soldiers implementing and managing a digital and voice network for 20,000 users in a heavily wooded area with no pre-existing IT or telecommunications infrastructure.

- I conducted and evaluated a 30-day training exercise preparing 462 personnel deploying to Kosovo and resulting in a readiness rating of 90%, a 15% increase over the previous year.

Practice interviewing. You may even want to make a video of yourself to get an idea of how you sound and look during the interview.



Anticipate what questions the employer might ask. The following are some common questions you may encounter:

• Tell me about yourself.

Keep the answer job- or skill-related. Use it as an opportunity to show what makes you a good candidate for the job.

• **What do you know about the type of work we do?** This is your chance to tell what you know from the research you completed.

• What is your weakness?

Always make this a positive answer. For example, "My spelling is not always perfect, so I always use a spell checker."

• What are your strengths?

Describe your skills in a way that will show you as a desirable employee for the company.

• **Why did you leave your last job?** Answer with a positive statement. Try not to say: "I was fired," "terminated," "quit," "had no babysitter," or "couldn't get along with coworkers or supervisor." However, you can say: "new job," "contract ended," "seasonal," "temporary," "career change," "returned to school," or "relocated."

• **Why have you been unemployed for such a long time?** Tell the truth. Emphasize that you were looking for a good company where you can settle and make a contribution.

• Why should we hire you?

Make a positive statement, such as "I would like the opportunity to work with you and believe that I can do the work." Restate some of your skills and experiences that match the job description.

• Do you have references?

It is most important that you contact your references ahead of time and have their name, current address and telephone numbers.

Source: www.michigan.gov/mvaa

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SWARTZ CREEK

Continued from Page 5

The committee began raising funds in 2006 and, in about a year, they had enough money to purchase the first statue, an Army soldier in World War II fatigues. The statue was set in place in 2008.

Next came the Navy and Air Force statues, both of which are depicted in World War II uniforms.

The Marine Corps statue, fashioned to honor the Marines who have served in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, was set in place in 2011, followed by the Coast Guard statue in 2012.

Coastie April Caverly was the inspiration for the final statue. She was stationed at Coast Guard Air Station Traverse City at the time, and was in attendance at the dedication ceremony, which included a fly-in of a Coast Guard helicopter. Among the helicopter crew was a Swartz Creek graduate.

The memorial remains a community endeavor, with the Master Gardener Association of Genesee County planting flowers every year, and local Boy Scouts and other volunteers keeping the statue park ship shape.

The memorial provides the backdrop for several annual ceremonies, including the Memorial Day service sponsored by American Legion Post 294 of Swartz Creek, and the Veterans' Day ceremony sponsored by the VFW Hammerberg Memorial Post 3720 of Swartz Creek. The Veterans Day service begins at 11:11 a.m. on Nov. 11 every year.

In addition, the GFWC Swartz Creek Women's Club hosts a 911 Remembrance Day on Sept. 11 – Patriot Day.

"We also do tours for elementary school groups," Henry said. "We try to keep the kids in town involved, so they learn to appreciate and respect it."

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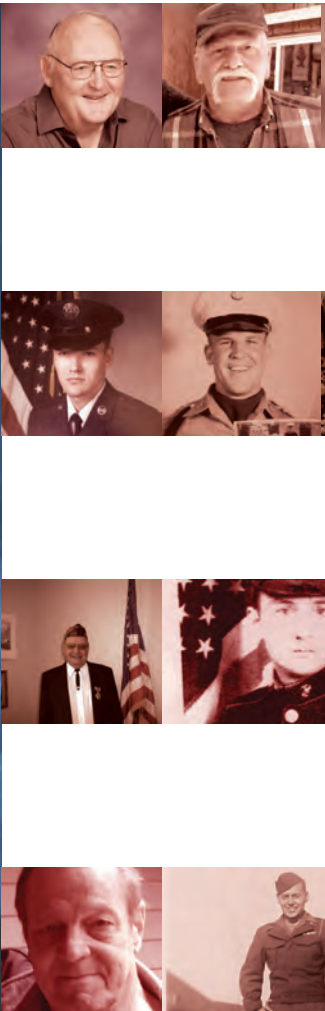
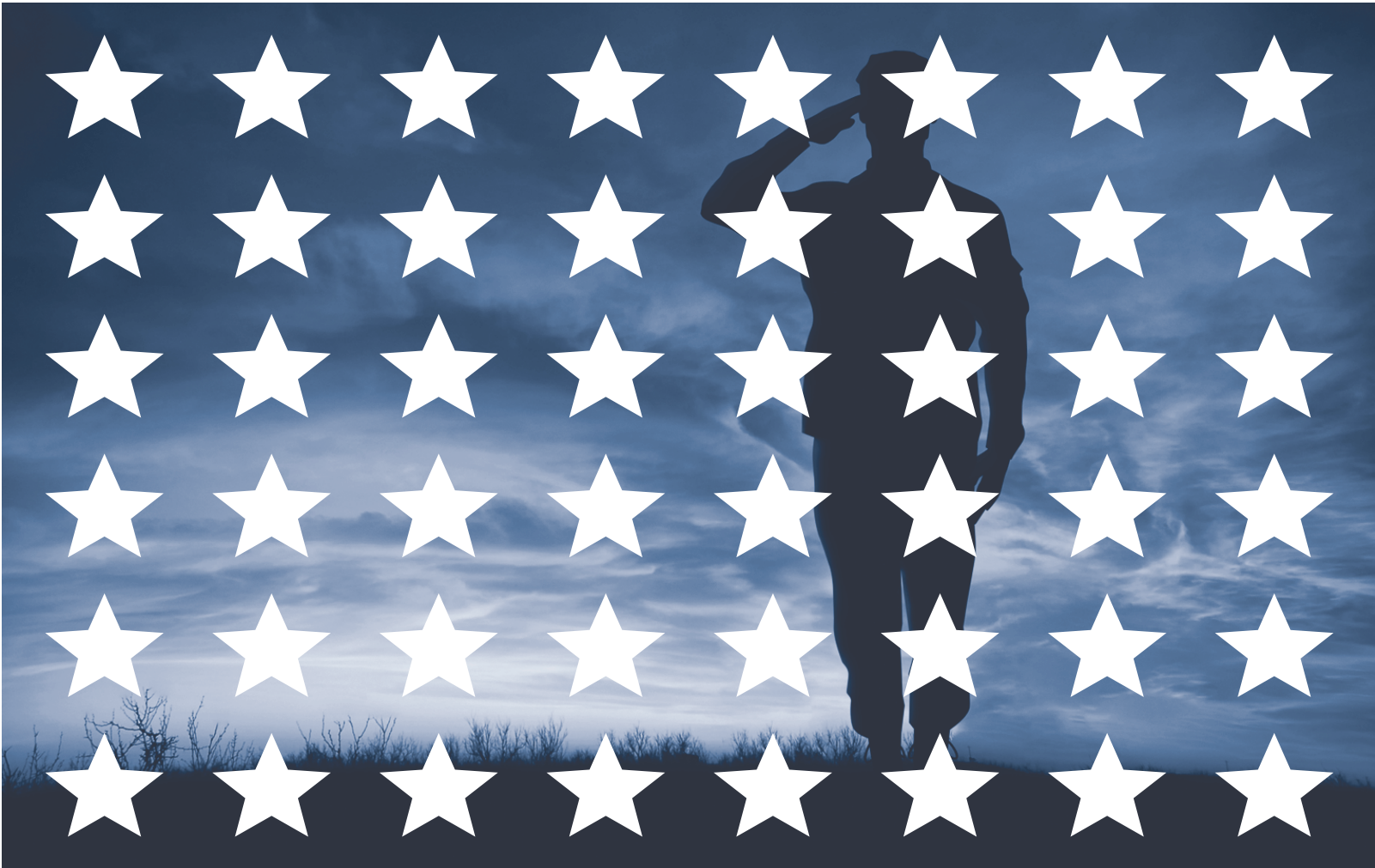
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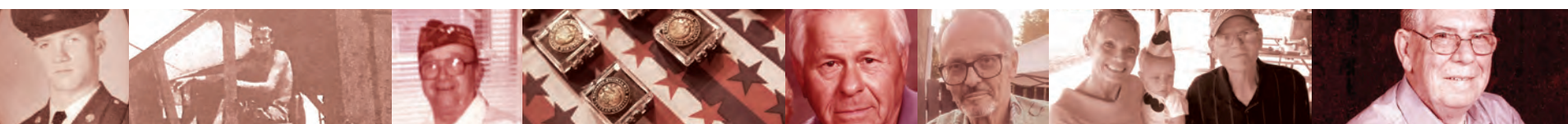


