

MADISON TOWNSHIP

WWW.MADISONTOWNSHIPONLINE.COM

Born Learning Trail

Learning happens everywhere a child goes, but parents, grandparents and caregivers may not always know how to support that learning.

Madison Township contributed to providing that support this spring as volunteers from the Madison Local Schools and the United Way of Greater Cincinnati came together to create an outdoor interactive Born Learning Trail. The trail is designed to help parents, grandparents and caregivers turn excursions to the Madison Community Park into fun learning moments.

Located just behind the playground, the Born Learning Trail is a series of learning activities that any adult can play with young children at the park. Based on the latest early childhood research and approved by the learning experts through United Way America, the Born Learning

Trail is designed to help interact with children to boost language and literacy development and to help caregivers understand how to best support early learning in outdoor everyday moments.

“We were thrilled to partner with Madison Township to secure grant dollars from the United Way for the installation of the Born Learning Trail. The trail activities are truly fun and engaging while the location is ideal for Madison families to utilize with their young children,” said AJ Huff, Coordinator of School-Community Relations for Madison Local Schools.

There are 9 activities on the Born Learning Trail, each including hand-painted activities and pictures such as hopscotch, letters and shapes. Community volunteers ranging from five to 50 years old contributed to the project by painting the stencils and even free-handing a few cartoon animals and flowers to encourage story telling and recognition of the surroundings at the park.

“The Born Learning Trail promotes fun and games – important components of early childhood learning,” said Todd Farler, Madison Township Administrator. “Installing the trail in the park for our youngest Madison community members and their caregivers just makes sense. This way we can all work together to help kids get off to the right start and ready for school.”

The Born Learning Trail was paid for by a grant from the United Way of Greater Cincinnati Community Response Fund.



YOUR Township Administrator...

By Todd Farler,

Madison Township Administrator

As we're getting prepared for the upcoming winter, we're already planning ahead for the upcoming spring. 2015 will be a busy year for our township when several large projects begin taking shape. In early spring we'll break ground for a new fire station which is set to be located directly in front of the township administration building on West Alexandria Road. This new fire station is part of the long term planning by the Madison Township Board of Trustees to help ensure and advance the public safety and services to our residents. By converging all resources from three separate buildings into one, we will be able to offer a higher, more effective level of fire and EMS service, while also utilizing our funds in a more efficient manner. The necessary funding is already in place in our fire budget and no additional funding will be required from our residents. The current plan is to sale the other three buildings, thus allowing this revenue to go back into the fire department. Surplus equipment and vehicles will be auctioned off, along with the buildings. Long term savings will be realized as we continue to purchase large vehicles and work on capital improvement projects. An example is quite simple; in the future, if we stay in our current situation, we'll need to purchase three fire engines, three pumpers, three grass trucks, etc. All these vehicle are very expensive and by going to a single, centralized location, we'll only be purchasing vehicle to be replaced at this station, not three stations. The new building will meet all current building codes, and be much more efficient to operate and maintain than our three existing buildings.

Another large project that is tentatively set to start in the spring will be the Wayne Madison Road Reconstruction Project. Wayne Madison Road is a "shared, joint owned" road between Madison Township and Wayne Township. By partnering together and



applying for a grant from the Ohio Public Works Commission, we received funding to cover almost ninety percent of this project. With about a \$25,000 investment from each township, we're being returned over a \$400,000 dollar project. The Butler

County Engineers Office has been working graciously with us in the design and engineering phase, and we thank them for their services and working so diligently with us on phase 1 this project.

Phase 1 of this project will begin at the jurisdiction line between the City of Trenton and Madison Township, on the north side of SR 73, and continue north to the intersection of Howe Road. It is expected this project will take approximately 12 weeks to complete and will include widening of the road lanes, addition of paved shoulders, and new ditch drainage. Original calculated cost for this project was set at approximately \$440,000, with almost \$390,000 being received in the form of a grant thru OPWC. The remaining balance will be split with Wayne Township, which places each township cost around \$25,000. Phase 2 will replicate this work, continuing from Howe Road intersection and heading north approximately 3000 linear feet on Wayne Madison Road, with similar grant and funding revenue streams. We are expecting phase 2 to begin immediately, or shortly, after phase one. Further grants and funding should allow for phase 3, which would continue the project northbound to Thomas Road.

Have a warm, safe winter as we get prepared for a busy spring and summer!

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TOWNSHIP CONTACT NUMBERS

EMERGENCIES ALWAYS CALL 911

Madison Township Admin. Building 513-424-0821

Fire Station 151 (Elk Creek Road) 513-988-9124

Fire Station 152 (Germantown Road) 513-424-3384

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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

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.



By Dwight Walter,
Trustee

Summer is over and it was hot and rainy, I know because I cut grass every 4 or 5 days. This also kept our township crew quite busy keeping up with mowing the cemeteries, the township park, and the sides of roads and ditches. They did an excellent job keeping up with it along with repairing damaged roads caused by the extreme cold and snow last winter. For over 80 years, the state has returned monies to local governments which Madison Township has used on their paving program. Less than 5 years ago, this was one of the state's budget cuts and we are receiving less and less each year. How do we keep up with maintaining almost 53 miles of roads with a lot less income? The answer is...we are paving less and less and one day it will catch up with us. The crew does much of the work, but equipment gets worn out, emergency repairs arise, and with less revenue we are struggling to keep up. Our workers strive to keep our township looking the best and keeping our roadways safe.

