

# MADISON TOWNSHIP

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## SOMETHING SPECIAL RIGHT IN OUR BACKYARD

### A Special Community Right in Our Backyard

Did you know there is a special place right here in Madison Township that people from all over the country are coming to see and study because they want to replicate it in their hometown? That place is Safe Haven Farms, one of only a handful of farm communities in the United States designed specifically for adults with autism. Safe Haven Farms occupies a beautiful 59-acre property at 5970 No Mans Rd. Founded by parents of young adults with autism, in response to the lack of suitable residential and day services for autistic adults, the farm opened in May 2010. Safe Haven's mission is to provide a variety of meaningful living, working, learning and leisure activities in a safe and accepting farm environment, where every individual is respected as a valued and contributing community member.

Safe Haven Farms, Inc., a non-profit, tax-exempt organization owns the property and serves as the landlord for the operation. Round-the-clock staffing and administrative support for residential and day services at the farm are provided by Bittersweet Middletown, a division of Bittersweet, Inc. They own and operate Bittersweet Farms, founded in 1983 near Toledo, which was the first agriculturally-based program for individuals with autism in the United States, and served as model for the founding families of Safe Haven. Bittersweet has 30 years of knowledge and experience in serving adults with autism in a farm setting and they are a nationally-recognized leader in providing autism services. They provide in-depth autism training and extensive coaching to their employees on how to work with individuals with autism.

The general contractor for development of the property and construction of the buildings on site was Fishbaugh & Sons Construction Co. of Middletown. They utilized an extensive group of local contractors in all aspects of the three million dollar construction project. Bittersweet Middletown employs about 35 employees, many of them from Madison Township



Above; Aerial view of Safe Haven Farms, left; Farmers and friends getting ready for a hay ride.

and surrounding communities. And the local community businesses are used for most purchases. So the economic impact of Safe Haven Farms has been significant.

### A Typical Day at Safe Haven

Morning shines down on the four attractive homes that each house four residents. The homes are universally accessible and energy efficient, designed with many features to address the special needs of adults with autism. Each resident has a private bedroom and bath and there are ample shared living spaces, with a screened in porch and patio with a view of the woods behind.

A typical work day begins early. The residents (called "farmers" at Safe Haven) are awakened by staff at 7:00, eat breakfast, pack their lunches and get ready for their day. Most farmers walk to the Day Services area to begin their day activities at 9:00, while others pursue an alternative day schedule.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

# YOUR Township Administrator...



## HELPING TO SAVE A LIFE, THAT COULD BE YOURS...

By **Todd Farler,**  
**Madison Township Administrator**

THANKS FOR MAKING MADISON TOWNSHIP  
A GREAT PLACE TO LIVE, WORK, AND PLAY!

**W**elcome to our 2013 Fall issue of the Madison Township Newsletter. Inside you'll find new articles, new information, and new advertisers. While we've kept article sections that have been requested, we've also added new sections and new information. You'll be able to read about our very own Ms. Ruth Slade; soon to be a centenarian, and also preview some of the newest real estate listing from homes in Madison Township. We're always looking for feedback and new story ideas, so if you come across something you think is news worthy or interesting, give us a call!

Given that October was National Fire Safety and Prevention month, this is a great time to announce that we recently received a FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) grant for a large number of smoke detectors to be distributed throughout the households in Madison Township. The initial focus of the distribution will be strategically targeted at high risk homes, as determined by FEMA. These homes will include any household with children age 14 years and under, and any household with residents 65 years and older. This program will allow our Fire Department personnel to schedule a time when they can come to your home, properly install the smoke detectors, and perform a home safety inspection if requested. Each home will receive as many smoke detectors as needed to properly outfit the home. Although we would prefer to have our fire personnel install the detectors and perform a fire safety inspection, you will also have the option of having them simply delivered to your home.

As so many of us rely on propane, heating oil, or wood burning fireplaces to heat with, this program will offer another level of safety protection to our families. Having the proper smoke detectors, and the correct number of smoke detectors in your home, will more than double the chances of your family surviving a fire. Statistically, over 60% of homes have no smoke

detectors, or existing detectors that do not operate properly, while over 60% of fire related deaths occurs in these same homes. This simple task may more than double the chances of your family surviving a house fire.

We will begin the program by sending home flyers with students from school (pre-K thru 8th grade), adding a notice to our website, and contacting the local senior citizens center. An e-mail will also be sent out to anyone on our Notification List. Although we will initially target high risk homes, this program is open to ALL Madison Township residents. We will tentatively begin campaigning the program by the end of 2013 and will begin and continue installations throughout 2014. Our Spring newsletter will contain a simple form that we'll ask you to complete and return to us.

Regardless if you don't have any, need more, or your old smoke detectors simply needs replaced, please be a part of this township wide fire prevention program and let us help keep your family safe. The program is 100% free and there will be no charge for the service or the smoke detectors. ■



### MISSION STATEMENT OF MADISON TOWNSHIP

The mission of Madison Township is to serve the best interests of our residents by providing and maintaining a safe, healthy, and enjoyable community in which to live, work and play. To protect the general welfare of our rural community by utilizing efficient and effective public services and being dedicated to increasing the quality of life for our residents.

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### TOWNSHIP CONTACT NUMBERS

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By Brian McGuire,  
Trustee Vice President



I recently had the opportunity to visit with 2 classes of third graders at Madison Elementary School, who were studying local government. It was a very rewarding and informative experience for me and hopefully also for the students that attended. Their questions were already prepared and well rehearsed, so it had the feel of a Washington style press conference only on a smaller scale. The first question asked was "What do you do as a Madison Township Trustee?" A very good question by a third grader and also a question some adults have. I answered that we are responsible for the maintenance and care of the township roads, bridges, ditches, cemeteries, and our township park. We are also responsible for the Madison Fire and EMS Department. The next question was "Do you have very hard decisions?" I answered that we have a few easy decisions but a majority are difficult, because we as Trustees must think of all 8500 people living in our Township and how they will be affected by those decisions. It is a very big responsibility. The question and answer session continued for another 40 minutes and at the end I believe it was an enjoyable experience for all of us. I look forward to another third grade 'press conference'.

I have also had the opportunity to tour Safe Haven Farm for adults with autism, located on 56 acres on No Mans Road. What a wonderful facility. I understand why Trustee Alan Daniel said it was a feather in the cap of Madison Township. I had a chance to talk to Dennis Rogers, president of the Safe Haven board and his wife Ann. Ann commented what a wonderful area Madison is, how quiet and comfortable it is, she said "it feels like home". They also appreciated how members of the Madison Fire Department came out and helped them identify any problem areas and make sure there were no surprises if there are any needs for Fire or EMS services. Dennis and Ann also commented on the care of our roadways. How, even in bad weather, their volunteers are able to get to the facility to provide

the services that are needed. They have learned what we already know, that we have the best road crew and Fire and EMS in southwest Ohio and I believe in the state.

