

MADISON TOWNSHIP

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10th Anniversary Springfest

By Jessica Powers & Katie Geyer,
Madison High School Seniors

Storms of snow, wind, and cold have kept Madison Township hibernating for the winter, but now it is time to bask in all the warmer weather has to offer - like the sighting of the first robin, or the first sprouts and flowers. However, many residents look forward to another sign of the season- Springfest! This special event, like a crocus popping out of the ground, occurs so naturally that it is easy to forget how much planning and preparation it takes to make such an event happen. There is a group of volunteers, however who are keenly aware of the work that goes into our community's celebration. The Springfest board, led by Jenny Fink for the last 10 years, is responsible for the wonderful activities and experiences.

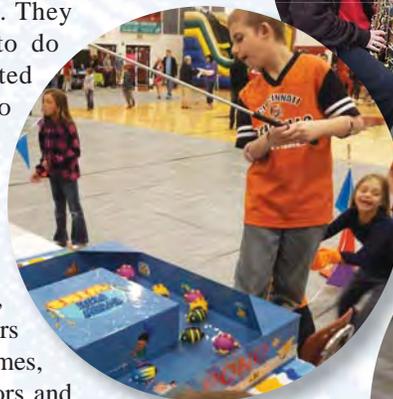
Jenny Fink has been with Springfest since the very beginning. Before heading up the Springfest board, she and her husband, Mike, had always worked on getting tax levies approved. One particular year, the tax levy was denied. They decided shortly after the election that they wanted to do something different, something a little more light-hearted and fun. The idea of a festival immediately came to mind. Thus, Springfest was born.

For the last decade, Springfest has been, as the website states, "really a great party that we give ourselves every spring." On the web at <http://springfest.stagebrown.com>, Springfest organizers further state, "It's not only for the community, but also put together entirely by the community, from the all-volunteer organizing committee, to the volunteers who organize the basket raffle, free giant inflatables, kids games, music and more; from the crafters, to the business sponsors and donors, to the community organizations who bring us great festival food; and from the students and bands who perform, to everyone who pitches in to set up and tear everything down." Clearly this event is closely tied to the community and anyone who has ever attended knows is definitely light-hearted and fun - exactly what the Finks set out to provide.

When the Finks started working on the festival, they had no idea what to do because they'd never done anything like that before. According to Jenny, "We made it up as we went along." However, they did have help from like-minded community members who joined the cause and became members of the Springfest committee. These and others contributed in some way to the attractions that make Springfest the joyous event now in place. Some of these people have donated their time and effort over many years, like Cindy Watson and Joel Brown who have helped to coordinate the festival basically since it began. Joel Brown was one of the people

on the committee to get the levy passed 10 years ago so he got involved with the festival. Brown volunteered to create a website for Springfest which Jenny said is made, "to where even I can understand it." Along with Bev Jacobs, Cindy Watson has helped every year to organize the basket raffle and acquire sponsors. Watson's daughter is the same age as Fink's daughter and she said that she just got "snookered" into helping with Springfest. Both Mrs. Watson and Mr. Brown said that they love working with Jenny and the other committee members to organize Springfest. Brown feels, "it gets easier every year because of the people on the committee." Jenny, who takes little credit in

Jenny Fink



comparison to the effort she has put in, gives credit to her dedicated committee members like Laurie and Jeff Clements who are the treasurer and the entertainment advisor, as well as Norman Sampson, Bev Jacobs, and Marva Sampson, who have provided valuable help and patience over the years.

The true meaning of Springfest, in Jenny's eyes, is to bridge the gap between the township and school community because the school is at the heart of the community. Often people who don't have a child in the school district feel basically left out events, and Jenny hopes Springfest helps to eliminate those feelings. Her

Continued on page 4.

YOUR Township Administrator...

By Todd Farler,

Madison Township Administrator

Hopefully by the time you're reading this newsletter, it's sunny and warm and you're sitting on your deck or porch, enjoying the spring atmosphere that we've been waiting on for so long. After such a long, grueling winter, I'm sure most of us are ready for some dry, warm weather. The extended winter offered drastic fluctuations of extreme temperatures, numerous snowfalls, ice showers, and rain. It's been difficult on everything from our houses, to our utility bills, and to our roads. It's also been an expensive winter for the township; including record setting road salt usage, elevated electric and propane heating bills, and unusual damage to our roads. The extended and rising costs that you've realize in your home are also realize by our township, as we pay many of the same bills. We strive to consistently provide the most efficient and effective services we can, while maintaining and staying within our budgets. Although we used a record setting amount of road salt this year due to the frequency of snow and ice, our road department did an excellent job of trying to keep our roads clear and safe, while also being aware of salt usage and cost. Our fire department also had to handle more fire and EMS calls in such inclement weather, and they too did a superb job of responding to our emergency needs.

As many of you have notice, this past winter took a drastic toll on many of our roads. In years past, we have been able to maintain and pave approximately 5 miles of road per year. However, with reduced funding on several levels, we've seen a significant decrease in revenue available for our roads. This has caused a severe strain on the amount of paving we can provide for our roads. We are looking at numerous options for road improvements that are more cost effective than blacktop, but they do not offer the drivability or long term durability of paving roads. We have also increased our preventative road maintenance over the last several years, but this too comes at a cost. As with any service we provide, we have to stay within a budget, and we're always mindful of how we spend your tax dollars. The basic question we continually ask is, "What are the priorities of the township residents".

On a more uplifting note, we were recently awarded a grant from



the Ohio Public Works Commission in the amount of \$387,000 for improvements to Wayne Madison Road. Our share of the total project will be approximately \$24,000, with Wayne Township also contributing \$24,000. This brings our cost in at around 6% of the total project. Our return on investment is excellent, as the life expectancy of this new road will be 20 years.

This section of road between Howe Road and the city limits of Trenton will be widened and resurfaced; a much needed safety improvement. Each lane will be widened to 11 feet and shoulders added to each side. We're hopeful that work will begin later this fall and completed by the end of the year.

We're also pleased to announce that we've received a FEMA grant that will allow for the distribution of smoke alarms to every household in Madison Township. Although most of us live our lives seldom thinking about house fires, they can be devastating and have life changing effects. The single and most efficient way you can help prevent the loss of your home, and the life of your family, is by having working smoke detectors in your home. We can now help provide your family with these detectors which will be distributed FREE to the residents of Madison Township. You'll find more information and the order form on page 13 of this newsletter. Please take advantage of this simple life saving service and help keep Madison Township, and your home, a safe place to live.