The Madison Community Park has been busy with kids playing ball and tennis, parties and picnics at the shelters, and people using the walking paths and trails. I'm so glad that Gerald Cottongim, a trustee in the 1990's, had the foresight to suggest that some extra funds that year be earmarked for a park and that started the ball rolling. I am so proud to have been a part of its beginning. Grants written by Administrator Todd Farler continue to improve the facility. Todd Daniel and his crew work continuously to help make

it a wonderful place for families to enjoy the out of doors.

I'm retiring at the end of November... I think it's time...I'm going to spend more time traveling. I started in 1998 and served one year with my wife, Donna, who was then clerk. She had began in 1980 and served with her dad, Elmer Dietz, who had been a trustee since 1970. He retired in 1992 and she retired in 1998, and between the three of us we served the township almost 60 years. Since I have been a trustee, I have worked with an outstanding board - trustee Alan Daniel the full 17 years, trustee Brian McGuire for the last 5 years, and fiscal officer, Amy Schenck, for 16 years. We have dedicated people like Administrator Todd Farler, Road Superintendent Todd Daniel, and our road crew, Danny Alley, Chris Saylor, and Alan Caudill. They all love Madison and go above and beyond to take care of your community. I want to thank our Fire Chief Kent Hall and our fire department and life squad personnel, they give so much time and are so dedicated to the township. I say this sincerely, they are ALL fine people, dedicated to your community, and I couldn't have picked a better group to work with.

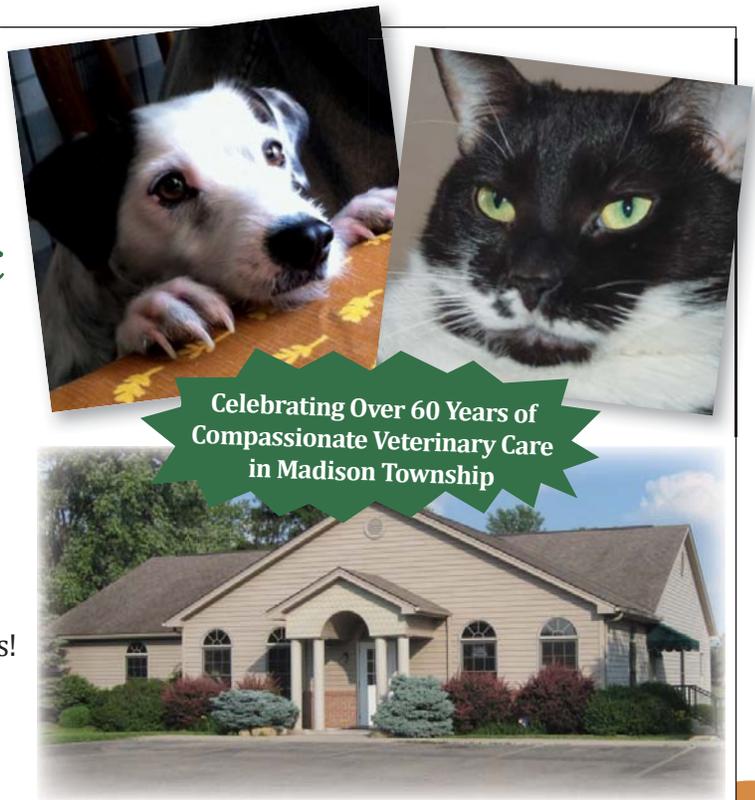
I especially want to thank the citizens of Madison Township who supported me the last 17 years as a trustee. I've enjoyed serving our community and leave it in most capable hands.



Western Hills Veterinary Clinic

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Dr. Caroline Hilty
Dr. Chistina Armour

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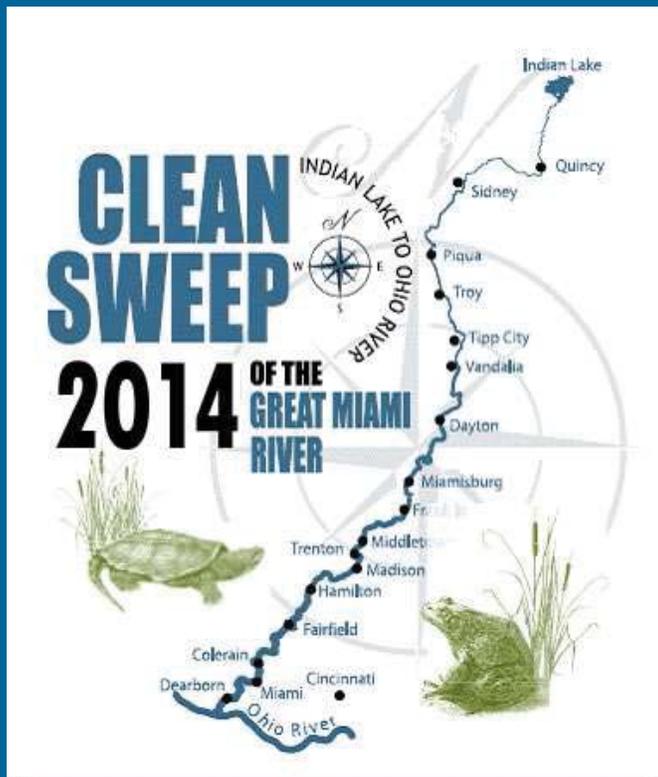
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Volunteer to clean up the Great Miami River Saturday, Oct 25

