WE'RE HIRING SERVICE & PARTS OPERATION

Midweek Times

City approves engineering costs

♂ Bonuses Available ♂ Paid Vacation & Holiday ♂ State of the Art Facilities with EV Capabilities ♂ Emplolyee Discounts ♂ 401k + Match ♂ Continued OEM Education Assistance © Family Friendly Work Week ♂ Growing Deale

■Local Street Program to rehabilitate multiple streets in Fenton this year

By Sharon Stone

During its meeting Monday, March 13, Fenton City Council approved costs associated with engineering and geotechnical services for the continuation of the local street rehabilitation program.

This will be the city's second year of its 10-yearroad program. The roads selected for this year are based on city budgeted funds See **STREETS** on 18

Brewery coming to Linden

Hartland Brewing Company owners plan to open establishment in Linden

By Hannah Ball

Linden — Linden is getting a brewery. The owners of Hartland Brewing Company plan to open the Linden Brewing Company in the city at 117 N. Bridge Street. See **BREWERY** on 5



WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15, 2023

The Fenton varsity boys basketball team won its first district championship since 2012 when the Tigers defeated the Hartland Eagles 50-42 at Linden High School on Monday. Pictured here, Fenton's Sam Dillard II attempts a shot. Dillard netted 13 points in the victory. Also pictured in the background is Fenton's Gage Graham, who also scored 13 points. **Photo: Mark Bolen**

'We are exploring options'

\$1.00

City seeks interest in potentially developing Linden Mill building

By Hannah Ball

Linden—Could the Linden Mill building become a brewery or event space?

City officials are exploring options and ideas for the future use and potential development of the Linden Mill building, which is in need of significant maintenance repairs costing nearly \$3 million.

On Monday, March 13, Linden City Council voted 6-0 to approve a recommendation from the Mill Advisory Committee and directed city staff to advertise a request for proposal to gauge potential interest in the development of the mill building. It houses meetings on the bottom floor, the Linden Library on the second floor and the Linden Mills Historical Society and Museum on the third floor and loft area.

"We don't know if anyone's going to be interested in the project, but obviously it's something that I feel we need to explore. We want to preserve the symbol of Linden and this provides a way to do that ," said Mayor Danielle Cusson.

See MILL on 17





saying it's a nice opportunity for someone to set up a real taxi service in this area. Many years ago, back in the day, Fenton had a taxi service, but I think, now, surely the area is big enough it could support one."

G When and why did

'Mr. and Mrs.' or 'ladies and gentlemen,' become 'you guys?' Neither my name nor my wife's name is 'guy.' Show respect when addressing people. If you do not know someone's name, ask or use 'Sir or Madam.'"



Congratulations to Powers Catholic for the first ever high school hockey state title in both school and Genesee County history."

tctimes.com

Fenton Village Players presents ...

'Doubt: A Parable' by John Shanley; performances are next weekend in Fenton

By Sharon Stone

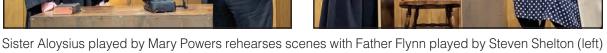
The next Fenton Village Players (FVP) 2nd Stage performance is "Doubt: A Parable" by John Shanley and directed by Mary Powers. It is for just one weekend, March 24-25.

Doubt: A Parable

"What do you do when you're not sure?" So asks Father Flynn, the progressive and beloved priest at the St. Nicholas Church School in the Bronx, in his sermon. It's 1964, and things are changing, to the chagrin of rigid principal Sister Aloysius. However, when an unconscionable accusation is leveled against the Father, Sister Aloysius realizes that the only way to get justice is to create it herself. And as for the truth of the matter? As Father Flynn says, "Doubt can be a bond as powerful and sustaining as certainty."

In stunning prose, John Patrick Shanley delves into the murky shadows of moral certainty, his characters always balancing on the thin line between truth and consequences. "Doubt: A Parable" is an exquisite, potent drama that will raise questions and answer none, leaving the audience to grapple with



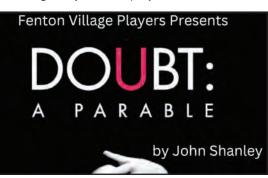


Sister Aloysius played by Mary Powers rehearses scenes with Father Flynn played by Steven Shelton (left) and Mrs. Muller played by Recalia Miller (right) from the Fenton Village Players' next play, "Doubt: A Parable."

Cast Sister Aloysius - Mary Powers Father Flynn - Steven Shelton Sister James - Kendall Smith Mrs. Muller - Recalia Miller

the discomfort of their uncertainties.

The Fenton Village Playhouse is at 14197 Torrey Road, Fenton. For details and tickets, go to fenton-theatre.org.





From food waste to soil

Local restaurants send food waste to composting facility

By Hannah Ball

Burton — Not all food waste in the tri-county area is wasted.

Every Monday and Friday, a truck stops at The Laundry and CRUST - a baking company to pick up food waste and cardboard waste and take it to the C.O. Sustainability composting facility in Burton where it's mixed with leaves, grass clippings and other organic material to make soil.

The Laundry has been involved in this process for approximately two years. The popular restaurant produces hundreds of pounds of organic waste a week, which used to go to a landfill.

"Initially we started because it is a trend in the restaurant industry and many of our customers want us to use recycled materials and use habits that are beneficial to the environment. But we also were looking for ways to cut down on our cost for removing garbage. We are charged per dump on our dumpster and it was often overflowing on a daily basis," said owner Mark Hamel.

They were able to cut down on the number of days their dumpsters were emptied from six days a week to two. In the spring, The Laundry buys a dump truck full of the soil from C.O. Sustainability to put in their garden where they grow produce. Their garbage bill was drastically reduced after making this change.

Hamel said that sustainability and recycling are "the future."

"Let's face it, landfills are not infinite. Eventually we are going to run out of landfills. In addition, some of the worst greenhouse gasses are caused from food put in landfills," Hamel said.

Tim Campbell formerly owned Midtown Composting & Sustainability and operated in Metro Detroit from 2017 to 2022. Country Oaks Landscape Supply acquired his share of the business in April of 2022. Under the operating name C.O. Sustainability, he handles logistics for the operation.

They collaborate with more than 60 food related establishments such as restaurants, markets, food processors, churches, meat markets, bars, hotels, schools, and more. They receive approximately 20 yards a week of food waste. Campbell said they're working on getting more businesses and organizations on board to have their organic waste picked up to be composted.

They charge businesses \$125 a month to have one 60-gallon can picked up and additional cans are \$45 a month.