In closing I would like to thank two people who have been very important to Madison Township. The first is Gene Schenck. Gene recently retired as a member of our road crew after over 15 years of service. Gene's dedicated and tireless service kept our roads clear and safe for us all. We wish Gene good luck as he begins a well deserved retirement. The second person I would like to thank is our former Madison Township Administrator, Bill McGuire, my dad. At a recent meeting we had a presentation from Southwest Water District, and during the presentation they said dad was instrumental in bringing water to Madison Township. It is something I had forgotten about and quite frankly had taken for granted. Dad even made sure the water lines were large enough to not only serve residential needs but the needs of the fire department. I was amazed to learn there are still areas served by Southwest Water that have lines that can only supply residential needs. The work ethic and foresight both of these men had will benefit Madison Township for many years to come. They deserve the thanks and appreciation from all of Madison Township.

So on behalf of Alan, Dwight, Amy and myself and all the residents of Madison Township, thank you Gene and Dad for all you did for us and all our future generations. ■



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CONTINUED FROM COVER

Their short walk takes them to the Hatton Center, the beautiful day services building, financed in part by a generous grant from the Hatton Foundation of Cincinnati. The Hatton Center includes a large creative arts center; a learning center equipped with computers, iPads and an electronic smart board; a kitchen; a music therapy room; a sensory room which provides a calming environment; and a large community room for parties, dances and special events.

The resident farmers are joined by several day farmers who live off the property, but come to Safe Haven for day programs. Pre-established work teams and activity schedules for the day are reviewed, and the farmers and staff set off to their duties. Some will begin in the Hatton Center, with art or music therapy, while others head outside to care for the animals or tend to the greenhouses and garden. Safe Haven is a working farm, so there is always plenty to do.

The animal-care team refills the water and food buckets for the horses, alpacas, goats, dogs, cats and ducks, spending a few minutes socializing with them. They clean the animal stalls, sweep up around the barn, and retrieve the eggs from the chicken and duck coops.

During the growing season there is much to do in the large garden and two hoop houses. Here the farmers plant, water, weed and tend the flowers, berries, and vegetables that provide them with healthy meals. There is mowing, mulching and planting to be done around the property, firewood to be collected, and many other activities to keep Safe Haven looking beautiful year around.

After work, the residents return to their homes where they are greeted by the residential staff. Evening activities are designed around interests of the individual residents. Some may work out on the farm's exercise equipment, ride their bikes around the farm, go for a walk or return to the barn for the evening animal care. Others may take a shopping trip with staff to buy new clothes or groceries. Some may help out with meal preparation and laundry or work on specific skill development.

The farmers enjoy trips away from the farm, to see movies, go to sporting events, concerts, church, go swimming at the "Y," bowling, eat dinner at a restaurant or visit family and friends. Not all residents need to participate in the same activities.

As dusk falls and everyone is back home, dinner is served in each house. Afterwards, there may be a bonfire in the fire pit next to the houses, time to shoot hoops, or use the adult-sized swings in the park area adjacent to the houses. When it's hot, a dip in the above-ground pool may hit the spot.

On the weekends, the active parent group of Safe Haven provides frequent social events for the farmers and staff. They have a dinner dance monthly, with volunteers from Miami University helping to liven up the dance floor and getting everyone engaged. Holidays are celebrated with pot luck dinners in the Hatton Center, or a picnic in the pavilion with a hay ride in warm weather, and birthdays are celebrated in each house.

Safe Haven Farms captured my imagination and heart—Abby Ison. Bill and Abby Ison of Madison Twp. are the farm operations managers. Abby began her association with Safe Haven in 2010, and she is beloved by all of the farmers. Bill is a popular attraction at holiday picnics, providing fun hayrides around the property, in addition to his work as the part-time farm manager.



Large circle: Creative arts room, right; Pete working hard, and left; alpaca's on the farm.

Abby oversees everything from animal care to mowing the grass and maintaining the hoop houses. She grew up on a farm and manages her own small one now and has raised "just about" any kind of animal – except goats. "Those I had to research," she quipped.

Abby is actively training staff members so that they will be able to instruct and assist the farmers. "Even something as simple as the correct way to pick up a wheelbarrow needs to be taught," she said. Longtime residents of Madison Township, Bill and Abby also know many in the local community and are very active in the Butler County chapter of the Ohio Horsemen Council. They also have a young nephew with autism, so this cause is personal.

### The Future

With the rising incidence of autism, the need for housing and jobs for this population will continue to increase rapidly. Autistic children grow up to be autistic adults. Safe Haven is on the leading edge of providing services for those who like the rural lifestyle, and similar programs are being started all over the country.

Safe Haven Farms provides a sustainable model of lifetime care and provides significant peace of mind for parents concerned about "what will happen to them when I die?"

As Denny Rogers, Board Chairman and a founding parent stated, "We want to create a quality of life for our sons and daughters that they would thank us for if they could speak." And it looks like they have a good start towards doing just that. ■

Go to the Safe Haven web site at [www.safehavenfarms.org](http://www.safehavenfarms.org) for more information. There you can find out how to make a donation, bring a group to volunteer, get information on upcoming events, read the latest newsletter, sign up for the equestrian program, learn more about autism, or contact someone at Safe Haven about employment or services.

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# The Mills of Madison Twp.

By J. Larry Helton, Jr.

The necessity of having grain around for food preparation dates to prehistoric times with the task being accomplished with tools of stone. The Romans developed the idea of using circular milling stones powered by water, thus the first gristmill.

Nova Scotia, Canada, had the first gristmill in North America, at the mouth of the LaQuille River in 1607. The United States built its first gristmill about 1620 in what is now Maine, with others following in the early colonies. Ohio's first gristmill was at Wolfe Creek in Marietta in 1790.

Large wooden, paddled wheels turned the gears and millstones inside the mill. Two large, circular furrowed stones, four to six feet in diameter and weighing as much as a ton each, were turned to grind grain. Adjustments were made according to the type of grain being milled – corn, rye, and wheat, for example. Dammed streams turned overshot wheels from above and breast wheels at the bottom. Undershot wheels were used in un-dammed streams with water turning the wheel at the bottom. The undershot wheel was the least effective due to changes in depth and flow.

In later years, mills were adapted to assist in many aspects of industry – tobacco, gunpowder, wool, pottery, iron, paper, and wood. This contrasts with the early mills' prime roll of grinding grain into flour or meal.

Before mills were established in Madison Township, corn was either grated on simple kitchen graters or hand-mills, or pioneers had to travel to a mill the mouth of the Little Miami River on

Round Bottom Bill at Columbia in Clermont County to have their corn ground.

By 1800, Elijah Mills had dammed the Great Miami River above Poasttown and built a mill there that was later purchased by David Banker. Banker's mill packed about 3,000 barrels of flour a year. A millstone from that mill was at the Poasttown firehouse for many years before being moved to the Madison Community Park; it lies near the Blanton Cabin.

In 1801, David and Abner Enoch built a dam across the Great Miami River about two miles north of Middletown and it is assumed they built a mill there as well.