9 a.m. to 12 noon

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



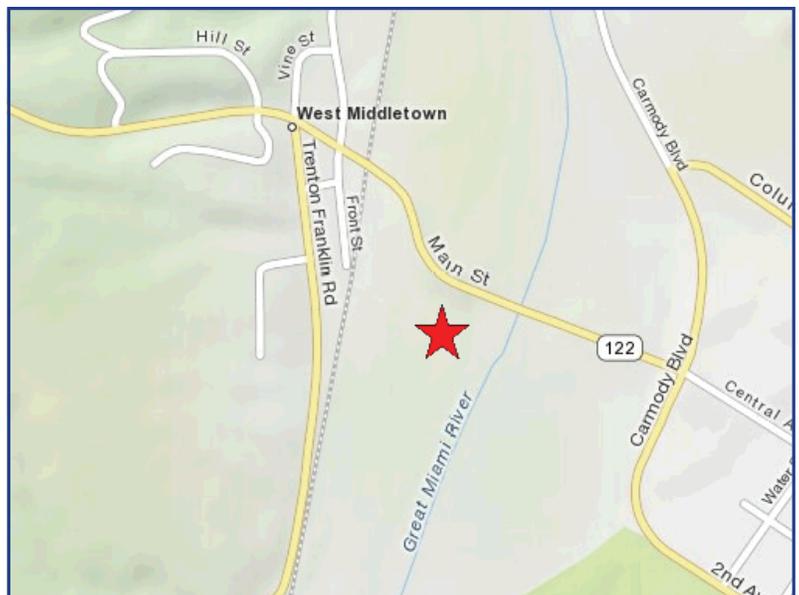
Volunteers will clean up the Great Miami River from Indian Lake to the Ohio River. Clean Sweep is a fun, rewarding community beautification project for individuals, clubs, companies, schools, Scouts, churches and other groups.

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

www.GreatMiamiRiverCleanUp.org

Trustee Vacancy

LETTER OF INTEREST FORM

18 years of age. The two remaining board members will have 30 days from the effective date of vacancy, to select an interested party to fill the vacancy. If you are interested in applying for this vacancy, please complete and return this form no later than:

November 20th, 2014

Send your response to:

Madison Township Board of Trustees

Atten: Todd Farler

5610 West Alexandria Rd.

Middletown, OH 45042.

Full Legal Name: _____

Full Legal Address: _____

Phone # _____ Signature _____

Reason for wanting to become a Madison Township trustee: _____

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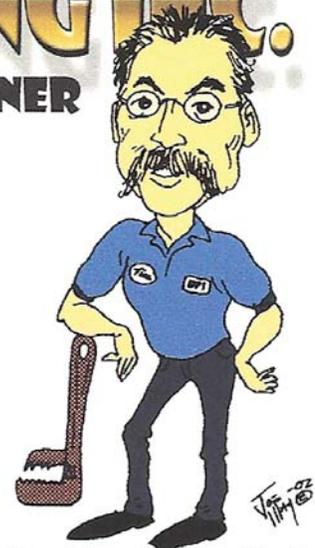
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"Call The Man On The Van"

Christmas Eve Santa Visits Madison Township Fire

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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MADISON LOCAL SCHOOLS

Achieving Excellence One Student at a Time

Athletic Update

Upcoming Dates

October 10th - Varsity FB vs. Carlisle
(Pink Out – MYAA Night)

October 24th – Varsity FB vs. Waynesville
(Senior Night)

October 31st – Varsity FB vs. Northridge

The Mohawks had a very productive fall led by the Varsity Boys Golf Team. Senior Seth Sipple and Sophomore Phillip Wilson led the Golf team to an SWBL Buckeye Division Championship. The Girls Tennis team finished second at the SWBL League meet to complete their most successful season at 12-4. At the tournament, the super doubles tandem of Lacy and Macy Spivey finished first while Maddie Porter finished third in 2nd Singles. The Varsity Boys Soccer team also has an opportunity to win a league title but have to defeat Waynesville in their September 30th matchup.

FALL 2014 RESULT:

Varsity Football – season ends October 31st

Cross Country – League Meet is at Bellbrook on October 11th

Girls Soccer – Currently 5th in League, Tournament starts

October 13th

Girls Volleyball – Currently 4th in SWBL, Tournament starts

October 13th

Girls Tennis – 2nd in SWBL, Sectional Tournament starts

September 28th

Varsity Golf – 1st in SWBL – Season has been completed



Renewal Levy - February 3rd

In September, Madison Board of Education passed the first of two resolutions to place a renewal to the existing 5-year operating levy on the ballot in the February special election. The original levy was passed by voters in 2004 and renewed in 2009.

If passed by voters on February 3rd, the renewal will generate \$1.1 million per year and allow the district to continue normal school operation. The renewed operating levy will not cost the taxpayers any additional funds. For additional information about the upcoming levy as the February elections grows closer visit www.madisonmohawks.org.



MADISON LOCAL SCHOOLS

Achieving Excellence One Student at a Time

Homecoming

The 2014 Homecoming Week consisted of many traditional events including the community parade, powder puff football games, and a bonfire!

The traditions were capped off with the crowning of the king and queen and a fierce fight against the Oakwood Lumberjacks on the field.



Homecoming Candidates 2014

- Dakota Powell
- Regan Haney
- Dalton Powell
- Molly Johnston
- Jesse Jones
- Lauren Baker
- Eryn Cox
- Ben Morgan
- Macy Spivey
- Alex Wielgus
- Savannah Porter
- Chris Dunn
- Jennifer Rusk
- Josh Kirby



King and Queen

Eryn Cox and Ben Morgan

Representatives of the Class of 2018

- Levi Wilson,
- Syanna Beachler,
- Emily Phelps,
- Graham Reich



Representatives of the Class of 2017

- Zayd Ahmed, Kacey Myers,
- Jamie Sibley, Justin James

Representatives of the Class of 2016

- Tyler Prince, Rebecca Boyer,
- Mahiru Takeda, Zach Friend



Madison Local School District State Report Card Results

The Ohio Department of Education released the district's State Report Card in September, indicating ongoing progress in student growth and achievement for Madison. This is the second year of the new state report card model and gone are the old rankings of Excellent, Effective, etc. In its place are letter grades "A-F" for various indicators of achievement.