The processing facility in Burton



provides what Campbell calls a "closed loop, double ended, product and service."

Urban farmers who sold produce can bring scraps back to the farm for recycling into compost. Restaurants and other food establishments can have their food waste be made into soil that can then be used to grow more food.

"Composting on such a large scale in urban areas as well as on farmland brought on additional challenges with hierarchy of priorities of tasks and land use, odors, sights, culture clashes, not acceptance of all compostable materials, and issues with the city of Detroit. What was found to be a more feasible method for processing food waste into compost was a centralized facility that could handle dozens of tons of food waste without restrictions of types of materials accepted," he said. "Then, greater amounts of compost could be delivered to urban farmers in the spring and fall for See COMPOST on 8

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Women are good for your brand

Building Brands

hen I graduated high school, my parents did not throw me an open house celebration. It was explained to

tion. It was explained to me like this: "Graduating high school is not an accomplishment worthy of a party. You *should* graduate high school. Finish college and then maybe you'll get a party."

I share that story not so you'll feel sorry for me

or think that my parents are horrible parents. They are amazing. I share that information because I think that mentality is what lead to my dislike of things like International Women's Day, which was celebrated last week on March 8.

It wasn't so much the day I disliked, it was things like when newspapers, including the one you're reading, would publish special pages celebrating "Women in Business." I would cringe. Why do women need special pages? Women *should* be in business. We'd never have special "Men in business" pages. I would roll my eyes and move on.

At the same time, however, there was a little voice in my head telling me how hypocritical this thinking was.



Emily Caswell

After all, it's not lost on me that part of my desire to be a woman in busi-

ness is thanks to "Take Your Daughter To Work Day." Way back when I attended, the focus was on showcasing a variety of careers specifically to female students. I'm lucky that my aunt took me to work on those days — at a newspaper, of course. I saw a woman in business, and it wasn't just any woman, it was my aunt.

It was so easy for me to picture doing what she did. So easy, in fact, that I do a lot of what she did in my current career.

The thinking was also hypocritical because I served as editor of a women's magazine for four years, and I'm currently part of a team that hosts two all-women's golf outings. I know there's something special about women — whether they're mentoring, reading your magazine or having fun at an event that's just for women.

I celebrate the women in my life. The one who raised me, the ones who mentor me and the ones who surround me. I celebrate women who work 50 hours a week and make sure the dog gets to the vet, the kids get to basketball practice and their husbands have clean socks. I'm fortunate to work on branding projects with women who own or run businesses. I also get to work alongside smart, talented women at View Newspaper Group.

I champion women because they're good for your brand. They're loyal, they're collaborative and they're good for your bottom line. A worldwide study conducted by McKinsey showed that companies with more women executives are 25% more likely to generate above-average profits.

So, it's no surprise that finally on Wednesday, as I attended my second International Women's Day event, it clicked. I don't dislike a day dedicated to women's achievements, I just wish a day like International Women's Day didn't need to exist.

I wish it was no big deal that women are in business, but it is a big deal. While it was a given in my home that my sisters and I could have any career, I know that is not the case in every home. It's certainly not the case in some countries where women struggle to even gain access to education, for example.

Speaking of education, I now also believe that graduating high school is a big deal too, because it's not a given that everyone will do it. (I have long-See **BRANDS** on 8

Hotlines

Submit Hot lines online at tctime. or text to 810-771-8398

All submissions, if approved for publication, must be 50 words or less and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Tri-County Times. We reserve the right to edit for clarity. length and liability.

ITRIED TO volunteer for Meals on Wheels. I had been involved in delivering meals a few years ago so I was familiar with the organization. I called them back after they left a message. They turned me down. I was told it was too far for me. Shouldn't that be my decision?

ERNIE: 'I NEED an example

of a statistical anomaly for my homework.' Bert: 'Here's one: Snow days seem to hit more often on Fridays and Mondays.' Ernie: 'Wow. A mystery of Mother Nature!'

NOT SURE WHO you are talking to, or who 'both of us' are, but you are correct as to E.O. 13563. However, E. O. 13526 sect. 1.3 does grant the President, V.P. and others the power to declassify.

I HAVE TO ask the stalwart liberals — are you better off than you were one to two years ago?

IF YOU ONLY get your news from mainstream media, you sure are missing a lot of what is going on in this country.

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

What are the worst roads in the tri-county area?



"Owen Road and Silver Parkway."



"Restwood Drive around Byram Lake in Fenton Township."



"White Lake between 23 & Tipsico. Pretty much all of Hartland Rd. The better question might be 'what local road can you drive straight on without damaging your vehicle." **Tim Crane,** Fenton

street talk



"Cook Road west of Linden."

Dana Skarritt Rickert Swartz Creek

Terry Zalewski Fenton

BREWERY Continued from Page 1

Ryan and Nikki McDonald, who opened Hartland Brewing Company in 2019, received approval on a special land use request and the preliminary site plan for the establishment on Monday, March 6 from the Linden Planning Commission. The property is zoned central business district. They recently purchased the building from Sam Jawhari.

"We feel like there's growth here with the Dr. Wax building and the gas station, and the city has been super workable and very supportive. We feel like it was a good fit," he said. "We're trying to move forward as quickly as possible."

They're currently working on getting the proper microbrewing and winemaking licensing that's anticipated to take approximately nine months.

They plan to renovate the space. 117 N. Bridge Street is a historic, two-story building with unoccupied 1,852 square feet on the ground floor and 1,873 square feet on the second floor, which houses two separate residential apartments. The property is 3,168 square feet in total.

Linden Brewing Company will occupy the first floor and the front portion of the second floor.

Brewing equipment, coolers, kitchen, and restrooms will be in the rear portion of the first floor. The front portion of the first floor will feature a bar and seating areas. Additional seating for the brewery will be provided upstairs, along with additional beer taps and a restroom, according to a report from Adam Young, city planner. One residential apartment unit will remain in the back portion of the second floor.

The establishment will be able to seat 83 people. No outdoor storage of brewing equipment or outdoor seating is proposed at this time.

"The only proposed site work will be trenching for a new water service to the building. In addition to the interior renovations, the front (east) exterior facade of the building will also receive renovations and the rear (west) façade will receive minor modifications," according to the report.

In the summer of 2022, Linden adopted zoning ordinance amendments to regulate alcohol manufacturing

SOUTHERN



facilities. Micro-breweries and small wineries are allowed as a special land use in the CBD District.