MISSION STATEMENT OF MADISON TOWNSHIP

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

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Todd Farler 513-424-0821

WEBSITE

www.MadisonTownshipOnline.com

TOWNSHIP CONTACT NUMBERS

EMERGENCIES ALWAYS CALL 911

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Fire Station #2 (Germantown Road) 513-424-3384

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Middletown Public Library 513-424-1251



By **Brian McGuire,**
Vice President

Winter has finally come to an end and as the snow melts away, we are able to see what a long winter's wrath has left behind. The many winter weather events and ice constantly freezing, melting and refreezing, have left roads throughout the county and Madison Township in the worse condition we have seen in decades. Our road crew should be commended for the excellent job they did, this seemingly endless winter, of keeping our Township roads clear and safe for travel. Now begins the important task of repairing the damage our roads have suffered over the winter. Please be aware of, and on the look out for, road crews who will be out in force repairing damaged roads throughout the county. Madison Township has budgeted for these road repairs and will continue to do so; however economic factors have forced us to change and adapt our normal planned repairs to address the more traveled and severely damaged roads of our Township.

Less than a decade ago we were able to repave over 5 miles of Township roads every year. Now we can barely do 2 miles due to economic restraints. The loss of revenue from a poor economy, and cuts to the Local Government Fund, amounting to around 250K a year for Madison Township, have left small local governments scrambling to adapt. The Local Government Fund was set up over 80 years ago to return your state tax dollars back to your local governments, like Madison Township, so they could perform important work for your needs, like road repair, that you determine, not the needs determined by the state. Less than 4 years ago this was one of the so called budget cuts done to balance the states budget. You should commend yourself for sacrificing your needs here in the Township, so the state would not have to make a similar sacrifice. I'm sure the state is patting itself on the back for something we have always done in Madison Township, balancing our budget no matter the difficulty and not operating with a deficit. The question is, as the states revenues increase with a better economy, will they return your money?

The arrival of spring also means that The Madison Township's SpringFest is just around the corner. I encourage everyone to take this opportunity to enjoy a great time to fellowship with and meet other residents in the community, and learn why your

community is seen as one of the best in the state. And while your there, be sure to thank the members of our Fire Department and EMS.

Their daily sacrifice, to make us safe, is surely worth a smile, a hand shake and a thank you. I believe they are one of the best in the state because of our Fire Chief Kent Hall's leadership and the other members of our Fire and EMS department's daily sacrifice. Thank you, Chief Hall.

Finally Alan, Dwight, Amy and I would like to wish everyone a safe, happy, and hopefully extended, summer. Get out and enjoy the outdoors, especially our Township Park, because after the winter we had, you deserve it and you will see why Madison Township is a great place to work, live, and play.

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Continued from the cover.

favorite part about Springfest is seeing the kids get so excited for the games, the music, and the art. The first year was overwhelming for the organizing committee and Fink because they weren't expecting such a big turnout and they weren't expecting the kids to love it so much. She said that her best idea was the basket raffle because it always allows them to be self-sufficient by providing all the money needed to pay for the festival and that keeps Springfest fun and affordable. They even get baskets as donations from local businesses and from classes at Madison. She does wish that the township would put more input into the festival and she would also like someone young to come in and give them some fresh ideas.

Speaking of fresh ideas, Fink 's trying to find someone to take over her position soon, but it's hard because everyone is busy with their own booths and other activities. For now Jenny is doing her best, working with the other members of the board, and she's keeping her position next year as a co chair by sharing the position with someone else. It seems, although she is ready to give up the reigns, replacing her might leave big shoes to fill.

Springfest, a fun time for everyone in the township, is looking toward the future. As the community looks forward to seeing what

will happen, there is a continued hope to have committee members as great as the ones involved currently. With dedication and desire, like that of the Finks, making Springfest progress should be an easy task. The people that started Springfest and who have stuck with it this long like Jenny Fink, will never be forgotten and they will go down in Madison Township history as the pioneers of Springfest.



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Upcoming Dates

- May 4
Madison Athletic Boosters
Golf Scramble
- May 7
Junior High Academic
Awards Program
- May 10
Madison Mohawk Spring
Fling 5K Run/Walk
- May 14
High School Academic
Awards Program
- May 12
Grades 5-12 Band Concert

Varsity Boys Basketball

Coach Jeff Smith was named the Associated Press Southwest District Coach of the Year after one of the most dramatic turnarounds across the state. Smith and his Mohawks managed 11 wins after only winning a pair of games the previous season.



Madison Mohawk Winter Honors

Brad Malott

1st Team All SWBL Boys Basketball
District 15 All Underclassman Team
Associated Press SW All-District
Honorable Mention
4.0 GPA Scholar Athlete

Ally Hoskins

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Associated Press SW All-District
Girls Honorable Mention
4.0 GPA Scholar Athlete

Katy Canter

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Associated Press SW All-District
Girls Honorable Mention

Austin Philpot

Honorable Mention SWBL Boys
Basketball
Associated Press SW All-District
Honorable Mention

Thomas Hall

Honorable Mention SWBL Boys
Basketball

Hunter Whiteman

Honorable Mention SWBL Girls
Basketball

Emily Cox

Honorable Mention SWBL Girls
Basketball

Josh Kirby

SWBL League Wrestling Champion
SW Division III Sectional Champion
SW District Qualifier

Brian Morris

SWBL League Wrestler, 4th place
SW Division III Sectional Runner-up
SW District Qualifier

Gunnar Dawson

SW Division III Sectional, 3rd place
SW District Qualifier



MADISON LOCAL SCHOOLS

Achieving Excellence One Student at a Time

Academics

Madison Local School District is participating in the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) field tests this spring. PARCC, online computer based assessments, will take place in two sections of 6th and 7th grade language arts classes and two classes of high school geometry. The tests are to be completed in two phases: the first in early April is the performance-based assessments and in early May, the end-of-the-year assessments.

- Performance-Based Assessment (PBA) administered after approximately 75% of the school year. The English language arts/literacy (ELA/literacy) PBA will focus on writing effectively when analyzing text. The mathematics PBA will focus on applying skills, concepts, and understandings to solve multi-step problems requiring abstract reasoning, precision, perseverance, and strategic use of tools.