Showing results from the 2013-2014 school year, the report indicates that Madison earned an overall rating of a "B" with an increased performance index of 82.2%. The district was able to increase its student growth, or Annual Measurable Objectives, by more than 20% and show considerable strides in the academic performance of specific groups of students such as students with disabilities, poverty and race.



Performance Index – "B"
 Indicators Met – "B"
 Overall Value Added – "C"
 Value Added for Students with Disabilities – "A"
 Gap Closing - "B"
 Graduation Rate (4 years) – "B"
 Graduation Rate (5 years) – "A"

Overall, it is important to celebrate our success as a district, and yet continue our commitment to continuous improvement and meeting the needs of each individual student.

Madison Local Schools Mobile App

The Madison Local School District strives to communicate with students, parents, staff, and community members in a consistent, efficient, and personable manner. Over the past several years the district has met the communication needs of the community by redeveloping the district website and launching multiple social media channels including Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

In August, due to the high demand for a customizable communication experience, Madison Local School District added the Madison Local Schools' iPhone and Android application for mobile and on-demand interaction. Available for free in the App Store and Google Play, the app allows instant access to the latest news, calendar, school contact information and even lunch menus and athletic events. Additionally, the Madison Local Schools App plans to launch the InfoCenter later this fall that will allow for secure access to lunch account information as well as overall course grades and attendance.



SPECIFIC MOBILE APP FEATURES:

- Individualized user settings
- Push notifications
- In-app email ability
- Main website and social network features accessible in one place
- Info Center with access to lunch account and grade information (Coming Soon!)

Download the Madison Local Schools app on your mobile device today and select "yes" to receive push notifications with the latest news and updates from the district.

Follow Madison Local School District on Social Media

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

Outdoor Corner

By Josh Martin

SLOWLY FADING AWAY

The fall 2014 archery season will be my 25th year bow hunting the magnificent whitetail here in Madison Township. To be brutally honest I'm really not looking forward to it that much. The recent decline in our whitetail population is affecting myself and many other local hunters. We already have been facing an uphill battle to get access to the farms that hold deer, then to have a very noticeable decrease in population, the challenge becomes too much to bear for some. I personally know several people who have simply quit hunting deer all together. It is a sad state of affairs when someone gives up a hobby they love because of these conditions.

My concern for our whitetail population goes far beyond the desire for myself to harvest a "deer out my back door". My concern is for the future hunters of Madison Township, most importantly to me, my children. I consider myself a blessed man to have all three of my children heavily involved in the outdoors. It becomes a major obstacle if we have to travel to a different part of the state just to have a better chance at harvesting a deer or even find a farmer willing to give us access to hunt. I am not at all saying there is not still good hunting here in our township, because there is, I am simply stating that it is painfully obvious we are in a serious decline that I hope we pull out of soon.

According to the QDMA, deer populations nationwide have decreased by a total of 2.8 million animals since 2008. Wildlife biologist Grant Woods has said, "I think we're nearing a crisis mode. The best-case scenario is that deer populations drop 10



The last big buck I was blessed to harvest "out my back door" was in the 2011-2012 season. I believe this was the last "good" year of our whitetail population here in the township.

to 25 percent over the next couple years." Whether you agree or disagree with my evaluation of our township whitetail population, these facts are very alarming for the future of our sport, and we should do everything in our power to help protect it.

A few suggestions that I have to my fellow Madison Township deer hunters is this, only harvest what you need. Just because the state says you can kill "x" amount of deer doesn't mean you should. Also, take advantage of every opportunity to harvest coyotes. In a recent study, it was found that a single adult male coyote killed 31 whitetail fawns in a matter of 30 days in order to feed his pups. This is yet another way for us to help control our whitetail population.

We ultimately control our own destiny here in the township when it comes to our wildlife populations, so please do what you think is right. It sure would be nice to get our population levels to what they were back in the late 1990's, and give our youth more of an opportunity to be successful right here in our own little neck of the woods.



Marinated Beef Salad

From Darla Reich

MAKE DRESSING:

- ½ cup salad oil
- ½ cup red wine vinegar
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 1/8 teaspoon pepper
- 3 tablespoons catsup
- ½ teaspoon Worcestershire sauce
- 2 tablespoon finely chopped fresh tarragon

Pour dressing over 1 ½ - 2 ½ lbs. of cooked beef roast that has been sliced thin or shredded. Chill at least three hours.

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Fire Department

By Kent Hall, Fire Chief, Madison Fire Department



It is that time again, when cold weather will soon begin to make its way into the Ohio valley area. With that said, fireplaces, furnaces, and other heating related items will begin to be fired up to help keep our homes and businesses warm and comfortable. This might be a good time to have chimney's inspected and cleaned, as the fire department throughout the fall will receive a couple of calls of chimney fires.