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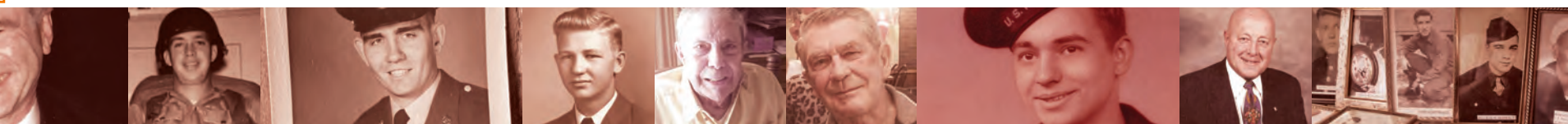




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RESOURCES FOR VETERANS



VA RESOURCES

Genesee County Department of Veterans Services: 1101 Beach St., Flint, MI 48502, 810-257-3068
Veteran Health Administration (VHA): VA medical centers and CBOC's HUD-VASH, Vet Centers
Veteran Benefits Administration (VBA): Compensation and Pension, Education Benefits, VOC Rehab.
National Cemetery Administration (NCA): Burial and memorial benefits www.va.gov

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE RESOURCE FOR VETERANS

MVAA- Michigan Veterans Trust Fund: up to \$1500 for local approval (State Board reviews all appeals and claims over 1500). Requires at least 180 days of active duty service during wartime and unforeseen emergency. www.michiganveterans.com "find a benefits counselor" or by calling one 1-800-MICH-VET. 1-800-624-4838
Fallen and Wounded Soldiers Fund (FWSF): Post 9/11, requires honorable discharge (or currently serving honorably) and an unforeseen emergency. www.FWSF.org 800-397-3729
Forgotten Eagles of Michigan: up to \$500. All requests must come from a qualified BSO or VA officer. www.forgotteneagles.org
Michigan Bikers Helping Veterans: requires an honorable discharge, unforeseen emergency. Must complete entire application (leave no blanks). www.supportmiveterans.org
Pentagon Foundation: must have deployed to OEF/OIF, honorable discharge, and unforeseen emergency. Can only receive one per household. Applications found online, www.pentagonfoundation.org. Contact 800-558-9224.

The American Legion Patriot Fund: up to \$500, one time only. Requires an honorable discharge and an unforeseen emergency. Contact Gary Tanner at gtanner364@gmail.com.
Local Veterans Service Organization: AMVETS, VVA, Marine Corps League, DAV, VFW, Purple Heart, and American Legion.

FINANCIAL COUNSELING/ ADVISING

Military OneSource: 800-342-9647

LEGAL ISSUES

State Side Legal: Legal help for military members, Veterans, and their families, www.statesidelegal.org
University of Michigan Legal Clinic: Washtenaw County only 734-763-2798
Lakeshore Legal Aid: 888-783-8190, www.lakeshorelegalaids.org
VA Claim Legal Assistance: Legal help for veterans, PLLC — 800-693-4800, www.legalhelpforveterans.com

HOUSING

National Call Center for Homeless Veterans: 877-424-3838

VA HUD-VASH/ Healthcare of Homeless Veterans (HCHV): Must have VA health care. Qualify on individual basis.

Detroit VAMC: 313-576-1580

Ann Arbor VAMC: 734-845-5058

Saginaw VAMC: 989-497-2500 ext. 11773

Battle Creek VAMC: 269-966-5600 ext. 33148

Iron Mountain VAMC: 906-774-3300 ext. 32773

Support Services for Veteran Families (SSVF): Search by county to find local providers. Eviction/ Homeless/ Social Work. Multiple other programs. www.va.gov/homeless/ssvf/

Project Brotherhood Resolve: Located in Lapeer County- Founded to address the growing problem of Veteran Homelessness and Veteran Suicide through intervention: projectbrotherhoodresolve.org/

FEDERAL BENEFITS FOR VETERANS, DEPENDENTS AND SURVIVORS

Federal Benefits for Veterans, Dependents and Survivors Online Booklet: www.michiganveterans.com/servlet/

MICHIGAN MILITARY VETERANS BENEFITS AND SERVICES

www.michiganveterans.com/servlet/

VETERAN TREATMENT COURT

<https://courts.michigan.gov/administration/admin/op/problem-solving-courts/pages/veterans-treatment-court.aspx>

Flint Township seeks donations for Heroes Plaza memorial project

By Ben Gagnon
 810-452-2661 • bgagnon@mihomepaper.com

FLINT TWP. — For years, Flint Township has entertained the idea of constructing a memorial to honor military veterans and local first responders.

Now, that concept is about to be realized as a Heroes Plaza on the grounds of the Flint Township Police Department on Norko Drive.

To get the project finalized, Flint Township is seeking donations from the public in the form of commemorative bricks that will be installed at the memorial. Those who wish to honor a past or present United States Armed Forces member, a Flint Township police officer or a Flint Township firefighter (active or retired) can purchase a 4x8 brick (\$50) or an 8x8 brick (\$100) and have the name, rank and service branch of their military

veteran or first responder inscribed on the brick.

Donations of \$1,000 or more will be acknowledged on a brass plaque as part of the memorial.

Three granite stones will also stand as the focal point of Heroes Plaza. The largest stone, which will display logos of the six branches of the U.S. military, is projected to stand about five feet tall and weigh 4,000 pounds. The other granite stones will display logos of the Flint Township Police Department and the Flint Township Fire Department.

Flint Township Supervisor Karyn Miller, who helped to spearhead the memorial project this year along with Trustees Barb Vert and Carol Pfaff-Dahl, said that the Heroes Plaza will likely be constructed in a space near the police department's front entrance and flagpoles.

See **DONATIONS** on 14

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DONATIONS

Continued from Page 13

"Every time someone comes into the police station parking lot, the memorial will remind them of those who served and sacrificed for our freedom," Miller said. "It's a small token of appreciation for the people who have served to keep us free."

Although Flint Township officials were hoping to have the memorial finished in time for Veterans Day, Miller said that an official unveiling probably won't be held until next Memorial Day.

Miller said that about 50 bricks have been purchased for the memorial over the last decade, and another 30 to 50 bricks are expected to be ordered ahead of the groundbreaking.

Plans for the Heroes Plaza began in 2007 when Tracey Tucker, Flint Township's current Economic Enhancement Director, and her father, Galen Jamison, helped to form a committee and start fundraising efforts with local businesses.

"My Dad always felt that service

members, especially during the Vietnam Era, needed to be honored," Tucker said. "The memorial was one of the last things we were working on together. So it has a lot of emotional significance for me."

After her father passed away in May of 2007, Tucker and then Flint Township Trustee Roger Powell continued fundraising, but the project eventually stalled out in the 2010s until it was revived this year by the Flint Township Board of Trustees.

In addition to individual donors, Zellar Excavating, Modern Concrete and Crannie Signs have each stepped in to support the project.

To purchase a brick for the memorial or to donate to the cause, visit <https://www.flinttownship.org/i-want-to/hero-s-plaza-memorial-brick-form>.

Volunteers are also needed to help lay concrete for the memorial. To volunteer, contact Tracey Tucker at ttucker@flinttownship.org or 810-287-1059.

High school diplomas for WWII, Korea and Vietnam veterans

It's not too late, even for next of kin to obtain important documents

Honorably discharged WWII, Korean or Vietnam era veterans who were unable to receive their high school diplomas because they enlisted or were drafted into the armed forces can still be awarded their graduation certificate.