It is recorded that in 1802, Stephen Vail built a brush dam and mill, north of an older one, on the Great Miami River near present-day Middletown. From the dam, water was led by raceways down both the east and west sides of the river. The eastside millrace powered Stephen Vail's flour and saw mills. The one on the westside powered Aaron Vail's gristmill that was taken over by John Mumma and Samuel McFall, who later acquired his mill in 1840 and added a sawmill at that time.

While others were trying to tame the Great Miami River, Bambo Harris, in 1800, had built the first gristmill in Madison Township on Elk Creek, two miles west of Miltonville in Section 18. Harris was the first black man to settle in the township and was described as an excellent businessman, millwright, engineer, squatter, and freeman. The mill, built from memory, ran for more than fifty years, grinding corn or wheat for Johnnycakes, cornbread, or mush. Payment was in the form of what was called "the miller's toll". Three millstones and a plaque at the Miltonville firehouse tell of Bambo Harris' fame. Plus, near where the swinging bridge

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# MADISON LOCAL SCHOOLS

*Achieving Excellence One Student at a Time*

## Varsity Golf

The fall season was extremely successful for Madison athletics. Varsity Golf and Boys Varsity Soccer (tie with Waynesville) both earned the SWBL League Championship. Individual honors were earned by Phillip Wilson in golf as the SWBL Low Scorer as well as Austin Fligor as the SWBL Player of the Year and Owen Palmer as the SWBL Newcomer of the Year in soccer.



## Boys Varsity Soccer



## Athletic Update

Fall 2013 End of Season Results:

Varsity Football	2nd in SWBL as of week 8
Cross Country	3rd in SWBL
Girls Soccer	4th in SWBL
Girls Volleyball	4th in SWBL
Girls Tennis	5th in SWBL

## Upcoming Dates

**Friday, November 22nd**

Girls Basketball Tournament - Season Opener at Oakwood

**Friday, November 29th**

Boys Basketball Season Opener at HOME

**Saturday, November 30th**

Wrestling 1st Match of Season at Brookville

Madison Thesians' fall production is *Les Misérables*, a dramatization by Tim Kelly, adapted from the novel by Victor Hugo. In the story made famous by the long-running Broadway musical and recent movie, Jean Valjean is released from prison but not from the cruelty of 19th century French society. As he changes his identity and his life, he is on the run from the single-minded Inspector Javert while rescuing Cosette from the cold-blooded Thenardiers. When Cosette falls in love with the young student Marius, Valjean is drawn into a rebellion against the monarchy and finds himself in the middle of the climactic battle at the barricade.

student Marius, Valjean is drawn into a rebellion against the monarchy and finds himself in the middle of the climactic battle at the barricade.

This is a fast-moving dramatic adaptation that captures the drama, excitement and pathos of one of the most famous novels of all time. With dozens of students in the cast and crew, it is an exciting and moving story that will sweep the audience from wretched tenement houses to the living rooms of high society and the embattled streets of a nation in revolt.

*Les Misérables* will be performed on Friday and Saturday, Nov. 22 and 23 at 7:30 pm, and Sunday Nov. 24 at 2:30 pm. Admission is \$8 for adults, \$5 for K-12 students and senior citizens, and free for preschoolers. Tickets can be purchased at the door, or on MadisonArts.org.

Madison Thesians present

## *Les Misérables*

Nov. 22 & 23 - 7:30 pm, Nov. 24 - 2:30 pm

\$8 adults, \$5 students & seniors

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# MADISON LOCAL SCHOOLS

*Achieving Excellence One Student at a Time*

## Homecoming 2013

The 2013 Homecoming Week was full of tradition and fun! The week kicked-off with the annual Powder Puff games and ended in a victory over the Preble Shawnee Arrows.



Seniors L-R: Jazz Berns, Joey Layne, Stacie Gray, Thomas Dole, Sarah Byrd, Ben Lewis, Caden Miller, Thomas Hall, Kirsten Marsh, Jacob Wilhoit, Andrea Long, Tanner Davis, Briana Weiland, Wyatt Agnew



Juniors L-R: Jared McIntosh, Molly Johnston, Macy Spivey, Tristan Moberly



Sophomore L-R: Austin Fligor, Ashley Murphy, Jesse Dearth, Kaila Jones, Austin Philpot, Grace Morgan



Freshmen L-R: Travis Howse, Taylor Phelps, Sammy Creekbaum, Connor Olige

## Local Report Card for Madison Local School District

The Ohio Department of Education released a new report this fall that gives our school and community a clearer picture of where Madison Local Schools show strengths and areas for improvement in educating our students. The report is similar to the report card a student receives from the school and uses letter grades of A-F in nine different areas of measuring school success.

Madison Local School District is very pleased to have received a “B” in “overall student progress” indicating that the students are showing above average academic growth from one year to the next.

Madison Local Schools also received a letter “B” on performance indicators. This reveals that based on a series of 24 one-time achievement tests such as the OAA or OGT, at least 80% of our students reached “proficient, advanced, and/or accelerated” in 20 of those areas. This leaves room for improvement and clear data for our teachers to know how we can improve in the future.

If you have any questions about the new state report card system or the grades that Madison Local School District earned please feel free to contact Curtis Philpot, Superintendent of Madison Local Schools.

## “Achieving Excellence One Student at a Time” with Measures of Academic Progress

A new measurement system was instituted in grades kindergarten through twelve this fall to allow us to better focus on every student’s individual growth and achievement. The Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) tests are unique in that they are computerized and as a student responds to the questions, the test responds to the student, adjusting up or down in difficulty. As a result, each student at Madison has the same opportunity to succeed and maintain a positive attitude toward testing.

With MAP tests, Madison Local Schools can administer shorter tests and use less class time while still receiving detailed, accurate information about each child’s growth. These tests are important to teachers because they keep track of progress and growth in basic skills. They let teachers know where a student’s strengths are and if additional help is needed in any specific areas. Our teachers use this information to help them guide individualized instruction in the classroom.

Students in all grades will take the Reading and Math test, and grades 4-10 will take the Science MAP test each year. Each test will be given three times a year, once in Fall, Winter, and Spring. Following each testing period, all parents receive a report showing their child’s growth.



## Mohawk PRIDE

P = Positive Attitude  
R = Respect  
I = Integrity  
D = Discipline (Self)  
E = Empathy

At Madison Elementary School, Mohawk PRIDE is part of our Positive Behavior plan and character education. At the beginning of the year, teachers received lesson plans addressing the “common areas” around the school – playground, lunchroom, bus, bathroom, hallways and assemblies. The lessons, each emphasizing the five areas of “PRIDE” focus on how we use these traits throughout our day – how we show a positive attitude at lunch, respect at lunch, etc. What does PRIDE look like? What does PRIDE sound like? These lessons will be taught 3 times a year and emphasized on a daily basis by our staff, administration and students.