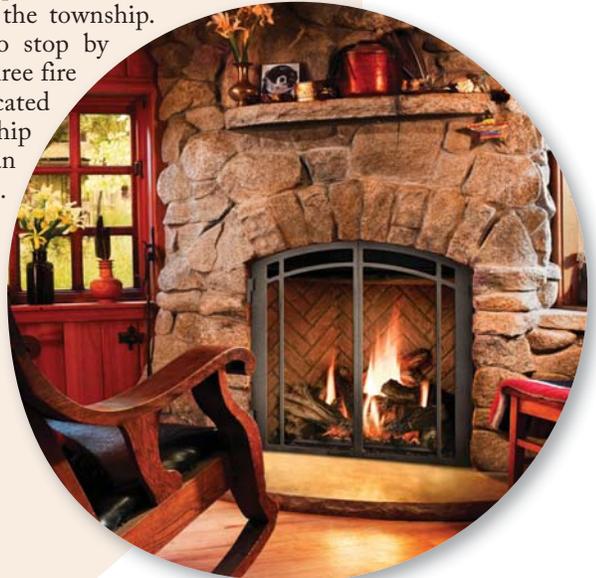
This occurs when creosote builds up in your chimney, creating an internal fire that could damage your chimney liner and sometimes start a structural fire that can spread to the house. Also this is a good time to have furnaces and other heating items inspected or serviced to make sure they are functioning properly and not causing any issues during the cold weather. October is Fire Prevention month, and on October 6th, the Madison Fire Department went to the Madison Local Schools. We showed fire apparatus and gave instructions to the kids, talking to them about fire safety and also passed out gifts to the kids from the local fire department. Hopefully some of you parents seen your younger kids bring this material home!

Since January 1st, 2014 the Madison Fire and EMS has responded to 612 calls for service. Of those calls, 496 were EMS related (80 percent) and 116 were fire related. The Madison Fire Department responded outside of the township for mutual aid to assist other neighboring departments 39 times, while Madison Fire Department only requested mutual aid in the township 8 times since January of this year.

If you are a resident of Madison Township and would like free smoke detectors for your home or free address signs that can be positioned on mailboxes or poles near the roadway, please contact or stop in the Township Administration Building. Todd Farler, the Township Administrator will be distributing both of these items. It is sometimes difficult for first responders to locate residents when addresses are not properly marked near the roadway, these free signs and numbers will assist the first responders and hopefully make for a quick response time to your house.

If you would be interested in joining the Madison Fire Department and are currently certified in the Fire or EMS field, please contact us at 513-424-0821. Our EMS division is staffed 24/7 with part time employees for medical coverage, and we currently pay per call for fire related incidents in the township.

You can also stop by one of our three fire stations located in the township to pick up an application. This could be a great way to give back to your community!



Visit our webpage:

MadisonTownshipOnline.com

Sign up to be on our E-mail Notification List. Various notices are sent out monthly which include weather warnings and alerts, township meeting notices, and other township news and events. You can also submit any Madison charity or community events and we'll post them on our webpage.



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MIDDLETOWN MEDICAL GROUP

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Paul R. Jennewine, M.D.

Marvin L. Ray, M.D.

Kelly L. Burghard, M.D.

James Kalbaugh, P.A.-C.

Accepting most insurance and new patients.

By Larry Helton, Jr.

History THE DEADLY CAVE

The first recorded mention of a cave in Madison Township was published in 1892, in three installments, in the Middletown Signal/Journal, titled: "Underground: The Way That Slaves Were Freed From Their Masters Before The War". The account was witnessed and told by a man only identified as John, the owner of the land that this cave was located upon, and the only person alive who knew of the cave's location. His grandfather, a pioneer, had discovered the cave in 1790 and sealed it off due to a mysterious, poisonous gas that filled the inner-chamber. The cave "was not over six miles from the downtown corner of Main and Central Ave. (Third St.)" and was adjacent to the farm's homestead. In 1845 John and a group of naturalists and geologists from Washington, D.C. opened and explored the cave. Of the four men who entered the cave, all died from the gases. Then in 1849 there is a story of twenty-one slaves who died within the cave, as recanted in the works of long-time Middletown historian, George Crout.

George Crout wrote about the cave in 1999 in Madison Township Bicentennial Sketches (1799-1999) in "Madison Township Communities, Elk Creek". Before the Civil War, Madison Township residents were very divided on the subject of state's rights, including slavery. Slavery was never permitted in Ohio. There were abolitionists in the township that assisted in aiding escaped slaves towards freedom along the "Underground Railroad", which is neither underground, nor a railroad, but an escape route. It is believed that the following incident occurred somewhere in the Elk Creek area, en-route to West Elkton, a major "station". Though a secret a few still knew of the cave's whereabouts, including an abolitionist physician of Hamilton. One night in 1849 this abolitionist physician knocked on the back door of John's family's farmhouse, knowing ahead of time that this family of Quaker background supported the cause. John's parents met with the physician and learned that he had brought two wagon loads of slaves up the highway, headed to West Elkton, but discovered that they were being followed by bounty hunters. Furthermore, they learned that the physician had hidden the slaves in the secret cave. Upon hearing this, John's father told the physician that he feared none of the twenty-one slaves would emerge alive due to the poisonous gas within. After a bit of a rest and being disturbed by what he had been told, the physician and one of the sons, returned to the cave's entrance, nervous and apprehensive. The physician prayed, took a few steps into the cave, and began to call out. With no response, he tied a handkerchief around his face to protect himself from the gases. He had the son wait outside. When he returned from the cave, his hands pressing the sides of his head, in a stupor, and revived from fresh air, he cried out, "We are in the midst of death! They are all dead...I saw them, counted them... twenty-one...all dead." The physician then told the son, never to enter the cave, nor allow others to enter it, and to replace the ground so as to conceal it from the sight of man. He further told him to tell his father that his predictions were right and that, "I alone am to blame and no one can share any of it. It was God's will that they should die rather than be recaptured and taken back into slavery. At least they are buried in free land, and their graves on free soil." The cave was then sealed

from the "sight of man".