- End-of-Year Assessment (EOY) administered after approximately 90% of the school year. The ELA/literacy EOY will focus on reading comprehension. The mathematics EOY will call on students to demonstrate further conceptual understanding of the Major Content and Additional and Supporting Content of the grade/course (as outlined in the PARCC Model Content Frameworks), and demonstrate mathematical fluency, when applicable to the grade.

The PARCC Field Test will be administered to a random selection of schools including more than one million students across PARCC states. The primary purpose of the PARCC Field Test is to examine the quality of items so that PARCC can build assessment forms for the 2014-2015 school year, pilot the administration procedures, and give districts the opportunity to experience the administration of the PARCC assessments.

An important component of this study is the feedback from students and Test Administrators through surveys that participants will complete after administration to improve administration policies and procedures for the operational administration in 2014-2015.

If you have questions or concerns about the PARCC field tests or the implementation of the PARCC testing in 2014-2015, please contact the Madison Jr/Sr High School for more information.



Content Frameworks), and demonstrate mathematical fluency, when applicable to the grade.

MES Character Crusaders

Seventeen Madison Elementary students were chosen to represent Madison Local School District in the Findlay Market Opening Day Parade on March 31st. The project, part of the ongoing MES character education project, allowed the students to travel to Cincinnati to walk in the parade along with area character education leader, Kim Nuxhall of the Joe Nuxhall Character Education Foundation.

In early March, students in grades kindergarten through sixth were encouraged to create a special project to highlight the best virtues exhibited by those with good character. Entries included stories, posters, drawings and videos all demonstrating the students' understanding that good character counts! The students were judged for their creativity as well as their overall diligence, respect, responsibility, self-control and kindness.

Congratulations to the following MES Character Crusaders!

Carter Sizemore, Michaela Ferguson, Gavin Johnson, Willa Gabbard, Quincy Brown, Caden Robertson, Avery Huff, Bailey Porter, Emily Lanham, Gavin Wright, Laney Hartman, Jarod Wagner, Willa Larbes, Khaylene Baker, Peyton Neal, Kiera Coots and Brandon Swartz



Mohawks welcome Steve Poff as Varsity Head Coach



The Madison High School Athletic Department has named Steve Poff as the new head coach of the varsity football program.

Coach Poff has worked extensively with the Madison High School Football Program as a varsity assistant since 2011. Poff is a Madison alum and long-time

community member with many years of coaching experience at the youth and junior high levels. In 2013, Poff helped to coach the Varsity Football team to a successful season just short of a playoff run and will continue with high expectation for the 2014 season with 15 seniors returning in the fall.

An Athletic Selection Committee made up of board members, coaches, and community members selected Coach Poff from a pool of 34 initial applicants.

"I am ecstatic to have the opportunity to serve this community as their football coach and continue to work with the young men I have grown to love and respect," Poff stated after he accepted the position. He went on to say, "I believe this program is on the fringe of doing great things. We have come a long way and I cannot wait to see where we can take it."

Madison Band Spring Newsletter 2014

Congratulations to Mr. Lenney and the Madison Mohawk Concert Band for receiving straight Superior Ratings at the Ohio Music Education Association District XIII Large Group Contest! This is the second year in a row that the band has received straight Superior Ratings and the fourth year in a row for overall Superior Ratings.



Follow Madison Local School District on Social Media



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The Music Man

Madison Thespian Troupe #4592 present "The Music Man", written by Meredith Willson and Franklin Lacey, to be held April 25 at 7:30pm, April 26 at 12:30pm and 7:30pm and April 27 at 2:30pm in the William E. Caudill Performance Theater at Madison Jr/Sr High School, 5797 West Alexandria Road in Middletown.

"The Music Man" features a con man named Harold Hill, played by senior Alex Thobe, who arrives in a small town to scam its citizens into letting him provide music lessons along with the purchase of new band instruments and uniforms. Mr. Hill, however, has no musical talents, nor any intention of teaching the townspeople anything, and instead plans to skip town with the money! Standing in his way is the cynical town librarian and resident "old maid", Marian Paroo, played by senior Caden Miller. Along the way, Harold Hill gains the trust of numerous townspeople, falls in love with Miss Marian Paroo, and eventually becomes attached to the people of River City, Iowa.

The performance this year includes students from Madison Elementary School and Madison Jr/Sr High School from kindergarten through twelfth grade. All students auditioned in December and have been working hard throughout the season to get ready for this performance. It promises to be great community fun, filled with memorable music, lively choreography, and tons of energy that will put a smile on your face!

"With over 55 students performing or working technical crew, 25 parents involved in the production, and numerous Madison alumni and staff directing and consulting, this is truly a work of the entire community! Our talent is better than ever and these kids are the cutest any cast has ever had. As directors, we just can't wait for the community to fall in love with these kids and this show, just as we have!" – Directors Brandi Robertson, Zachary Cornett, and Amy Brannon

Tickets for "The Music Man" can be purchased via www.madisonarts.org. Look to the school website for announcements when they are available for sale.



ART BY RACHEL SHEETS,
CLASS OF 2012

Safe Haven

Equestrian Program



Safe Haven Farms is a non-profit organization offering residential, day and community services for individuals on the autism spectrum. Located on 59 acres on No Mans Rd. in Madison Township, the farm was featured in an article in the November 2013 Madison Township newsletter.

Recently the farm received three donated horses for the equestrian program, which is set to begin in the spring of 2014. The therapeutic riding program will be exclusively for those on the autism spectrum of all ages from the surrounding community. Experience has shown that caring for and riding horses has significant therapeutic benefits for people with autism and Safe Haven is pleased to be able to offer it.

The horses are currently being acclimated to their new environment and instructors are being trained and certified. Donna Farler, Equestrian Program Coordinator, reports that each horse currently displays good temperament, which is critical to working well with the residents, future riders and volunteers. "The horses

remain quiet around people and in different surroundings and can tolerate a number of active people around them as they work," explained Donna. "They don't spook easily and need to be willing to carry riders who may be unbalanced, sometimes wiggly or loud." Volunteers are needed to work as side helpers and horse leaders. The side helpers will assist the riders and need no previous horse experience, but need to feel comfortable around horses. The horse leaders will assist riders with grooming and tacking their horse. They also lead the horse during the lessons. Our leaders must have prior equestrian experience, although additional training will be provided at the farm. Horse "angels" are also needed – experienced riders who will be trained to exercise horses and keep them fit.

