

MADISON TOWNSHIP

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HISTORY

By J. Larry Helton, Jr.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GREAT FLOOD OF 1913

There was no warning that Easter weekend of 1913. A dozen tornadoes and record flooding in fifteen states would be reported following the nation's most widespread catastrophe to date. The Great Flood of 1913 is still the greatest natural disaster in Ohio's history. The most severe flooding occurred along the Great Miami River when it was joined by the waters of the Stillwater and Mad Rivers. It all started on March 21, to subside on March 26, and to dry out on March 28. State rainfall totals ranged from six to eleven inches and the dams and levies failed. At least 467 people died in Ohio during the flood, but some historians state the total may be closer to 1,000. More than 40,000 homes were flooded, as well as many factories, railroads, and other structural losses. There are many stories, articles, and histories handed down from the generations of 100 years ago. Most of those told are from the cities of Dayton, Middletown, and Hamilton. By the time the floodwaters were at their highest in Middletown on March 25, parts of Madison Township were already in a state of emergency.

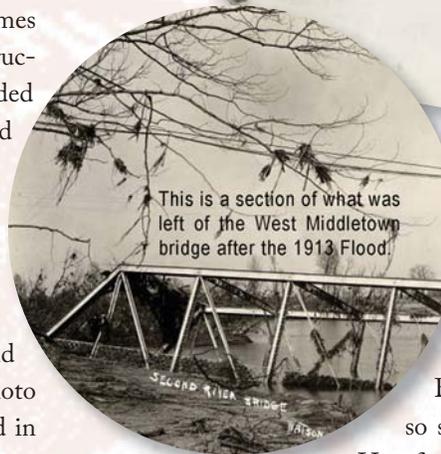
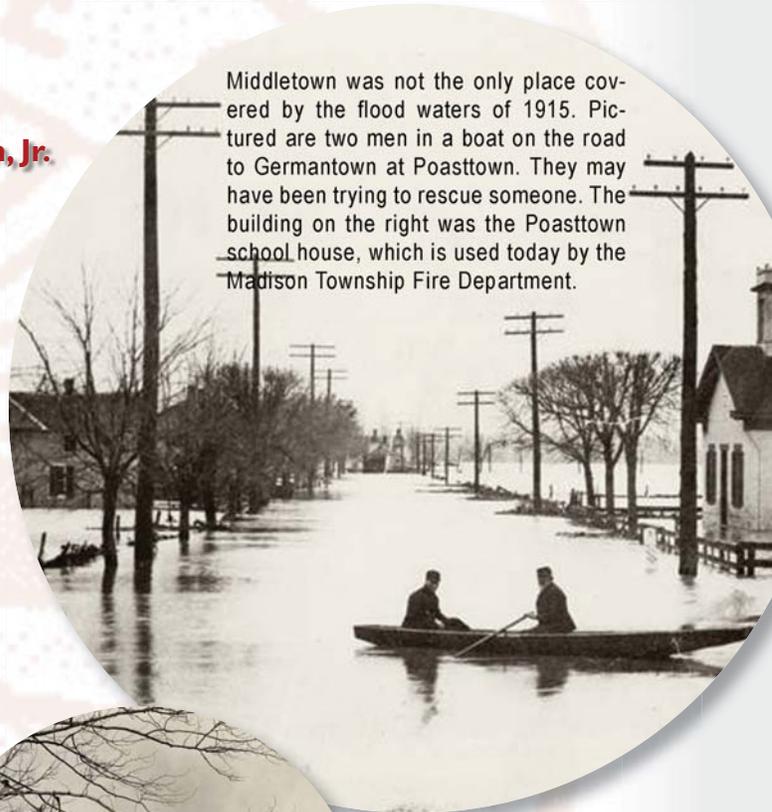
At Poasttown, the northernmost village of the township, the Great Miami River was not the threat. It was the flooding and back-up of Brown's Run Creek that flooded Poasttown. A photo shows two men in a boat on Middletown-Germantown Road in the floodwaters near the Poasttown School, now the firehouse. Three personal accounts from Poasttown have survived:

Mike Poast lived at the southwest corner of Germantown-Middletown and Franklin-Trenton Roads. As the floodwaters rose, friends came in boats and urged Mike to leave, but he would refuse. By the time the water reached the second-story window, Mike relented, climbed out the window into a boat, and to safety.

Alice Hollenbaugh, a young girl at the time, lived on Brown's Run Road and recalled that her father had them leave their home and go to higher ground at West Middletown. There she saw people on the roof of the old railroad depot waiting to be rescued and several small boats floating around the streets.

Mary Williamson was in English class at Central School at Clark and Third Streets, when a messenger came and told that

Middletown was not the only place covered by the flood waters of 1913. Pictured are two men in a boat on the road to Germantown at Poasttown. They may have been trying to rescue someone. The building on the right was the Poasttown school house, which is used today by the Madison Township Fire Department.



all the students were to go home immediately. The floodwaters had almost reached the west side of the school building. Mary's home was on Michael Road. The Middletown Bridge had already washed out, so she was told to stay at school.

Her father and brother-in-law came and took her home by way of the Poasttown Bridge, which washed out shortly afterwards.

At West Middletown, the floodwaters extended from the West Middletown hills to Baltimore, Clark, and Curtis Streets in Middletown. The eastern span of the bridge across the river was washed out and the western span destroyed. There had been a small levee and some houses in the bottom lands between the railroad and the river. These houses, houses from Middletown, dead cattle, horses, and sheep, all floated down the river, with some lodging on what remained of the earthen bridge abutments and the levee on the west side. Photos show extensive damage to houses, to the passenger and freight depots, and the Madison House, which also

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

YOUR Township Administrator...



WOW... SPRING OF 2013

By **Todd Farler,**
Madison Township Administrator

Where has the time went and where is it going? Garden work, high school graduation, summer sports? It seems like the only thing moving faster than time is technology. LP's are now MP3's. Cell phones went from being carried in "bags", to smart phones being part of your Google glasses, and dial up internet went to wireless high speed access (except for the fax machine in my office: it still dials up!).

As all the new high speed, cutting edge, remote access, and "cloud based" technology has come into our lives, we're utilizing what we can in a cost effective way, to help keep our residents in touch with Madison Township. Through this bi-annual newsletter, we try to share with you community activities, events, noteworthy information, and business of the township.

With our Notification E-mail list, we send out information pertaining to the official governance of Madison Township, weather alerts, and the occasional request for pictures or articles.

However, timing of the newsletter and restraints on e-mail usage doesn't allow us to fully exhibit and recognize all that is happening in Madison Township. To fill this gap, we're looking at updating our website to offer more information about Madison Township businesses and the community. The two additions we're currently look-

ing at would be a link for Madison Township businesses and one for community events/notices.

The business link would be a spot where businesses located in Madison Township can display their business/contact information, and a link to the website. This information would be listed on a continuous basis and would offer our residents a quick search of services, and a quick guide to names and phone numbers of local businesses.

The community events links would have the appearance of a "bulletin board", where groups or individuals can post information about upcoming events, fundraisers, occasions, or other notices they wanted to publicize. They would be posted for a set period of time, and then automatically removed.