Veterans must have attended high school in Michigan and served in the military during the following time periods:

- WWII: Dec. 16, 1940 to Dec. 31, 1946
- Korean conflict: June 27, 1950 to Jan. 31, 1955
- Vietnam: Feb. 28, 1961 to May 7, 1975

To apply for a diploma, the veteran or next of kin must return the Application for High School Diploma for Michigan WWII, Korean and Vietnam Era Veterans form to the veteran's school district for processing along with a copy of their discharge papers.

To obtain a copy of their discharge papers, a DD-214 Request Form needs to be completed, signed and submitted to MVA's Resource Center.

A request form can also be downloaded and emailed to MVAAResourceCenter@michigan.gov.

KOREAN WAR

Continued from Page 4

Maxwell retired in 1992 when he was 62. He continues to enjoy mowing their five acres. In addition to their five children, they have 15 grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

Oftentimes, veterans keep their difficult stories to themselves. Maxwell said he knew one man, the son of a soldier in his outfit who died. The son told Maxwell that his father's best friend died and he had to hold him in his arms. Oftentimes soldiers

VETERANS NEWS BRIEFS

COMPILED BY SHARON STONE

VETERANS TO BE HONORED AT BRUNCH

The Holly Moose Lodge 1168 will be hosting a brunch and Valued Veterans Program on **Nov. 13 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.**

The program begins at 9 a.m. Recipients of Veteran of the Month are Todd Nash, Gary Weismuller and Brian Smith. Veteran of the Year is Rick Powers. Patriot of the Year is Angie Lemon. The brunch is free for veterans and \$8 for everyone else. Donation are appreciated. The Holly Moose Lodge is at 210 S. Broad St., Holly.

FUNDRAISER FOR HOLLY REFLECTIONS

The American Legion Post 149 in Holly is sponsoring a fundraiser for Holly Reflections I, with a Dinner Theatre – Improv on **Nov. 19 at 7 p.m.**, at The Vault, 202 S. Saginaw St., Holly. They are raising funds for the Traveling Vietnam Wall, which will be in Holly Aug. 3-8, 2022. Tickets are \$40 per person or \$60 per couple. For information or tickets, contact Joe at (810) 348-9960 or Rick at (248) 459-0055.

JOIN THE LINDEN AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY 119

Free Dinner for veterans and a guest to honor your service on **Friday, Nov. 12 at 6 p.m.** at 119 N. Bridge St. (Masonic Lodge). There will be light entertainment and no reservations are needed. For more information, call 810-354-8130.



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Call for more information: (810) 780-8946



MASS TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

To qualify, veterans must be honorably discharged from military service and a resident of Genesee County.

www.mtaflint.org

Plans for a Veteran's Memorial at Freedom Park reignited

Buy a brick to honor a veteran

By Emily Caswell

Fenton — After a pause due to the pandemic, the committee working to secure a Veteran's Memorial in Fenton's Freedom Park is back in action.

"With so many pressing community needs throughout the past year and a half, it made sense for this committee to pause," said City Councilwoman Pat Lockwood, who is also chair of the committee. "We are all happy to be back together to make our vision a reality."

The idea for the Veteran's Memorial has been in the works since about 2017 and an official committee was formed and began work in 2019. It was decided around that same time that the memorial would be placed in Fenton's Freedom Park, bordered by Shiawassee Avenue, Elizabeth Street and Park Street.

The park was originally used for town meetings and Civil War troops mustered here before heading off to battle. The park has long been a place of remembrance to honor those who have served from our local community.

The new Veteran's Memorial will consist of a Veteran's pathway, filled with memorial bricks, a sponsor area, seven flags honoring each branch of the United States military, a statue and

commemorative wall.

The committee had a conceptual drawing done before the pandemic and estimates the total project will cost \$375,000.

Initial funding for the project has been made possible by the Fenton Fund of the Community Foundation of Greater Flint, with support from the City of Fenton. Other sponsors include City of Fenton Parks Board, Fenton Department of Public Works, Fenton & Linden Regional Chamber of Commerce, Fenton Memorials, Inc., Kerning Advertising, Tri-County Times, OHM Engineering and the VFW Post 3243.

The committee is currently working to secure community and business sponsors as well. Those interested can contact Lockwood at 810-516-9480 or lockwoodpa4@gmail.com.

Those wishing to purchase a brick and honor a veteran have an option for a regular brick (4" x 8") for \$100 or a large brick (8" x 8") for \$175. Bricks can be purchased at www.FentonVeteransMemorial.com.

"With the holidays quickly approaching, we believe these bricks would make the perfect gift for a veteran you know and love," Lockwood added. "With the delay over, the entire committee is anxious to see the memorial come together and provide a long-lasting legacy for our area veterans and a beautiful space for the entire community to enjoy."



VETERAN'S MEMORIAL IN FENTON'S FREEDOM PARK COMMITTEE

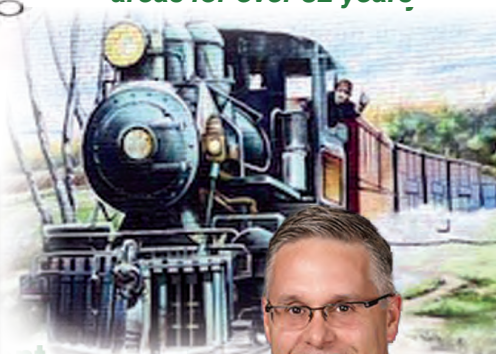
- **Patricia Lockwood**, Mayor Pro-Tem; Chairman
- **Scott Grossmeyer**, Council Representative
- **Tracy Bottecelli**, Council Representative
- **Dawn Overmyer**, Beautification Commission Chair
- **Robert Carnes**, Parks Board Representative
- **Doug Tebo**, Cemetery Board Chair
- **Jennifer Wenzel**, Parks Board Representative
- **Dan Brisson**, Dept. of Public Works Director
- **John Parks**, Business & Protocol Representative
- **Ed Koledo**, SLPR Director & Protocol Representative
- **Ken Rodenbo**, VFW & Protocol Representative
- **Shelly Day**, Fenton & Linden Chamber Executive Director
- **Catherine Osentoski**, City Administration Representative



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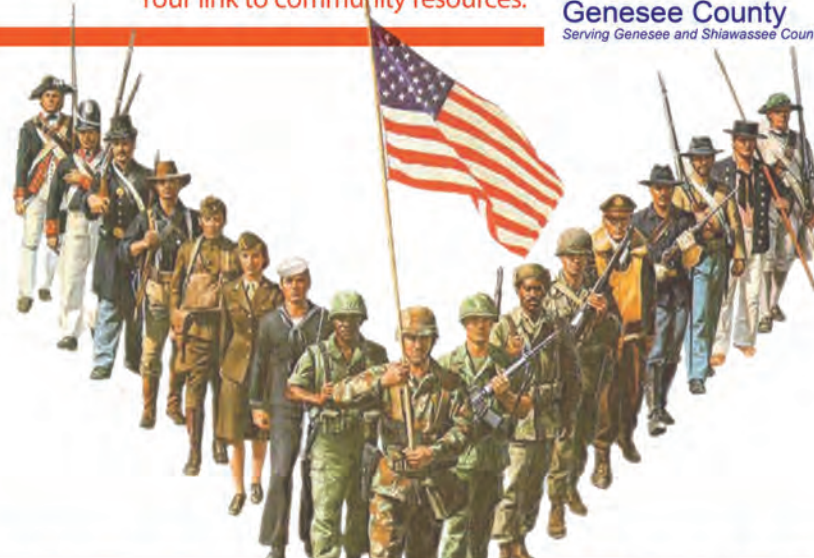


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Local agencies that help area veterans

Important things veterans need to know about the Genesee County Department of Veterans Services

Genesee County has a population of 436,000. The county currently has the fifth largest veteran population in the state of Michigan. Formed in 1975, the Genesee County Department of Veterans Services was created to help local veterans and their families obtain veterans' benefits from federal, state and local agencies. The office also was set up to help indigent veterans and veterans in emergency situations who need help with the necessities of life.