Kevin Williams used George Crout's account and information from two geology professors to publish a story about the cave in The Edgewood. Crout is quoted as saying, "The story was a legend - I didn't really know whether it was true or not. The source was shaky." He placed the cave as being in the vicinity of Sebald Park and was filled with methane gas. Paul Pushkarr, professor of geology sciences at Wright State University states, "It would be fairly unusual to have a cave of any sized in this area. The glaciers are pretty much death to caves. Some large cave systems did survive - Ohio Caverns near Bellefontaine is an example." Dwight Baldwin, professor of geology at Miami University, adds, "There are caves that have high methane gas levels, if there is a lot of water or decaying plant matter inside. If a cave contained methane, it would have to be a tight compartment within the cave. Caves have to breathe. If the cave was open it would be unusual to have that high of methane." The 1892 article stated, "The poisonous gas was limited to an inner-chamber of the cave."

Middletown Historian, Roger Miller, wrote about the cave in 2004 in "Middletown Past", Middletown Journal, recanting the same as above. Roger and a group of men searched for this cave in July of 2004 without any success.

Some question the location, "not over six miles from downtown". "Not over" could be less; could be across the river, then turning north or south for the remaining miles, not necessarily in a straight line. Could even be a tributary to Elk Creek or even another stream. On the Welling's farm; on the Blevin's farm; near the Striebecks; behind the Meeker's; where the Callahans had the pig roast; or somewhere on the Miami Valley 4-Wheeler's property have all been mentioned. There is one undisclosed location told to me that has an interesting story to tell. "I think this cave may be on our farm. We have a small ravine and over the hill a large gorge. In 1940, my uncle was having a new well drilled in the small ravine when they hit natural gas. They started drilling a second location nearby and hit natural gas again. The man drilling set it on fire and it burned for 15-20 minutes before going out... I do not think the cave would be at this location, but further back in the bigger gorge. Back there is a knob on the side of the hill that I always thought was a landslide...but maybe it is two to three wagon loads of dirt dumped there..."

Over the years, I've talked to George, Roger, and others about the cave, its likelihood and its whereabouts. I have walked and explored most, if not all of Elk Creek and some of its tributaries, in all seasons. Was it cave or could it have been more like a rock shelter of the Appalachians? If a cave, could it have been not only sealed off, but dynamited to keep from ever being entered again? Could the cave have actually been an opening in the Earth's surface from the New Madrid earthquake of 1812 that affected the entire Ohio Valley? A final scenario - on some topographical maps of the township, it shows a couple of abandoned mines on top of the West Middletown hills, now on private property. Could one of these be "the cave"? That might explain the methane gas probability? If they were mines, what was being mined and when? Another mystery or another rural legend?

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By Rick Henry

Gardening

HOPE FOR OUR ASH TREES:

A POSSIBLE SIMPLE AND LOW COST REMEDY

In a few short years, since it has first arrived as a stow-away on a ship from Eastern Asia, the Emerald Ash Borer has killed millions of trees. I think it is fair to say that Madison Township has been hit as hard as any area as it relates to tree damage and tree loss. As with other areas, I have been watching some ash trees in Madison Township initially show signs of die back at the top of the tree. Then over the past few years, I have observed increased Woodpecker damage on these same trees (another tell-tale sign). And, finally after additional damage / die back, that was unacceptable to the homeowner, I have watched these same trees be removed.

There is no science or data behind what I want to share in this article. Actually, for the lack of a better word, I am a little worried that I will jinx myself by sharing my approach and personal success to date with my ash tree. But, I think what I have been doing is providing protection for my tree in a very easy and low cost way. If one's tree is too far gone nothing will help, and what I am sharing here will not work; however, for some others it may.

I have a Purple Autumn Ash in my backyard that I planted many years ago. The trunk is about 28" in diameter, it is about 35' tall, and it is very full of foliage, a perfect specimen. Each year it moves through its growing cycle right on time, and ends the season with a very attractive purple fall color in the leaves. As of today, it has no evidence of any damage due to the ash borer. Over the course of the past three years I have noticed a total of about 8 exit holes. So a few have made their way in, but again no damage to the health or appearance of the tree. It takes more than a few larva to cause any damage to a tree.

I normally practice what is considered Integrated Pest Management (IPM), whereby it is customary to wait until there is an unacceptable level of damage to a plant before a chemical remedy is applied. But, with my ash tree I decided to apply a pesticide as a kind of preventative maintenance plan based on what I was seeing in other infested trees in the area. What do I use? What is keeping my tree in perfect shape while other ash trees only 90' to 200' away, in neighboring yards, are experiencing severe damage and others have completely died and are awaiting the chain saw?

It is nothing more than my little inexpensive one gallon sprayer and an off the shelf borer and leaf miner spray. I have been using Ortho Borer and Leaf Miner Spray from the base of the tree up to about 6' to 8' feet on the trunk and lower branches. Nothing more. I reach for my spray tank about every two to three weeks, whenever I think about



it from May through July in a effort to keep a barrier down. The ash borer enters the tree initially in the lower part of the tree. This borer does not have magical powers, it is not an evil super villain. It is just a beetle. It is just beetle like any other beetle. They emerge from May through July as adults (leaving the characteristic 'D' shaped hole). The adults mate, and then the female lays her eggs on the bark of the tree. The eggs hatch and the larva enters the tree feasting for about two weeks--creating damage under the bark and to the cambium layer of the tree. If enough damage is done to the cambium layer then water and nutrients cannot be taken up to the branches and die back occurs. After about two weeks the larva goes into the pupal stage until it emerges about 265 days and the cycle repeats itself.