How does this all tie into today's technology and cost effective way of distributing information? We already have a website, so we're looking at utilizing it to a higher level for the benefits of our residents, at no additional cost. You can view our website: www.MadisonTownshipOnline.com on your smart phone, thru your high speed wireless router, or just fall back on the nostalgic dial time of the 56k modem. Either way, we're simply trying to keep you up to date and informed about what's going on in Madison Township.

If you think you'd utilize or enjoy having this information available on our website, please send me an e-mail and let me know at:

ToddF@MadisonTownshipOnline.com

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

CLEAN UP DAY FOR MADISON?

We are looking and asking to see if there is enough interest in Madison Township to hold a Clean-Up Day sometime in the Fall!

ARE YOU INTERESTED?

Would you volunteer? If so, please contact the Township Administration sometime in May or June, so we can see if there is a large enough response. Perhaps this could be used as a Community Service Project for your Boy Scout /Girl Scout troop? Maybe your 4-H group? High school teams or youth groups? Just gather your group and let us know! Help us keep Madison Township a great place to live, work, and play!

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.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

PRESIDENT

Brian McGuire 513-465-6390

VICE PRESIDENT

Dwight Walter 513-423-4132

TRUSTEE

Alan Daniel 513-422-3950

FISCAL OFFICER

Amy Schenck 513-424-7088

ADMINISTRATOR

Todd Farler 513-424-0821

WEBSITE

www.MadisonTownshipOnline.com

TOWNSHIP CONTACT NUMBERS

EMERGENCIES ALWAYS CALL 911

Madison Township Admin. Building.....	513-424-0821
Fire Station #1 (Elk Creek Road).....	513-988-9124
Fire Station #2 (Germantown Road).....	513-424-3384
Life Squad Building (Mosiman Road).....	513-425-9009
Madison Board of Education.....	513-420-4750
Butler County Sheriff.....	513-424-2456
Butler County Auditor.....	513-887-3149
Butler County Engineer.....	513-424-9144
Butler County Board of Elections.....	513-887-3700
Butler County Zoning.....	513-424-5351
Butler County Health Department.....	513-863-1770
Butler Rural Electric Cooperative.....	513-867-4400
Southwest Regional Water.....	800-232-5330
Duke Energy.....	800-634-4300
Dayton Power and Light.....	937-224-6000
Middletown Public Library.....	513-424-1251

TRUSTEE News...

By Brian McGuire,
Trustee President



"OPPORTUNITY". Merriam Webster describes opportunity as "a favorable juncture of circumstances". It is a chance to improve, communicate, reflect, or change. This newsletter is an opportunity for the Township administration to communicate with all of the community at once. It gives us the opportunity to inform the community about what we are doing and where we are heading.

The economic times we are in has had a negative impact to many individuals and communities. But, we as Township Trustees have taken that negative and viewed it as an opportunity. It is an opportunity to look at everything we do, trying to save money or time, while giving the people of Madison Township the same or improved service they have entrusted us with. We are one of only a few local governments who have met these economic challenges and still operate within our means and with a positive balance. We as Trustees, would like to thank our Township Administrator Todd Farler, for diligently looking for any savings possible and operating our township in the utmost efficient manner.

The Fire Levy passed by you, the Madison community, gave us the opportunity to improve our service to the community. It gave us an opportunity to come up with a 19 year plan to continue to ensure and improve the level of Fire and EMS service to the community. And I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for that support and also thank the many Fire and EMS volunteers and workers. When you see one of them please take the opportunity to say thank you, shake their hand, or offer a smile for a job well done.

Spring is an opportunity to clean, repair and improve. Our road crew uses it as an opportunity to repair any damage to roads, culverts, ditches, or generally anything left by the seemingly endless winter. Please be on the lookout for them as they will be working all around the Township. And if you

get the opportunity, thank them for everything they do. When looking at our beautiful park, what the roads are like after a winter snow storm or after a heavy spring rain, we can see why I believe they are the best at what they do. Thank you and a job well done to Todd Daniel, our Road Superintendent and the members of the road crew.

We will soon be having the Madison Community Spring fest. Please take the opportunity to come out and meet others in your community, see the warm friendly faces and the giving this community is known for, and you will understand why I believe this is the best place to live and raise a family.

Finally, Alan, Dwight, Amy and I, would like to thank the Madison community for giving us the opportunity to serve. We understand what you have entrusted us with, and will diligently work to retain that trust, while looking to the bright future Madison Township will enjoy.



Madison Fire Station 153

The meeting room inside Madison Township Fire Station 153, located at 5655 Mosiman Road can accommodate up to seventy people. The facility is great for receptions, parties, family gatherings, or business meetings.

Call to reserve your date for your next special event!

Call 424-0821



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WHAT'S NEW

- Introducing new associate Dr. Lauren Zemlick
- Tuesday & Wednesday appointments \$5 off your pet's visit
- Mondays and Thursdays open extended hours till 8 p.m.
- Saturday May 4th, 1-3 p.m. 1st Well-Pet Vaccination Clinic (no exam fee - a savings of over \$40!) No appointment necessary
- Open house June 23 - Dr. Burk's 25th year as a veterinarian!



Dr. Steph Burk



Dr. Lauren Zemlick



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5622 Mosiman Rd, Madison Township • (513) 422-4181 • www.westernhillsvetclinic.com

Christmas in April!

The winner of the 2012 Christmas Decoration Contest was Ted and Margret Ann Whiteman!

Their display included everything from the house and garage, to the old farm tractor and fishing boat, including special guest appearances from Frosty the Snow Man and Tigger the Tiger!

Thank you to all the residents that participated and offered their homes for the enjoyment of others to come out and see. Start planning and preparing now, because Christmas will be here before you know it!



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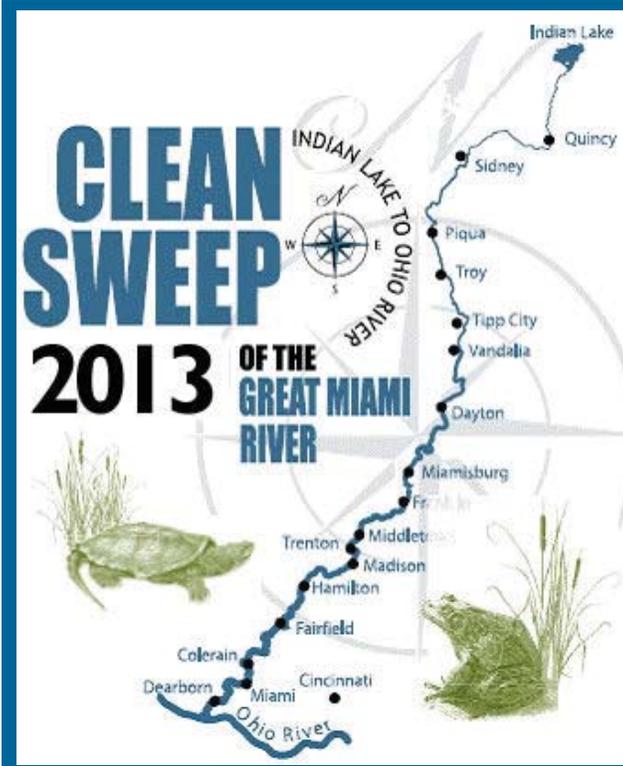
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**Volunteer
to clean up the
Great Miami River
Saturday, November 2
8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon**