If there are any "horse 4-H clubs" in our community that would like to participate in a project at the barn, you are welcome to call Donna and determine if there is a project that would work for your group.

Do you know someone with autism who would enjoy therapeutic riding lessons?

Would you like to volunteer to help? (Volunteers must be fourteen years old to help with the riding program.)

If you would like to enroll a rider, volunteer your time, make a donation or ask questions about the equestrian program see the contact information below:

Donna Farler

513-422-1880 ext. 106 or 513-340-0688

Email: equestrian@safehavenfarms.org

Website: www.safehavenfarms.org



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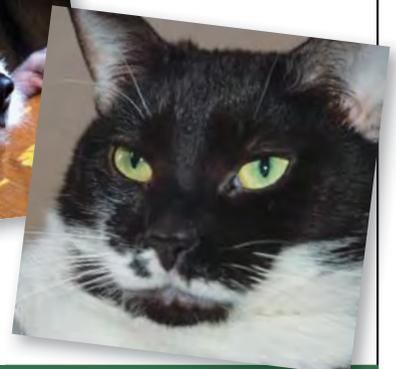
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Recently Installed

Two new Trailhead signs were recently installed in park, with grants provided by Butler Rural Community Connection and Middletown Community Foundation.

The signs are located at each of the trailheads leading back into 30 acres of woods, and are color coded so the different trails and interchanges that can be hiked and measured for distance. Between the individual trails and the connector trails, there is over 1.25 miles of trails. Come out and enjoy a nice casual walk or hike through your park!

CCW Class



This past February we held our first CCW classes and had 22 people attend, with 100% receiving their certification and license. The classes were held at the

Middletown Sportsman Club and instructed by Don Roberson, of Roberson Sporting Goods.

We'll be having another class in May, so anyone who couldn't make one the first classes will have another opportunity this Spring. Cost is \$100/person, and you can bring your own handgun and ammunition, or these can be supplied. The class is only one day long. If you're interested or have more questions, please call:

Contact Roberson Sporting Goods directly at 513-422-4191

Spring is just around the corner

The Butler County Water and Soil Conservation District is offering FREE well water testing and discounted soil testing, and the deadline for their Tree Sale is March 26th. They're also offering numerous other clinics, programs, and workshops that may be of interest. You can view all their information at:

www.Butlerswcd.org

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Fire Department

By Kent Hall, Fire Chief, Madison Fire Department



The Madison Fire Department recently lost one of their own. With his family by his side, Rob Beckett recently passed after a lengthy battle with cancer. Rob had been on the Madison Fire Department for 15 years, serving many titles and positions has Squad Chief, Fire Lieutenant, and Fire Captain. Rob was not only a fire fighter, EMT, and an officer, he was also a close friend to me and many of the fire and squad members on the department and surrounding departments. What impressed me the most about Rob was his dedication to his family. Rob's son Derrick, which is known to me as "Little Beckett", spent most of his teenage years hanging around the firehouse in Poastown, spending time at the firehouse with Rob around the coffee table. Rob would talk about going to large family gatherings, golfing with his two sons, or spending time with his grandchildren. I would like to say thanks to everyone in the community that sent cards, donated food, or assisted in other ways for Rob's funeral. I would like to also say thanks to the many departments that also assisted in Rob's funeral. Without those departments we could not have done what we did for Rob and his family.

With the winter time leaving and the spring time fast approaching, the residents of Madison Township will be cleaning up there yards, picking up tree limbs and branches, and basically doing overall cleanup on the outside of the their houses. In the state

of Ohio it is illegal to burn trash. The Madison Fire Department will assist farmers or residents that would like to burn tree branches or limbs in a safe manner. If you need assistance, please contact one of our stations and a representative will come out and decide if an apparatus will be needed and assist in any way we can. Also, the Madison Fire Department still has house numbers available the can be mounted on a mailbox or pole near the street. If you do not have visible numbers in front of your house, it makes it difficult for emergency responders to sometimes locate your house during a time of emergency. Finally, with the recent time change, keep in mind this is a good time to change batteries for your smoke detectors in your house. Over the past couple of years the Madison Fire Department has responded to several house fires in the township, upon arrival discovering that the homeowners were awakened by the sound of the smoke detectors going off. Make sure to complete and return the FREE smoke detector form located in this newsletter, and we look forward to seeing everyone this spring!

Jeff Lawill was recently promoted to Captain of the EMS Division.



Smoked Salmon Frittata

From Valerie Griffin



- 8 eggs
- 2/3 cup milk
- 1 tsp. pepper
- 2 tbs. chives, chopped
- 2 tbs. olive oil
- 1 red onion, thinly sliced
- 1 package cream cheese, cubed
- 4-6 ounces smoked salmon, cut into strips
- 2 medium tomatoes, sliced
- 3 tbs. fresh dill (optional)

- Preheat oven to 400 degrees.
- Mix together eggs, milk, chives, and pepper. Beat until frothy, set aside.
- Heat olive oil in a large cast iron skillet over medium heat.
- Add egg mixture to skillet, then top with the remaining ingredients (arranging evenly and quickly)
- Cook for 3 minutes on the stovetop without disturbing.
- Move skillet to the oven and cook for approximately 30 minutes. Top should be golden brown and center should be just set.

FREE

Smoke Detector Order Form

(MADISON TOWNSHIP RESIDENTS ONLY)

Each home is allowed as many smoke detectors as need to meet code.

Remove and complete this page, then mail or return it to:
Madison Township 5610 West Alexandria Rd. Middletown, OH 45042



Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Number of children under the age of 13 living at this address: _____

Number of adults over the age of 65 living at this address: _____

Number of disabled persons living at this address: _____

Best time to call and schedule an appointment: _____

EVERY HOME IN MADISON TOWNSHIP IS ELIGIBLE FOR THIS PROGRAM.

Smoke detectors can be delivered and installed in your home, along with a fire safety inspection of the home, or picked up at the Township Administration building, located at 5610 West Alexandria Rd. If you plan on picking up your smoke detectors, please call M-F, 8a.m. - 3p.m., and schedule a pick up time. If you schedule a pick of your smoke detectors, proof of residency (driver's license, utility bill, etc.) is required.

