

MADISON TOWNSHIP

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By J. Larry Helton, Jr. – 2015+

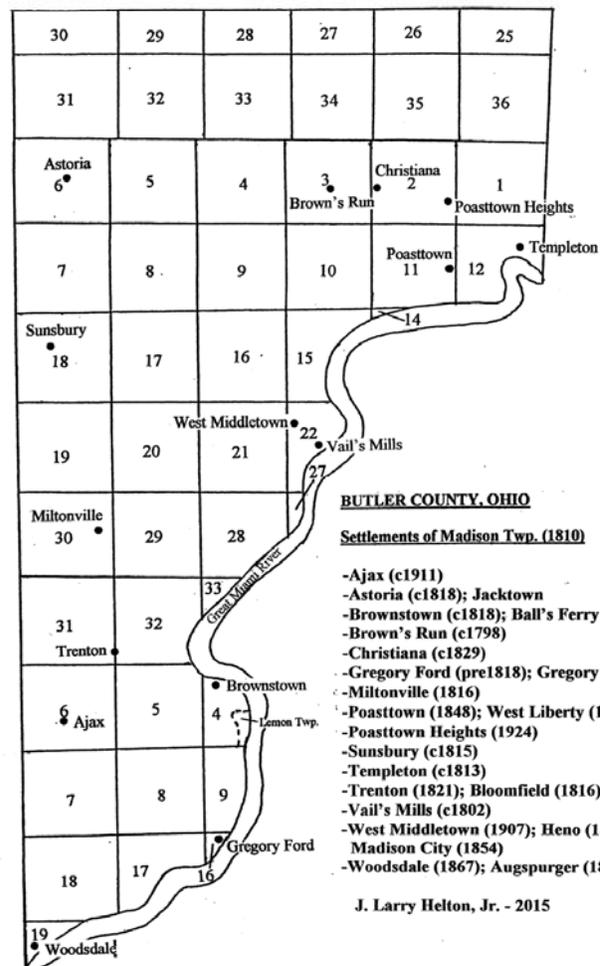
The Settlements of Madison Township

Before permanent settlements became established in what is now Madison Township, there is a long history of those who claimed the land on which we live. It was not until The Treaty of Fort McIntosh in 1785 that gave title of what is now Ohio to the United States of America. In 1787 our land became part of the Old Northwest Territory. In 1790 it was of Hamilton County for a short period before becoming Knox County, Indiana from 1790 to 1797. From 1798 to 1801 the area was known as the Congress Lands. In 1803 Ohio became a state and Butler County was formed and the counties were divided into townships, with our land being in Lemon Township. It was in 1810 that Madison Township was formed. The first recorded settler is Samuel Dickey, who arrived back in 1799. Following is a brief history of the settlements of Madison Township.

Brown's Run c1798 - The first settlement in Madison Township pre-dates the statehood of Ohio. Pioneer Richard Brown came to the Miami Valley in c1798 from the east with a group that was headed to east Kentucky, led by Samuel Hawkins, a former colonel in the American Revolution. Brown heard of new land available across the Ohio River and with a few others left the party and proceeded to the valley. The land had yet to be surveyed, so the men became squatters when they arrived and stayed. The area was very primitive; covered with forest, plentiful in animals, and even a few Shawnee Indians lived along the creek. The men built log cabins, cleared land for farming, and hunted wild game. For income, Brown and the other pioneers trapped and sold their furs in Cincinnati and brought back staples.

At one time a trading post was located at the corner of Myers and Brown's Run Roads. In later years, gristmills, woolen mills, sorghum mills, black smiths, shoemakers, carpenters, and wagon makers would make up the Brown's Run community. The area is still known through the stream name of Brown's Run that lies between Twin and Elk Creeks.

Vail's Mill c1802 - In c1802, Stephen Vail, a founder of Middletown, started a small village on both the east and west sides of the Great Miami River known as Vail's Mills. There he had built a woolen mill to process wool into yarn, a gristmill for corn and wheat into meal and flour, and a sawmill for logs into lumber, all for the area farmers. This settlement would have been on the river's old channel that is crossed over on the second bridge span when going into Middletown. John Mumma purchased and continued to operate the mills in 1840. Flooding eventually led to their demise.



Templeton c1813 - A short-lived or non-developed settlement opposite of Poasttown on a bend on the Great Miami River was Templeton platted by Michael Temple, landowner, on November 2, 1813.

Sunsbury c1815 - Another short-lived or non-developed settlement in Section 18 was Sunsbury platted by Jacob C. Snyder on November 21, 1815. It was here that Snyder built the third merchant mill on Elk Creek, then adding a sawmill.

Trenton 1816 - No longer officially part of Madison Township, it would be amiss not to have a slight mention here about Trenton.

The Settlements of Madison continued on page five.

YOUR Township Administrator...

By Todd Farler,
Madison Township Administrator



The speed of light is 670,616,629 miles per hour. For those of you already doing the math, that's also 186,282 miles per SECOND. It is the fastest speed known to man, and to be honest, it's probably unfathomable to most of us. Imagine circumnavigating the entire earth over seven times in one second! How about traveling to the Moon in under 1.3 SECONDS! The speed of light is something that most of us are unaware of and take for granted.