**Madison Twp:
West River Bank
At Rt. 122**

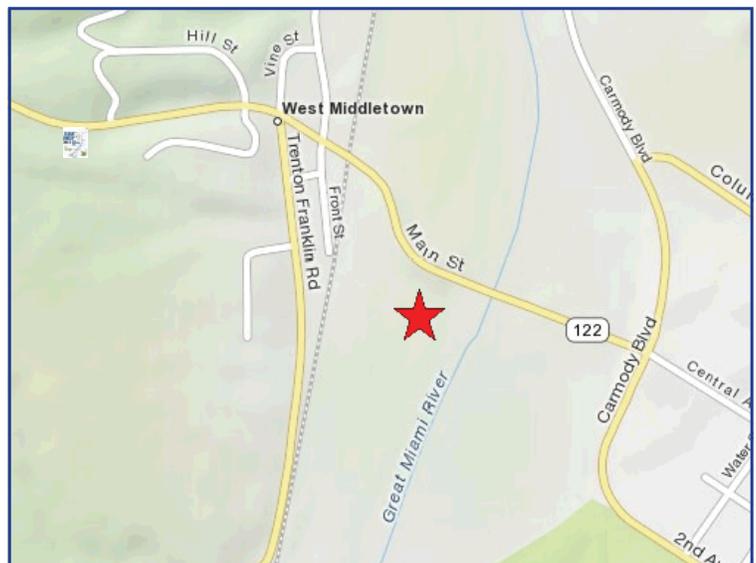
Volunteers will clean up the Great Miami River from Indian Lake to the Ohio River. Clean Sweep is a fun, rewarding community beautification project for individuals, clubs, companies, schools, Scouts, churches and other groups.

Corporate sponsors include:

- Cargill
- MillerCoors
- Rumpke
- Mechanical Supplies Co.
- Kroger
- Atlantis
- Schmidt Signery

Sponsoring agencies include:

Butler Co. Storm Water District, Butler Soil & Water Conservation District, Hamilton to New Baltimore Ground Water Consortium, Miami Conservancy District, and Madison Township.



- Free T-shirt
- Free bottled water
- Garbage bags will be provided
- Work gloves will be provided
- Pre-register today

**To Participate, Contact:
Todd Farler 424-0821**

had rail and ties from the railroad washed up to its front. The lower section of the village suffered greatly. Shortly after the floodwaters receded a ferry was in operation between West Middletown and 5th Street in Middletown, followed by a temporary bridge, and a permanent bridge built in 1915. A concrete support from this bridge can be found just north of the present bridge on the Middletown side.

Around a mile south of West Middletown, the new Ohio Electric interurban line bridge of 1911 was washed out. It had provided passengers high-speed electric transportation from Cincinnati to Dayton and at times to Detroit. The concrete supports of this bridge can still be seen at the end of 14th Avenue in Middletown in the river. After the flood, a temporary bridge was built north of this one and continued the traction line until it went out of business in 1939.

A distance further south, before Trenton, is where Elk Creek empties into the Great Miami River. Here the interurban line and railroad had bridges that spanned the creek. They were either washed out or suffered extensive damage. Heading up Elk Creek, a short distance, is the village of Miltonville. Though no records were found per-

In the center of this photograph is the West Middletown Train Station. The station was marked simply as Middletown, since it was on the Cincinnati, Hamilton, & Dayton Railroad connection to Middletown.



tain- ing to the 1913 Flood at Miltonville, one can only assume that the village was heavily flooded and suffered damage. There are accounts of lesser floods after the turn of the century that interfered with road traffic and farm fields. In 1903 a "bad overflow" was documented; in 1908 a field was destroyed; during the 1919-20 school year, students of the Miltonville



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MIDPOINTE
LIBRARY SYSTEM

The MidPointe Library System will be hosting parties throughout the month of June to commemorate their 100th birthday! These free events will feature fun, food and festivities for all ages. Plan to join in the fun!

MidPointe Library Middletown
Saturday, June 1 • 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

MidPointe Library Trenton
Saturday, June 15 • 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

MidPointe Library West Chester
Saturday, June 29 • 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Visit www.MidPointeLibrary.org for details.



MADISON LOCAL SCHOOLS

Achieving Excellence One Student at a Time

Upcoming Dates

- May 3, 2013**
Madison Elementary
Vehicle Day
- May 5, 2013**
Madison Athletic
Boosters Golf Scramble
- May 11, 2013**
Madison Mohawk
Spring Fling 5K Run/
Walk
- May 21, 2013**
Madison Jr/Sr High
School Commencement
Exercises
- May 22, 2013**
Last Day of School
for Students

Lady Mohawks Basketball



Madison Lady Mohawks Varsity Basketball Team had another outstanding year earning a league, sectional and district championships.



Coach John Rossi was named the 2013 District 15 Coach of the Year and was invited to coach the District 15 All-Star Game.

Madison Mohawk State Level Honors



MEGHAN MILLER
2013 SWBL Buckeye Division
Player of the Year
All-SWBL 1st Team
All-SWDistrict 1st Team District 15
All-District 15 1st Team
All-State AP Special Mention
All-Star participant in OH North/South



JOSIE HARDING
All-SWBL 1st Team
All-District 15 1st Team
All-SWDistrict Special Mention Dist. 15



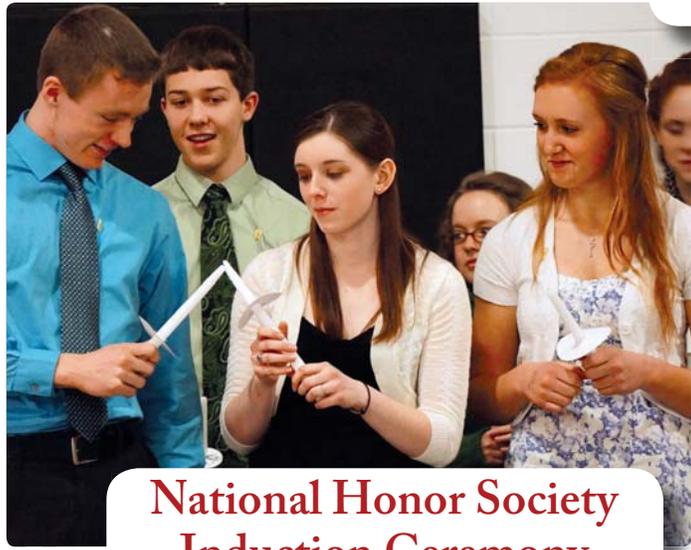
OLIVIA PHILPOT
All-SWBL 1st team
All-SWDistrict 2nd Team
All-District 15 Underclassman
of the Year Award
AP All-State Honorable Mention



MADISON LOCAL SCHOOLS

Achieving Excellence One Student at a Time

Academic Changes to Public Education



National Honor Society Induction Ceremony

Twenty-two deserving students were inducted into the National Honor Society based on the four chosen characteristics of scholarship, leadership, service and character.