Hopefully, my simple attempt to understand the life cycle of this beetle and treat it like any other pest will continue to protect my tree until the borers move out of our area (which supposedly takes about 8 years). And, also hopefully, I didn't just jinx myself by sharing my apparent success! But, I want to share this just in case it is helpful to others. I am familiar with the quote, 'Pride goes before the fall'; but, said somewhat tongue-in-cheek it is more accurate to say I am trying to 'Work this out in fear and trembling.' I really don't want to lose this tree, I have enjoyed this tree very much for many years. I am doing what I can and what I think is correct to save it. But, I guess if it does go the way of the other ash trees in our area, despite my best efforts, then I will just have to take solace in the words of a famous doctor: 'Don't cry because it's over, smile because it happened'—Dr. Seuss. Happy Gardening!

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Financial & Factual Information Concerning the Upcoming Road Levy

- Levy will be for a continuous period of time, commencing in 2014, first due in calendar year 2015.
- Levy will be for a rate not to exceed 1 millage for each dollar of valuation.
- Approximate cost to \$100,000 property will be \$35 annually.
- Levy will generate approximately \$249,425 annually.
- Levy will allow for the continuing of road treatment (asphalt) as has been historically utilized in our township.
- Our local levy will be "Issue 7"
- General Election will be on November 4th, 2014.

Below is the actual ballot language as it will appear on the ballot:

**MADISON TOWNSHIP
(UNINCORPORATED AREA)**

A majority affirmative vote is necessary for passage. An additional tax for the benefit of Madison Township for the purpose of the general construction, reconstruction, resurfacing, and repair of streets, roads, and bridges at a rate not exceeding one (1) mill for each one dollar of valuation, which amounts to ten cents (\$0.10) for each one hundred dollars of valuation, for a continuing period of time, commencing in 2014, first due in calendar year 2015.

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Road Department

By Todd Daniel,
Road Superintendent

SUMMER REPORT

After a very harsh winter last year we have spent much of the summer trying to mend and repair many of the roads that were damaged due to their age and the freeze thaw cycles. This summer we were able to pave Hetzler Road from Hinkle to Montgomery County line along with a significant amount of base repair. We replaced a road culvert on Mosiman Road just south of Weatherwood Drive. Crack filled over 10 lane miles of roadway. Our crews worked alongside a local contractor to fix an extensive amount of area on Michael Rd. thru a process called mill and fill. We also worked in cooperation with Duke Energy in the removal of around 75 trees along the road sides that were deemed dangerous. These trees were primarily on Browns Run Rd., Slobig Rd. and Thomas Rd. We will continue throughout the fall and winter to cut and remove many of the dead trees that still remain.

THE FORECAST

As many of you know, the farmer's almanac is calling for below average temperatures and above average snowfall this winter. I'm not sure that is something we can absolutely count on, but it is something to think and talk about. One thing you can count on is that there is apparently a salt shortage in our region. Many of our neighboring communities are feeling the effects of this already. Recently after bidding with the SWOP4G (Southwest Ohio Purchasers for Government) many of these entities have found out that not only will they be paying over twice as much as last year, but they will not be getting their quotas as well, and in some cases less than half.

What does this mean? It means it will cost more to do less; Which seems to be a common phrase these days. Where do we stand? After several meetings with the BCEO and nearly all entities in Butler County, we decided that we would stick together with many of the other townships and county and bid early instead of the SWOP4G. This time it worked out for us. We had a 4% increase and were able to get all of our quota. There are still obstacles out there that are out of our control that could prohibit the distribution of the salt, but for now we are very happy with the decision we made.

ROADS

This topic by far is the most important thing I would like to talk about. In the spring newsletter I shared with you the funding situation at the state level and how it has affected us. I would like to briefly go over that again. Around 2010 the state of Ohio decided they needed some budget cuts. One of the places they targeted was the Local Government Fund (LGF). This has been a funding source for Ohio Townships since 1934. For us, it was a significant amount of about \$250,000.00 annually.

During the same time the price of asphalt has soared over 50%. Again costing us more to do less. The combination of these two items has been devastating to our road maintenance program. You have to remember we are responsible to maintain everything within the right of way. Which includes trimming, mowing, paving, crack filling, base repair, ditching, culvert replacements, retrace, and snow removal. The cost to do these things continues to rise unfortunately.

What has this meant to us? From 1998 -2008 we were paving an avg. of 5.08 miles of road per year. From 1999-2013 we were paving an average of 1.84 miles per year. The avg. life of a road before needing attention is around 12-15 years + or -. With 53 miles of roads that puts us treating a road every 28.8 years. That will not work. We are doing new practices to extend the life of our roads but it comes at a cost as well, and the extension is not near enough to make up the difference.

This November we will be going on the ballot asking the people of Madison Township to decide what level of service they would like. In order for us to maintain a satisfactory level of service on our roads, we will need more revenues to do this. The current path is unsustainable to keep our existing roads in the condition they are currently in. Once you get behind on a maintenance program, it is very hard to catch up, and in doing so you pay way more than you should. Please contact me if you have any concerns or questions regarding any of this information or the upcoming election.

Thank you and have a great fall and a safe winter!