## Follow Madison Local School District on Social Media



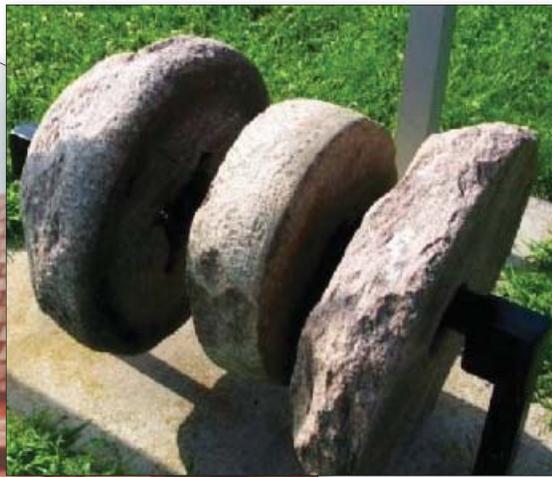
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Original stones from Bambo Harris Grits Mill can be see at fire station 151.

Benjamin Morrison also ran a mill in Section 19, just north of Miltonville.

Astoria, also known as Jacktown, northwest of Miltonville had a sawmill built by Joel Martin in 1801. An old Quaker, Henry Bennett of Miltonville, who operated it until years after the Civil War, purchased it in 1844. A sawmill, built at a later date by Jacob Snyder, was located on Upper Elk Creek in Section 18, producing flour as well that was shipped to New Orleans. The Snyder mill was at one time the largest mill on Elk Creek and producing more flour than any of the others.

Trenton had a gristmill and sawmill of hand-hewn logs near the confluence of Elk Creek and the Great Miami River, circa 1810, built by a Mr. Gunckel.

Other mills, at unknown locations, operated along Elk Creek. About 1814, there was a second flouring and sawmill. 1819 saw the first manufacturing mill built by George Dickey, where wood flatboats sent the product to New Orleans. In the 1830s, Steiner operated a woolen mill until the Civil War, and then moved on to Tennessee.

At one time, John Weaver operated a distillery; Daniel Morkhert a sawmill; John Kelley; Jacob Steiner; and others ran mills along the creek.

For more than seventy-five years, Elk Creek was a center for water-powered mills. With the forest cover gone, so was the even flow of the creek, causing more wheels to sit idle. Farmers were now turning to bigger gristmills along Middletown's hydraulic canal for their processing needs.

The Brown's Run area of Madison Township saw moderate mill activity beginning in the 1830s with grist, saw, and woolen mills powered by Brown's Run. A woolen mill established by William Emelite, who did country carding, fulling, and manufacturing of cloth. T. Lagget later ran this mill and at some time was purchased by William Thurston.

Pre-1875, Pete Gebhart operated a gristmill near Thomas Road. Peter Poast II also had a grist and sawmill on Brown's Run. Another miller operated a sorghum and mill and cider press.

By 1812, Woodsdale had two gristmills at the junctions of Madison, St. Clair, Fairfield, and Liberty Townships. Flenner's Mill, operating for nearly forty years, was located on the west bank of the Great Miami River. Allen's Mill operated for fourteen years on the east bank. There was not a bridge until 1856-57, so each mill did well.

Allen's Mill was built by George Bennett and John Allen and owned by Henry Allen, then by his son, John. Located in Section 10 of Fairfield Township, including fifty-six acres in Section 15,



once stood at Sebald Park, the millrace of this mill can still be found. Harris' millwright experience was well known in the Wayne Township area as well, where he built a mill between Jacksonburg and West Elkton, with a road from each village leading to the mill. Bambo Harris' name for a time lived on with the circa 1942 housing development on Front Street in Hamilton, until it was demolished in 2007. In 1804, just north of Miltonville, possibly at the "head of the island", Bambo Harris was contracted by Mark Harris to build a sawmill and dam for Blader Achby, to be powered by Harris' millrace and Elk Creek.

In 1815, a New Jersey millwright, George Bennett, built a grist or merchant mill and a sawmill at Miltonville in Section 30. Bennett died in 1847 and Isaac McKinney became the new miller. One of these millstones is on the working mill at Dayton's Carillon Park.

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MADISON TOWNSHIP ESTABLISH 1810

# Gardening

By Rick Henry

## REEVALUATING YOUR GARDEN

There are two common views held by those of us who want our gardens to be ‘something more’ than a kind of generic/commercial, or sterile sort of landscape which lacks inspiration. First, we know that “the garden is always a work in progress;” second, we know that “the true nature of a garden is to be imperfect.” This is true because despite our best efforts, we are dealing with the nature of individual plants and trees, and as well we are at the mercy of Mother Nature herself. This is why it can be a very good thing to just stop and reevaluate our gardens/landscapes as a whole from time-to-time.

Regardless of whether we initially began with a landscape design/blueprint, or whether our gardens have been developed through a kind of evolving process over time, sometimes we need to put down our tools and just spend some time reexamining and reassessing what we have done over the years. Right now is a perfect time of the year to do just this. With the leaves falling and the plants starting to become dormant, it is as if we can see the skeleton of our gardens, so to speak. This is also a good time to consider what we have done that has worked, in the past, and what we have done that was possibly a mistake.

In the past few years, in this column of the Madison Township Newsletter, we have considered individual plants, flowers, and trees as well as individual gardening techniques. In this article, the suggestion is to take some time to review and rethink your own personal choices that you have made in your garden over the past years. The Ohio State University Extension reports that the average residential landscape lasts about 25 years, and then it is usually time to refresh and replenish the landscape in some areas. But, whether our gardens are 5 or 25 years old, it can be helpful to sometimes just stop and consider again what we have done. For example, have we created some beds with seasonal color (annuals or perennial flowers), ornamental grasses, shrubs, or even small ornamental trees in years past . . . and they looked very good the day we planted them, but today they are overgrown and high maintenance areas? We have the best intentions (and hopes for the future), with what we do in our gardens, much like we do in our own lives. But, after the passing of time we sometimes realize that our best intentions and hopes were just not good enough. We realize that we need to make some amends and some corrections. As another example, I have a Red Maple in my yard. When I was younger I didn't want a cultivar of a Red Maple, I wanted a straight Red Maple (genus/species, ‘acer rubrum’). I searched locally and couldn't find one and finally ended up ordering one through the mail. I planted it and was very happy with it and it grew very well. It grew to be a good-sized healthy tree, very attractive color in the fall. But, I planted it in the wrong spot, too close to my house. Among other problems it is dropping small seeds (helicopters) on the roof of my home each spring and they are blowing under the shingles and causing roof problems. I am not happy about it, but it is too large to transplant, so this tree that I have loved for so many years will have to go, I have no choice.