McDonald anticipates the Linden Planning Commission will discuss and vote on final site plan approval at the next meeting.

HOT LINE CONTINUED

CHINA CONTINUES STEALING

from U.S., world. China stole U.S. industrial. military secrets. intellectual property, technology, buying U.S. farmland, land near military bases. Wake up, America. China has Biden compromised allowing it. China buying Brazil, brokered deal between Saudi Arabia who Biden insulted and Iran destroying U.S./Middle East interests.

TO THE PEOPLE who put Dan Kildee back into office because of the promises he made. Haven't seen anything on how he is going to get Delphi workers back what was taken from them when Delphi went down. Just another normal Democratic lie and you people bought into it.

THERE ARE A lot of members of the United States that don't listen to warnings about travel to certain countries. They earn what they chose to do. There is no responsibility to attempt to fix stupid.

Find Your Game at SLPR

Plans for spring and summer activities are heating up with Southern Lakes Parks and Recreation. Along with all the familiar and exciting activities of the past, participants can also expect some new programming and a new Athletic Program Director, Mike Gagne.

Gagne, while new to SLPR, is not new to the area. He has spent many years involved in the community through work at Linden Community Schools and volunteering in the community. Being active in sports such as golf and Jiu Jitsu himself, he recognizes the importance of staying active at any age and the benefits it brings. "We have been working hard to find high interest sports and activities

bring those classes to SLPR," says Gagne.

One such activity is currently the hottest new trend in the US, Pickle-

ball. This game has found a home in Fenton at the Ellen Street Campus Gym. Rain or shine, bring your paddle and ball, and get ready to meet new friends and enjoy a rousing game sure to become a new favorite. Summer sessions have been updated to include classes designed exclusively for NEW and AD-VANCED players.

A different sport that never loses its appeal – soccer – has a spot for everyone at SLPR.

that appeal to everyone and You can choose from Soccer Academy for children

5 and up or join in the game with your toddler in our Soccer LAKES **PARKS & RECREATION** Star Parent Tot program.

SCAN

HERE FOR PROGRAM

INFO

Our very own Adaptive Soccer Fun (ASF) is a one-of-akind soccer club designed for people age 5 and up for those who want to play but cannot in a mainstream

program. Swimming skills learned through lessons at Fenton High School gym are a must for those of all ages when getting back into the water this summer. Private swim and group lessons are offered along with Senior Splash and lap swim.

With so many offerings, SLPR is always looking for instructors and new program ideas. If you would like to bring your unique talents to the Fenton-Linden-Lake Fenton area, please reach out to Mike Gagne, Athletic Programmer.

Don't forget all of the other great programs such

as basketball, softball, strength and conditioning, yoga, and Pilates for Golf that will be available in time for the perfect swing!

Please call SLPR we would be happy to give you



Meet Mike Gagne, SLPR's new Athletic Programmer.

more information on any of our programs being offered this spring and summer. Registration can be done through our website by going to SLPR.net.



JUDICIAL DISCRETION

In 1965 the Lovin' Spoonful released their hit song "Did You Ever Have To Make Up Your Mind?"

Here's the first chorus:

"Did you ever have to make up your mind?

Pick up on one and leave the other behind,

It's not often easy and not often kind,

Did you ever have to make up your mind?"

Although the song is about love and choices, I think its meaning is more universal and can be extended to all individual decisions, including judges using "judicial discretion" when making legal decisions.

This term is defined as a judge's power to make a decision based on their individualized evaluation guided by principles of law. The following are some common examples under Michigan law. Sentencing

In imposing a criminal sentence, a judge uses their discretion within the range of reasonable and principled outcomes. If it's outside that range it's an abuse of discretion.

Preliminary examinations

At the conclusion of the hearing, a District Court judge must determine if a felony has been committed and if there is probable cause (more likely than not) that the defendant committed it.

If that's proved the case is sent to circuit court. If upon review the proofs don't support a bindover, it's an abuse of discretion.

Reconsideration of a decision

On the motion of either party, if the court finds it made a palpable error in its original decision, it must be reversed.

Expungements

A motion to set aside a previous criminal conviction can be granted if the court finds that the defendant's behavior since the conviction warrants relief and is consistent with the

public good.

Withdrawal of guilty plea After a guilty plea is accepted and

before sentencing, a defendant has the right to withdraw the plea if, in the court's opinion, it's in the interest of justice and doesn't substantially prejudice the prosecutor. **Setting criminal bonds**

When setting a bond, the court exercises discretion and balances numerous factors including prior criminal history and the safety of the community.

Other examples of judicial discretion include probation violation hearings, the admission or exclusion of trial evidence, and deciding motions before trial. There are many more.

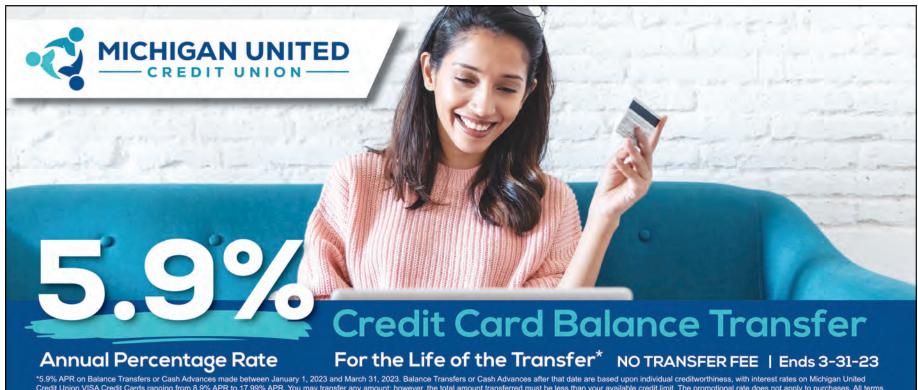
Time has shown that judicial discretion maintains public confidence in the judicial system and ensures it's fair and consistent.

HOT LINE CONTINUED

HONESTLY, HOW MUCH more can this country take of the Biden administration? I swear they do the opposite of common sense on every decision they make Biden announce. When is our breaking point? World War III? When will Republicans hold him accountable?



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Everyday *educators*



 Physical education teacher at Fenton Area Public Schools



Jen Tiemann is a physical education teacher at North Road Elementary School. She's in her 11th year of teaching and this is her seventh year in Fenton.