Since the department's inception, the Board of Commissioners has continued to recognize the need for professional veterans' advocates to provide claims assistance to the 40,000 veterans and their families who reside in this county and to continue helping our indigent veterans.

The Genesee County Board of

Commissioners is responsible for four separate departments: Department of Veterans Services, Soldiers Relief Commission, Michigan Veterans Trust Fund and the Veterans Burial Fund. These departments are supervised by Jeanne C. Thick, Director.

The Department of Veterans Services is a networking center for all veteran organizations in the county. The staff answers any questions that the veteran or family member may have, and/or refers them to the proper agency for additional help. The staff also disseminates information to the veteran's organizations as it relates to upcoming events, legislative concerns, or issues we feel are important to the veteran.

The Department of Veterans Services is unique in that they house three State Service Officers from Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Legion, and Marine Corp. League. These counselors assist veterans and family members with their claims and filling out VA forms for service-connected and non-service connected disabilities and pensions for veterans, spouses, widows and dependent children. The Service

See **LOCAL** on 19

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Michigan sees increase in veteran population, VA benefits

The number of military veterans in Michigan grew for the first time in over a decade last year, while the amount of federal disability benefits paid to the state's veterans also increased significantly, according to an annual report from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

Michigan's veteran population increased by 15,507 — to 567,919 veterans in fiscal year 2020 (FY20) from 552,412 the previous fiscal year. That 2.8% increase topped the national increase of 1.8% and reverses the state's yearly skid of declining veteran population that dates back to at least 2010, when Michigan had more than 703,000 veterans.

The data comes from the VA's Geographic Distribution of Expenditures, or GDX report, which also tracks how much money VA spends in each state. Michigan saw a nearly \$345 million increase in overall VA expenditures as well as an increase in disability compensation and pension, which are tax-free benefits for disabled veterans.

"We are proud to see more veterans and their families choose to make Michigan home," said Gov. Gretchen Whitmer. "We remain committed to supporting the brave men and women who selflessly served our country in uniform and making sure they can thrive right here in Michigan."

Zaneta Adams, director of the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency (MVAA), said the latest report suggests Michigan is improving in its efforts to reach veterans in their communities and to get them connected to the benefits and resources they earned for their service. As the state's coordinating agency for veterans and their families, the MVAA is available 24/7 through its 1-800-MICH-VET hotline and at Michigan.gov/MVAA.

"This latest GDX report is promising on several fronts," Adams said. "Michigan continues to see an increase in overall federal expenditures to our veterans and their families. We also experienced a significant rise in compensation and pension benefits to our veterans, as well as the first increase in our veteran population in years. That points to the fact that



our messaging is being received and veterans in Michigan, who weren't previously connected with VA, are making that connection and starting to receive the benefits they've earned."

One key to getting more Michigan veterans connected to benefits is to first get them to identify as veterans. Adams said the MVAA has made significant strides in reaching former service members who may not identify as veterans, including women veterans through its "She is A Veteran" campaign, as well as tribal veterans and peacetime veterans. Overall, Michigan has the 11th largest veteran population in the nation.

According to the latest GDX report:

Overall, the VA spent \$4.88 billion in Michigan in FY20, up from \$4.53 billion the previous fiscal year. That equated to \$8,592 per veteran, on average, in Michigan - the eighth straight year that figure has increased. Michigan's rank among the 53 states and territories improved to 49th in FY20 from 50th the year before.

Michigan received \$4,406 per veteran, on average, for compensation and pension benefits in FY20, a 3.2% increase from the previous year. Michigan's ranking in this key category improved to 36th, up two spots from 38th in FY19.

VA tracks the funding it sends to states for construction and infrastructure projects such as improvements to state-run veteran homes and cemeteries. Michigan received \$46 per veteran, on average, for construction expenditures. This is a drop from \$55 per veteran in FY19, but still higher than any other fiscal year in the past 10 years. Michigan ranked 23rd among

the 53 states and territories in FY20.

Education benefits (including the G.I. Bill) and vocational rehabilitation are combined into one category. Michigan received an average of \$352 per veteran in education and vocational rehabilitation in FY20. This was a decrease from \$405 per veteran in FY19 and dropped Michigan from 46th to 49th among the states and territories. However, when compared to its peer states, Michigan ranked higher than Wisconsin (50th) and Indiana (53rd), while Ohio was 47th and Illinois was 39th.

"We still have much work to do in getting more Michigan veterans connected to the benefits they earned for their service, and in securing more federal support toward that goal," Adams said. "We saw the amount of money the VA spends in Michigan on infrastructure dip last year, although we still rank in the top half of all states in that category. We will continue engaging the VA to find out what they can do to boost infrastructure and staffing in our state to serve our large veteran

population."

"Additionally," she said, "we dropped in rank for the number of veterans utilizing education and vocational rehabilitation benefits and we are still evaluating to see if that was a result of COVID-19 or other factors."

Ultimately, Michigan's goal within the next five years is to rank in the top third of the 53 states and territories in terms of federal expenditures to veterans.

"That's an aggressive goal, particularly given the fact that Michigan does not have a large military installation that naturally attracts transitioning service members to remain in the state," Adams said. "But Michigan boasts a vast array of veteran-specific employment, education, health care and quality-of-life opportunities - along with low cost of living and a statewide veteran-support network - that make it a great place for transitioning service members to live, work, play and retire."

SOURCE: Michigan.gov



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The starting line of the 2019 Burton Parks & Rec Veterans Honor Run. VNG file photo

Burton Parks & Rec Veterans Honor Run returning Nov. 13

BURTON – On Nov. 13 at 11:11 a.m., walkers and runners will take off in the 2021 Burton Veterans Honor Run, an 11K Run, a 5K Run & Walk, and a 5K ruck.

The run/walk/ruck, part of the final installment of the 2021 Burton Race Series, will start at the Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church, 6340 Roberta St.

Events will include an 11K Run, 5K Run, 5K Walk, & 5K Ruck (weighted backpack march). Registration for ages 15 and over is \$35 through Nov. 13. Ages 14 and under is \$20 through Nov. 13.

Pre-order only shirts in sizes small, medium, large and extra-large is \$10.

Early packet pickup is at Complete Runner in Grand Blanc, 11303 S Saginaw St., on Friday, Nov. 12, from 12-5 p.m. Race day packet pickup begins at 9 a.m. at Blessed Sacrament Church.

5K Run and 5K Walk awards:

First overall male and female

First male and female over 40 years old.

First three males & females in age

groups 10 & under, 11-12, 13-14, 15-19, 20-24, 25-29, 30-34, 35-39, 40-44, 45-49, 50-54, 55-59, 60-64, 65-69, 70-74, 75-79, 80-plus

Also, the first 250 registrants will receive a special edition dog tag.

Timing and results will be provided by Newton Timing & Race Services. They will be using ChronoTrack Systems, featuring the disposable bib-tag and ChronoTrack Live Results.

Race day results will be posted immediately for viewing on mobile devices at www.newtontiming.com.

This year the race will have a “chip start”, which will provide actual starting times for each participant. This allows race officials to calculate net time, which is the runners’ calculated time from the start to the finish.

All results are available on Athlinks.com.

For information about the event or sponsorship opportunities, e-mail Jim Craig at BurtonVetHonorRun@comcast.net or call 810-743-0149. – G.G.

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LOCAL**Continued from Page 16**

Officers also are accredited to represent veterans in all VA matters.

The **Soldiers Relief Commission** was established to help indigent veterans and/or veterans in an emergency situation who have at least one day of wartime service. A staff member fills out the application form for the veteran and Soldiers Relief Commissioners determine their needs. Many times, when immediate help is needed, they are referred to other county agencies. The veteran may apply for financial assistance for food, rent, mortgage, taxes, utility bills, clothing and many other necessities of life. The Soldiers Relief Committee meets the first and third Thursday at 10 a.m.

The **Veterans Burial Fund** is a fund set up for veterans who have at least 90 days of wartime service. If the estate, real and personal, does not exceed \$40,000 excluding the homestead, the family will receive \$300 toward the burial expenses from Genesee County. The veteran must also have been a resident of Michigan for a period of six months before entering the service, or for a period of three years immediately preceding death.