But aside from all maintenance issues, sometimes it is helpful to focus on and consider only the aesthetics of our gardens. In other words, when we look at the size and placement, and colors

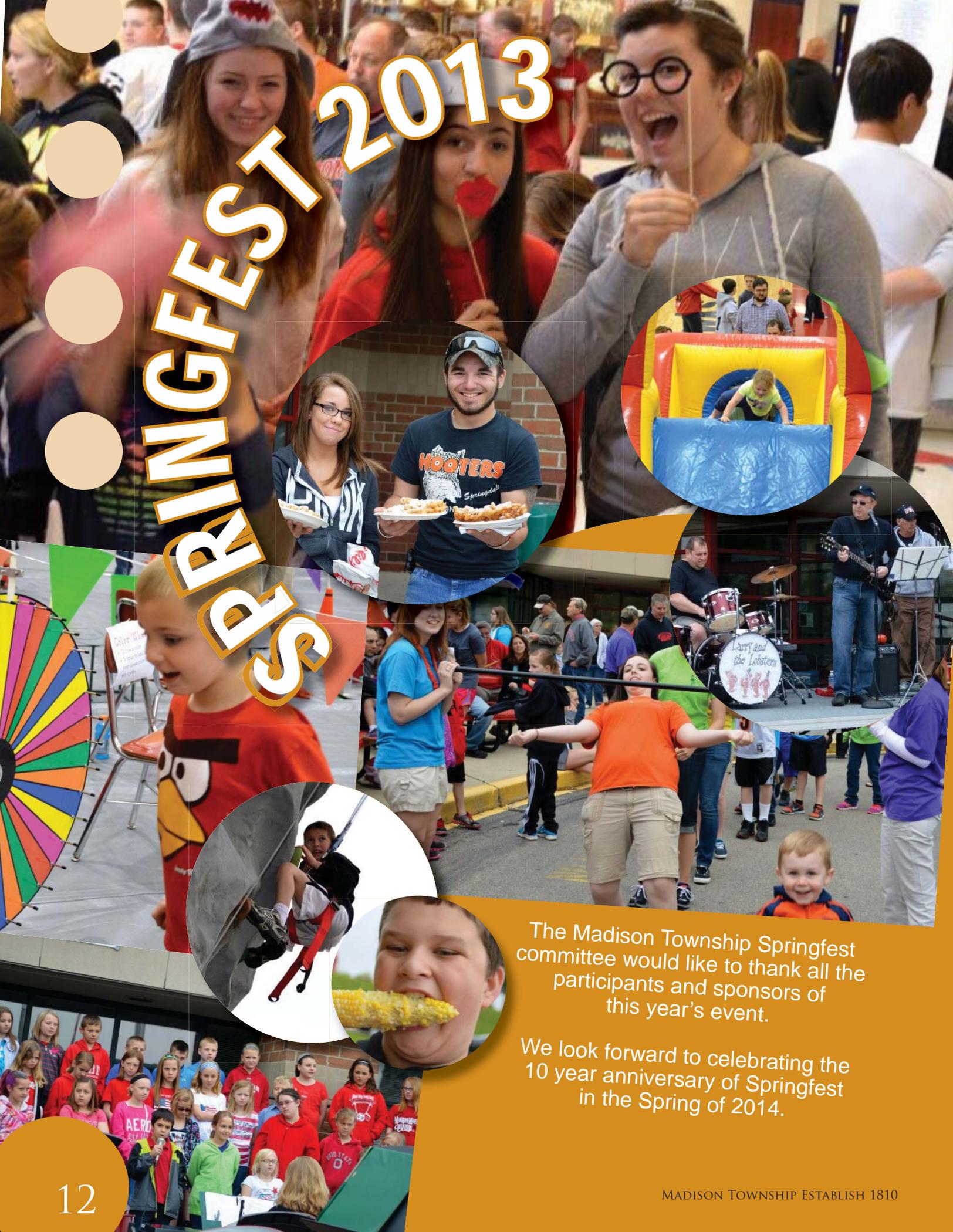


and textures of our plants, do we appreciate the art and beauty that we have created?

Or, do we feel less than inspired about what we are seeing? Do we see some changes that we would like to make that could help to improve our gardens, or possibly restore a bygone beauty? This is a very personal thing. Each of us has our own personal tastes and styles that we prefer in our gardens. Some prefer a more formal garden, others prefer more of a cottage garden style, and still others prefer their own eclectic style or one heavily laden with whimsy. Especially with gardening, art and beauty is in the eye of the beholder.

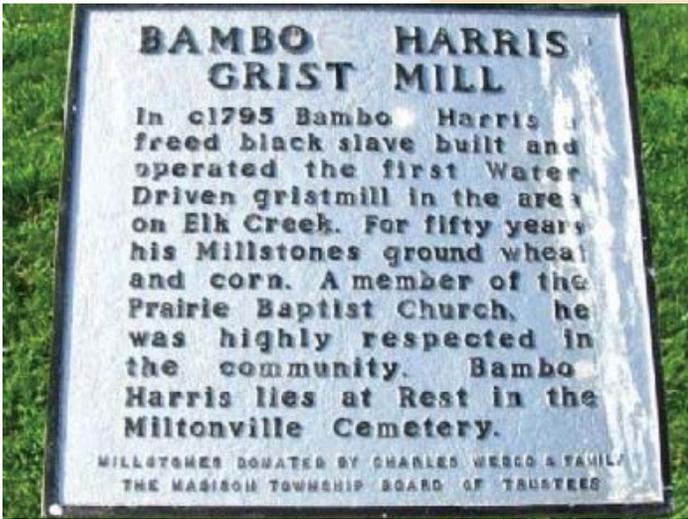
So, the objective of this article is not to produce cookie cutter gardens (but just the opposite!). And, while we will return to more specific plant suggestions and gardening techniques in future columns, this contribution to this newsletter is more of a challenge for the reader to just stop, and take in a big picture view of what has been done so far with one's gardening efforts. Sometimes we just get caught up in life, with all of life's trials and challenges and we kind of loose touch and perspective, until one day like with my Red Maple, we have a rude awakening. Maybe, if I would have taken some time to reevaluate my garden in the past, I could have realized, before it was too late, that that was the wrong spot for that tree, and I could have transplanted it and saved it. As well, I have become aware there are other areas of my garden that have lost so much color and hue, for different reasons, over the past few years. I have been gardening in my own backyard, in Madison Township for the past 29 years. So for me it might be more a “starting over” with some of my landscaping beds, whereas for other gardeners, after a time of reflection, they may find only some slight adjustments are needed. But, either way, even when we lose a beloved tree like my Red Maple, we can take solace in what is said above, “the garden is always a work in process.” And, we can smile as we realize this and remember that just as with life and relationships, we can see through gardening the meaning of my favorite quote, “In the End, the Beginning.” Happy Gardening! ■

# SPRINGFEST 2013



The Madison Township Springfest committee would like to thank all the participants and sponsors of this year's event.

We look forward to celebrating the 10 year anniversary of Springfest in the Spring of 2014.



grist and sawmill with his brother in the 1860s. The mill would be demolished to make way for a paper mill that would be short-lived due to a major fire.

In 1864, Samuel Augspurger built a brick sawmill to replace his father's. Costing \$12,000.00, it was washed away by the water of the Flood of 1913, but remained as an outside open-aired sawmill until 1955.