However, the speed of government is something that we are all very aware of. We see it on a day to day, month to month, and year to year basis. We see it when we go to the post office, the License Bureau, when applying for social security, or as we watch a government project being built. It is not the front line people we see working in these businesses that create the hampering of the process; it's simply the process itself, moving at the speed of government, which in turn was created by the government. As we came into 2015, we were expecting it to be a very plentiful year for Madison Township. However, it soon began running at the speed of government. We came into 2015 thinking that we would be building a new fire headquarters, seeing the paving of SR 122, rebuilding bridges, and the starting a million dollar road reconstruction project on Wayne Madison Road. Unfortunately, these projects are moving at the speed of government. Running circles around the speed of government has been rapidly escalating costs from the private sector for almost all work, whether it be road projects or building projects. This quite simply, is Economics 101: Supply and Demand. There is a greater demand for work than there are workers to supply. Even at a very local level, simply look all the work underway along I-75 to

the north at Austin Landings, and to the south in Liberty Township. The majority of this work is running behind, and these are multi-hundred million dollar projects.

We had originally planned on letting the new fire headquarters out to bid earlier this year, but coupling the speed of government with rising construction costs throughout the county and region, we decided to hold off and bid the project later this winter. Our expectation is that we'll receive bona fide pricing from contractors as larger projects come to completion and they begin looking for projects to start in the spring. The same course will follow, as phase one of the Wayne Madison Road project's lowest bid came in at almost 20% over the Butler County engineer's original estimate. Since then, we have been engineering modifications to the original plans and will combine both phases of the project which will also be let out for a winter bid. Again, our plan is that more contractors will be looking for more work to start in the early spring of 2016. State Route 122 was supposed to be paved through Madison Township this year, but ODOT has rescheduled it until 2016. Our information is that it was rescheduled from this year to next, for the same reasoning that we've rescheduled our own work.

Although in some aspects we are moving at the speed of government, much of which is beyond our local control, the good news is that we are still moving. While many small communities are struggling to simply maintain and survive, Madison Township is continuing to press forward. The projects will be completed and Madison Township will be a better place for it. The bridges will get built, the roads completed and paved, the new fire station will open, and Madison Township will continue to be a great place to live, work, and play. God bless and have a safe warm summer.

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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.

TRUSTEE News...



**By Brian Brooks
Trustee**

Hello Township Residents,

My, how the time goes by! The time seems to have just flown by since I was sworn in as a Trustee on January 1st for Madison Township. Here we are, nine months later, and I have learned a tremendous amount about townships responsibilities and what is expected of our township trustees. This past year has been invaluable for gaining experience for what it takes to be a trustee in our community, and I'm continuing to gain more knowledge with each passing month.

We are steadily moving forward toward the ground breaking of the new fire station which will be located adjacent to the Township Building, immediately to the north on West Alexandria Rd.

It is starting to take shape with the land acquisition complete, as well as finalizing the building design. I would like to take this opportunity, to say "Thank You" to everyone

who has put so much effort into this much needed project.

Fall sports are in full swing, as evidenced by the packed house each night at the Madison Township Community Park. Our family is there at least 4 nights a week with Soccer, and it's good to see so many people utilizing our park. The teams of Soccer, Football, Tennis, Cheerleaders, and of course the trail walkers, make for a busy atmosphere this time of year. If you haven't seen the new addition of the drinking fountain near the middle shelter, come on out and start enjoying our Community Park with us.

Speaking of fall sports, be sure to come out and support your favorite Madison Local Schools team as their seasons play out.

As a reminder, school is back in session so please drive carefully, especially around the school buses to help protect our children.

The Madison Lions Club is hosting a pancake breakfast at the Middletown Sportsmen's Club which is located at 6943 Michael Rd. Breakfast will be served Saturday November 14th from 8 am to 11 am. The cost is \$5.00 per person. There will be raffles and a split the pot drawing. Proceeds will go to the Family Services Food Pantry. For pre-sale tickets you can contact:

Mike 513-638-9988

Jim 513-649-4947

Tickets are also available at the door.

**Saturday, November 14th
8 - 11 a.m. Tickets \$5
Middletown Sportsmen's Club**



Lions Club

To the residents of Madison Township

Free Smoke Detectors!

Simply call or stop by the Township Administration Building and pick up your free dual sensor smoke detectors!



**Please call us at
(513) 424-0821**



**MADISON
TOWNSHIP**
EST. 1810

We received a grant to provide for these smoke detectors, which even include the batteries! They are FREE to all residents. Please help us in helping you to keep your family safe!

If you know of someone that is elderly, handicapped, or unable to pick up or install them, our Fire Department will take them to their home and install them for free! Help keep our township, and your home, a safe place to live!

The Settlements of Madison continued from cover page one.

On February 27, 1816, Founder Michael Pearce and David Enyeart filed the plat for Bloomfield, named in honor of Governor Bloomfield of New Jersey from which the first settlers had come. When a post office was proposed and it was found that another Bloomfield already existed in Ohio, the name of Trenton, in honor of Trenton, New Jersey was chosen. Michael Pearce's home stood at the corners of West State Street and Hamilton Avenue, now Founder's Park, with the Pioneer Cemetery behind it, along with historical markers. Trenton became a city on February 13, 1971. For more on Trenton's history, visit the Trenton Museum and read the books on its 150th and 175th anniversaries. Trenton will also be celebrating its bicentennial next year, 2016, with events and a new history book.

Miltonville 1816 – Being on Elk Creek, the Miltonville area was a haven for early Indian tribes, with one of their burial grounds on the east bank near the present bridge.

In 1800, the first white settlers having already arrived, Bambo Harris, a black engineer, came and built the first gristmill in what is now Madison Township. The mill was upstream a distance from Miltonville, across from the present entrance to Sebald Park. It served this community for fifty years. Harris is buried in the Miltonville Cemetery.

Possibly named for English poet and political writer, John Milton, Miltonville was settled by English families and platted by Theophilis Eggesfield, Richard Crane, and George Bennett on November 27, 1816.