How do you connect with students? I enjoy using both humor and fun to build deep connections with my students. I provide a daily joke for my students and we build strong connections while exercising and playing fun games together. As we run and dance around to upbeat Kidz Bop songs, I encourage my students to leave their worries outside of the gym doors and spend their 54 minutes of class time smiling until their cheeks hurt.

What's your favorite way to relax? My favorite way to relax is by grabbing some quarters and spending the day driving around town searching for fun treasures at garage sales. I also love to relax in my sunroom by curling up with a gripping true crime novel or watching my favorite television show, Dateline.

What inspires you?

I am absolutely inspired by kindness. I believe that so many of the world's problems could be solved if more people would simply just be kind. For me, kindness inspires positivity and happiness and a smile is one of the world's most powerful and life-changing forces.

FENTON AREA PUBLIC SCHOOLS www.fentonschools.org



Linden Middle School teacher Ted Allessie (left) and Linden High School teacher Amy Messer (right) were selected as Teachers of the Year. They had been nominated by their respective administrators. Also shown here are students Hailey Elder, Melody Meckstroth, Sidney Shepard and Ryan Blackwood.

Patriot's Pen and Voice of Democracy essay winners, as well as teachers of the year

The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 4642 of Linden honored several talented students and dedicated teachers with a dinner and award ceremony presided over by Commander Dan Sly on Thursday, March 9 at the VFW Post in downtown Linden.

Three students from Linden Middle School, Hailey Elder, Sidney Shepard and Melody Meckstroth, received a certificate and gift card for their Patriot's Pen essays.

Ryan Blackwood, a senior at Linden High School is this year's winner of the Voice of Democracy essay contest. He received a scholarship for his future education. The students' essays were judged by a panel of veterans from the Post and scored on their content and

HOT LINE CONTINUED

country anymore. Think of your

because their lives will depend

grandchildren next time you vote

THE BEST WAY to lower the

cost of living is to vote out the

Biden regime. The Democrats are ruining our economy faster

than we've ever seen.

WAKE UP PEOPLE before

we no longer have a free

upon it.

adherence to the topic given.

Other winners attending the event that night included Linden Middle School teacher Ted Allessie and Linden High School teacher Amy Messer. Both teachers were nominated for Teacher of the Year by their respective administra-

Linden VFW presents awards



Ryan Blackwood, a senior at Linden High School, is this year's winner of the Voice of Democracy essay contest by the Linden VFW. He received a scholarship for his future education. Linden VFW Commander Dan Sly presented him with the award.

tors, receiving high praise and recognition from VFW and former Linden School Board member Greg Durkac.

"It is a true honor to praise such dedicated individuals who give so much to their students and profession," Durkac said.



COMPOST

Continued from Page 3

planting and top dressing, closing the loop from food waste to compost and back to locally grown produce."

Let's face

it, landfills are

not infinite.

Eventually we are

going to run out

of landfills. 77

Mark Hamel

The Laundry owner

The process of composting involves mixing nitrogen and carbon based materials and adding oxygen. Leaves, grass clippings and food waste are kept in piles together at the facility.

"Carbon consists of fallen leaves and wood chips. Nitrogens are primarily grass clippings,

manure, food waste, and spent digestate from anaerobic digesters. The chemical process heats up to around 160 degrees, which kills weed seeds and pathogens," he said. "After aerating for a few months, the finished mixture is screened and sold either by the yard or by the bag. The compost is STA Certified by the U.S. Composting Council."

Composting facilities can be run in a more neighborhood-friendly manner compared to landfills. C.O. Sustainability uses multiple methods to lessen any negative effects on the surrounding residential properties. This includes using wood chips to absorb odors. They also use the heat generated from the composting process to heat their ware-

house, greenhouse for aquaponics, scale house, and retail space.

"Landfills degrade property values and are not the most attractive form of land use. Reducing their necessity with other ways of processing 'waste' is the goal of those aware and who wish to take leadership with ac-

tion," Campbell said. "More heat and less air pollution could be generated from heat capture of compost piles than from burning a very low energy fuel source."

"Keeping the same nutrients cycled between food and soil to grow more food is the ultimate goal. In a closed loop system, there is no such thing as waste. All products feed another system and cycle and in our case we are nourishing soil with nutrients from uneaten food," he said. **BRANDS** Continued from Page 4

since forgiven my parents for not throwing me an open house.)

The point of International Women's Day is to celebrate the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women. The day also marks a call to action for accelerating gender parity. In case you're wondering, no, gender parity is not a thing yet. Here's one example. International Women's Day has been celebrated since 1911, and in 2022 women still earned an average of 82% of what men earned, according to a Pew Research Center analysis of median hourly earnings of both full- and part-time workers.

I'm happy to report that View Newspaper Group, does not simply pay lip service to the achievements of women in the workplace through our reporting and special editions. Our company employs women in five of our company's eight top leadership positions. Our ranks are bolstered by women in every department and at every level of our company including reporters, sales professionals, graphics and production, administration and circulation. There is no question that women strengthen our brand. Just as there is no question that women who work across the communities we cover strengthen the brands of the businesses and organizations they represent through their commitment, creativity and collaboration.

I don't know if I'll live to see the day women globally have inherent rights and are treated with respect and dignity and don't make less simply because they're a woman. So, until that happens, I will proudly celebrate International Women's Day. I will celebrate women in business, women who are stay-at-home moms and even women who say things like #bossbabe. We're all amazing. But really, please just say boss.

Emily Caswell is the Brand Manager for VIEW Group, the branding division of View Newspaper Group.



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Popularity of organic foods is undeniable

The popularity of organic foods is undeniable. According to a 2021 survey from the Organic Trade Association, total sales of organic foods topped more than \$60 billion in 2020.

Data from Mercaris, which provides market insight and analysis on organics and non-GMO foods, supports that finding and indicates that organic food sales grew by 9% between 2009 and 2019. During that same time period, conventional food sales grew only 3%, which illustrates just how popular organics have become over the last decade and a half.

And despite being a year marked by a pandemic and the considerable economic uncertainty it unleashed, 2020 proved to be an especially good year for organics. Mercaris reports that organic food sales increased by 13% in 2020, which serves as another indicator that consumers are increasingly demanding organics over conventional foods.

Source: Metro Creative Connections

your farm is special. your coverage should be too. simple human sense



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Agriculture TODAY

Greenhouses effectively extend growing seasons

Among the resources used to help plants thrive

Modern, large-scale agriculture operations utilize various machines and technologies to provide products to consumers. Greenhouses are among the resources used to help plants thrive.