In 1872, Samuel built a three-story gristmill to replace the former mill that was torn down to make way for the paper mill. Costing \$15,000 to build, the millwheel was on the lower level, with gears being made of solid maple and having three burrs, one for wheat, one for corn, and one for corn and foliage together for livestock.

The flour, sold under a brand name, was loaded on canal boats and shipped to Cincinnati. Prosperity soon came to an end for Samuel Augspurger. He had assumed the responsibility for an entire freight train that was carrying flour and wheat to Montreal, Canada and Europe. The train crashed and fire consumed the entire shipment, causing Samuel great financial loss and legal problems.

Finally with the loss of the paper mill and not keeping up with the millrace, both the grist and sawmill closed. At a later date the mill wheel was removed and the lower level of the mill was filled in with only two levels then being seen. In recent years, even though it was on the Ohio Historic Inventory and the National Register of Historic Places, the owners decided to raze the last mill of Madison Township and replace it with a modern day storage structure.

With bigger and better mills being established in Middletown and Hamilton, the small mills within the area would become idle. ■

John purchased it from Henry for \$900,000 in 1817. Moody Davis was contracted to make improvements or to add a sawmill. His payment was of two years use of the mill. Davis then built a mill several miles west of Allen's Mill.

William Dye leased Allen's Mill in 1831, with John Martin operating it until 1834. The mill was sold at auction in 1836 to settle the Allen family estate to Peter Springer. It remained profitable for around another fifteen year.

Early in Woodsdale's settlement, Amish settler Christian Augspurger built a grist and sawmill. Later, his son, Samuel, who eventually would bring three mills to the community, operated a



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By Chief Hall, Madison Fire Department

# Fire Department



The Madison Township Fire and EMS had a very significant year for 2013. The Madison Township Trustees approved at the June 2013 meeting, for EMS service to begin 24/7 coverage starting July 1st of this year. This now provides the residents of Madison Township with a medic and a basic, to be stationed at the fire house located at the intersection of State Route 122 and Mosiman Road, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. With the Atrium Medical Center moving several years ago to the east side of the City of Middletown, our new 24/7 EMS coverage provides excellent medical service for the citizens of Madison Township. The Madison Fire Department believes that EMS service is a

high priority for the citizens of the township, and by offering our services 24/7, we will be able to provide those services at a higher level. Thank You Again - Madison Township Trustees!

## October was Fire Prevention Month

### Fire Prevention Reminders:

**Maintain Smoke Alarms** - Test them once a month to make sure they are working properly.

**Plan and Practice Escape Plans** - Know two ways out of each room in your home, make sure windows and doors open easily.

**Space Heaters** - Maintain a distance of three feet from the heaters for objects that can burn easily.

**Stop, Drop and Roll** - Clothing catches fire do not run, Stop, Drop and Roll to smother the fire.



### What You and Your Family Should Do in Case of a Fire.

1. Don't Panic - escape may depend on clear thinking.
2. Get out of the house following the planned escape routes, if possible do not stop to collect valuables or clothing.
3. Open doors slowly only after feeling them to see if they are hot.
4. Keep close to the floor - smoke and hot gases rise.
5. Keep doors and windows closed unless it is necessary to open them for escape.
6. Meet at a pre-established meeting place after leaving your home.
7. Call the Fire Department at 911 as soon as possible after leaving your home.
8. Never re-enter a burning building.

New uniforms coming in the near future! Look for our fire department personnel to be wearing new uniforms in the coming near future. Uniforms are being purchased partially thru the fire fund and partially thru the Volunteer Fire Department Association. Thank you to the Volunteer Association for their contribution!



Fire Prevention Day at Madison Elementary School was attended by approximately 450 kids on October 15th. They came out to see the trucks, learn about fire safety, ask questions about fire safety and prevention, and also got to see a Fire Prevention Puppet Show. All the kids received coloring books with fire safety tips and were given their own fire department hat!

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Back \$42 - Chest \$40*

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## Butler County Home Repair Program

The Home Repair program is intended to repair one item that is of an emergency nature. The repairs are those which pose an immediate or crucial threat to the health and safety of the households. Residents must own and occupy their home and meet income requirements to qualify. For example...for a family of 3 to qualify...the total household income should be below \$49,500 per year.

### SUCH REPAIRS INCLUDE:

Structural Issues, Roof Repair, Furnace Repair, Electrical or Plumbing Improvements, and Water and Sewer Connections.

These funds are provided by Butler County Commissioners through a grant from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development.

**Call (513) 785-5391**

## Butler County Downpayment Assistance

Downpayment or Closing Cost assistance is available for those wanting to purchase a home but may not have the required funds for downpayment. For a family of 4 to qualify...the total household income should be below \$54,950 per year.

**Contact Neighborhood Housing Services of Hamilton, Inc. at 513-737-9301 for details**

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**Butler County Community Development**  
130 High Street, Hamilton, Ohio 45011  
513-785-5391 [www.butlercountyohio.org](http://www.butlercountyohio.org)

## CONCEALED CARRY CLASSES



Would you be interested in obtaining your CCW (Concealed Carry Weapon) permit?

If enough interest is shown, Madison Township will help sponsor a CCW class(es) within our township.

The course would cover basic firearm safety rules, types of firearms available, ammunition selection, how to carry a concealed firearm, mindset awareness, Ohio laws, interaction with law enforcement, methods of training, proper gun care, tips on choosing the proper handgun and hands on training. Cost would depend upon the number of people interested, so let us know ASAP. Send an e-mail to [ToddF@MadisonTownshipOnline.com](mailto:ToddF@MadisonTownshipOnline.com) and please put CCW in the subject line. If there is enough interest, those that reply will be notified and arraignments will be made. You can also call 513-424-0821.

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By Jessica Powers & Katie Geyer

# Township Tales



Madison Township has been blessed for almost a century with the presence of a true humanitarian. Two Madison Junior Senior High School seniors were the latest to be welcomed into Ruth Slade's aura. As those two seniors, we would like to communicate with the community some of the wisdom, history, and humor Mrs. Slade shared with us at the age of 99 years old. She will reach the mark of centenarian in January, 2013.

On a beautiful October afternoon, we had the pleasure of meeting Ruth Slade and talking to her about her life in Madison. As our conversation started focusing on Mrs. Slade, we learned that she was not at all hesitant about sharing her story, speaking to us as she would a couple of old friends. Our questions for her started simply, as we wanted to know a little about her personal history. We quickly learned it was a rich and remarkable story. Ruth is the daughter of George Fletcher Slade and Amanda Eveline Finkbone Slade. She was born on January ninth in a house where the Brown's Run creek meets the Miami River. She had two brothers and one sister, but she never got married because she "never found the right one". For close to one hundred years now, she has been in Madison save for a short period of time, which she spent in Franklin. She initially aspired to be a teacher because her mother, the most influential person in her life, was a teacher who taught in a one-room schoolhouse on Brown's Run for eighteen years. Between her mother's eighteen years and her thirty five years, most of Madison Township is rooted in the education they provided. Although Mrs. Slade has been retired for more than 40 years, she has a lively spirit, spending most of her time working with her church.