Congratulations to the 2013 National Honor Society Inductees

SENIORS:	JUNIORS:	SOPHOMORES:
Courtne Puckett	Sarah Byrd	Maria Handy
Autumn McIntosh	Kathleen Geyer	Regan Haney
Dara Rhea	Kurtis McIntosh	Alec Jerger
Janelle Wilmot	Caden Miller	Molly Johnston
	Jessica Powers	Paige King
	Jonah Rogers	Bradley Malott
	Tara Vaughn	Ben Morgan
	Tiffany Vaughn	Kaitlin Thompson
	Paige Stapleton	Hannah VanWinkle

Changes to public education are occurring so quickly that something new is announced almost weekly. Here is a brief overview in the ever-changing tide of education.

2012-13

- Full implementation of the new physical education standards and assessments are taking place.
- The new Ohio Teacher Evaluation policy must be adopted by Boards of Education by July 1, 2013.
- The Third Grade Guarantee is in full effect and states that any third grade student must achieve at or above the level prescribed by the state board on the reading assessment in order to move on to fourth grade. Some exceptions do apply. (Madison is currently providing a reading improvement plan and intensive remediation to those students that are “not on track”.)
- State report cards will now have letter grades of A, B, C, D and F instead of the rating of Excellent, Effective, Continuous Improvement, Academic Watch and Academic Emergency.
- New report cards will have letter grades in the following area Gap Closing (formerly adequate yearly progress); Achievement; Graduation Rate; and Value Added.

2013-14

- Content areas of reading and math will be fully revised to the National Common Core.
- Full implementation of College and Career Readiness; the new Ohio standards for science and social studies; fine arts; and world languages.
- The evaluation system for teachers and principals looks very different with 50% of the evaluation based on student growth measures and 50% observation.
- Evaluations for both principals and teachers will be reported to the state every year.
- Report cards will continue to have letter grades in the following areas: Gap Closing (formerly adequate yearly progress); Achievement; Graduation Rate; and Value Added; plus The Third Grade Guarantee.
- Third grade teachers who teach students “not on track” must hold a reading endorsement or in the process of getting this credential. (SB 22 does have language that changes this somewhat, but it has not passed as of this date.)
- This is the last year for the Ohio Achievement Assessment (OAA grades 3-8) and the Ohio Graduation Test (OGT grade 10).
- For a district to achieve a test indicator on this report card 80% of the students must pass the test. This is an increase from 75% in past years.

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-  www.facebook.com/MadisonMohawks
-  www.twitter.com/MadmohawkAD
-  Instagram: #GoodtoBeaMohawk

2014-15

- New assessments begin and change to on-line achievement tests and on-line performance-based assessments for grades 3-8 in reading and math; science grades 5 and 8; and social studies grades 4 and 6.
- On-line end of course exams will be given in English I, English II, Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, US History, Government, Physical Science and Biology.
- High school tests will include assessment of a student's college and career readiness. (Only an indication of college readiness and not for admission purposes.)
- Report cards continue with the above areas and add an overall grade, plus a composite grade based on students' college readiness scores; career readiness scores; students earning post-secondary credit; and students scoring 3 or better on an AP exam.



Madison Athletic Boosters Golf Scramble - May 5, 2013

**Madison Athletic Boosters
Annual Golf Scramble**
Sunday, May 5, 2013
1:30 p.m.
Weatherwax Golf Course

The cost is \$75 per player and includes golf, cart, goodie bag, and meal. Teams can register online at www.madisonmohawks.org. All payments should be mailed to Madison Jr/Sr High School, In Care of Darren Stevens, Athletic Director at 5797 West Alexandria Road, Middletown, Ohio 45042.

The Athletic Boosters provide funding for those items the Madison Jr/Sr High School Athletic Department cannot afford. Recently they donated \$10,000 to help resurface the track at Brandenburg Field. They also purchase a variety of uniforms for all our programs.

Madison Concert Band Qualifies for State Competition

The Madison Concert Band earned an overall rating of Superior (I) at the District 13 Concert Band Event, hosted at Madison High School. The official definition of the Superior rating per the Ohio Music Education Association is "an outstanding performance, with very few technical errors and exemplifying a truly musical expression. This rating should be reserved for the truly outstanding performance."

All four judges gave Madison a rating of Superior I, earning the band a rare sweep of the ratings, a first in Mr. Lenney's career, and an invitation to the state competition for the third year in a row. Mr. Lenney and the student musicians will compete at the state level in late April with hopes of once again earning the Superior rating. In the past, the band has been rated Good and Excellent at the state level.



Great job Mr. Lenney and the Madison Concert Band!

District Welcomes New S.R.O.

In January, Madison Board of Education approved hiring a School Resource Officer as part of the district's ongoing effort to enhance safety and security. Officer Mike Matala joined the team with more than fourteen years experience, having served as a tactical officer, a K-9 officer, and in the jails in corrections.

"Coming to Madison is a nice change of pace," Officer Matala said, "the students are polite and respectful and I'm enjoying the opportunity to interact."

The S.R.O. contract between the Butler County Sheriff's Office and Madison Local School District allows for Officer Matala to serve the entire campus through May 22, 2013. The service is reserved exclusively for days that students are in session.

"The plan moving forward is still unclear as policies and mandates being discussed at both the state and national level are not yet finalized," said Curtis Philpot, Superintendent of Madison Local Schools. "However, safety will certainly remain a top priority for us. The Board along with the administration are constantly considering options for heightened safety and security."

Officer Matala is also assisted in the planning and execution of the Mock Crash demonstration for the 2013 prom and graduation season.

The houses along the bottoms in Heno (West Middletown) received extensive damage during the 1913 Flood.



School watched a barn across from the school “disappear into the swirling flood waters; and often after a heavy rain “a four foot wall of water would come washing down the creek”.

The bridge at Trenton was the only bridge connecting Madison Township to the west side that endured the great flood and did

not wash out. A little to the south of the present bridge, when the water level is low, two concrete supports of an earlier bridge can be seen. Trenton remained high and dry with the floodwaters flowing out towards Excello, much like it does today during flood stage. Trenton, however, is not without a story from the flood. From the late, Trenton historian, Ed Keefe: “It was early Friday morning before the water began to subside somewhat in Hamilton. Many bridges were washed out on the Great Miami River, but the Trenton bridge remained standing. The flood water isolated Trenton from surrounding communities. Mr. Felix Bartmann, a local baker, ran out of flour. When the Diver Mill of Middletown heard the predicament, he sent his son to Trenton with two bags of flour. In order to reach the Trenton Bridge, Norval Diver had to cross the flooded river bottoms and according to him, the water was so high that it was up to the belly of the horse, which had to carefully feel its way.”

At Woodsdale, the southernmost village of the township, suffered extensive damage. Due to Woodsdale having the lower river bank, the floodwaters reached the top of the rise on Wayne-Madison Road. Several houses and paper mill row houses were either damaged, destroyed, or completely washed away, while the paper mill, grist mill, and schoolhouse remained intact. The new iron bridge collapsed and was not replaced until 1916. After the flood, travelers had to go by row boat or go a long route around by land.