Greenhouses are not a new phenomenon, even if today's incarnations have technological upgrades over their ancestors. The first attempts to grow plants in greenhouse-like structures likely date back to ancient Egypt, but there are writings from the Romans as early as 14 BCE explaining greenhouse operations. The Roman emperor Tiberius wanted to eat cucumbers all year long. Roman winters would not allow for cucumbers to thrive when temperatures dropped below freezing. Rolling cucumber growing carts into sheds only did so much. Someone came up with the concept of making sheds with sheets of elenite, a transparent rock, to let the sun in and help keep cucumbers growing indoors warm. The idea took off from there.

Greenhouses are comprised of walls and roofing materials primarily made of a transparent material. The interior of a greenhouse exposed to sunlight becomes significantly warmer than the external temperature, helping to protect plants inside from extreme conditions and enabling plants to thrive even when weather conditions are not optimal. Through the years, greenhouses also may have incorporated some form of additional heating.



Greenhouses are effective ways to extend growing seasons for both commercial and home gardeners.

Keeping plants thriving for commercial production now gets additional help from computers, as relying on sunlight alone may result in fluctuations in optimal conditions. Modern, smart greenhouses, according to the cultivation technology company Growlink, employ smart technology for heating, cooling and lighting. This tech is connected to a computer to optimize plant growth conditions. Computers can adjust conditions accordingly for the particular plant being produced, such as for tropical fruits that require more moisture and heat.

Anyone who desires a greenhouse



for personal plant growth can build one in his or her backyard with various plans available for free or purchase. Companies also sell prefabricated greenhouse kits that can be erected with relative ease.

Handy homeowners also can construct basic greenhouses with materials found at many home improvement retailers. A wood frame greenhouse can be built in any size and covered with plastic sheeting. One can purchase a prefabricated greenhouse door or simply use a sheet of weighted plastic that can be tied out of the way for the door. To allow for ventilation in hot weather, a wood-frame vent that can be propped open can be incorporated into the roof rafter design.

Those who want a more permanent structure may want to look into using greenhouse plastic paneling in lieu of plastic sheeting. Either way, home greenhouses can be as elaborate or as simple as individuals desire.

Source: Metro Creative Connections



11

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Fenton's Ja'Hion Bond tries to work between Hartland's defense in the Tigers' district championship victory on Friday. **Photo: Mark Bolen**

Tigers capture first district title since 2012

By David Troppens

Linden — District titles don't come Fenton's way that often.

The last the Fenton varsity boys basketball team won one was in 2012. Before that title, the last was in the 20th century (1990) so when it does, it's a reason to celebrate.

The Tigers (18-6) were able to enjoy that type of success Friday when they defeated the Hartland Eagles 50-42 in a Division 1 district championship game at Linden High School, earning the program's first Division 1 district crown in school history. The 2012 championship was a Class A crown.

"It's big because we haven't won it since 2012, so it's great we won it," senior Colin TerBurgh said.

when they defeated the Hartland "Now, we're able to move on from Eagles 50-42 in a Division 1 district it and able to build on the program."

> "To be able to get one during my three years on varsity means a lot," senior Justin Banura said. "I'm able to come back and remember it. I wanted it last year too, but we couldn't get it. I'm happy we got it this year and hopefully we can get See **TIGERS** on 16

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Sports Times

Fenton's Haney gets his state championship day

Senior caps prep career with two inidividual event state titles

By David Troppens

Max Haney has been a great swimmer his entire time he's been at Fenton High School.

However, the one thing that eluded him during his four-year career with the Tigers was an individual state championship.

A couple of times, that wasn't his fault. The 2020 state meet was cancelled due to COVID. He was unable to compete in 2021 not because he had COVID but because he was contact-traced and forced to sit out again.

Last year, during his junior season, he finally was able to compete and earned a runner-up finish in the 100 butterfly.

But in what was his last chance to compete, Haney accomplished what only one other Fenton male swim athlete has ever accomplished. Haney completed his senior year with not one, but two individual state championships at Saturday's Division 2 state meet held at the Holland Aquatic Center.

He won his first in the 200-yard individual medley (1:48.44) and then captured his second in the 100 backstroke (48.92). Both were au-

tomatic All-American times as well for the swimmer that will continue his career at Oakland University next fall.

The only other male swimmer to win two individual state titles during the same event was Scott Burdick. He won the 50 and 100 freestyle state titles in 1974. Fenton's most recent male individual state champion before Saturday was diver Brian Lambert who won it in diving (447.55) in 1988. Marty Spees was the last competitor to win it in an actual swim event, earning the 200 individual medley title in 1987 (1:57.52). "I am extremely happy and proud of how I performed today," Haney said. "It's what I've been working for a long time, and to see it actually happen is a great feeling.

"I'm happy I can join the list of the Fenton elite. I'm glad I can represent Fenton to the best of my abilities."

"I could not pick a better way for Max to go out after the way his high school career started," Fenton varsity boys swim coach Brad Jones said. "Having not one, but two state meets taken away from you by COVID could have discouraged See **HANEY** on 15





Fenton varsity boys swimmer Max Haney captured two individual state championships at the D2 state swimmeet. He earned them in the 200 individual medley (left) and in the 100 backstroke. (Above) Haney earns one of his two state championship medals from Fenton boys swim coach Brad Jones.

Tigers cap strong season at D2 state swim meet

Cox places sixth in diving; Seniors cap solid career

By David Troppens

Numbers have never been a big thing for the Fenton varsity boys swim team this winter.

Quality has.

Fenton had a small squad this season, but figured a way to still win the Flint Metro League Championship.

Competing in the D2 state meet at Holland Aquatic Center, the team had six athletes competing and still figured a way to make a bang.

Fenton's Max Haney earned two individual state championships in the 200-yard individual medley (48.92) and the 100 backstroke (48.92). The squad had one other All-State performance by diver Owen Cox. They helped the Tigers finished 14th overall at the meet. The team also had two relays, enabling members of Fenton's senior class to compete in one more event before their prep careers came to an end. For more information about Haney's state titles, read another story provided elsewhere in this publication.

After Fenton's Haney won his first title in the 200 individual medley during Saturday's final, the Tigers second All-State performance was provided by Cox with a sixth-place finish in onemeter diving with a score of 399.85.

"I am very happy with how I placed," Cox said. "My initial goal was just to get top 16 and advance to the finals, but I made it to the final, and was seated seventh. My goal was to just hold the spot and try to stay top eight. I am very happy with sixth place. I think I performed very consistent and that's what placed me so high."