As the October sun shined in the window, we asked Mrs. Slade for a few other details about her life, to which she responded happily from her recliner.

**Q:** What activities did you like to do when you were a child?

**A:** As a child, I loved to ride horseback. And one day, our farm was right out by the road, and it was on both side of the road, and one day, I was out and I wanted to show off, I guess, and so I rode my horse up where Dad and a neighbor were standing and the horse saw a contraption that my brothers had made and he went to the right and I went to the left, he threw me in the grass. And those men were there in a hurry saying "Are you hurt", and all that. I cleaned my clothes off and the only thing that was hurt was my self-esteem. We also used to walk in Brown's Run Creek.

**Q:** Where did you go to college? How did you get your first job as a teacher?

**A:** I went to Wilmington and graduated in '32. My uncle was on the school board. He came in and said, "You were hired last night." ... I saw the minutes of that meeting and he didn't vote which was the proper thing for him to do.

**Q:** What was Madison like when you taught there?

**A:** Well... I taught at Poasttown. I taught in three room/three grade situation out in an old farmhouse. They had torn the partitions out downstairs and that was my classroom and it had a little corner where the stove was and then I had a little table that I set the water bucket on when I'd go in in the morning I'd get a bucket of coal and a bucket of water and the children kept their cups in their desks.

**Q:** How has it changed, in your opinion, since you taught at Madison?

**A:** Well the discipline. There's no discipline today. I couldn't teach without some form of discipline and the best discipline was a slap with the hand.

**Q:** Are you happy that you stayed in Madison?

**A:** Oh yeah, I wouldn't want to live anywhere else.

**Q:** What makes Madison special to you?

**A:** Well, it's just been my home for most of my life.

**Q:** Do you have any advice for the youth of Madison?

**A:** Just get as much education as you can get. You never can stop getting an education.

**Q:** What was your favorite thing about teaching?

**A:** Teaching reading. And then seeing their little eyes sparkle when they could read. I loved that.

**Q:** If you could go back do you think you would want to try to teach another grade?

**A:** I loved teaching the first grade but I would always be sad because I knew that I had gotten so far and then I'd have to start all over in the fall again.

**Q:** What technological advancements have you experienced over your lifetime?

**A:** Television and the airplane. I've always been enamored with the airplane. I've never been in a big airplane but I've been in a small one... it was terrifying.

**Q:** What kind of work do you do with your church?

**A:** I am the historian and the librarian.... because no one else would do it.

No one else is as qualified to record the joys and sorrows of the "little white church at the top of the hill". We just hope that people will keep stepping up to record the stories of Mrs. Ruth Slade, teacher, humanitarian and soon to be centenarian. ■

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# Outdoor Corner

By J. Larry Helton, Jr.

## AN OLD HARDWARE STORE SHOTGUN



I've enjoyed many outdoor activities in my life thus far and now I have a son in which enjoys these activities as much as I do - hiking, fishing, wading creeks, rock climbing, camping, exploring, and historical trekking. We also enjoy shooting, archery, slingshots, and a variety of throwing weapons: tomahawks, knives, and spears. Add to that our love for the flora and fauna of the outdoors; from the weeds to the trees; from the insects to the mammals, we have a great appreciation for it all. My son and I like to share these experiences, often taking others with us on these adventures. Other times we bring our interests to them. We've collected many things from our endeavors, including Indian and historical artifacts, fossils, rocks, pelts, nests, and the list goes on, but our most impressive of all is our Eastern North American animal skull collection. Over the years we've picked up bones and skulls of wild and domestic animals that we have found along the way. I use different methods of cleaning these depending upon their condition before they are presentable; weather drying, boiling, chemicals, or a mixture of these. Our col-



lection ranges from rodents to large mammals, along with birds, reptiles, amphibians, and fish. A few of our skulls that cannot be found around here, such as bear, I've acquired from an older man in Maine, that goes by Porcupine. He has taught me many things of the backwoods, one being a life of bartering and trading. With all of this, how does one decide what to write an article about? Well, I will scale back a bit to another interest of my own, making and restoring implements for the outdoors. I've made powder horns, knives, porcupine quill necklaces, tin-punched artwork, and some other items, but for the gun enthusiasts, I've decided to tell of a story of a simple gun restoration.

A few years back I stopped at a garage sale and found an old shotgun for the asking price of five dollars. Pretty good buy if you like a shotgun that looked like it had been run over several times.

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The barrel and mechanism was pitted and rusted, both inside and out, the trigger guard was missing, the hammer was broken, and the stock has seen years of abuse. It was a Revelation, .20 gauge, single barrel, that later I found out was sold in the Western Auto hardware stores in the 1950s.

Once I go the shotgun home, I went right to work on it. After disassembling, cleaning off the rust with steel wool, sanding the pits, and oiling the internal parts, I left it lay for a few days until I could get to the store and determine what I could find to refinish it. I didn't want to put much into a gun that I wasn't sure would be of any use, so I wanted to go cheap. I purchased degreaser and cold bluing. The rest I would need would come from whatever I could find around the home.

After using the degreaser and bluing on all of the metal parts, I let it set overnight. The next day I found the barrel had done pretty well, but the other part had a coating of rust on them. I assumed I had done something wrong, so I cleaned it and tried it again. The next morning, same result on the other metal parts, thought the barrel looked good with its second coat of bluing. I called and talked to my uncle, a certified gunsmith, and he asked me if the metal had originally been painted. It had, so he told me that some metals would not blue properly and had to be painted instead. I took his advice and coated the metal with a few coats of black satin spray paint, which resulted in a very nice finish, with the word Revelation and the serial number quite visible.

Next came the stock. With a little touch up using a matching stain followed by wood wax, then furniture polish, it was looking good too. I have found that many times instead of stripping off an old wood finish on wood, it is better to first try to go over the surface with a matching stain and then coat the entire surface with a clear finish of shellac, varnish, polyurethane, or simply linseed oil. It may give you the result you are looking for without all the extra work. The plastic butt plate only needed cleaning.

The final problem to tackle was that of the broken hammer. The small, ridged thumb part that use to cock the gun was snapped off from the hammer and made it almost impossible to pull back. In repairing the hammer, I drilled and tapped a hole through the remaining part and put in a small, knurled hex head bolt. This made the hammer fully functional.

After all was tried, dried, and done, I reassembled the shotgun and decided to test fire it. Unsure of what the results would be, I loaded it, held it low and away from myself, and squeezed the trigger. Boom! Quite a kick from a .20 gauge. I fired it a few more times from the shoulder. On occasion it would not fire, just a click, but pull the hammer back, and the next time it would. I re-oiled

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and re-oiled, and that still is the only problem, but 9 times out of 10 it fires with no problem; the other times, just cock it back again.