100% of the funding to provide for these smoke detectors was made available through a FEMA Fire Safety Grant that our township was awarded. Smoke detectors are ONLY available to Madison Township residents. Priority of in home installation will initially be given to those homes with children under the age of 13, adults over the age of 65, and those homes with disabled persons.

WHY HAVE SMOKE ALARMS?

- Almost two-thirds of home fire deaths resulted from fires in properties without working smoke alarms.
- The risk of dying in reported home structure fires is cut in half in homes with working smoke alarms.

WHO IS AT RISK?

- Children and adults age 65 and older are twice as likely to die in a fire as the average adult.

- Tip: Activate your smoke alarm while children are sleeping to determine how they respond to the alarm. Plan a fire escape plan to consider their needs.

THE IMPORTANCE OF WORKING SMOKE ALARMS

- Fire deaths have been cut in half since smoke alarms were introduced in the late 1970s.
- An estimated 95 percent of U.S. homes have at least one smoke alarm.
- Two-thirds of reported residential fire deaths occurred in homes with no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms.
- Fire deaths in homes with working smoke alarms are 51 percent less than the death rate for homes without this protection.
- An estimated 20 percent of U.S. homes do not have working smoke alarms, primarily because of missing or dead batteries.
- Nuisance activations are the leading cause of disabled smoke alarms. In other words, "nuisance activations" occur when a smoke alarm detects steam from a shower or stove, thus falsely alerting residents of a fire. When this happens, most people take out the batteries, or disable the alarm.
- Tip: If your alarm sounds when it detects steam from a shower or food burning on the stove, consider moving it into an area adjacent to the bathroom or kitchen to prevent nuisance activations.
- Almost 900 lives could be saved each year if all homes had working smoke alarms.

By Larry Helton, Jr.

History MIDDLETOWN SPORTSMEN'S CLUB



During the 1920s, 30s, and 40s, the Middletown Fish and Game Protective Association held their regular meetings in various locations in and around Middletown: the ARMCO cafeteria and club rooms; the Middletown Civic Association; the Moose Hall in the Sorg Building on South Main Street; the Elk's on North Main Street; the Terrace Garden Building on Central Avenue, where Roberson's Sporting Goods was once located; the

Cincinnati Gas and Electric Building on Marietta Street; and at the Elk Creek Grange in Madison Township that once sat atop the hillside of the Elk Creek Cemetery along Middletown-Eaton Road. Annual business meetings were held at the Manchester Hotel and the annual picnics at LeSourdsville Lake. Meat served at events included rabbit, deer, and other game animals. Staying true to their purpose, in 1925 the group released twenty-five pheasants on area farms and planted three hundred walnut and popular trees on a secured acre of land. In 1926 they petitioned the governor to stock Twin Creek with mature fish. It is with the last mentioned meeting location that makes it fitting that the Middletown Fish and Game Protective Association, that would officially be renamed as the Middletown Sportsmen's Club on December 21st, 1944, would eventually make their permanent home in Madison Township.

The Middletown Sportsmen's Club had a need for their own clubhouse and land. Land was at times available through the State Conservation Department in Columbus, Ohio, thus prompting the

first president, Don Dazey, to appoint a committee, led by Frank Rodgers, to work with Game Protector Earl Beaver to inquire about the possibilities. Word came back that seventy-seven acres in the West Middletown hills was available. The land had no access, was completely surrounded by private property, and was referred to as "no man's land". The land had been taken over by the State of Ohio for back taxes and turned over to the State Conservation Department.

Originally, this "no man's land" had been laid out in 25 x100 lots in the 1930s as the "Rose Hill Division". The Cincinnati developer, last name of Rose, possibly set up at the West Middletown train depot, was advertising and selling these lots as having city water and electricity, neither of which was true. Upon buyer inspection, the red painted fire hydrants dotting the landscape were made of wood. Most of the lots reverted back to the State for back taxes, but not all. There are some lots on the property that are still deeded to individuals, long passed or forgotten, that come up for purchase that the Sportsmen's Club



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acquires. When looking at the various tracts on the Butler County Auditor's web page, the names of the intended subdivision streets remain: Charles Street, Eleventh Street, Hamilton Avenue, Lebanon Avenue, Pennsylvania Avenue, and Smith Avenue.

In a meeting in the Elk's basement in 1942, this land was accepted from the State Conservation Department upon agreement that it was to remain under the control of the local sportsmen as long as the group continued to develop it. Frank Rodgers was then appointed chairman of a committee to study plans for development. When Don Dazey submitted final plans, it was for a 32'x 80' log building with a basement and fireplace, the same clubhouse in use today. It was then that arrangements were made with property owner, Jim Mynhier, for an easement from Michael Road back to the club property, known today as Dazey Lane. Funds came from previous fish fries and the selling of life memberships and building notes. Due to World War II in progress and the availability of materials much time lapsed in final construction of the clubhouse, causing considerable issues along the way. When it came time for the walls to go up, Don Dazey was instrumental in getting logs donated by Cincinnati Gas and Electric. Club members and other volunteers provided much of the labor involved. The first official meeting was held in the completed clubhouse on May 13th, 1947 with 450 members in attendance.

With more funds needed, a three-day carnival was planned for October 1947 with tickets being sold that made attendees eligible for prizes, donated by area businesses, every hour. Everything was set up, tents, rides, booths, tables, and games, and the day before, Don Dazey received word from Columbus that no games of chance or gambling were permitted on state owned property. By midnight, with Jim Mynhier's permission, everything was moved to his property, where the scout building and campground is today. Having no electric at the time, headlights from member's cars provided the necessary lighting to get the job done. At a later time, the club would purchase this property. It was not until 1948 that the second carnival was held. Along with the usual rides, there

was a main attraction a hot air balloon ascension.

Not wishing to be controlled by Columbus and the fear of losing their land and buildings, the club offered \$2,500.00 for the seventy-seven acres. With the House of Representative's approval, Don Dazey traveled to Columbus and made the purchase.

Again more funds were needed, so 50/50 dances sponsored by five different Grange youth groups were held for three years every Thursday night September through April. That is to say that the sponsoring group and the club split the money taken in. Not many knew where the Sportsmen's Club was located, so the directions given were to travel down Michael Road and turn down the lane with the coal-oil lantern that is burning.