There were two flood related deaths that were documented:

Estella Rupp, 29, was stricken with appendicitis at her Augspurger Road home. With the floodwaters rising, her husband, Lewis, took her to her parent’s home located on the hill above. An emergency surgery proved too late and she died on March 24. She

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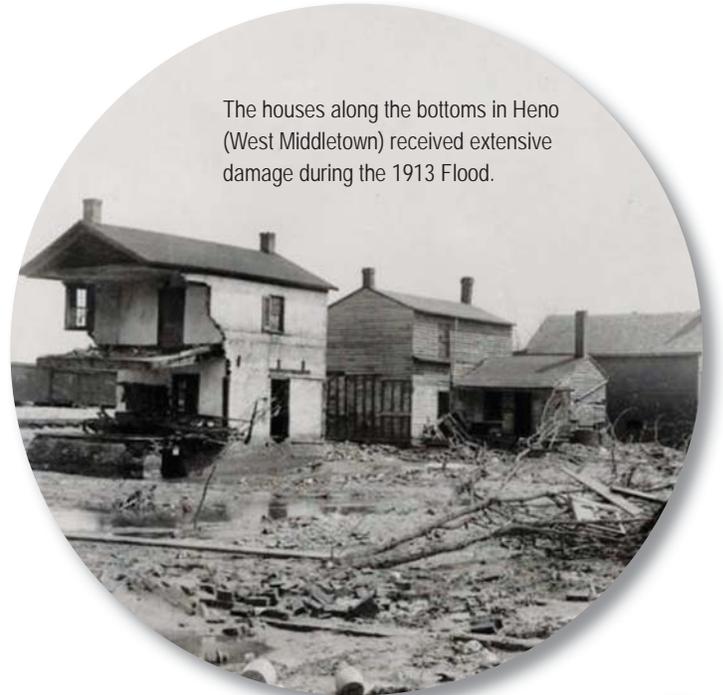
**3538 Central Ave., Middletown, Ohio
(next to The Jug) PH: 513-594-3067
website: centralpreschool.org**

Owners/Teachers Angela Beatty & Susan Fink



The Madison House at West Middletown at the time of the flood, with pieces of railroad track and ties that had been washed in front of it. The lower section of the village was hard hit.

day, but we have two benefits that came from this tragic time. In 1914 the Conservancy Act was passed that permitted flood-control districts. Our area is overseen by the Miami Conservancy. From 1918-1922, a system of dams, levees, and channel improvements, such as widening, deepening, and straightening were made along the Great Miami River. Along with these watershed improvements, due to the West Middletown Train Wreck of 1910, followed by the Great Flood of 1913, talk of a hospital came to fruition and was opened in Middletown in 1917. The Miami Valley has never had a flood equal that of the Great Flood of 1913, but the valley is ready if one were to come again.



The houses along the bottoms in Heno (West Middletown) received extensive damage during the 1913 Flood.

was to be buried at Greenwood Cemetery in Hamilton, but until a pontoon bridge was built at Hamilton, she awaited in her casket in the stone vault at the Miltonville Cemetery.

Mary Sundo was descending the second floor of her home after the flood waters had receded. She had a kitchen knife in her hand, with the sharp end up. Mary slipped on the muddy steps, fell onto the knife, and into her eye socket it went. Dr. James Grafft of Trenton, who was assisted by Archie Harmon, removed the knife. Mary died from the injury. This knife is on display with the doctor's medical bags at the Trenton Historical Society Museum.

A few reminders of this natural disaster can still be found to-

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Fire Department

By Kent Hall, Fire Chief, Madison Fire Department

YEAR IN REVIEW 2012

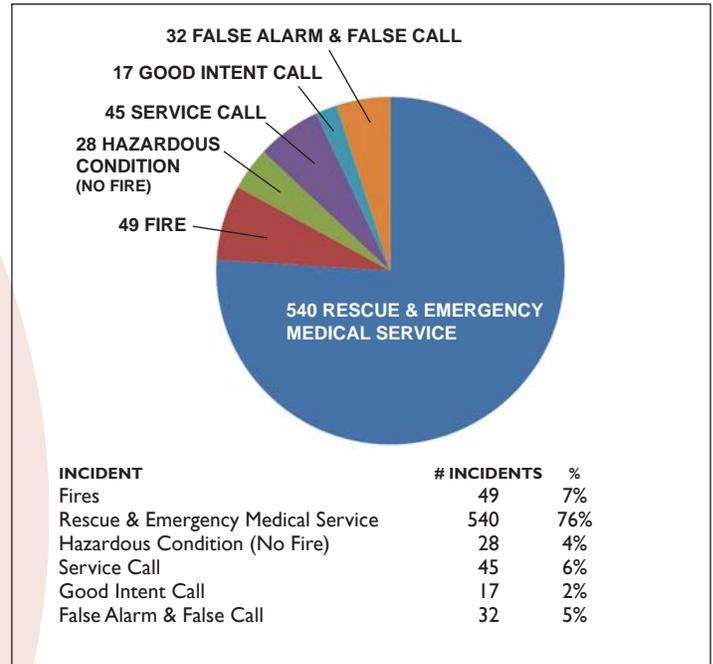
MADISON TOWNSHIP FIRE & EMS



For the year 2012 the Madison Township Fire and EMS handled (711) calls or dispatches for the department. Of those (540) was EMS related, being approximately (75%) of the total calls. The Madison Fire Department responded to (49) fire calls for (2012), these being inside the township and also outside the township, at times responding to adjacent township or counties to assist other departments with building or structure fires. When you try to prioritize the types of calls for Madison Township with these numbers, it's obvious that EMS calls are a priority. With that said, we have purchased a new squad chassis remount in (2012) and are on budget to purchase a new squad in the year (2017) making the (2012) squad a reserve squad at that time.

With the passing of the (2010) Fire Levy, we are budgeted to replace Madison Fire and Squad apparatuses on time, paying for each apparatus with no plans of financing any of the apparatus, thus paying for each piece of equipment as we go forward. The Madison Fire Department is currently running part time for squad service (16) hours a day from 6am to 10pm, (7) days a week with possible plans in the future of making part time squad service (24) hours a day (7) days a week.

Over the past two months the Madison Fire Department responded to three structure fires inside the township. It was discovered that on two of the structure fires, the family members were awakened by the sound of an operating smoke detector in the house. On these two structure fires, all family members were able to exit the house safely with one family having to jump from a second floor window. The third fire had smoke detectors installed in the



house, but do to a defective battery did not sound. Fortunately this family was awakened by the smoke that had gathered inside the house. This shows the importance of properly installed smoke detectors, and checking these detectors on routine fashion to make sure they are operating properly.

Recent hires:
Cody Miller and Cody Gross.

Recent promotions: Lt. Jordan Peters,
Lt. Teresa Hall, Capt. Tim Hollon



FIREFIGHTERS COME TO THE RESCUE

By Rick McCrabb

Firefighters are a different breed.