The year 1850 was when Miltonville reached its height in prosperity. It had a United Brethren Church that burned down in 1949, a schoolhouse that is a residence today, two general stores, two hotels, two wagon shops, two slaughter houses, two potteries, three blacksmith shops, a buggy painting shop, a tailor and shoe shop, a pump manufacturing plant, a four-story grist mill, a tavern, wineries, and a ferry on Elk Creek. All of this due to being located at an important crossroad on the Cincinnati-Dayton stagecoach line.

It was 1851, when the Cincinnati, Hamilton, and Dayton Railroad made its appearance and offered faster transportation, stopping in Trenton, and bypassing Miltonville. Over the next several years, the schoolhouse closed, as did the church, many of the businesses, the township's first post office that had opened in 1889 closed in 1904, and then the Great Depression took the final toll, causing many of the young people to leave for other towns and jobs.

Elk Creek, though much shallower, once a draw for settlement and business still flows as it did in 1800 through Miltonville. Two historical markers, millstones from Bambo Harris' mill, and the U.B. Church plaque all sit at the crossroads attesting to the once prosperous community.

Gregory's Ford pre 1818 – The site of Gregory's Ford, also known as Gregory Crossing, was located at the end of what is now Woodsdale Road and across the Great Miami River to Gregory's Station.

Poasttown 1818 – Peter P. Poast entered the Northwest Territory in the late 1790s in search of good farmland. He traveled down the Ohio River, trailed to the Great Prairie, crossed the Great Miami River, found that others had already laid claim to his first two stops, and then settled and paid for the land that would become the crossroads of Germantown Pike and Franklin-Trenton Road. Poast platted out a town there on March 31, 1818, which he named West Liberty in difference to an American ideal. A general store/tavern had already been opened in 1815 by Christian Coon prior. When a post office was established on August 22, 1848, there was already another West Liberty in Ohio, so the village residents agreed that the name be changed to Poasttown in honor of their founder. To further honor Peter P. Poast, he was appointed the first postmaster of Poasttown. The village grew with more residences, general stores, taverns, blacksmiths, wagon makers, harness making, horseshoeing, and sleigh builders.

In 1851, with the Cincinnati, Hamilton, and Dayton Railroad coming through Poasttown, the village became a shipping point

The Settlements of Madison continued on page six.

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for grain and tobacco. A grain elevator was built in 1878. Road and bridge improvements also continued Poasttown's prosperity. Coal was another business that proved well. In 1918, a canning business that canned and shipped tomatoes and sauerkraut was an added business. Then came the Great Depression and as with all small towns and villages, Poasttown was hit hard.

In 1937, Poasttown Elementary opened and the old one room schoolhouse became the Grange Hall, and is now the fire station. In the 1940s the railroad underpass was constructed, the highway widened, and the grain elevator was demolished.

From its small beginnings and days of early businesses, Poasttown has remained a vital part of the township. Two of its more notable landmarks are the Sorg Summer House Mansion that is at the entrance to the other, the Mt. Pleasant Church and Cemetery.

Brownstown c1818 – Davis and Mary Ball came to the area c1800 and purchased land from Trenton's founder, Michael Pearce, on the west side of the river and purchased land opposite on the east side of the river. At this point Ball set up his ferry operation in 1818, which was nearly in line with Morrell's Station on Dick's Creek. On the west side of the river a small crossroads settlement, Brownstown, was developed by several families originally from New Jersey and Brownstown, Pennsylvania. Today that would be in the area of the intersections of Radabaugh and Sycamore Roads.

In March of 1819, a great tragedy occurred on a flooded, swollen, rushing river. A party from Seven Mile: five men, one being Davis Ball's son-in-law, a boy, a young girl, and a dog, arrived at the ferry in a wagon drawn by a team of horses. Ball at first refused to take them across, but finally relented on the condition that the young girl be left ashore. The ferry consisted of a flat-bottomed boat propelled by a system of ropes and pulleys reaching from shore-to-shore and operated by the force of the water pressing sideways upon it. As the party began across the river, the ropes snapped, the ferry capsized, the current was carrying the passengers, and the weight of the wagon took the horses under. Four of the men, plus Davis Ball, drowned.

One man, the young boy, and possibly the dog made it to shore.

Davis Ball's son, Aaron, continued to operate the ferry until it was sold in 1861 to Peter Schertz, a Mennonite. The Davis Ball Ferry continued to operate until 1867, when the county built a covered bridge one-half mile north over the river, ceasing the need.

One of the ferryboats was donated by Edward Keefe, long-time Trenton historian, and was on display at the Trenton museum for many years. Its present whereabouts are unknown.

Astoria c1818 – Astoria was named in honor of John Jacob Asher, an early American fur trader, who built one of America's greatest fortunes. Astoria, also known as Jacktown, for factual reasons unknown, is in the area of the crossroads of Elk Creek and West Alexandria Roads and Elk Creek and Kalbfliesch Roads. The post office was in operation from July 8, 1840 to September of 1844, but an early grave from 1818 is located in the Pleasant Hill Cemetery that once had a church at the front southern corner, so the exact date of Astoria's beginnings are unknown. The peak of its prosperity was in 1840 when it had a general store, a woodworking shop, a shoemaker's shop, and a silversmith by the last name of Walter. When roads improved only a blacksmith and a grocery store remained, due to easier travel to Middletown.

Still a rich farming area today, with a few remnants of yesteryear still remaining that includes some older houses, the schoolhouse that is now a church, and the temporary structure built for the overflow of students, which has been moved down the opposite side of the road and is now a residence.