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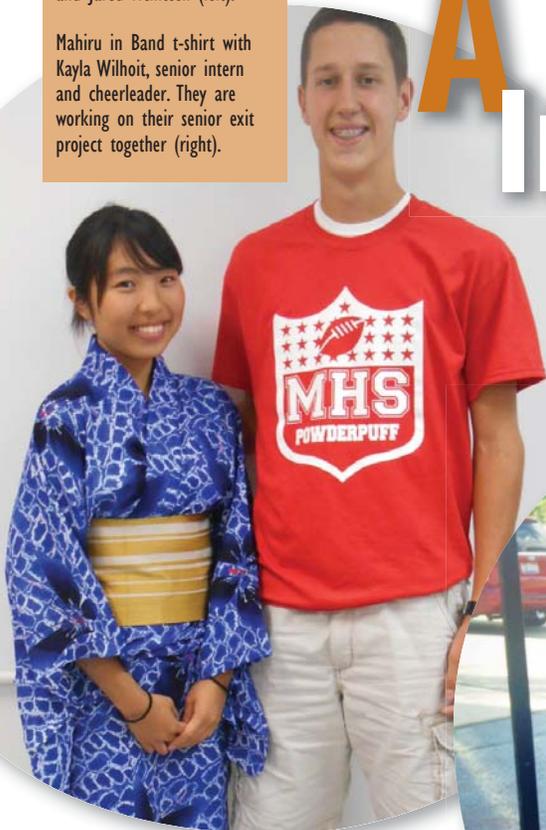


Mahiru in her traditional dress and Jared McIntosh (left).

Mahiru in Band t-shirt with Kayla Wilhoit, senior intern and cheerleader. They are working on their senior exit project together (right).

A New Face In the Crowd

by Jared McIntosh



thoughts of similarity. As described by Mahiru, “food, school, everything” is different. She described the two countries as being complete opposites. For coming from such a different place, in her words, Mahiru is enjoying her time here in the United States. She goes back home in June of 2015, and will surely be sad to say goodbye to her host family and Madison Township.

Mahiru’s hosts, the Hicks Family, were very excited to take in Mahiru as part of their family for 11 months. The family decided that taking on an exchange student would be a great experience for them. Describing Mahiru as “a really strong girl,” they see her as, “...very independent and determined.” Like Mahiru, the

Hicks family had a mountain of paperwork to fill out, keeping them busy all summer in preparation for her arrival. When asked what have you or do you hope to expose Mahiru to in

Madison Township and Southwest Ohio, the family replied, “Mahiru has already been introduced to “creek stompin” at Sebald Park, we have taken her to Lake Erie, and Kings Island. She loves the nature in Madison”. The family described the township welcoming Mahiru as “amazing” they also exclaimed “We couldn’t ask for the students and teachers to be any nicer or more understanding”. The Hicks family want to give a special thanks to Mrs. Crim and Mr. Lenney, who have gone above and beyond to make sure that Mahiru is having an amazing year at Madison. Mrs. Crim was honored by the praise; however she “feels that the amazing year is the result not of one or two people’s effort, but of the student, school and personal support that has been provided by the community itself. It just proves it is truly good to be a Mohawk”. It seems Mahiru would agree.

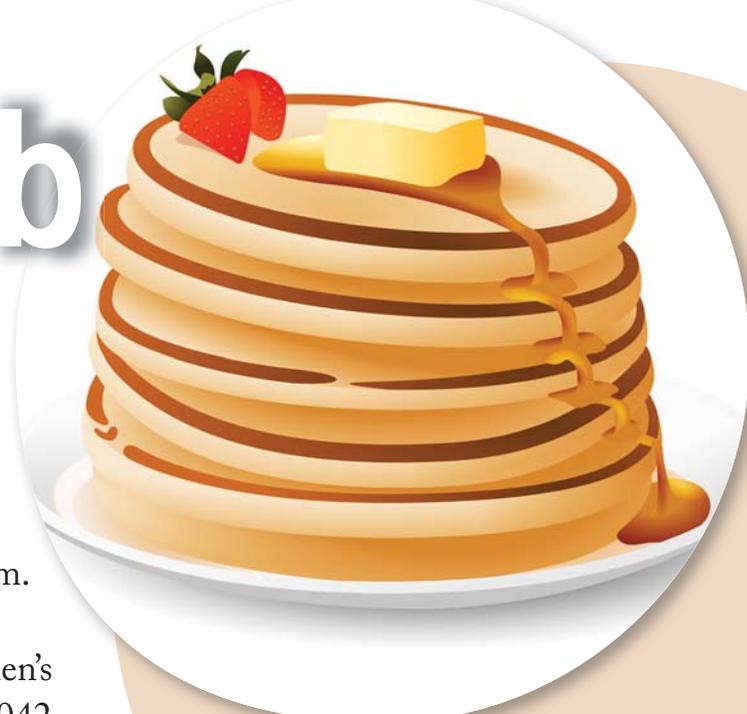
It is obvious that the Hicks family would do this again if given the choice, as would Mahiru. The Hicks shared, “if anyone else is interested in hosting, it has been a great experience. AFS (the exchange program) has done a great job in preparing us for what to expect. We would recommend this program to others, most definitely.” For more information, visit the AFS website: www.afs.org.

Sitting down with Mahiru Takeda, a foreign exchange student from Japan now at Madison Junior Senior High School, we spoke about her experiences and thoughts on the United States. Many of her reflections on the last few months were enlightening and surprising.

The process of becoming a foreign exchange student requires a large amount of studying and researching. After going through all the processes and paperwork, Mahiru was ready to experience America and luckily the Hicks family of Madison Township, Neil, Heather, Hannah and Hunter, has readily taken her in for 11 months. Upon her arrival, Mahiru had first impressions of Madison Township, which she described as “green and flat”. Coming from Tokyo, a large city with little “green” space in Japan, Mahiru is not able to just walk outside and find nature as it is. She finds, “very much joy in being able to do that here in the beautiful Madison Township”. When asked what her favorite things about Madison Township were, Mahiru responded with “school, band and my house family” (the house family being the Hicks family who is hosting Mahiru). The opinion Mahiru had about the people of Madison Township correlates well to what other outsiders think, that the people of Madison Township are “friendly and outgoing”. When asked to list some similarities and differences between the U.S. and Japan, the differences came to mind before any

Lions Club

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