For instance, when brothers Chris and Michael Lucas, firefighters in Madison and Wayne townships, respectively, wanted to get away, they packed up their repelling gear and participated in something called the fourth annual Winter Adventure Weekend at Carter Caves in Olive Hill, Ky.

This when they could have watched the Pro Bowl or sorted socks. On Jan. 26, the Lucas brothers, following a strenuous day of repelling training, were looking forward to eating dinner in the lodge. Then they were told that a young girl had injured her ankle and she couldn't walk or make her way up the steep and treacherous trails.

This is where most of would have walked into the dining hall, sat right there next to the fire, and ordered a cold drink and an appetizer.

Not Chris and Michael Lucas.

It's called a Winter Adventure Weekend for a reason, right?

Because the girl's location was so remote, she couldn't be reached in a rescue vehicle, so Chris and Michael Lucas and some state park officials made the 1 1/4-mile trek down a snow-covered, slippery trail from the lodge.

Walking down was easy.

Up was much harder.

The girl and her friend were alone on the trail and they had planned to camp out that night after hiking. That plan ended when the one girl

badly sprained her ankle.

When the search party found the girls, Michael Lucas said they talked for a few minutes, trying to figure out the best way to carry the girl up the hill. Then his brother got an idea.

Michael's reaction: "It's not gonna work."

But it did. They unrolled the girl's sleeping bag, carefully placed her on it, and rolled up its sides. Then Chris, 47, and his brother, Michael, 42, started carrying the girl on her makeshift stretcher. It took them 20 minutes to walk down the hill, and about 90 minutes to climb back. They had to stop every couple hundred yards to rest, they said.

When asked about the trail, Michael Lucas, who also works in the City of Middletown water department, said: "It wasn't a beginner's trail. Let's put it that way."

Eventually, they made it back to the lodge where the girl was reunited with her worried parents.

Chris and Michael Lucas are in the profession where saving people is part of the job. But this rescue felt a little different, meant more, they said.

"It was just one of those great feelings that are hard to explain," Chris Lucas said.

His brother added: "It always feels good to help somebody."

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THANKS

GRATUITOUS GRANT

Thanks to a gratuitous grant given by the Elks Lodge #257, located at 6475, 1/2 Trenton Franklin Rd., here in Madison Township, the Madison Township Fire Department will be giving out free smoke detectors and reflective house numbers to Madison Township residents. There is a limited number of each and the items are available to everyone, however, preference will be given to elderly or handicapped citizen on a first come - first serve basis. For those citizens that need help installing the items, our Fire Department will offer these services as well. Please call Fire Station 152 at 424-3384 and speak to someone, or simply leave your name, phone number, and your request for these services.

**Thanks again to Elk Lodge #257
for being a part of, supporting, and making
Madison Township a safer place to live.**

2013 Butler County Dog License \$14.75 at the shelter

- a portion of sale benefits AFHS and Butler County Dog Wardens -
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If you need assistance to obtain your license, contact the Wardens at
(513) 887-PAWS or on Facebook and they will come to you for your convenience.

The best gift for your dogs during the holidays is their Butler County license!

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 and please put CCW in the subject line. If there is enough interest, those that reply will be notified and arraignments will be made.



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Where: Collection at the curb

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OHIO TOWNSHIP ASSOCIATION LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

Fiscal Officer, Amy Schenck

recently completed the Ohio Township Association Leadership Academy (OTALA). The Academy is designed for township elected officials, administrative staff and individuals who serve on township committees, boards or task forces and the purpose of the Academy is to enhance the leadership and decision making skills of the township leadership team through required workshops. Over the course of three years, Mrs. Schenck participated in the General Workshop and completed courses related to communicating and working with the media, communicating and working with citizens, building sustainable communities, team building, conflict management and dispute resolution, and leadership skills and styles.

Pistol Holler



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Gardening

By Rick Henry

THE QUESTION OF MEDICINAL HERBS

It is becoming increasingly popular to grow herbs for both cooking, and as herbal supplements which are used medicinally. As any who have ever done this before know, most herbs are very easy to grow and once established require very little care. Especially in the case of perennial herbs, often the only maintenance involved is to trim back the plants in early spring, and then harvest as needed. This little article will not even scratch the surface of this subject, but hopefully it will peak the readers interest enough to investigate this subject for oneself on a deeper and personal level.

Sometimes there is a fine line between what is a medicinal plant (used as a dietary supplement), and what is a culinary herb (used for cooking)—often there is no difference at all. Based on my personal experience growing herbs in Madison Township, I know that our zone is well suited for this. In fact some varieties grow so well here they actually become invasive in a garden or a landscaped bed. Chamomile is one example of this. Many people use chamomile in teas and health and in beauty products in order to take advantage of the benefits of this plant. A few years ago I planted both the German and Roman varieties in my garden and had very good success. However, the following year they reseeded themselves and spilled out of the area where I had originally planted them. They popped-up in other beds and around trees. They even germinated in the turf and became a lawn weed. It took me three years of cultivating and spraying with herbicide to get rid of the Chamomile. Some varieties of mint, and fennel grown for seeds, are another example of this. The mint spreads through the root system and the fennel spreads wildly through seeds that have dropped and blown in the wind. So while most herbs are very easy to grow and once established require very little care, some are best grown in containers or in other ways where they can be controlled in order to become invasive.

I think most folks are familiar with the common cooking herbs such as sage, oregano, rosemary, etc., and when cooking with fresh herbs there can be a superior end result. But, possibly, less people are familiar with the benefits of using herbs and flowers medicinally as herbal supplements. This is a vast subject to wade into, but a quick trip to the isles of a health food store or doing a search on the internet can provide a primer to this subject in short order.

Using herbs and flowers medicinally is sometimes a controversial subject here in the west. Although, this is an ancient practice used in other cultures, there really is not a lot of research and data on many herbs and flowers to demonstrate the validity of this practice. In other cultures there is no question as to the effectiveness of this practice, but here in the west the question seems to be something along the line of 'with not a lot of research and data available , who's to say what works and doesn't work.' For example who is to say whether St. John's Wort provides a true and natural mood stabilizer? Who is to say that Fennel is a very good digestive aid? And, so on . . . who's to say?

Based on my personal experience, I feel strongly that there are real and true benefits to be obtained from using herbs and certain plants in our diets and as dietary supplements. To me, it is a 'no brainer' that many natural herbs are an excellent substitute for synthetic remedies. But, what is true



for one may not be true for another in terms of effectiveness, so the answer to the question 'who's to say?' is up to the individual to determine for him/herself, in terms of what works and what doesn't work. This is where the rubber meets the road on this subject and there is not necessarily a one-size-fits-all answer on this subject regardless of the existing data or lack of it. This really is a trial and error process in terms of addressing real needs that we all have (viz. biological and psychological).