Woodsdale 1829 – As early as 1812 there were two gristmills in operation at the junction of Madison, St. Clair, Fairfield, and Liberty Townships on the Great Miami River. In 1826 the Miami Erie Canal was opened, in 1851 the Cincinnati, Hamilton, and Dayton Railroad began its run along the river, and the first bridge across the river was constructed in 1857.

Christian Augspurger started an Amish Mennonite settlement on the north side of the river, opposite the south side that would be

The Settlements of Madison continued on page ten.

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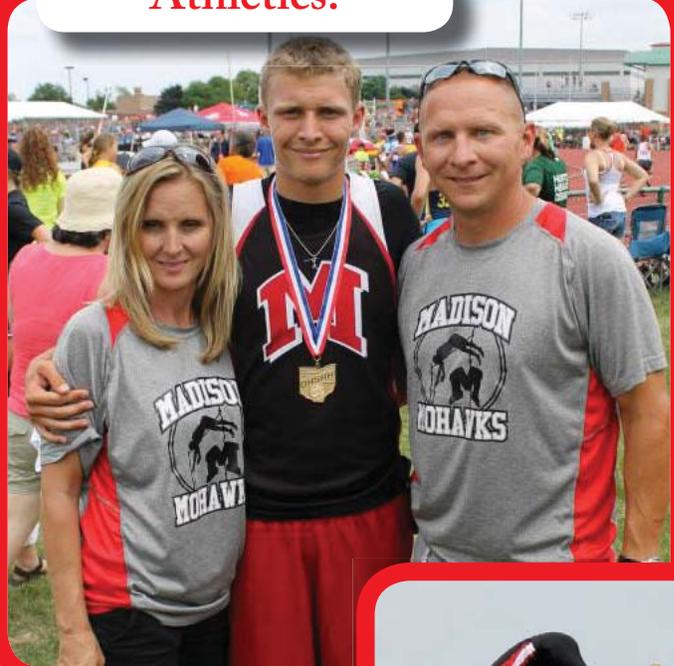
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MADISON LOCAL SCHOOLS

Achieving Excellence One Student at a Time

Athletics:



In June, Coty Cobb, class of 2015, won the Division II Ohio High School State Championship in pole vault while setting a new state and meet record with a jump of 16.625 feet. Clenching the state championship title was the pinnacle of Cobb's high school career after setting multiple records throughout the year. In April, Coty signed with The Ohio State University to pole vault and further his education.

"It was amazing — the greatest feeling of my life," said Cobb, who entered with a season-best height of 16-2. "The Ohio State University is my home the next four years, so it felt great to end my high school career like that in this stadium."

Upcoming Dates

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MADISON LOCAL SCHOOLS

Achieving Excellence One Student at a Time

Madison Elementary



New to Madison Elementary School this year is the Madison Elementary T.R.I.B.E. parent group. T.R.I.B.E. stands for “Together we are Ready to Inspire a Better Education” and is a rebranding of our previous parent-teacher organization. All Madison Elementary School parents are encouraged to become involved with T.R.I.B.E. with the goal of working together to motivate and inspire all MES children through education.

In September, Madison Elementary T.R.I.B.E. held a “Grandparent’s and Special Friends Night” at the school. More than 800 students and their guests enjoyed tours of the building, pizza, and a chance to shop the book fair and MES spirit wear. The night was a wonderful way for our students to connect with the special people in their lives who don’t always get the opportunity to see the staff and school building that makes a daily impact on their education.

“Thanks to all who made this happen!” said Martha Roche, grandmother of Livia and Lily Carpenter. “It was a very special night for the grandparents as well as the grandchildren. Thanks also to all the teachers for the meet and greet time.”

For more information about Madison Elementary T.R.I.B.E. and their upcoming events follow them on Facebook or email Karla Johnson at mythreeboys777@gmail.com.

TOGETHER WE ARE
READY TO
INSPIRE A
BETTER
EDUCATION



XXxx

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Seussical Jr. Junior High Musical

Seussical Jr. - Junior High Musical Production
Madison Jr/Sr High School's
William E. Caudill Performance Theater
October 24, 2015 at 7:00pm
October 25, 2015 at 3:00pm

"Oh, the thinks you can think" when Dr. Seuss's best-loved characters collide and cavort in an unforgettable musical caper!

Transporting audiences from the Jungle of Nool to the Circus McGurkus, the Cat in the Hat, our narrator, tells the story of Horton, an elephant who discovers a speck of dust containing tiny people called the Whos, including Jojo, a Who child who gets in trouble for thinking too many "thinks." Horton's challenge is twofold - not only must he protect the Whos from a world of naysayers and dangers, but he must also guard an abandoned egg that's been left in his care by the irresponsible Mayzie La Bird. Although Horton faces ridicule, danger, kidnapping, and a trial, the intrepid Gertrude McFuzz never loses faith in him. Ultimately, the powers of friendship, loyalty, family, and community are challenged and emerge triumphant!



Tickets are \$5
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www.madisonarts.org
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Seussical Jr.

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known as Rockdale. Samuel Augspurger and his family are given credit for the settlement's growth and namesake. Samuel operated grist and saw mills and through his influence the Beckett Paper Company built a paper mill in 1866, yet no connection to the same named company in Hamilton. In 1867 the name of the settlement was changed to Woodsdale in honor of William Woods, the president of the paper company. Many of the usual businesses sprung up during the prosperous days of the community. The Woodsdale Post Office was established in 1870, closing in 1906. The Woodsdale School was also built in 1870 and still stands along Wayne-Madison Road.

Three major disasters struck Woodsdale, crippling its economy each time, with the first being on June 24, 1880 when a fire destroyed the paper mill. Plans to rebuild never came to fruition, even after the property changed owners. The paper mill office and two residences built for workers is all that remain today.