Cox had an outstanding start during the preliminary round. He posted a score of 196.70, placing him third at the first break. After the semifinals, Cox was in seventh with a 294.25. He improved his score by more than 100 points the final round. He began the final round .15 points behind Portage Northern's William Blind for sixth. He jumped Blind and finished in sixth by .25 points ahead of Blind.

"After round five, I was expecting to be about top 10 because I had some very big dives during these rounds, and I did pretty well," Cox said. "But when I saw I was in third, I was very excited and knew I needed to keep being consistent with my dives to try to stay up in the top 10. I also thought that the first portion of the meet was the most important because that's when the judges really look at how good you are and make an initial bias on you."

"Owen missed the first cut last year at the state finals as a freshman, so making it to the second day was the goal when we started the season,"

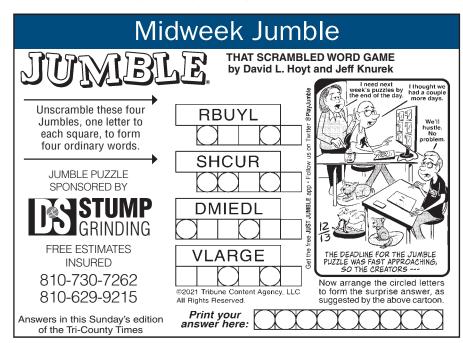


(Above) Fenton's state swim team poses for a photo while at the Division 2 event last weekend. The team placed 14th at the meet. (Right) Owen Cox earned All-State honors by placing sixth during the diving competition. He finished with a final score of 399.85.

Fenton varsity boys swim coach Brad Jones said. "As the season progressed it became clear that top 16 should not be the goal, top eight was where he belonged. Owen got better every week and after winning the regionals, I was excited to see what he could do at the finals."

See SWIM on 15





Midweek Sudoku

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©2023 King Features Synd., Inc. by Linda Thistle • Answers in this Sunday's edition of the Tri-County Times										

LFLF gymnastics team competes at state competition

By David Troppens

The LFLF gymnastics team had five athletes compete at the state meet held at White Lake Lakeland High School, on Saturday.

The squad had one All-State performance a couple of season-best scores and one athlete who competed in the all-around.

The team's top performance was recorded by Kiera Sadler. Competing in Division 1 action, she competed in the all-around, placing 12th with a fourever score of 35.00. Her best individual event was on the bars where she placed ninth with a score of 8.850. It earned her All-State honors. In other events, Sadler tied for 18th on the vault (8.950), tied for 23rd on the floor (8.900) and tied for 24th on the beam (8.300). Her 8.90 on the vault was the team's highest D1 score in the event this year.

Molly Dixon had a similar experience on the vault. Competing in D2 action, she tied for 13th with the team's top D2 vault score of the year. She tied for 13th with a 9.000. Three others competed in an individual event. In Division 2 action, Sophia Markley placed 32nd on the floor (8.750), Natasha Dudin placed 40th on the bars (7.675) and Alida Smith placed 41st on the bars (7.600).

"The girls did a great job representing their schools and their sport of gymnastics," LFLF gymnastics coach Nancy Holden said.



HANEY

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Continued from Page 13

anyone. Max's drive and dedication to improving and reaching his goals has been amazing to watch. Athletes do not get to this level by avoiding challenges. Max never shies away from a workout, and what he did this weekend was evidence of that. I couldn't be prouder of him for what he has done the last four years."

Haney was qualified to compete in eight individual events.

"I picked the events based on my performances throughout the season," Haney said. "The backstroke and IM were the best."

He was obviously correct in those choices.

In the 200 individual medley he entered with the top seeded time of 1:51.38. He improved upon that time by posting a first-place time of 1:50.51 during Friday's preliminary round, earning the top time by .61 seconds.

In the final, he posted a new school record time of 1:48.44, winning the event by more than a second. Birmingham Groves' Angus MacDonald placed second (1:50.18). He finished his first 50 yards in first with the only time less than 24 seconds (23.71) and led the field by a sizable distance at the halfway point.

"I knew I was ready to swim when I got into the water to warm up," Haney said. "It was a relief when I finished and saw first place on the board."

His second individual event was the 100 backstroke. He was seeded second with time at 50.48, but posted the best time during Friday's prelims with a time of 49.58 seconds. In the final, he defeated Grosse Pointe South's Keiran Rahmaan by almost a second with a time of 48.92. Rahmaan finished with a time of 49.70.



Fenton's Max Haney concluded his prep swim career with two individual event state championships.

"The backstroke was the icing on the cake," Haney said. "To have another state title under my name was truly a blessing."

Haney now owns all eight of the individual male swimming records in school history. He also is a member of each of the three relays on the board.

SWIM

Continued from Page 14

Cox had someone he had to thank for his progress this season.

"I definitely want to give a lot of credit to my coach David Bale for helping me out these past two years in diving," Cox said. "He has been an amazing coach, and I don't think I would have made it this far in diving if I had any other coach."

The squad also had two relays compete during Friday's preliminary round, and those teams included many of the seniors that helped create this season's league championship squad. Both relays ended up placing in 21st. The 200 freestyle relay team of Haney, Luke DeFina, Jacob Grifka and Zach Michelson recorded a time of 1:32.54. In the 400 freestyle relay, the team of Isaac Gurn-



The Linden/Fenton/Lake Fenton varsity gymnastics team (left) poses for a photo at the state meet. Kiera Sadler (above) earned All-State honors by placing ninth on the bars.

sey, Michelson, DeFina and Haney posted a time of 3:27.14.

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"This season was the made best from all the hard work that the team and I put in," DeFina, a senior, said. "We knew from the beginning that making these cuts was a huge goal, and we worked towards it all season.

"Fenton swim has been a huge part of my life and is a huge influence on my day-today, and has changed me as a person for the better. I will never forget the lessons it has taught me."

"This year we decided although small, we would not lose, we would go to states," Michelson, another senior said. "That mentally started from the very beginning of the season, first winning every league meet and the Met-

CONTINUED ONLINE AT

TIGERS

Continued from Page 13

the next one (a regional championship)."