The **Michigan Veterans Trust Fund** is a state fund set up for veterans who have at least 180 days of wartime service and have a short-term emergent situation. In most cases, veterans apply for food, utility bills, rent, mortgage, taxes, clothing and other items deemed as an emergent need. The Trust Fund Committee meets on a monthly basis.

Homeless Veterans can get assistance with medical treatment, temporary shelter, housing and employment. A representative from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs is available at the Department of Veterans Services every other Friday from 9 to 11:30 a.m.

Transportation for Veterans to and from the VA hospitals is referred to the Disabled American Veterans, Chapter #3 (810) 742-9220, or a veteran may apply for bus transportation through the Soldiers Relief Commission or the Michigan Veterans Trust Fund. For more information, call (810) 257-3068.

Genesee County Department of Veterans Services has partnered with MTA Flint to offer six free rides a month to doctor appointments, phar-

macy, grocery store, farmers markets and other destinations within Genesee County. Our Vets to Wellness program is available to veterans and their dependents. Also they can take you to the Detroit, Saginaw, or Ann Arbor VA. They have the ability to transport those that have to be confined to a wheelchair. They just need 2-3 days in advance to schedule.

For more information, call (810) 257-3068.

Source: gc4me.com

Veterans, stop in for a visit with a service officer

Certified Service Officers from Oakland County Veterans Affairs Office will be available the first and second Tuesday of each month at Holly Area Veterans Resource Center (HAVRC), at 300 East St., Holly.

They will be at the center from 9 a.m. a.m. to 3:30 p.m. To make an

appointment, call (248) 858-0785 and ask for Lauren. Walk-ins are always welcome.

When you come to see a Service Officer, please bring necessary paperwork such as discharge papers (DD-214).

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— CONCEPT DRAWING —

VETERAN'S MEMORIAL PARK

The new Veteran's Memorial will consist of a Veteran's pathway, filled with memorial bricks, a sponsor area, 7 flags honoring each branch of the United States military, a statue and commemorative wall.

LEGEND

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- 2 DONOR BRICK PAVER PATHWAY
- 3 PLAZA SPACE
- 4 MEMORIAL
- 5 AMERICAN FLAG & MILITARY BRANCH FLAGS
- 6 EXISTING RELOCATED MEMORIALS
- 7 EXISTING GAZEBO
- 8 EXISTING TREES
- 9 REFLECTION PLAZA SPACE
- 10 WELCOME TO FENTON SIGN WITH MEMORIAL INFORMATION
- 11 VETERANS PARK MEMORIAL SIGN



For more information about Veteran's Memorial Park, contact:
Pat Lockwood, Chair // 810-516-9480 // lockwoodpa4@gmail.com

Calling all Linden residents

Get involved in municipal matters by applying to be on these boards

By Hannah Ball

Linden Mayor Danielle Cusson is hoping city residents will be interested in getting involved in municipal activities.

During the Monday, Oct. 25 meeting, Cusson said Linden has positions on multiple boards that are up for reappointment this year. The city will consider new applicants on the following boards:

Linden Planning Commission

The planning commission works on the master plan for existing and future land uses in the city. The master plan is an analysis and mapping report for a municipality based on population factors and zoning uses. It is used for reviews during land use requests, site plans and related approvals for development, change of occupancy and assisting with the development of capital improvement plans.

Commissioners are appointed by city council. The Linden Planning Commission meets the first Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers located on the lower level of the Mill Building.

Board of Review

The board of review is responsible for considering appeals to property assessments, poverty exemption applications, and tax roll corrections. The board meets annually on the third Monday in March, and it meets in July and December for tax roll corrections only. Members are appointed by the city council.

Library Board

The Library Board meets the first Thursday of April, June, September, and December to work with the librarian of the Linden Branch of the Genesee District Library and conducts events to promote the use of the library, said Councilor Pam Howd, who is on the library board. They work on projects that enrich the library and host the annual book sale. Proceeds go to library needs.

The members are appointed.

Parks and Recreation

The Parks and Recreation board organizes and conducts cleanup days for city parks. The board works to spread information and promote the safe use of recreation in Linden.

Downtown Development Authority

The DDA oversees the promotional activities and public improvements within

the district. The nine members on the board are responsible for the downtown development plan and overseeing the budget for tax increment financing within the district. DDA members are appointed by the city council and meet on the fourth Thursday of every month, at 8:30 a.m., in Council Chambers on the lower level of the Mill Building.

More information is available at lindenmi.us/dda.

Zoning Board of Appeals

The Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) is a quasi-judicial board that considers appeals, variance requests, and ordinance interpretation. It meets the second Tuesday of each quarter, once in January, April, July, and October, at

7:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, and at times when a special meeting is requested. Members are appointed by the city council.

Find the application at lindenmi.us under the "Boards & Commissions" tab. Applications should be in by mid November, and appointments will be made in December.

HONORING OUR VETERANS

Sponsored by Sharp Funeral Homes, the Tri-County Times is honoring a local veteran in every edition of the newspaper. The only criteria is that the veteran be honorably discharged. Let us honor you or the veteran in your life, past or present.

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- Hometown
- War or war era
- Branch of military
- Rank
- Years of service
- Honors or medals earned

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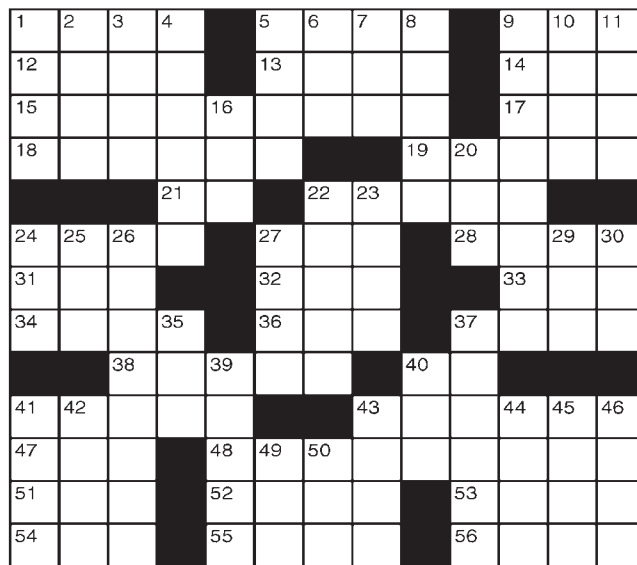
Please email information and military photo to: news@tctimes.com

KING
FEATURES

Midweek Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Greet the villain
5 Bummer
9 Wd. from Roget
12 Incite
13 Writer Rice
14 Scot's refusal
15 Time of youthful innocence
17 World Cup cheer
18 Jacket part
19 Cut wood
21 Hectic hosp. area
22 Sun block?
24 Satirist Mort
27 "Exodus" hero
28 Infatuated
31 Acapulco gold
32 Impose
33 "Delicious!"
34 Lugosi of film
36 Observe
37 Nick and Nora's pet
38 Cove
40 Room cooler, for short
41 Pal
43 Geronimo, for one
47 Mound stat
48 1987 Woody Allen movie
51 Hobbyist's abbr.