Woodsdale became famous for its Woodsdale Island Amusement Park of the 1880s that was located on 34 acres between the Miami Erie Canal and the Great Miami River. Many who came did so by passenger train, others by horse and buggy, and still others by canal boat. The park boasted of a dance pavilion, a carousel, swings, park rides, and even a log flume. There were picnic grounds and campgrounds and a swan shaped boat for rides on the lake. The second disaster for Woodsdale struck in 1898, the first of many floods to come began the park's demise.

The third disaster to strike Woodsdale would be the most damaging of all, leaving little untouched, The Great Flood of 1913.

Woodsdale has survived and has supported several businesses since its days of disaster. Today there is the Duke Energy plant on Augspurger Road, the nearby Coors-Miller Brewery on Wayne-Madison Road, and smaller businesses such as the Woodsdale Drive-Thru at the crossroads. There are also beautiful outdoor areas to visit. Butler County Metro-Parks has two parks along Woodsdale Road – the restored Chrisholm Farm of Christian and Samuel Augspurger and the Woodsdale Regional Park. On Augspurger Road is the YMCA's Camp Campbell Guard and Lake Lindsey.

Christiana c1829 – Little is known of a village platted by Christian Coon in Section 2 called Christiana that had a post office, fourteen miles northeast of Hamilton, in existence from February 27, 1829 to November 14, 1837.

West Middletown 1854 - The Madison House, later known as the Madison Inn, was built in 1846 and ran by John Mumma. Not until May 20, 1854 was Madison City platted, the name coming from the Madison House, by brothers John J. and William R. Walter. Madison City was an important stop for two stagecoach lines – The Ohio Stage Company and The Western Stage Company. In 1851 the Cincinnati, Hamilton, and Dayton railroad arrived. The Madison House was the mini-mall of the time: grocery store,

tavern, agricultural equipment warehouse, wagon and buggy shop, cabinet shop, shoe and boot maker, blacksmith shops, plus a place to stay. There were many other businesses in the village, so there was no need for anyone to travel over into Middletown to shop. Madison City became a major shipping point on the rail line. Grain, livestock, and wax strings for canning from the Coddington Wax String Factory were among items being shipped from the freight depot that is now home to Bank's Glass. The string factory building is at the corner of Middletown-Eaton Road and Front Street and is apartments today.

When a post office was established January 31, 1890, there already being another Madison in Ohio, the postmaster general demanded a name change. Legend has it that some old-timers were discussing the name change around the cracker barrel in the general store when a can of Heno tea caught their attention, thus the name Heno was selected. Then in 1907, the postmaster general intruded again, stating that it was difficult for postal workers to sort and forward mail to a place that not many had ever hear of and observed that the village was close to Middletown. So, the government ordered that the village accept the name of West Middletown. On July 4th, 1910, West Middletown made national news when a passenger train ran headlong into a parked train killing thirty-six and injuring many others. Finally, another postmaster closed the West Middletown post office in 1963.

Many older homes, storefronts, an early church, and the West Middletown School, are some of the remnants of another time. Today West Middletown is the host to the Madison Inn II, a produce market, a bait shop, a drive-thru, and a glass shop, to name a few.

Ajax c1911 – A point on the Cincinnati, Hamilton, and Dayton Railroad in 1911, Ajax was located 1.9 miles south of Trenton, at the end of a double track, at milepost 32.9 miles north of Cincinnati.

Poasttown Heights 1924 – Originally to be called Poasttown Heights Baby Farms was to be laid out in 30 lots along old Germantown Road. The first house was built in 1924 followed by several more, but then any further building was halted by the Great Depression. Except, in August of 1933, the George Creech family erected the area's first ARMCO Steel House, made from steel sheets manufactured in Middletown. Another section of Poasttown Heights was along Myers Road with fourteen large lots, all being sold to Warren Myers. The area of Poasttown Heights encompasses the area from Germantown Road to Brown's Run.

There is more history to be found on these communities and of Madison Township in Madison Township, Bicentennial Sketches (1799-1999), by George Crout; Madison Township: The Second Hundred Years 1910-2010, by the Historical Society of Madison Township, Butler County, Ohio; the history forum at www.MainStreetMadison.com; and by joining the Historical Society of Madison Township.

Got anything we can fill this with?

Squash.Squash.Squash.Squash...

What to do with all those squash?

SQUASH CASSEROLE

- ¾ c water
- ¼ teas. Salt
- 6 c. yellow summer squash, sliced
- 1 can cream of mushroom soup
- 1 cup sour cream
- 1 pkg. instant cornbread stuffing mix
- 4 oz. can chopped green chilies
- 4 oz. shredded cheddar cheese
- Salt and pepper to taste

Combine water, salt, and squash and boil 7 minutes till soft. Combine the soup, sour cream stuffing, and green chilies, salt and pepper, and squash. Put in casserole dish and top with cheese. Bake 25-30 minutes at 350 degrees. Serves 8-10.

The kids will never know they are eating squash!

ACORN SQUASH

- 1 Acorn squash
- 2 T. butter
- 2 T. brown sugar
- 1 T. nuts. - pecans or your choice

Cut squash in half, remove seeds, and place in baking dish, cut side down, with ¼ c water. Microwave 20 minutes. Remove, invert, and fill cavity with butter, sugar and nuts. Return to microwave for 30 seconds; just enough to melt the butter. Grad a spoon, and dig in.

Serves 2 (you each get a half!). If squash won't sit up straight, slice a small sliver across the round bottom and this will give it a flat surface.