The club needed someone to look after it, so the first managers; Mr. and Mrs. Alvie Reibold were hired at \$25.00 per week and lived in a trailer just north of the present manager's cottage. During one of the dance nights the coal-oil lantern was stolen, so Mr. Reibold went home to replace it with what was a lantern given Mrs. Reibold by her father. It was also stolen. During another Thursday night 50/50 dance that Mrs. Reibold collapsed while working behind the counter. With no telephone at the clubhouse, someone had to find one to use at a residence to call an ambulance. Mrs. Reibold was dead upon arrival at the hospital.

With trap shooting becoming an expensive and popular sport, the board of directors felt that a good source of revenue could be



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brought in, so they had two traps installed. At a later date it was announced

that the state shoot would be awarded to the Middletown Sportsmen's Club if ten traps would be made available. It looked to be a profitable endeavor, but much work would need to be completed first install eight more traps and fill in and level a gully. It was completed in time and the first Ohio State Trap Shoot was held in June 1949. For the 1950 shoot there were twenty teams entered.

In July 1951, sixty-six wooded lots were purchased from Edith Bergan for \$1,000.00. It was there where a picnic area, with tables and fireplaces, was developed.

What is known about the Middletown Sportsmen's Club during the 1950s, 60s, 70s, and beyond, appears to be passed down by word-of-mouth, without much in the way of the pen. There was a club publication for many years known as the Sportfolio that contained stories and shooting statistics. The logo patches of the club are but a by gone. There were state sponsored wildlife programs. What I remember while exploring the grounds as a youth, while my dad participated in the ARMCO Gun Club, seems to resemble the stories of yesteryear as much as it resembles today. Inside the clubhouse still looks like a walk back through the ages with Field & Stream. The club remains dedicated to their founding principals as found in their constitution and by-laws: to assist in advancing, and to participate in, the protection and propagation of fish and game, and the protection of songbirds; to assist in creating an interest in outdoor sports and amusements; to assist in the enforcement of fish and game laws; to help in preventing pollution of waters and water courses and malicious or other destruction of property by hunters and fishermen; to interest and to educate the members of said corporation, and others, in the more sportsmanlike methods of taking fish and game; to encourage and to help create a greater feeling of good will between sportsmen and property owners; to do any and all things incident or necessary to effect the purposes aforesaid; practice the ethics of true sportsmanship at all times by following the Golden Rule; and to respect each and every member's favorite sport, belief and right.

In 2014 the Middletown Sportsmen's Club's property is 210 acres spanning from their address at 6943 Michael Road to near the township's Community Park on West Alexandria Road. A new pole building was added in 2013 for grounds-keeping and other equipment. The membership is 2000+. The members own the club. The governing board consists of twelve members, including the president, Jim Shade. There is resident manager, Mike Erter, a range officer, and other employees, many of which are Madison Twp. youth. I am also proud to say that my uncle is an employee of the club and due to his hard work and dedication, has a shoot

named for him MSC Garry Pence Thanks-Giving Skeet Shoot. Another item worth mentioning is that the club is active in its respect to the environment in that the lead shot is removed from the fields every few years.

Many groups, shoots, and fundraisers are part of the club throughout the year, as well as courses for hunter education and concealed carry weapons. The following shooting areas are available: twenty trap fields, two skeet fields, one 5 stand, one sporting clays course, a cowboy range, and a covered rifle/pistol range. Black powder weapons can also be used on club grounds. A membership is not required to participate in trap, skeet, 5 stand, or one sporting clays course, however the fee for a non-member is higher. Shotgun shells are available for purchase at the clubhouse.

Aside from the shooting sports, there are other outdoor activities at the club. There is fishing at the three-acre lake that is stocked with largemouth and small mouth bass, bluegill, crappie, trout, and catfish. A campground and a couple of archery targets are at the right of the grounds as you enter the parking lot. Campsites have water and electricity and rent for \$15 per night. At the end of the campground you will find the headquarters for Boy Scout Troop #59, chartered in 1950. A little known and rarely used activity available is that of running and training hunting dogs, which must be done prior to the daily shooting schedule. There are also areas for outdoor picnicking, plus the clubhouse can be rented for \$50 per hour.

Annual memberships are \$106.50 per year, plus an optional/ additional \$47.93 for lake usage, and this includes your spouse and children under the age of eighteen. There are other types of memberships for juniors, guests, and lifetime that can be viewed on the club's web page, as well as the charges for the various shooting sports and other activities.

I encourage you to visit the Middletown Sportsmen's Club web site at www.middletownsportsmensclub.com, call them at 513-422-5112, or better yet, visit them down Dazey Lane at 6943 Michael Road, ask for Mike Erter or Jim Shade. Take a stroll around the grounds and inside the clubhouse and see what a hidden treasure we have out here in Madison Township.

A big thanks to Mike Erter, Jim Shade, and Mike Channey for their time in helping me compile the information for this article.

PRESIDENTS		MANAGERS	
Don Dazey	1944-50	Alvie Reibold	1947-48
Adrian Ade Smallwood	1951-52	Lyle Hastings	1949-54
Harry Lewis	1953-54	Bob Wood	1954-58
Earl Gehron	1955-1956	Lyle Hastings	1959
Don Dazey	1957	Jim Diver	1960
Joe Baker, Jr.	1958-59	Ray Williams	1960-68
Adrian Ade Smallwood	1960-61	Bert Wells	1968-92
Jim Ingram	1962	Darryl Landwehr	1993-97
George Hagan	1963	Chuck Hazelette	1998-11
Bob Yauch	1964	Michael Erter	2011-present
Ray Lentz	1965		
Charles Zimmey	1966		
Ray Lentz	1967-68		
Dean Yauch	1969		
Bob Wendt	1970		
Jim Smith	1971-72		
Bob Wendt	1973		
Bill Bach	1974		
Jack Lentz	1975-76		
Ken Chaney	1977-80		
Don Roberson	1981-86		
Calvin Casson	1987-89		
Jim Routt	1990-91		
Jim Shade	1992-93		
Skip Campbell	1994-96		
Mike Chaney	1997-99		
Don Roberson, Jr.	2000-08		
Richard Smith	2009-11		
Jim Shade	2012-present		

Gardening

By Rick Henry

SOIL TESTING: AN IMPORTANT GARDING TOOL



Have you ever wondered why the turf grass at most golf courses is so green and healthy, or why the trees and shrubs at an arboretum look so perfect? Have you ever wondered why the plants and flowers at some zoos just seem so much superior, in size, appearance, and color, to what we grow at our own homes? There are various reasons for why this is the case at these and other commercial and institutional places. Not the least of which is they usually have knowledgeable and large groundskeeping staffs. But, more than this the one common denominator between these places is that they all understand the importance of soil pH levels and nutrient levels, as it relates to optimum growth. They all know soil testing is one of the most important gardening tools. And, they all know that fertilizing is serious business that should not be handled in such a manner as a guessing game.