- 52 Apple product
53 Pet-food brand
54 Snake's warning
55 Mediocre grades
56 Part of A.D.
DOWN
1 Smooch
2 Spoken
3 Leer at
4 Sargasso wriggler
5 Florida county
6 Genetic let-
ters
7 Whatever
8 Bas-relief medium
9 Winter "no school" times
10 Harvard rival
11 Grant basis, at times
16 TiVo, for example
20 Calendar abbr.
22 Vinegar bottle
23 Low-calorie
24 Weep
25 "Right you —!"
26 Work breaks
27 Church sec-
tion
29 Belly
30 "I — Rock"
35 Moreover
37 National park in Maine
39 Ira Gershwin's contribution
40 GI's address
41 Hotel furniture
42 "Topaz" author
43 Helps
44 "Misery" star James
45 Church song
46 Old U.S. gas brand
49 Gorilla
50 Fawn's mom

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Midweek Sudoku

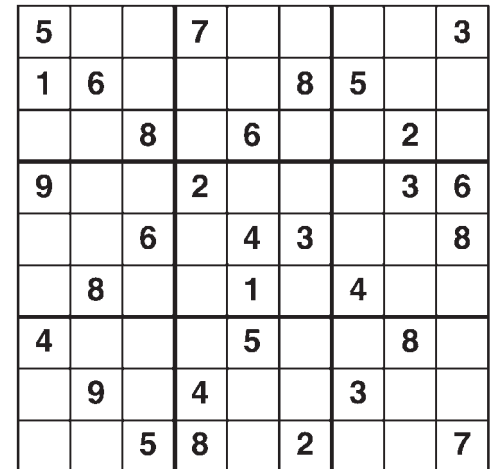
FUN BY THE NUMBERS

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

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DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging

♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

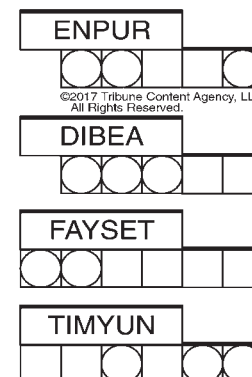
Midweek Jumble

JUMBLE

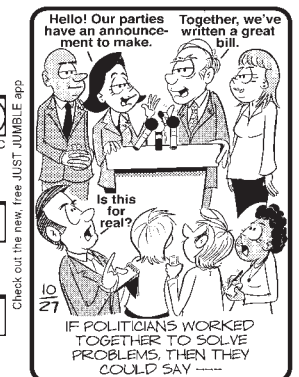
THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
by David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

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Answers in this Sunday's edition of the Tri-County Times



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Horoscopes

For the week of
November 8, 2021

ARIES

Mar 21/Apr 20

Aries, someone is appealing to your softer, more sensual side lately and you're not quite sure how you feel about it. Showing emotions is not a sign of weakness. Enjoy the attention.

TAURUS

Apr 21/May 21

Taurus, if you've been tasked with motivating others and getting them on track, it may be a tough go of it. Despite your encouraging words, some don't want to budge.

GEMINI

May 22/Jun 21

Gemini, identify those people who stick around even when the chips are down. These are the people you want in your corner to offer comfort and support.

CANCER

Jun 22/Jul 22

You are pushed up against a wall even though you are not up for any more pressure, Cancer. Find a physical activity to blow off steam and any pent up energy.

LEO

Jul 23/Aug 23

It may be difficult to avoid internalizing the opinions of others, Leo. However, that's just what you have to do this week. Brush off comments that get in the way of your productivity.

VIRGO

Aug 24/Sept 22

Virgo, get in touch with a distant relative or old friend. This person may be in need of company and a simple phone call or text could be just what the doctor ordered.

LIBRA

Sept 23/Oct 23

Don't be surprised if someone rubs you the wrong way this week, Libra. You don't have to feel compelled to like everyone, but you will have to get along.

SCORPIO

Oct 24/Nov 22

It's difficult not to take things personally when someone disagrees with you about something, Scorpio. Resist the urge to get into a heated debate. Focus your energy elsewhere.

SAGITTARIUS

Nov 23/Dec 21

Sagittarius, this is a time for plenty of communication between you and your loved ones or coworkers. Listen and contribute to discussions as much as you can this week.

CAPRICORN

Dec 22/Jan 20

Capricorn, your slow and steady nature will be appreciated and acknowledged by others, particularly those who have been paired with you on a project.

AQUARIUS

Jan 21/Feb 18

Aquarius, you may find out something surprising about your family that you didn't know before. Even if it comes as a shock, delve deeper for the story behind the situation.

PISCES

Feb 19/Mar 20

Emails are going back and forth, the phone is ringing off the hook and video conferences are booming. Try to find a quiet place to unwind, Pisces.



Linden runners Kyle Eberhard (left) and River Meckstroth earned All-State honors at the D2 state cross country meet. Photo: David Troppens

Linden boys XC finish seventh at state meet

By David Troppens

It's pretty easy to look back at the Linden varsity boys cross country season and recognize it as a tremendous success.

A year after not qualifying for the state meet, the Eagles returned this season under first-year head coach Trevor Hall, earned two All-State performances and also earned seventh place as a team.

Linden's squad recorded 259 points, 39 more than sixth-place Adrian and six

less than eighth-place East Grand Rapids.

"We went into the season with high expectations, but coming in seventh definitely exceeded those expectations," one of Linden's two All-State runners River Meckstroth said. "Everyone has worked so hard this season and I'm grateful we get to see it all pay off."

"I thought the team ran great," Linden's other All-State runner Kyle Eberhard said. "We all had really good days,

especially from Ryan (Blackwood) and Clayton (Ackerman). Those two ran really well and had great times."

"I thought it was a really strong end to a memorable season," Hall said. "I felt like each of the seven guys who competed for us had a strong race and it culminated in a couple of PRs and a top-10 finish, which has been the goal from the beginning."

Lake Fenton had three runners (No-
See LINDEN on 16

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2021 | PAGE 13 | MYFENTON.COM/SPORTS

Sports Times

Tigers win 18th straight Metro League crown

By David Troppens

On one of the walls of the Fenton High School pool, the team league championship banners are proudly displayed.

For the Fenton varsity girls swimming and diving team, it starts with championship in 2004, the first season the Flint Metro League recognized girls swimming for a league championship. And since then it has continued every year.

The Tigers made it 18 straight league crowns by cruising at the Flint Metro League Meet held at Ortonville-Brandon High School, Saturday.

"Holding on to that Metro title, it gives us a sense of pride," Fenton senior Halee Alexander said. "I feel very proud of that. The idea of being a part of something that is much bigger than myself, and all the years before me, kind of creates a connection among all of the girls who have swum or are going to swim for us and, hopefully, keep that streak going as well. There's a connection when you run into alumni.

There definitely is and it's cool to know it has continued on for so long. It's really special."

"It means we get to carry on a legacy of winning Metros and it's good to see people do so well and get best times and stuff," fellow senior Rose Haney said. "Even though it's pretty much expected we are going to win, we still have to put in the work to get it. It takes work to get here. It was special for me because my high school season is coming to an end."

"It was very emotional," senior Gracie Olsen said. "I was crying before the meet started. I was looking in the stands and I saw Mrs. Alexander balling her eyes out and I was like, 'She got me.' There was a lot of emotion. Of course I was excited. I was happy and I was upbeat trying to cheer and then when I realize I'm with teammates that I have been swimming with since I started swimming and I'm seeing there last race — that was hard."

The Tigers dominated the league meet again, scoring 588



The Fenton varsity girls swimming and diving team celebrates its 18th straight Flint Metro League championship at Ortonville-Brandon High School at the Flint Metro League meet. The Tigers have won 17 of the 18 league crowns outright.

team points, or 188 more than second-place Owosso. Holly was fourth with 242 points. Fenton took the top spot in 10 of the 12 events, including winning all three relays.

Olsen, who will leave the school known as the greatest swimmer in Fenton history after this season, captured four more

Flint Metro League championships. Also accomplishing that feat is Fenton's strong freshman Tess Heavner. The pair teamed with Sophie Stefanac and Haney to end the meet with a first-place finish in the 400 free-style relay (3:47.45), recording a Brandon pool record. Stefa-

See TIGERS on 15



Holly's Ashley Sobczynski runs in a past race. She took 11th in the women's D1 race at the state meet. Photo: David Troppens

Holly's Sobczynski places 11th at D1 state meet

By David Troppens

Ashley Sobczynski had a couple of simple goals when she competed at the Division 1 State Cross Country Championships at Michigan International Speedway on Saturday.

See D1 on 16

Blue Devils' tourney run ends in district finals vs. Freeland

By David Troppens

Lake Fenton — It was a season of firsts for the Lake Fenton varsity football team.