But, this question and process is much like gardening itself really. Regardless of one's level of formal education in horticulture or not, who among us has not really learned how to grow and nurture our plants but through trial and error? With plants that we grow as food to nourish our bodies, there is kind of an excitement and a mystery involved when we do this, especially the first time we grow a new plant. This is magnified with growing plants that might do more than simply provide subsistence or fuel to maintain our existence on a minimum level. There is a kind of excitement and mystery involved when we take our gardening to a place that might bring healing on different levels, a better state of being, a better quality of life. In some ways this is a very complex conversation, but in other ways it is very simple. Where to start you might ask? Possibly, you can pick up a peppermint plant at a local garden center and plant it in a pot today, and put it on your back porch. Then in two weeks harvest some new leaves and make some tea, and sit at your computer and read about this a little bit. One could read about the benefits of the peppermint oil in one's tea as one drinks it.

I feel strongly that there are many real and significant benefits for us to be obtained naturally through plants. I am fully persuaded that each of us can find some real solutions using medicinal herbs. While this article is somewhat opaque, hopefully it will inspire some to check into this subject for the first time, or for others to possibly revisit this subject. Trial and error is a method of problem solving, this method will answer the above question 'who's to say?' and will hopefully provide some real helps and remedies for our bodies and spirits as we continue gardening in the years ahead. *Happy Gardening!*

Road Department

By Todd Daniel, Road Superintendent

After a relatively mild winter, spring is finally here. This past year the Township used approximately 350 tons of salt which is well below our average of 550 to 600. This year we spent around \$22,000.00 on salt. Snow and ice removal continues to be one of our top priorities. I am proud of the road crew's efforts and results.

SUMMER TIME PROJECTS INCLUDE:

Paving of Hursh Rd. (all)	Evelyn Dr.
Paving of Streebe Rd. (all)	Gerry Dr.
Micro Seal of :	Lorraine Dr.
Aljen Rd.	Wilma St.
Corlee Rd.	Perry Ave.
Bobby Dr.	

Total length of roads being treated are 3.43 miles.

We will also continue with our crack fill program which is going into its fourth year.

SIGN RETROREFLECTIVITY UPDATE

After placing a deadline on all regulatory and ground mounted guide signs, as well as overhead guide signs and street signs, the U.S. Dept. of Transportation has backed off and is now leaving the replacement of the signs to the discretion of each public entity.

In September 2011 we adopted a blanket plan to comply. In 2012 we began that program beginning with all stop and stop ahead signs. Also in 2012, we completed the replacement of all signs in the northwest portion of Madison Township. This year we have begun replacement of the eastern half of our township. These signs are being changed over as necessary, from the engineer grade which we have used for many years, to a high intensity prismatic grade. If you have been out at night riding around, it is easy to see the difference. We should complete all signs by 2017.

COMMUNITY SERVICE HOURS

If you or your group are in need of some service hours please contact me
513-424-0821

TOWNSHIP READINESS

In light of the extreme weather we have been experiencing these last several years, the township purchased and installed a backup generator at the Administration building. Since its installation, the power has been out twice. We feel it is our job to be one of the first lines of defense in case of a natural disaster like the one experienced in 2008. I believe this is just another tool to help provide and maintain a high level of service, even in a difficult time.

COLLABORATION

Is it a buzz word? You hear this term used over and over in meetings locally and throughout the state. I can tell you in Butler County, Ohio it is an accepted practice. In my 21 years of Township work I have never seen the Engineers Office and the 13 Townships work more together than they do now. Part of what has brought us together is the recent recession and trying to think of practical ways to save money and share resources. Effectively do more with less. In that respect, it has been a great thing. Not only do we now share resources, we share ideas that have a positive impact on what we do. We now do bulk purchasing on our crack fill material, paving, salt, retrace and sign orders. This is saving the people of Madison Township and Butler County tens of thousands of dollars annually. I know things are tough out there and we'd like you to know that Madison Township is doing everything we can to get the best value for our residents.

PARK

The community park continues to be a place that many of our residents and non-residents come to enjoy. With that comes a lot of time in upkeep and maintenance. One thing that would be helpful to us, if you are one of those who are using the park, please place any trash you might see or have in one of the trash receptacles throughout the park. Also, there is a recycle bin in the park which accepts water bottles, cans etc. Thank you for your help in this matter.

PLEASE REPORT
As we go thru the summer months, please report any excess trash, tires, damaged roads, potholes, hanging limbs etc. that you would deem unsafe along or on the roadway.
HAVE A GREAT SUMMER!



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By Jenny Fink

Springfest

Madison Township Springfest

This year's Madison Township Springfest will be held on May 11th on the beautiful grounds of the Madison Jr-Sr High School. This fun filled festival day kicks off at 11:00 AM and will conclude at 8:00 PM.

Our community festival is in its 9th year and promises to deliver much of what our guests have enjoyed in the past, such as delicious food, free and low cost activities for the kids, crafters and vendors for shopping, fabulous entertainment, art and history exhibits and the very popular and exciting basket raffle. Joining in the fun this year will be the Madison Fire Dept. hosting a water-ball competition and the Madison Athletic Dept. hosting a 5K run/walk.

None of this would be possible without the hard working Springfest committee planning and preparing months in advance and the many volunteers that we depend on to pull it all together on Springfest day. If you would like to help out this year please contact us via our website.

The Madison Township Springfest is a wonderful opportunity to come out and enjoy your family, neighbors and friends in a local and low stress but lively environment. We sure hope to see you there!

Find Madison Twp. Springfest on Facebook and check out the Madison Twp. Springfest website for up to date details www.madison-springfest.com



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By J. Larry Helton, Jr.

Outdoor Corner

WILD DOGS OF MADISON TOWNSHIP



There are three wild dogs that can be found in Madison Township: the red fox, the gray fox, and the coyote. All of these species of canines are found in each of the 88 counties of Ohio as well.

The red fox probably arrived in Ohio in the mid-1700s, from the north, as forests were opened and land was cleared for farming. The red fox prefers a mixture of forest and open land, so their migration came with the settlers. The gray fox is native to Ohio, and prefers dense forest cover and partially open brush land. As the landscape changed, the gray fox moved into the deeper forested areas, while the red fox moved into its preferred habitat.

There seems to have been a boost in the population of the red fox in the township in recent years. There have been more sightings and dens than in years past. I was fortunate to capture one on a trail-camera during one of our heavy snowfalls. The red fox's color is usually rusty-red or reddish yellow; with its white undersides, throat, and cheeks; and black legs, feet, and ears. The tail measures between 14-16 inches long and is a mixture of black and red hair with a white tip. Some red foxes may go through phases of solid black or silver. Regardless, the tail is always white-tipped.

The gray fox has a salt and pepper gray coat. It has a black stripe from the base of the tail to the tip and stripes from its nose to the eyes and then to the sides of the head. The cheeks, throat and stomach are white. There are reddish patches below the ears and on its sides separating the stomach and upper coat colors. The gray fox's legs and ears are orange and the legs are black. Both the red fox and gray fox have a slender body and long legs, but the gray fox's ears are smaller and snout less pointed.

The call of the red fox is a yelp for the males and a yap for the females.

The call of the gray fox can be a bark, a growl, or a squeal. Both foxes sound very different from the coyote or dog and each other.

Both red and gray foxes are primarily nocturnal, but can be seen hunting during daylight hours. The red fox is fast, has an excellent sense of smell and hearing, and exceptional skills for hiding. The gray fox does not have the hiding skills of the red fox, but instead will climb a tree or emit an odor from its anal glands if threatened. They will also climb a tree to sun themselves. The gray fox is also known as a great mouser.