I remember being in an Ohio State University Extension Seminar in Cincinnati many years ago, for commercial and institutional horticultural people. The topic was about the importance of soil testing. The speaker repeatedly asked rhetorical questions about what to do when a particular tree or shrub was struggling or suffering from a state of chlorosis (when the foliage / leaves are pale or yellow). Chlorotic leaves produce insufficient chlorophyll, and chlorophyll is responsible for the green color in the leaves. With trees and shrubs, chlorosis is the most common symptom of insufficient nutrients. The plant is literally starving to death, so to say. And, it will often die a slow death, because it cannot manufacture carbohydrates through photosynthesis. But, each time the speaker in the seminar presented a scenario with a particular tree or shrub that was struggling, he also presented different options for addressing the possible nutrient deficiencies of the soil and soil pH. He would ask, "Is this what we should do in each case, is this what we should tell our customers?" And, each time he would answer his own question and say, "The answer is we don't know!" He said each time emphatically, "We should tell our customers that without a soil sample we are guessing at the problem in the dark, without a soil sample we simply don't know!"

So for those of us who have trees and shrubs that are struggling, or for those of us who would possibly desire for our flowers and plants to exhibit a more optimum growth, soil testing may prove to be a huge benefit. Often, this is not an inexpensive thing to do, depending on which lab you use. But, presently, as Madison Township Administrator, Todd Farler, has shared elsewhere, there is very affordable soil testing available through the Butler County Water and Soil Conservation District. They are

partnering with the Ohio State University Extension

to offer this service for total

cost of \$7.00. For those interested you can call them at 513-887-3722 for a test package / kit, and learn more at www.Butlerswcd.org. In addition, to sending you the results of your particular soil test, you will also receive specific suggestions for how to improve / balance the nutrient and pH level of your particular soil for your garden or lawn.

Possibly, some like my neighbor who has been gardening in his own backyard for over 30 years (who seems to have tomato plants 4' high full of tomatoes, while mine are still knee high and barren), is very-in touch with his soil. But, for the rest of us, to add soil testing to our gardening, lawn, and landscaping efforts, is to add a very important tool. It is to increase our expertise exponentially. It is to take us out of the realm of the guessing game, and relying on so-called experts. With a soil testing report and recommendation in our hand we become the expert of our particular landscape and lawn. And, we are able to make decisions and take actions in the present that allow us to have the garden that we have always dreamed of having in the future. Sometimes with our gardening efforts, as with our own lives, we need to just stop, and take a closer look at what we are doing and why. As it relates to our own lives, here is a quote I appreciate that speaks to this: "Look closely at the present that you are constructing, it should look like the future you are dreaming." Happy gardening!

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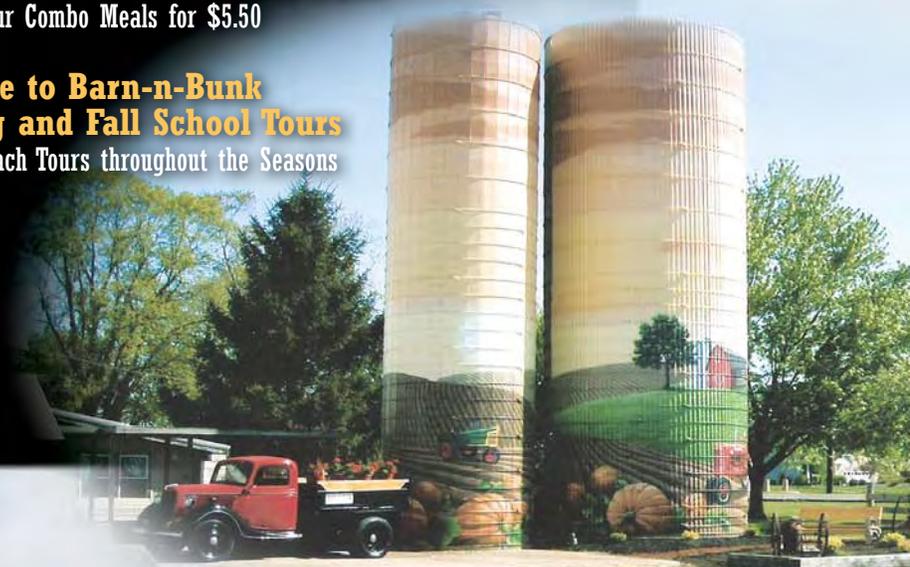
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Sunday: 10:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Sunday Brunch Buffet

10:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.



Beloved Madison Township Firefighter Laid to Rest

By Ed Richter-
Staff Writer for the Journal-News

A conversation with a Butler County Sheriff's deputy at a crash scene in front of his Madison Twp. home inspired Rob Beckett to become a volunteer firefighter. Beckett was always concerned about others and decided to use his past experience as a member of the Greeneville EMS from 1974 to 1979, and become a Madison Twp. volunteer firefighter.

Beckett, 58, was a beloved and dedicated member of the Madison Township Volunteer Fire Department. The 15-year veteran of the department died at his home Feb. 19. Beckett was honored with full firefighter honors and a Fireman Funeral Procession conducted by fellow Madison Twp. firefighters as part of his funeral on Tuesday.

Madison Twp. Fire Chief Kent Hall, who was the deputy who responded to that crash 15 years ago, said Beckett struck up a conversation with him saying there were a lot of accidents on Ohio 122 in front of his home. During the conversation, Hall said he gave Beckett information on how to become a volunteer firefighter.

"He really had a desire of wanting to help out," Hall said. Hall described Beckett as "thoughtful." "He was always very caring and was always thinking about the other person," Hall said.

Beckett was known to spend countless hours at the Poasttown station making sure the township's fire engines and medic squads were ready for the next run, Hall said. Over the years, Beckett was an EMS squad chief as well as working on the fire side where he was promoted to the ranks of fire lieutenant in 2006 and fire captain in 2007. "He excelled on the fire side," Hall said. "He always gave 110 percent to any detail or tasks we asked him to do."