The Fenton Tigers have only gotten better as the season has continued. The Tigers hold a 14-2 recoord since a Jan. 6 loss to Lake Fenton, and Friday was a testament to how strong the squad is. It wasn't Fenton's best effort in a lot of ways. The Tigers turned the ball over 24 times and only hit two three-pointers. However, Fenton was able to keep the Eagles to just 15-of-63 shooting and Fenton was able to hit on 20-of-43 shots from the field to earn a victory that was a bigger margin than the final score may indicate.

The Tigers led from the opening bucket and always led by at least seven in the second half. Hartland's Parker Quinn hit three threepointers in the final minute to make what was a 47-33 lead with 1:30 left into just an eight-point final margin.

"I don't think we played great tonight," Fenton varsity boys basketball coach Chad Logan said. "I think we had some fatigue from Wednesday. But we won and we get to play Monday at home. That's going to be great.

"Nobody would think about that (about playing a regional game at home at the start of the season). I thought maybe we'd be good enough to where we'd be pretty good. We've gotten tougher and better as the season went along. I think we've improved. I guess that's a testament to them and us working together to win a district had 13 points and five rechampionship."

"We've come together these last couple of games," Banura said. "We were cold

at the beginning of the year, and then we went on like a 10-game winning streak. After that, we knew we were good, so we had the confidence to go out and play every night."

Fenton jumped to an early 8-2 lead with back-to-back treys by Sam Dillard II and TerBurgh sparking the run. From there, the Tigers never really lost their grip on the game. Still, Hartland hung tough for pretty much the entire 32 minutes. A Nolan Alvord assist on a Gage Graham layup gave the Tigers a 16-9 lead after one quarter.

The lead stayed at about that margin in the second half. Hartland (7-17) closed the gap to as close as five a couple of times. Tthe final time came in the second quarter at 23-18 after a three-pointer by Cyrus Gray, but Fenton took a 25-18 lead into halftime after a Graham jumper off a Ja'Hion Bond assist.

Hartland stayed reasonably close to Fenton in the third quarter, but could never really get the margin to a point of making the Tigers uncomfortable. The Fenton lead was 29-22 after a layup by Parker Quinn, but Fenton went on a 6-0 run to raise the gap to 35-22. The run was capped by two converted free throws by Banura.

From there, Hartland was forced to battle at a further distance from the lead the rest of the game, not getting the gap back any closer than eight in the fourth.

Bond led the Tigers with 14 points, 11 rebounds and six steals. Graham had 13 points, five rebounds and three steals while Dillard bounds. Quinn led Hartland with 17 points, with nine of those points coming during the final minute.







(Above) The Fenton varsity boys basketball team celebrates its Division 1 district championship after beating Hartland on Friday. (Far left) Sam Dillard scored 13 points and grabbed five rebounds in the Tigers' 50-42 victory. (Near left) Gage Graham netted 13 points, five rebounds and three steals. (Bottom) The Tigers celebrate with their fans after earning their first district championship since the 2012 season. Photos: Mark Bolen



MILL

Continued from Page 1

For years, the city has discussed ways to pay for necessary improvements. The Mill Advisory Committee, which unanimously recommended that the city take this next step, was formed to research and make recommendations to city council regarding funding opportunities, capital improvement priorities and the future use of the historic multiple-story structure.

A report from Hubbell, Roth & Clark, Inc., done in August 2022, states that the building has critical needs in regards to stabilization and making the structure weathertight to prevent further deterioration that could compromise the building's integrity. HRC recommended completing structural, environmental, accessibility, mechanical improvements that would cost nearly \$3 million.

"Based on the information from that research, as well as looking at the necessary infrastructure improvements throughout the city, it was clear that alternative options need to be considered with the current use of the mill building. Consideration of the current function of the library and museum were heavily considered and discussed as well. The committee recognizes the importance of those functions to the community and wants to make sure we work with the entities on potential relocation or incorporation elements into the future use," wrote City Manager Ellen Glass in a memo to the city council.

The yearly expenses for the mill building are approximately \$38,010 with an average monthly expense of \$3,167. Mayor Danielle Cusson said the city covers these expenses, which go toward keeping the lights on, heating, insurance and more.

Officials worked with Kincaid Group to create three models that show the different options the city would explore in potentially developing the mill building. Every option includes full interior and exterior renovation and restoration to "maintain the historic look/value using modern, cost-effective yet durable materials, and finishes," according to the report.

1. Commercial

The owner would be a for-profit entity. The lower level and main level could host a restaurant, pub, or speakeasy-type establishment with live music and events. The second level and third level, also called the loft, could be used for community space. This plan would take approximately seven months of preconstruction and 12 months

of construction. Total project cost: \$2.62 million **2. Mixed use hotel**

The owner would be a forprofit entity. The lower level and main level could host a restaurant, pub, or speakeasytype establishment with live music and events. The second and third level would be six boutique hotel rooms. This plan would take approximately seven months of preconstruction and 14 months of construction. Total project cost: \$3.29 million **3. Mixed-use residential**

The owner would be a for-

profit entity. The lower and main levels could be a restaurant, pub, or speakeasytype establishment with live music and events. The third level and upper loft could host four two bedroom, 1.5 bathroom residential apartments. This plan would take approximately eight months of preconstruction and 12 months of construction. Total project cost: \$2.65 million

City Manager Ellen Glass said they spent a lot of time looking at potential grant opportunities that did not produce enough money. They've also reached out to local financial establishments and local residents that could make a sizable donation.

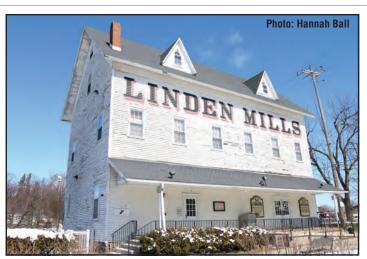
"It's just never going to be enough. We're never going to be able to create a model that's sustainable," she said. "We could have a donation of \$3 million tomorrow. But in 10, 15 and 20 years, we still have the exact same situation that we do today. So we're going to be going out and trying to find another \$3 million at that point too to still do the same exact thing."

The Genesee County District Linden Library and the Linden Mills Historical Society & Museum would potentially need to find new locations.

"As a group, we tried to be practical about the current businesses in the downtown area, how we could complement them, and what would ultimately be the best and highest use for the building and site," according to a letter from the committee.

Councilor Pamela Howd said many people come from all over to see the museum. Cusson said the city has provided this space for free for years.

"We have to look at what's best for the city as a whole. It's going to be no good to have the museum in the top of the Mill if the building continues to deteriorate,"



Cusson said. "We have to look at other options just as we have done for our DPW and city hall. All of these are moving pieces. In order to be responsible, we have to look for a way to sustain and maintain... we are exploring options."