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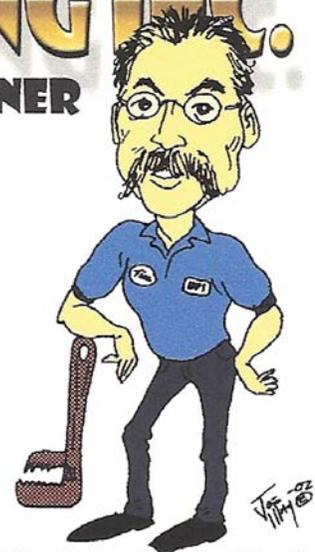
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BY FIRE LIEUTENANT JORDAN PETERS

Fire Department

It's that time of year again, fall is here and winter is fast approaching! With that being said; the furnaces, space heaters, wood burning stoves, and other alternative means of heating will be fired up. Please be very cautious with whatever means of heating in your home you may use. Here are some safety tips for staying safe and warm this winter!

- Keep anything combustible at least 3 feet away from the heat source such as a fireplace, furnace, or space heater.
- Keep a 3 foot "kid-free" zone around any heat source such as those listed above
- Never use your kitchen oven to heat your home
- Have heating equipment and chimneys cleaned and inspected by a qualified technician every year
- Make sure to have a sturdy screen in front of your fireplace to stop sparks and hot embers from flying into the room
- Make sure all ashes are placed in a safe container after they have had time to cool, and make sure the container is placed away from your house
- Install and maintain carbon monoxide alarms/and smoke detectors in your home and test them monthly
- Have a safe (pre-planned) meeting location with your family outside of the home so in the event of a fire, you can make sure everyone has made it out safely and is accounted for

Smoke Detectors and CO detectors save thousands of lives every year. Please keep in mind that both should be replaced every 10 years. Madison Twp. Fire Dept provides smoke detectors free of charge to our residents, and we will even come to your house and install them if needed. In addition to that service, we also provide reflective address signs free of charge to township residents. If your address is not clearly marked at the end of your driveway, please consider taking advantage of this opportunity to help out your local first responders. A clearly marked address will cut down on our response time to your home or business which allows us to do our job in a quick and efficient manner. If you are in need of an address sign or smoke detector, you can contact the Township Administration building or call/visit any of the 3 fire stations.

In an effort to educate the children of our community, Madison Twp. Fire Dept kicked off Fire Safety Week by visiting Madison Elementary on October 5th. During our visit we went over fire safety tips with the children and showed them the equipment and fire apparatus we use on a regular basis. In addition to seeing all of our trucks and equipment, the children also got to watch a puppet show that taught them the importance of fire safety. While at the school, we also handed out some small gifts and smoke detectors to the children for them to take home.

Madison Twp. Firefighters Recently got the opportunity to train at the old Poasttown School. During the training our firefighter practiced advancing hose lines up a ladder, carrying



tools and other equipment up a ladder, and victim rescue utilizing a ladder. The training was an excellent opportunity for our firefighters to refresh their memory on different tactics we use, and to go over some new tactics being used by fire departments all over the U.S. Our firefighters, along with our EMS personnel train monthly to keep up on state training and continuing education requirements.

Madison Township Fire Department is now on Facebook. Feel free to look us up and like our page! We use Facebook as one of many tools to keep the community up to date on what's going on with the fire dept, as well as fire safety tips, news from the State Fire Marshals Office, weather updates and more!

In Closing, we hope that everyone had a safe summer, and as always if you have any questions for MTFD please feel free to stop by or call any of the 3 stations. MTFD members will be more than happy to assist you in anyway possible because your Safety is our priority!!!

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MADISON TOWNSHIP Community Garage Sale?

We're looking at the idea of having an Annual Madison Township Garage Sale in the spring of 2016! Planning is still in the works, but our thought is to have it at the community park where there is plenty of space and plenty of parking. This would allow everyone to come together in one location to sell...or buy! The township would layout the locations along the walking path which runs parallel to the drive, and take donations based upon the size of the space wanted by the individual or group. We're looking at \$10 for a 10ft x 10ft space, \$25 for a 20ft x 20ft space, \$50 for a 30ft x 30ft space, etc. This would be used as a fund raiser by the township to help support our park and its facilities!

Spacing could be used by individuals, families, or other groups looking raise money for their own organization. Churches, sport teams, or other groups, could pull together and use it as their own fund raiser! As previously stated, we're just in the beginning stages of planning this event. If you have any thoughts, ideas, or suggestions, please contact me via e-mail: ToddF@MadisonTownshipOnline.com or simply call our office at 513-424-0821.

GoodNews! MADISON TOWNSHIP'S ISO RATINGS DROPPED...WHICH IS GOOD!

Earlier this year the Madison Township Fire Department had an ISO inspection completed, which is great news for Madison Township residents! Our rating went from a 6/9 to a 5/8, which is good news, as the lower the number, the better the rating!

This change in rating was based upon the increase of equipment and personnel that our fire department has implemented over the past several years, both of which offer a higher level of service to our residents.

The ISO (Insurance Service Office) rating can have a direct impact on our insurance premiums, as they are based in part on the quality of fire protection, which means property owners may get a lower premium on their insurance.

Analysts look at everything from fire stations response time, number of personnel, training of personnel, amount of equipment and specialized equipment, to the number and location of fire hydrants.

Although some insurance companies may automatically adjust your rates to the new ISO rating, it may be worth your time to contact your insurance company directly and make sure they are aware of the new rating to see if it can reduce your premiums.

A big congratulatory shout out to Chief Hall and ALL our fire and EMS personnel for their hard work and dedication in helping to keep our township a safe place to live!