It was the first time the Blue Devils earned a Flint Metro League Stars Division title, sharing it with Goodrich. It was the first time Lake Fenton represented the Flint Metro League Stars Division as its squad in the championship game against the Stripes Division champion. And, of course, the Blue Devils were the first Stars Division team to become the outright league champion when they defeated Fenton in the crossover title game.

However, what was an outstanding season for the Blue Devils came to an end in a Division 4 District championship game at home against the Freeland Falcons Friday night.

The Blue Devils (9-2) couldn't stop the Falcons' potent ground attack, resulting in a 37-6 loss.

Still, it was an outstanding season by a squad that posted just a combined six wins in the past two seasons, and had earned three consecutive losing seasons

before this year. Lake Fenton recorded its first nine-win season since winning 11 contests during the 2006 season.

"This means the world," Lake Fenton senior Reid Shumaker said. "To see this program from one that hasn't won a playoff game in I don't know how long to one that won a playoff game (means a lot). Us seniors built it. We got to see it grow and this was definitely special for us."

"Before we came in we really didn't have much," Lake Fenton senior Dylan Hammis said. "We had some broken up years but everything came together this year. We finished off strong even though we didn't come out with the win (against Freeland)."

The Blue Devils posted just a 3-5 record a year ago but they entered the season with a renewed optimism created by the relationships the senior class tried to build throughout the offseason. It, obviously, worked.

"Everyone bought in at the beginning of the year," Lake Fenton senior Max Muenzer said. "We love each other, we are so close and we never quit."

See DEVILS' on 15



Lake Fenton's varsity football team's tournament run ended in the district championship contest Friday night in a 37-6 loss to Freeland. (Above) Lake Fenton's Noah Hall tackles a Freeland runner. (Left) Lake Fenton quarterback Reid Shumaker throws a ball downfield before getting hit by Freeland defender. (Below) Lake Fenton's Nash Verhelle tries to break the grasp of a Freeland defender.

Photos: Mark Bolen



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DEVILS
Continued from Page 14
We got after it.

“(Being a part of the Lake Fenton program) meant building bonds with people and creating relationships with people you will never forget.”
“This is the closest that any of us have been with any team around,” Shumaker said. “We are just close and that’s what made us a good team. We were closer than any other team we played.”

Lake Fenton varsity football coach Marty Borski agreed.
“They love each other,” Borski said. “I don’t know if we’ve ever had a group — we are talented, don’t get me wrong — that was us instead of me, that was we instead of me. It made us greater. I have said it all year, that’s our super power. These kids absolutely love each other. They want to be with each other all the time. They want to do more. That’s what makes them different.”

While the Blue Devils entered the contest the top seed based on the formula used by the Michigan High School Athletic Association, most ventured to give the favorite status to Freeland entering the contest due to their consistent success and potent ground game. The two games the squads competed in recent times, Freeland (10-1) won both (2014 and 2015).

The Falcons scored the first blow. On their opening possession of the contest, Freeland came close to scoring, but quarterback Bryson Huckleby fumbled at the Lake Fenton 1. Lake Fenton’s Nash Verhelle recovered, staving off what could’ve been the game’s first score. However, four plays later, Lake Fenton was punting and Freeland took over at the Lake Fenton 24. Six plays later, Huckleby scored on a seven-yard run. Garret Pistro ran in the two-point conversion and the Blue Devils trailed 8-0 with 1:32 left in the first quarter.

Both teams’ defenses stiffened from that point for a bit. However, about the midpoint of the second quarter, the Blue Devils began their only scoring drive of the game.
Starting at their own 28, the Blue Devils took six plays to score on a 17-yard TD run up the middle by Lucas Storm. Helping set up that score were pass completions of 27 yards to Dalton Decker and 24 yards to Verhelle. Lake Fenton failed to convert the two-point conversion, enabling Freeland to hole an 8-6 lead with 3:22 left in the half.

However, Freeland responded immediately. Set up by a big kickoff return to the Lake Fenton 45 by Evan Vasicek, the Falcons took seven plays to drive 45 yards and score on Huckleby’s one-yard QB sneak. Freeland led 16-6 with 28.4 seconds left in the half, and held on to that lead entering the break.
After a strong resistance in the first half, the Blue Devils



Lake Fenton’s defense slows down Freeland’s running game in this photo. The Blue Devils lost the game 37-6. Photo: Mark Bolen

were’t able to keep up with Freeland’s size in the second half. The Falcons took eight plays to drive 63 yards, scoring on a three-yard run by Huckleby. Jacob Kunder’s extra-point put Freeland up 22-6 with 8:20 left in the third quarter.

Lake Fenton tried to respond, and with the help of a 31-yard completion to Jack Conley, had the ball at the Freeland 24, facing a fourth-and-4 play. That play resulted in an incomplete pass.
CONTINUED AT TCTIMES.COM

TIGERS
Continued from Page 13

Stefanac, Olsen Alexander and Sana Saab also began the finals with a first-place time of 1:54.96 in the 200 medley relay. That also was a new pool record. Finally, Heavner, Alexander, Dolliver and Saab also won the 200 freestyle relay with a time of 1:45.50.
In individual events, Olsen won the 200 freestyle (1:57.35) and the 100 freestyle (53.64) while Heavner was the Metro’s individual champion in the 100 butterfly (58.53) and the 100 backstroke (58.58). Both were Brandon pool records for Heavner. Olsen’s 200 freestyle time was a meet record.

Three others earned individual league championship finishes. Stefanac won the 200 individual medley (2:18.50) while Molly Blanchard won the 500 freestyle (5:36.68). Ella Koch earned the final first, winning diving (336.70).

The Tigers also had four individual seconds. Saab had two of them, earning runner-up honors in the 50 freestyle (25.73) and in the 100 freestyle (56.53).
CONTINUED AT TCTIMES.COM



Fenton’s Ella Koch took first place in diving at the Flint Metro League meet on Saturday. Photo: David Troppens

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Times

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(Above) Linden's boys varsity cross country team placed seventh at the D2 state cross country meet. (Right) Lake Fenton's Claire Hunt was the top female area runner at the D2 event, taking 82nd place.

LINDEN

Continued from Page 13

Ian Pinion for the boys and Claire Hunt and Marielle Hatfield for the girls) and Linden's women (Ava Fahrenkopf) also had a competitor at the meet.

The Linden boys were the main story. Eberhard, a junior, and Meckstroth, a senior, ran together for most of the race and slowly picked off runners in the field. They ran a 5:16 in the first mile and were well into the pack. They each improved to about the 30th place at the two mile mark, recording times of 10:26. From there, the pair made their move to lock up All-State spots. Eberhard was 22nd at the three-mile mark (15:40.9) and finished in 21st with a time of 16:04.85. Meckstroth improved to 27th at the three-mile mark (15:45.3) and held that position, finishing with a time of 16:15.72.

"Personally, I felt strong during the race and me and River executed our race plan really well," Eberhard said.

"Top 30 at the state meet has always been my long-term high school goal, so to finally accomplish something like that was an unbelievable experience," Meckstroth said. "The race played out perfectly and I think both Kyle and I ran really great race strategies."

After Meckstroth, Ackerman placed 77th (16:56.00) while Blackwood took 96th (17:05.36). Hayden Bradfield was Linden's final scorer



taking 140th (17:29.64). The Eagles' final two runners were Ian Martin in 185th (17:49.48) and Miles Aeschliman in 215th (18:10.65).

Only Meckstroth and Aeschliman are seniors.

The area's other male runner in the D2 race was Lake Fenton's Pinion. The sophomore finished 40th in 16:32.43.

Among the runners in the female's event, Lake Fenton's Hunt completed a fine career with an 82nd-place finish in 2:14.77. About nine seconds behind her was Hunt's fellow senior teammate Marielle Hatfield, finishing 100th in 20:23.37.

Linden's Fahrenkopf was the tri-county's last runner in the D2 event, taking 132nd in 20:45.01.

D1

Continued from Page 13

She not only accomplished them, but the Holly freshman pretty much crushed those goals.

Sobczynski was one of three area runners to compete in the Division 1 meet (the others were Fenton's Michael Crane and Nathan Katic in the boy's race) and earned All-State honors by placing 11th at the meet with a time of 18:16.47. Both were eye-popping for Sobczynski.