Glass said in a recent public survey, residents indicated they would be interested in seeing the Mill building used as a brewery or similar use. No development decisions have been made at this time. The vote on Monday was in support of an expression of interest for the city to invite developers to prepare proposals.

Councilor Brad Dick said, "Let's go forward and find more creative ideas. It may not be any of those three proposals... but there might be a really great idea out there that none of us thought of."

Councilor Ray Culbert said he's in favor of looking at any ideas that generate revenue to maintain the building.

"It's a great location and I think a great opportunity to consider a developer, someone helping us with all those options. But we have to generate revenue," he said.

Glass said they've looked at models in other communities where they've enacted a public/private partnership. Community & Economic Development Director Bryan Mulanix said one option is the city could be a landlord, lease the space and help a private entity develop it. Another option is to deed the property to a developer with restrictions, such as preserving the historical designation, and that deed would revert to the city if anything happened. They could work out an agreement that the city would be able to control what businesses would be allowed in the building whether they lease it out or sell it. **Resident comments**

One resident said they would hate to see the Mill deeded over to another party.

"As the mayor, I would hate to see that, too. I just know that I can't tell my residents that I'm going to let the building sit and continue to deteriorate because we don't have the money to fix it. So we're looking at our options," Cusson said.

Jon-Claude Howd asked if there was a plan in place if the library and museum have to move. Glass said all options are on the table and they're working with multiple organizations to explore ideas.

Pete Maas, president of the LMHS, said they want to keep the town small and quaint and that 1,500 people visited the museum last year.

"They drive many, many miles to see Linden and what they don't want to see is some kind of big structure that looks like a hotel...I know the exterior is supposedly going to stay the same but you got to keep it clean all the way around in my opinion because it's important to a lot of people," he said.

"I don't think it's right for us to have to give up the museum just to save that building. Saving the building is number one, I understand that. It's very difficult for us to sacrifice. We've had the museum in there for 40 years...It's been hard for us both economically and financially but we do our best. It's probably one of the top three or four best museums in the state of Michigan, and I hate to lose that," Maas said.

Cusson said it is a great museum and invited the society to work with them on brainstorming ideas. "I don't know what other communities do, if other cities provide a free space for their museums to be, I don't know," she said.

Resident Marguerite Plumb said they could have fundraisers for the Mill. She said the museum teaches people the history of the town and it would be a shame to lose it. Cusson said while multiple groups have fundraised for the Mill to pay for small projects over the years, she doesn't believe it's feasible to raise \$3 million.

"We're not saying, 'get rid of everything.' We're trying to be responsible as the elected officials here. We have a duty to all the citizens to make decisions based on information. We don't have all the information before us. That's what we're trying to get," Cusson said.

STREETS Continued from Page 1

as city engineers.

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• Walnut (First to Sixth)

• Center (Main to Second)

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• 4th Street

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and recommendations from the Department of Public Works staff as well

The 2023 Local Street Program will include rehabilitation of pavement surface by the use of pulverizing and overlaying, sanitary and storm sewer repair as needed, full road rehabilitation where necessary, curb and gutter repair, driveway approach replacement to meet new road grade and sidewalk improvements at street intersections to meet current Americans with Disabilities Act

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ARIES

Mar 21/Apr 20 So many things are moving your way, Aries. As the week progresses, your energy level could rise and you will get much more done. Leave time for meaningful encounters.

TAURUS

Apr 21/May 21 Taurus, connect with nature this week. Go hiking at a national park or visit a zoo and take in the exotic animals. Fresh outdoor air is just what you need.

GEMINI

May 22/Jun 21 Gemini, this week marks a new cycle for you. This means you should focus your energy on your ideas and try to narrow down prospects as much as possible.

CANCER Jun 22/Jul 22

You may need a little inspiration to get moving this week, Cancer. While it's alright to take it easy on Monday or Tuesday, by Wednesday you need to shake away what's holding you back.

Horoscopes

LEO

Jul 23/Aug 23 Your brain is filled with many thoughts, Leo. With so much buzzing around in your head, it may be challenging to focus. Consult with a friend to help you out.

VIRGO

Aug 24/Sept 22 Virgo, enjoy the calm while you can because later in the week the pace may become frenzied. Emotions may run high as everyone is rushing around.

LIBRA

Sept 23/Oct 23 People are drawn to you more so than usual, Libra. All this newfound attention may feel a little overwhelming. Find some quiet time to around vourself and refocus.

SCORPIO Oct 24/Nov 22

Scorpio, you have many ideas for the future, but you need to get moving. Is something or someone holding you back? Have an honest conversation about what you need.

SAGITTARIUS Nov 23/Dec 21

Henry Street

lion.

Total construction cost

The city's engineering

is estimated at \$4.5 mil-

consultants, Orchard,

Hiltz & McCliment, Inc.

(OHM), proposal for

design services includes

project initiation, prelim-

inary plan and final plan

development for a cost

not to exceed \$178,000.

would provide geo-

technical investigative

services for a cost of

G2 Consulting Group

Exercise caution when you speak about other people at work, Sagittarius. Not everyone will share your views and vou need to work peacefully with others.

CAPRICORN Dec 22/Jan 20

You may want to remain in an easygoing state, Capricorn, but others are not letting you just hang around. You need to get some things accomplished this week.

\$12,000.

Field work has been completed and design and permitting are underway with bidding to follow.

OHM

OHM indicates the project could be bid for presentation to city council's approval in May. If the project is approved, construction could commence in June. Final completion and restoration work of this phase would take place in spring 2024.

For the week of March 13, 2023

AQUARIUS

You may be feeling like you are

moving a little slow, Aguarius.

But if you write down all you

have gotten done, then you're

likely to discover you've been

Be on the lookout for a catalyst

that can put you on the path

for big changes, Pisces.

You can use some fresh

Jan 21/Feb 18

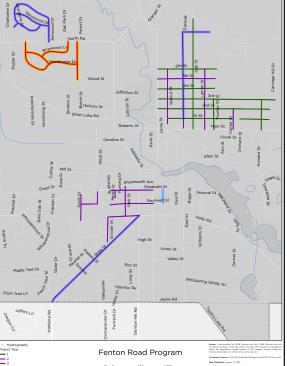
quite busy.

PISCES

inspiration.

Feb 19/Mar 20

Fenton Road Program 血



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