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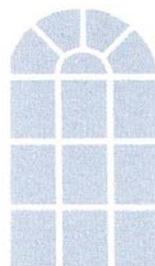
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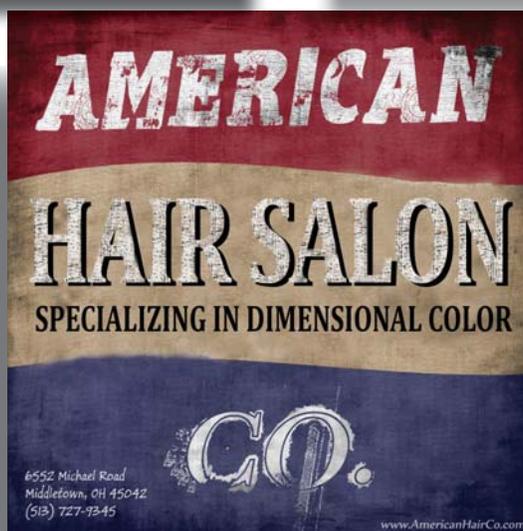
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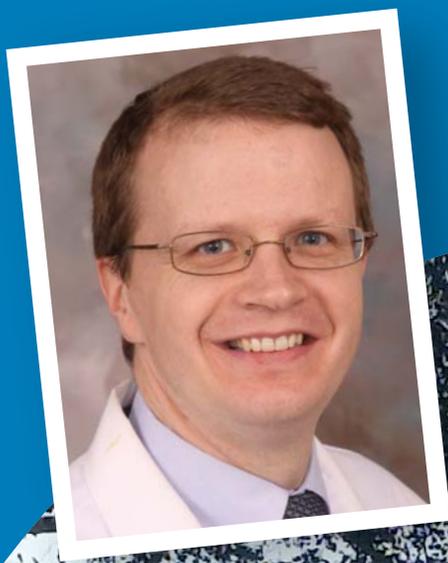
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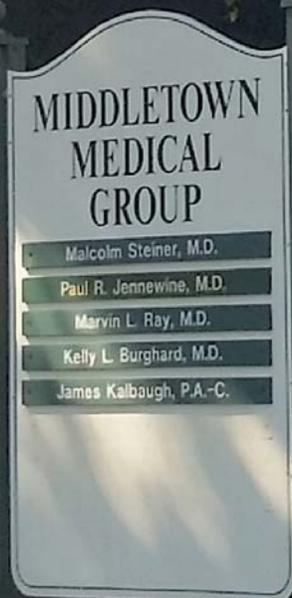
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BY RICK HENRY

Gardening

CLEAN-UP:

AVOIDING A BREEDING GROUND FOR PROBLEMS

Admittedly, this is the time of the year when we may start to tire of lawn and landscape chores. We have enjoyed both the beauty and the fruits of our labor of this past growing season. However, we must concede that our perennials are past their prime (some completely dormant already), and we recognize that our trees, shrubs, and plants are starting to move towards a dormant state. There is little or nothing to harvest in the vegetable garden for most of us now. And, many of us are inclined to think it is time to do nothing now as the seasons are changing but to enjoy the fall colors, and look forward to any winter interests we have included in our landscapes. Fall is a very special and somewhat romantic time of the year for those of us who appreciate the beauty of nature in all of her stages, but there are still a few important tasks left to complete before we put away our tools for the year. These tasks all fall under the umbrella of an end of the year garden clean-up, for the purpose of avoiding problems next year.

For many years when I first started working on my landscape, I was completely ignorant of how essential it is to perform some simple tasks before the snow flies. For many years, I would repeatedly have the same challenges and problems with the same plants, because I completely neglected the cleanliness of my garden beds during the fall. I would do only a spring clean-up, and that was a mistake for different reasons. To leave debris (man-made or organic) in our gardens from October through April is to create a breeding ground for pests and disease. To neglect to do a fall clean-up is to pretty much guarantee that we will have the same pests and diseases next year again; but, most likely on an increased level. To do nothing but wait for the springtime to resume our gardening interests is to allow prime breeding grounds and overwintering sites to exist for pests/insects and fungal diseases.

Simple steps like raking and removing leaves and debris from under shrubs and against the foundation of our homes can be very beneficial. Removing any stalks, vines, or plant debris from our landscape beds and vegetable gardens will remove potential overwintering sites and improve the health of the soil. Simple things, common sense things like removing fallen fruit from under fruit trees should be done at this time. Removing any inorganic material like unused stakes and black plastic that no longer serves a purpose will go a long way towards making next year a more pleasurable gardening experience, with hopefully less time spent

addressing challenges.

A good example for us here in Madison Township is: this past growing season we had an extended time of heavy rain followed by a few weeks of unseasonably high temperatures. And, right on cue, some of us experienced the return of the dreaded tomato blight in our gardens. I know one man in the township who turned over new ground and created some excellent beds for tomatoes who even experienced issues with this. It moved very swiftly through our plants and ended the season very early for some of us. Right now, the spores from this fungus are on the surface of the soil waiting to germinate next year. In this particular example, if we who had problems with this fungal disease do nothing this fall, it will be there waiting for us in the spring when we put new plants in the ground. In this example, if we remove all vegetation from the space, spray one final time with a fungicide, and disrupt the blight spores by spading or tilling the soil deeply then we have done our best to eliminate an overwintering site. We have done our best to avoid a breeding ground for this particular disease.

