

Tech Center News

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Buried Hydrant? City Will Handle

The City of Warren has 6,102 fire hydrants in the city, and, because of the heavy snowfall this season, many of those hydrants are buried.

The city is offering a free service by the city to "unbury" the hydrants for the elderly and disabled. The free service will be provided by the Fire Department personnel who will clear snow around the hydrant.

"Our fire department knows the location of each fire hydrant in our city but, if a hydrant is buried by snow, it takes time to find its exact location," said Fouts.

To use the free service, call 586-756-2800.

Walmart Returns to Warren

by Jim Stickford

Good things come to those who wait.

That's how some people felt when Walmart reopened its store at the corner of Van Dyke and 12 Mile in Warren on March 5.

Shift manager Mark Romzek said Walmart is no stranger to that location.

"We took possession of the building on Feb. 3 of this year," Romzek said. "We had a store at the location years ago, but we closed it because we couldn't expand."

The company, Romzek said, opened a Walmart Supercenter Store at 14 Mile and Van Dyke. But when it became possible to expand at the 12 Mile location, a decision was made to reopen a newly-expanded Walmart there.

"We're not worried about having two Walmarts so close together," Romzek said. "Warren definitely needs a Walmart and the response from the community has been positive."

The new Walmart has more than 300 employees, Romzek said. It will be open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. "I know it sounds strange to be open all the time, but we absolutely get people shopping here in the middle of the night," Romzek said.

"You'd be surprised at how busy we get late, but in an area like this, with people working all kinds of shifts, there are people who are only able to do their

shopping at unusual hours."

Romzek said that Walmart is excited to be in Warren and he said that the associates they've hired to work at the store are enthusiastic and hard workers.

One of the people who attended the store's grand opening was Warren Mayor Jim Fouts.

"He said he was excited about what our presence will do to help with retail shopping in the city," Romzek said.

"I spoke with the owner of the plaza and he said he has plans to fill the rest of the plaza.

"It shouldn't be too long before this place becomes a vibrant shopping area. It's very exciting."



Walmart associates Dajanaira Anderson, left, and Keviana Tubbs.

CMU's Online Classes Ranked Tops in U.S.

Central Michigan University's online undergraduate programs are number one in the nation, according to *U.S. News & World Report*.

CMU's graduate education programs, for teachers and administrators, placed third and its online graduate business program ranked 17th, said school spokesperson Steve Smith.

"CMU continues to be an innovator in online learning," CMU provost Michael Gealt said. "Much credit can be given to the CMU faculty for our ongoing success. Students continually tell us that the accessibility of faculty is tremendous and that requests

for information or help are responded to within 24 hours in virtually every case. *U.S. News* rankings affirm our faculty expertise and recognizes their work in creating an environment that engages our students."

CMU's Global Campus, which oversees the university's online programs, has been a pioneer in distance learning since 1971, when it was one of the first universities to take education directly to students and adults where they live and work.

More than 10,000 students are enrolled in online classes each year, some as full-time online students and others supplementing

their face-to-face classes at the university's main campus in Mount Pleasant, Smith said.

CMU senior Justin Gawronski of Macomb, an on-campus student who works as a residence hall assistant and is former president of the Student Government Association, said taking one online course a semester offers the flexibility his schedule needs.

"The eight-week courses give me the opportunity to be six credits ahead in one semester," Gawronski said. "Our online classes are absolutely on par with our on-campus classes, and the ease and flexibility of the combination is unmatched."

It's a Slow Process, But Sinkhole Corvettes Are Being Brought Back to Life

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a sufficient thickness of earth and rock was present to support this equipment's operation.

"The last test hole was completed on the morning of Feb. 26, and the 'positive data' recorded has now been turned over to the engineers and geologists for their analysis and verification.

"Additionally, on that same day, drillers moved their operation to the outside foundation of the Skydome and have begun the drilling, high-strength grouting and installation of steel-cased micro-piling connected to the dome's perimeter foundation.

"This operation, securing and reinforcing the building's foundation, will continue for about one-and-a-half to two weeks."

Mike Murphy, CEO of Scott, Murphy & Daniel Construction, said, "Since the beginning of the project, the number one goal is to 'proceed cautiously' with the recovery and reconstruction in such a manner to keep safety of the facility and the workers the main priority and, number two, plan and perform in a positive 'plus' direction daily.

"Because there are so many unknowns within the boundaries

of this project, having an exact schedule 'in stone' is not practical or possible. Every day's planning and action determines the next step in executing a successful operation."

Murphy said the ultimate goal is to keep the existing building up in its original position, raise the Corvettes out of the sinkhole and bring the concrete floor back up to its original levels.

On March 3, the first Corvette – the 2009 Blue Devil ZR1 – was removed from the sinkhole, Frassinelli said. The museum was able to stream the event live via the Internet to the world.

The crews have been working six days a week since the sinkhole incident. On March 1, the crews rigged up the ZR1 and did a few test lifts. John Spencer, Manufacturing Integration Manager at the GM Corvette Assembly Plant, helped consult the team on the best points to strap up the car.

"With Mike, worker safety is number one. There are no compromises," said Spencer.

"I was worried about the wheels," said Murphy. "This morning we took so long because we wanted to add some secondary straps in case the wheels

pulled. It was just a little more insurance. It's been a huge relief. It went better than expected."

"The 'Blue Devil' is in remarkable shape," said John Spencer, manufacturing integration manager for Corvette.

"Cosmetically, the carbon fiber running boards are shattered, there's some minor paint damage, and a small crack in the windshield.

"Mechanically, the worst damage is a split in the oil-supply line for the 6.2L LS9 V8. If you fixed that, you could drive the ZR1 back to Detroit."

Later in the day, a 1993 40th Anniversary model Corvette was recovered with significant cosmetic damage. However, there appeared to be limited mechanical damage, said Chevrolet spokesman Monte Doran.

"The 40th Anniversary looks much worse than it really is," said Spencer. "Practically every body panel and piece of glass will need to be replaced.

"However, underneath the

frame looks straight, the suspension seems to be intact, and the steering gear still works. It is definitely salvageable."

The team planned to recover the 1962 last week, and the remaining cars in the next 60 days.

The museum plans to display the cars as they are recovered, now through Aug. 3.

In addition, this spring, they

plan to create a special display with information on the sinkhole incident, sinkholes and karst background details, videos, photos and more.

"The recovery of the ZR-1 went incredibly well," said Murphy. "Obviously, there's a lot of work still to do. But, watching the ZR-1 drive out of the museum was a great start to the recovery effort."

Prohibition Lectures Coming Soon

"The Roaring Twenties" is the topic of a series of lectures now going on at Macomb Community College's Lorenzo Cultural Center. Lectures on Detroit's Prohibition history are upcoming.

Author Armando Delicato will open the Prohibition talks on Wednesday, March 12, by profiling the years in which Detroit was known as an international border town where illegal alcohol flowed generously.

The talk will begin at 11 a.m.

The second in the series will be held at 11 a.m. April 4 when

Paul R. Kaveiff will talk about the evolution of Detroit's Purple Gang, tracing the group's growth from a juvenile street gang to one of the powerhouse criminal syndicates during Prohibition.

The final presentation will take place April 26 when historian Daniel Okrent talks about the rise and fall of Prohibition. Okrent is the author of the national bestseller, "Last Call."

For more information on the Prohibition series, call 586-445-7348 or visit www.lorenzoculturalcenter.com.

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