Red and gray foxes are loners in the fall and early winter. Their range is one to two miles, but will venture outside of their home territory if the need for food arises. They do not hibernate, but will take shelter for a couple of days during extreme inclement weather. By January or February, a male red fox will seek out an unmated female. The male gray fox waits another month, into February and March. Both red and gray foxes remain monogamous during the breeding season.

The female red fox will take over an abandoned groundhog burrow and make it a den for her kits. Both the male and female will work on their den, making it bigger, and lining it with grasses. Other times, a female will dig a den from scratch or use a rock shelter. The dens are usually four feet



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under ground and may be home to several red fox families at one time. Red foxes may also have an alternative den prepared nearby in case a move is needed. Female red foxes have a gestation period of around two months and give birth in March or April to five or six kits. The female gray fox will make a den in a hollow tree, under a rock, or in a leaf and bark-lined underground burrow. Female gray foxes gestation is also about two months, giving birth in April or May to four or five kits. Both red and gray females stay in the den to nurse the young and the males bring them food. This ritual continues until the kits are weaned and go out to learn to hunt with their parents. By fall, the offspring are ready to go it alone, as does each parent, and the cycle starts again. It is unknown if the same pair of foxes pair up again. The young foxes will travel a broad range from one to ten miles to establish their own territories.

The largest of the wild dogs are the coyotes that first made their appearance in Ohio in 1919. They too are found in each of the 88 counties of Ohio.

Coyotes are slender and closely related to the domestic dog, which gives them the build and size of a medium-sized dog. Most coyotes are gray, but can be rusty, brown, or off white in color. Their bushy tail is usually tipped in black and carried at a 45-degree angle.

The coyote is also nocturnal, but can often be seen hunting during daylight hours when it has become accustomed to man. They will hunt in pairs or large groups. Coyotes feed on small mammals, fruits, vegetables, grasses, and carrion. When the wild food supply is down, coyotes will feed on sheep and other domesticated animals. Aside from food, there have been reports in the township of coyotes attacking people's dogs.

The habitat of the coyote is whatever habitat it is in. They will adapt to their surroundings whether it is rural or urban. In the country they live as they were created, but in the city they eat from garbage cans, drink from drainage areas, and live in abandoned buildings. Where other wildlife has suffered do to man's development, the coyote has thrived.

Coyotes are monogamous, mate for life, and breed between January and March. The female gestation period is a little over two months, then be-

tween one and twelve pups are born in April or May. Coyote pups are like domesticated puppies – blind and helpless for the first few weeks of life. The female selects, prepares, and maintains the den. Two or three females may share a den and related females may help take care of each other's pups.

Both coyote parents hunt for food, but the male is the main provider that brings in enough for his mate and offspring. The parents regurgitate their stomach contents for their pup's meals. Around three weeks of age the pups are taken out of the den and watched by their parents. At eight to twelve weeks they are taught hunting skills. The coyotes remain as a family through the summer. By mid-fall, the young coyotes will establish territories of their own. Some females may stay with the family into the next year, but the male parent runs off males that remain or try to return. I was privileged to watch and listen on several occasions of coyote parents taking their young ones out for evening hunts a couple of summers ago when a den was across the ravine from our property.

Stray and wild dogs have been known to run with, pair up with, and mate with coyotes. The coyote is capable of breeding with and producing offspring with domestic dogs, wild dogs, and wolves. From a coyote and a dog union, a coy-dog is the result. Positive identification of a true coy-dog can only be made by skull examination. Only 2% have ever been identified as a true coyote-dog mix, the other 98% in Ohio are true coyotes.

Ohio Fox and Coyote Hunting/Trapping Laws:

Fox - No daily bag limit. No restrictions on hours except during deer gun season (November 26-December 3, 2012). These species may not be hunted between 1/2 hour before sunrise to sunset during the deer gun season. Hunters must purchase a hunting license and a fur taker permit to hunt these species.

Coyote - No daily bag limit, no closed season. If hunted during the deer gun season, hours and legal hunting devices are the same as for deer gun season. Rifles and night vision scopes are legal for coyote hunting; however, rifles and night hunting (between sunset and 1/2 before sunrise) are prohibited during any firearm/muzzleloader deer seasons.



GARAGE DOORS
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Tortellini Salad

From Heather Glaize



1 pkg frozen cheese tortellini
16 oz fresh baby spinach
1 small container crumbled feta cheese
1 small bag craisins
1 small container cherry tomatoes cut into quarters
Red wine vinaigrette dressing
Basil - just a pinch to taste

1. Boil tortellini per package directions; rinse with cold water and chill in refrigerator
2. Slightly wilt spinach in microwave and then chop up into tiny pieces
3. Combine all ingredients in large bowl and add dressing to taste.

Chill until ready to serve.

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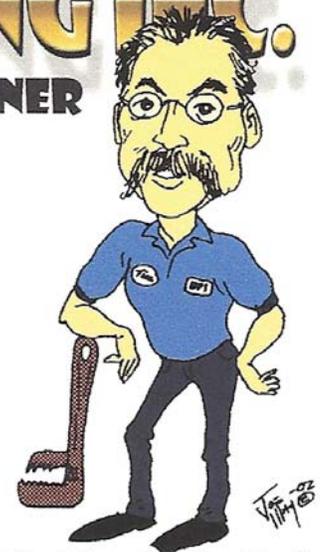
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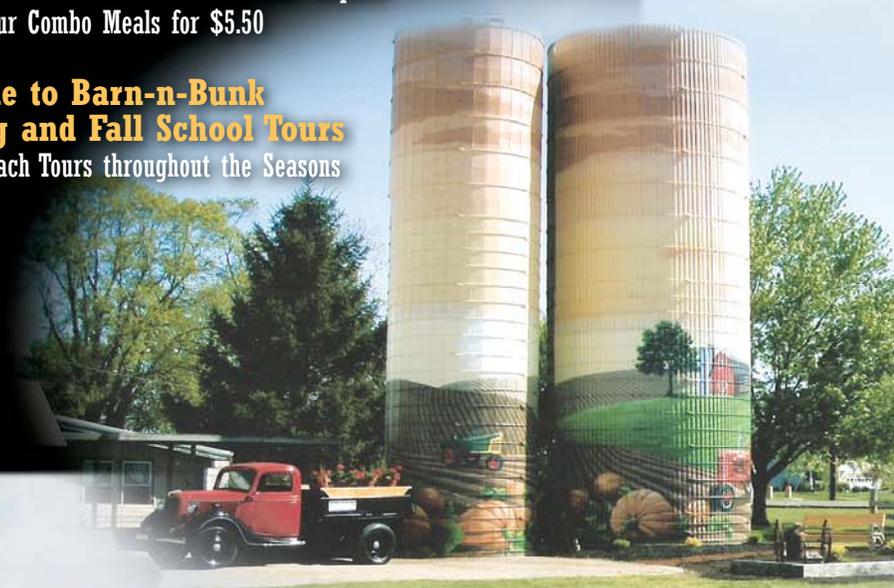
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