While he was dedicated to the fire department, Hall said Beckett was just as equally dedicated to his family. "As a person, he was a family man first," Hall said. "He would always make time for his family." He said Beckett's youngest son, Derrick, "practically grew up" at the Poasttown station. "He was just an overall great guy," Hall said.

Born in 1955 in St. Mary's, Ohio, Beckett was a veteran of the U.S. Army. He was manager for Burrows Paper Corp. for 20 years as well as an avid golfer and fan of Cincinnati sports teams.

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www.MadisonTownshipOnline.com

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Road Department

By Todd Daniel, Road Superintendent

WINTER REPORT

After one of the worst winters in recent memory spring is finally here. This past winter the Township used approximately 700 tons of salt. This usage eclipsed all others in the past 20 years due to the frequency of the storms. This came at a cost of around \$45,000.00 just for the salt alone. It was a very challenging winter for everyone but I am once again very proud of the road crews efforts and results.

SUMMER PROJECTS FOR 2014 WILL INCLUDE:

- Base repair on Michael Rd. between West Alexandria and Trenton Franklin Rd.
- Paving of Hetzler Rd. from Hinkle Rd. to Montgomery County line
- Culvert replacement on Mosiman Rd. just south of Marts Drive
- Crack fill of various roads throughout the Township

PROJECTS IN 2015 WILL INCLUDE THE REMOVAL AND REPLACEMENT OF 3 BRIDGES IN OUR TOWNSHIP

- Myers Rd. bridge
- Sloebig Rd. bridge
- Strebee Rd. bridge

These bridges are maintained by the BCEO and will be funded by State and OPWC grants.

SIGN UPDATE

After receiving a grant in 2013 we were able to purchase and replace the remainder of the old engineer grade signs in our Township with the new high intensity prismatic signs. We were able to complete that in the fall of last year. If you have been out at night I'm sure you have noticed the difference. This will definitely make the roads much safer to travel not only for the locals but for those coming into our Township.

EMERALD ASH BORER

If you have not already noticed the Emerald ash borer has had a devastating effect on the ash trees here in our Township. We have already removed in excess of 100 trees in our park and along the roadside as a result of their destruction.

Recently I was notified that Duke Energy will be using a private contractor to remove many of the ash trees that still remain. These will be the trees that Duke energy feels might be a threat to their power lines. The Township will remove the remainder of the trees that remain on the right of way that could potentially cause a public safety issue.

PLEASE REPORT

As we go thru the summer months please report any excess trash, tires, damaged roads, potholes, hanging limbs etc. that you feel is unsafe along our roadways.

ROADS FORECAST

In closing I would like to go over the past and present in funding and road treatments.

As many of you know the price of most everything has gone up in the last decade or so. Paving and treating roads is no different. Madison Township has come a long way from where we were when I first started in 1992 to where we are now. There have been a lot of very good changes along the way. The condition of our roads has always been a priority.

In 2008 things began to change. From 1998 - 2008 we were paving an average of 5.08 miles of road per year along with parking lots; cemetery drives, etc. with a budget of \$250,000.00. From 1999 - 2013 we were paving an average of 1.84 miles per year because of a reduced budget and increase in asphalt prices. In 2007 the cost to pave a mile of road was \$43,000.00. Today it is over \$63,000.00 a 48% increase.

Something else also changed during this time. The State of Ohio decided to reduce the Local Government Fund (LGF) a revenue sharing program dating back to 1934. This along with other reimbursements have been cut from our budget taking away over \$250,000.00 annually. These were some of the very dollars we were using for road treatments. These factors along with others have significantly affected our ability to maintain a sustainable road treatment program that we will all be satisfied with.

We will continue to do everything possible to give each of the residents of our Township the highest level of service we possibly can with the resources that are available to us.

Thank you and have a great summer!

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Keeping You Safe

Our EMS employees are working safer to help keep you safe, with the recent awarding of a Safety Intervention Grant from the Ohio Bureau of Workers Compensation in the amount of \$40,000! This grant was specific for the purchase of two Power Pro Ambulance cots and a Power Load System. We've recently received the Power Pro Ambulance cots and are awaiting the installation of the Power Load System into our ambulance.



The Power Cot is an innovative battery-powered hydraulic system that, once the patient is loaded onto the cot, raises and lowers the patient with the touch of a button.

This new battery powered ambulance cot dramatically reduces strenuous lifting and the associated risk of

back, shoulder, and arm injuries the EMS personnel while loading and unloading patients. Medics experience frequent spinal loading due to repetitive motions such as lifting, lowering, carrying, and bending. Use of the Power Cot has proven to reduce spinal loading, resulting in reduced injuries, lost or modified workdays, and workers' compensation costs. This power cot will lift up to a 500 lb. patient with the simple push of a button, and the Power Load System will then mechanically allow for the cot to be securely attached and loaded/unloaded from the ambulance without excess strain or fatigue on EMS personnel.

A superior advantage of having the Power Cot will be the reduction of patient transport time. Previously if a patient was too heavy to be lifted by our two EMS personnel, we had to call for "lift assistance" and wait for additional personnel to arrive and help load the patient and cot. With the power cot and power load system capable of lifting a 500 patient with the push of a button, this will allow for more efficient loading and transport times to the hospital, which ultimately means a higher level of patient care.

Two of our EMS employees, Joe Hester and Sara Grubbs were recently certified as licensed trainers for teaching CPR and First Aid. Their certification now allows us to perform in-house training and re-certification for other fire department personnel; a savings to our own department. We will also be offering **FREE** First Aid and CPR certification later this spring to all Madison Township residents. The classes will be held at Fire Station 153 (corner of SR 122 and Mosiman Rd) and registration will be required. Look for the dates and times to be forthcoming on our website, and information will be sent out via our Notification List.

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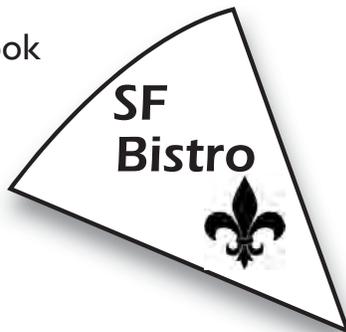


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