The shotgun was almost finished, except for the problem of no trigger guard and the bruising I received from the butt plate. I took the gun with me to a show to look for a trigger guard, but all I got was a bunch of offers for the gun instead. While attending the Annie Oakley Days in Darke County, Ohio, I was able to pick up a trigger guard for a dollar and a rubber slide on boot for the stock, made by Winchester, also for a dollar.

Not bad – around \$10.00 to \$15.00 total in purchase and supplies – for an old single-barrel that shoots 9 out of 10 times. Oh wait; did I mention I have a teenage daughter too? Boys, my other guns shoot 10 out of 10 times. ■



# CHRISTMAS LIGHT DECORATION CONTEST

To Enter:

- Must be a Madison Township resident
- Send in your Name, address, and phone number to [ToddF@MadisonTownshipOnline.com](mailto:ToddF@MadisonTownshipOnline.com)
- Or register by calling 424-0821
- Your phone number will be used only to confirm your entry and will not be made public.
- Decoration must be in place before **December 10th**
- Voting begins **December 12th**

The judging of the decorations will be done by residents at our website: [www.MadisonTownshipOnline.com](http://www.MadisonTownshipOnline.com). We're asking that each person only vote one time. To vote, simply go throughout the township and view the entries, then go to our website and cast a vote for your favorite decorations! The website voting will be up and running sometime in early December.

Once all the entries are received by December 10th, a listing of the addresses will be sent out via our Notification List and posted on our website. If you would like to be added to our Notification List, simply go to our website and click on the link directly below the picture of the Administration building.

Voting will begin on December 12th and will last until December 30th. That should give everyone plenty of time to get out and see decorations in the weeks leading up to Christmas. The winner will be announced in early January and a picture of the winning decorations will also be included in our next newsletter!

Help build a sense of unity and support in our township by showcasing your Christmas decorations, and by voting for your favorite decorations!

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8168 Myers Rd., Madison Twp  
3 beds, 1 baths, 6+ Acres, fireplace, new roof  
LP: \$189,900



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6682 Dickey Rd., Madison Twp  
3 beds, 1 baths, 39 Acres, 2 barns  
LP: \$419,000



Coldwell Banker Oyer Inc.  
Reva Owens  
Call: (513) 267-0804

6207 Elk Creek Rd., Madison Twp.  
3 beds, 1 bath, 1 Acre, Large Barn, Inground Pool  
LP: \$136,500



Sibcy Cline  
Teresa Hall  
Call: (513) 464-3476

8865 Keister Rd., Madison Twp  
3 beds, 1 1/2 baths, 10 Acres with horse barn  
LP: \$189,900

5610 West Alexandria Road  
Middletown, Ohio 45042  
Phone: 513-424-0821  
Fax: 513-424-4659  
Email: ToddF@MadisonTownshipOnline.com  
Website: www.MadisonTownshipOnline.com

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## SANTA RUN SCHEDULE

**SOUTH POLE** (Station 151, Miltonville), leaving at 3:00pm. Santa leaves station and goes south on Elk Creek Rd and turns around at the twp line. Santa then makes a right onto Howe Rd and then left onto Mosiman Rd stopping by Moder Ln, Ristaneo Dr, Weatherwood, Marts Dr and Circle Pkwy. Santa continues down Mosiman Rd crossing 122 to stop by Blair Ct. Santa will then backtrack up Mosiman Rd and turn left onto Eck rd stopping by April Cr and Sandra Lee Ln. Santa then turns left onto Howe Rd merging with Trenton Franklin Rd and stops by Leichy Ave. Santa then crosses 122 circling around Vine St and back to 122 west. Santa then stops by Emrick Dr and continues up Hill St, right on Emerson then continues up 122. Santa stops by Knoll Ln and Beverly Ln and then turns right onto Hursh Rd. Santa then turns right onto West Alex and turns around at Sunoco, then backtracks down West Alex and turns right onto Dickey Rd. Santa then makes a left turn onto Kalbleisch Rd, left on Elk Creek Rd and then right onto West Alex. Santa then turns left on Strebee Rd stopping by Lenrose and Preblewood Dr. Santa will then turns around at the County line and continue his route south on Elk Creek Rd. Santa then makes a right turn onto 122, a right on Renee then left on Elk Creek, left on Eunice, right on JoAnne, left on Ernestine, stopping by Erika, Kyle, and Ada Dr. Santa will then turn left off of Norma Dr onto 122 and turn right onto Elk creek Rd. Santa will then turn right onto Howe Rd, right onto Wayne Madison Rd and turn around at the dead end. Then back to South Pole.



**NORTH POLE** (station 152, Poasttown), leaving at 3:00pm. Santa's first stop will be at Catalina Mobile Home Park. From there the route will continue to Corlee Ln and Aljen Rd, then north on old Germantown Rd crossing Rt4, then east on Thomas Rd. Santa then makes a right on Franklin Madison Rd to Rickard Acres, right onto Perry Ave, left onto Gerry St, down Lorraine and Evelyn Dr. From Evelyn Dr onto Franklin Madison Rd, right onto Trenton Franklin Rd, then left onto Winfield Dr, right on Dalewood Dr, and then back onto Trenton Franklin Rd going west, stopping by Otter Creek, Gleneagle, and Dairy Ln. Santa then continues west on Trenton Franklin Rd turning right onto Michael Rd, making another right onto Hetzler Rd, left onto Kalbleisch turning onto Mont Crest Estates, then continuing west on Kalbleisch Rd. Santa then turns right onto Dickey Rd merging into No Mans Rd, then turning left onto Elk Creek and left onto Kalbleisch Rd, returning to Hetzler Rd and turning left, then making a right turn onto Keister, stopping by Bertha and May Ave. Santa then continues east on Keister Rd, crossing Rt 4, stopping by Twin Oaks. Santa then back tracks to Old Germantown Rd and heads south. He then stops by Hoover Ct and Ora Ln. Santa then continues on Germantown Rd and turns right onto Myers Rd, left onto Browns Run Rd, left onto Thomas Rd, right onto Cloister Cliffs Dr; left on Litchfield Ln. Santa continues down Neiderdale Way then right on Sloebig stopping by Bunker Ln. Santa then continues on down Sloebig and turns right onto Thomas Rd and stops by Middlemoor Ln. Santa then turns right going west down Thomas Rd and make another left onto Browns Run Rd. Santa will then complete his route at Browns Run and Trenton Franklin Rd. Then back to the North Pole.

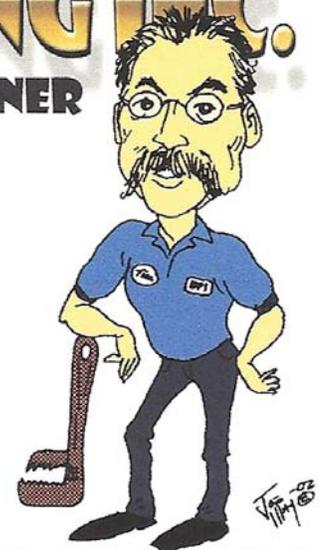
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