"Since it was my first state meet and I didn't know what to expect at all, I was aiming for a big personal record and a top 30 finish," Sobczynski said. "(Finishing 11th) was crazy. I was seeded to be 35th before I ran the race."

Sobczynski was within the top 30 (the places that earn All-State honors) at each of the mile marks. She was approximately 19th after the first mile with a time of 5:48.8.

"We went out really fast," Sobczynski said. "I thought I was going to start feeling pain in my legs, but somehow they didn't hurt."

She maintained her pace with the pack she was around during the second mile and was around 18th at the two-mile mark with a time of 11:47.8.

"I knew I only had a mile left, so (when I got to the two mile) I started going again, excited for the finish," Sobczynski said. "Coach (Richie Brinker) started screaming and stuff. It's insane because I can hear him over all of the other coaches."

Sobczynski did make her move. She passed a handful of runners during the final 1.1 mile, getting into the 11th position by the third mile marker (17:45.8). She maintained that position during the final stretch, finishing the 3.1-mile race in 18:16.47. That was a personal best time by about 32 seconds.

"Most of the last mile we were at the speedway," Sobczynski said. "Since I knew we were back in there, I kept going faster and faster and passing people."

Sobczynski was one of the area's



Fenton's two runners at the Division 1 state cross country meet were Michael Crane (above), who finished 37th in 16:11.08, and Nathan Katic (left), who finished in 188th place in 17:18.21.

Photos: David Troppens

top runners all season long. She won the first two Metro jamborees and finished second at the championship race. She also had four other runner-up finishes and three third-place finishes with one of those coming at the regional.

"I think (my season) went very well considering I wanted to aim for 18:30," Sobczynski said. "And all of the Holly girls team runners were all able to improve really well, which was good."


Crane led the area boys placing 37th, just seven positions out of the All-State positions. The Fenton senior had a time of 16:11.08. The 30th-place time was 16:00.46. Katic, a junior, finished in 188th position with a time of 17:18.21.

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Requirements for this position:

- Must have a driver's license.
- Experience with elderly population is helpful.
- Good communication, comprehension and interpersonal skills.
- Working knowledge of Windows, Microsoft Office Suite.

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This position is in a senior living community performing various tasks such as coordinating programs and services to help residents maintain a good quality of life and age in place. Assisting in assessing and identifying resident and family needs and outside resources to meet those needs. Areas of assistance may include physical, mental, psychological and/or social as it relates to aging and moving in/moving out.

Requirements for this position:

- Minimum Degree in social work, psychology or gerontology preferred.
- Two or more years of experience in a social service delivery with elderly and/or family population.
- Demonstrated working knowledge of supportive services and other resources in the area served by the project.
- Demonstrated ability to advocate, organize, problem-solve, and provide results for the residents served.
- Good communication, comprehension and interpersonal skills.
- Working knowledge of Windows, Microsoft Office Suite and resident software data systems (AASC online, Care Guide, RealPage or similar related systems.)

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CITY OF LINDEN**NOTICE OF ADOPTION - ORDINANCE NO. 394**

Linden City Council adopted an ordinance amending Title III of the Code of Ordinances by adding thereto a new Chapter 34, entitled "Purchasing Regulations," regulating purchasing procedures for the City in accordance with Chapter X of the City Charter. A complete copy of the ordinance is available to the public for inspection and distribution during regular business hours at the City Clerk's office located at 132 East Broad Street, Linden, MI 48451.

PUBLIC NOTICE
**CITY OF LINDEN
GENESEE COUNTY, MICHIGAN**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that any person or persons removing personal property from a residential or commercial premise and placing said personal property in the front lawn or street right-of-way in violation of Chapter 8.04 of the **City of Linden Municipal Code** as a result of a foreclosure or eviction proceeding is guilty of a misdemeanor.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that any personal property so deposited in the front lawn or street right-of-way constitutes a public nuisance. The City of Linden will take immediate action to abate the nuisance. Any costs or expenses incurred by the City of Linden will be charged as a special assessment against the subject property and placed upon the tax rolls for collection.

CITY OF LINDEN
Tessa Sweeney, Clerk

CITY OF LINDEN**NOTICE OF ADOPTION - ORDINANCE NO. 400**

Linden City Council adopted an ordinance amending the City of Linden Zoning Districts Map, as referenced in Section 154.046 of Chapter 154 of the Code of Ordinances by rezoning certain lands to the GC, General Commercial District subject to a Statement of Conditions.

THE CITY OF LINDEN ORDAINS THAT:

Section 1. The City of Linden Zoning Districts Map, as referenced in Section 154.046 of Chapter 154 of the Code of Ordinances, shall be amended so the following land shall be rezoned to the GC, General Commercial District, subject to a Statement of Conditions:

Parcel 1: Tax ID# 61-20-552-001, commonly known as 110 East Broad Street

PART OF LOTS 1 AND 2 BLK 1 BEG AT NW COR OF LOT 1 TH S 100 FT TH E 103 FT TH N 63 FT TH E 14 FT TH N 37 FT TH W 119 FT TO PL OF BEG ORIGINAL PLAT OF VILLAGE OF LINDEN

AND

Parcel 2: Tax ID# 62-20-552-002, commonly known as 111 South Bridge Street

PART OF LOTS 1 AND 2 BLK 1 BEG AT SW COR OF LOT 1 TH N 33.10 FT TH E 100.10 FT TH SLY 34.10 FT TO S LINE OF LOT 2 TH W TO PL OF BEG ORIGINAL PLAT OF VILLAGE OF LINDEN

A complete copy of the ordinance is available to the public for inspection and distribution during regular business hours at the City Clerk's office located at 132 East Broad Street, Linden, MI 48451.

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Obituaries**Times****Gregory (Greg) Lee Weisgerber**

1949 - 2021

Gregory (Greg) Lee Weisgerber – age 72, died peacefully at his Fenton home on Thursday, November 4, 2021. Funeral service was held at 12 PM Tuesday, November 9, at the Swartz Funeral Home, 1225 West Hill Road, Reverend Jeff Jaggers officiated. Cremation will take place following the service. Those desiring may make contributions to a charity of one's choice. Visitation was held 4 – 7 PM Monday, November 8 and 10 AM Tuesday until the time of the service at the funeral home. Greg was born August 23, 1949 in Flint. The oldest son of Edward and Jean (Fields) Weisgerber, Greg grew up in Flint and attended Flint Northwestern High School where he graduated in 1967. Following graduation, Greg joined the US Navy where he served on the USS Vreeland until his honorable discharge in May of 1972. Greg returned to Flint where they lived until moving to their home in Fenton in 1980. Greg worked at Buick City where he worked as



a journeyman Millwright until his retirement in 2005. Greg was a proud member of UAW 599. When Greg was only 16 years old, he met the then 14 year old Kathy Dillard. Greg told her the day that they met that he was going to marry her which he did four years later November 29, 1969. Greg and Kathy celebrated 52 years of marriage and had two sons, Ryan Weisgerber and Matthew (Ondrea) Weisgerber. They also had three grandchildren, Chelsea (Roger) Miller and Trevor and Callie Weisgerber as well as one great grandchild, Jayden Tilly. Greg enjoyed hunting,

fishing, golf, cooking and family including many special animals that shared their home over the many years. In addition to his loving wife Kathy, children, grandchildren and great-grandchild, Greg leaves behind his sister, Carol (Clint) Rogers; brother and sister-in-law, Robert and Sherrie Krug; nieces, Amy Krug, Michelle (John) Shayna, Hollie Rogers; nephews, CJ Rogers, Aden and Michael Weisgerber; as well as great-nephews, John Patrick and Landon Shayna, Chandler Rogers; and great-nieces, Elizabeth and Eleanor Krug; and special family friend Stephanie Wilson. Greg was preceded in death by his parents, Ed and Jean Weisgerber; and his brother, John Weisgerber. Special thanks to Kindred Hospice and Audra Harrison. Your condolences may be shared with the family at swartzfuneralhomeinc.com.

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