The same would be true of any situation that is unique to your own personal landscape and garden. Whether it is diseased foliage from our roses or peonies or whatever, it is better to be proactive, to address the problem and remove the diseased foliage and bag it or burn it and leave the site clean. In the end, as some of us have learned the hard way, if we are experiencing problems in our own backyards and do nothing about them just hoping things will get better . . . the problems do not go away, they get worse. After over 30 years of gardening in my own backyard I am fully convinced it is better to try to address and avoid problems in the first place, as opposed to trying to fix them once they arise. Especially as it relates to a fall clean-up, as Benjamin Franklin well said, "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure."



Trick or Treat

Madison Township
Saturday, October 31th 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.



By Robbie Tuttle and Alissa Puckett

Madison Township:

WHERE DESIRE & SUCCESS ARE INSTILLED

Madison Township is one big family that supports each other and pushes each other to their fullest potential. There is nothing like knowing that your community is there to support you and cheer you on even when you are at your lowest. The Madison community and Madison school district staff shape their students and children into successful adults that have the tools they need to make an impact in the future. Growing up in a place like this really gives you the feeling of empowerment and makes the whole community stronger.

“Success is doing the thing that you love while still being able to have a good life.” Madison alumna and staff member Amy Brannon stated when asked for her definition of success. Success isn’t always about fame or fortune, sometimes it is as simple as getting a good job and being around the people that you love in a place of which you are proud. The Madison community produced many successful people based on this interpretation of success. Many of our other successful staff members and teachers are also born and raised Madison Mohawks! Sixth grade student, Abby Crim, told us that she thinks that the support she gets from her community is going to help her with her future plans, because “Mr. Melampy’s class inspired her to pursue a degree in Law.”

One of our most successful graduates is Ally Malott. After her team went to the state championships (and we got the day off from school) she went on to play at the University of Dayton and was recently drafted into WNBA. When speaking about her time at Madison Ally said “Growing up in Madison is one of the best things that could have happened to me. I always feel like the people of Madison are in my corner and knowing this allows me to step outside of my comfort zone”. Ally is able to do what she loves everyday and is able to pursue

her dreams for the future as well, knowing she has a strong foundation to fall back on.

Principal Justin Smith, a born and raised Madison Mohawk, believes that the support he received from his parents and the Madison faculty influenced him to become a principal. He feels that in order for him to be successful he needs to “make sure that Madison Jr/Sr High school continues to be a great place for students and teachers alike” He also says that “the best way for [his] students to be successful is for them to use the education Madison has supplied them to better themselves”

Many of the alumni of Madison have chosen to stay in the area because they truly love being Mohawks and want their children to be raised in our community. Two of them recently have tried to make an impact on our shopping and entertainment abilities as well. Andrew Morris was heavily involved in the Middletown Goes Back to the Future activities, running around town dressed as Marty McFly to promote it. Creating excitement in downtown is good for businesses including one run by another Madison alumna, Lydia Montgomery. She has opened a variety store on Central Avenue in an attempt to take advantage of the revitalization. There are many other successful businesses and endeavors in and around Madison township backed by Mohawks as well.

Being from Madison we are lucky because we have so many successful people to look up to. Heading off to college next year is going to be one of the most exciting yet terrifying experiences we will have to face. However, with the support of our “Madison family” and the successful people we have to look up to, we know that we can take on this next chapter of our lives. No matter where life will take us, whether we are successful or not, we know that Madison will always hold a special place in our hearts and be here to come home to.

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EVENTS AROUND TOWN

OXFORD COMMUNITY SQUARE DANCE

Sept. 28 - Dec. 18, 2015
10 S. College Ave, Oxford, OH
7:30 - 10 p.m.
The Oxford Community Arts Center will hold four traditional square dance events this fall/winter. Dance to music from the Jericho Old-Time Band, enjoy great company and refreshments.

NIEDERMAN FAMILY FARM FALL FESTIVAL

Sept. 28 - Oct. 30, 2015
4972 LeSourdesville-West Chester Road, Liberty Township, OH
Sundays 1 - 6 p.m.
Weds./Thurs. 6 - 9 p.m.
Fridays 6 - 10 p.m.
Saturday: 11 a.m. - 10 p.m.
Admission: \$10
(Children 2 and under are free)
Enjoy fall in all its beauty. Activities such as the corn maze, pumpkin patch and hayride are sure to keep you busy.

JACK O'LANTERN JUNCTION

Sept. 28 - Nov. 1, 2015
EnterTRAINment Junction
7379 Squire Ct., West Chester, OH
Monday - Saturday 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Sundays noon - 6 p.m.
Bring the whole family for this indoor Halloween celebration in a kid-friendly, themed environment!

FALL EXHIBITIONS OPEN

Sept. 28 - Dec. 12, 2015
Miami University Art Museum & Sculpture Park
801 S. Patterson Ave., Oxford, OH
Free to all
Margaret Bourke-White:
Photographs of the U.S.S.R.
(Douglass Gallery) Margaret Bourke-White's adventurous spirit led her to photographing various danger zones around the globe.

CHRISTMAS ON THE CORNER OF MAIN & ELM

Dec. 12 - 13, 2015
10 E. Elm St., Monroe, OH
Monroe Historical Society
5 - 8 p.m.
Mrs. Claus and her cookies, and Santa listening to the wish lists of the children!

CHRISTKINDLMARKT

Dec. 4 - 6, 2015
Courtyard by Marriott Hamilton
1 Riverfront Plaza, Hamilton, OH
Stroll through the offerings at the German Christmas Market.

24TH ANNUAL GERMAN VILLAGE CHRISTMAS WALK

Dec. 6, 2015
German Village
N. 2nd Street, Hamilton, OH
Noon - 5 p.m.
Admission: Free
Carriage bells on horse drawn carriages will ring in the annual Christmas walk in German Village.

HOLIDAY LIGHTS ON THE HILL

Nov. 20 - Jan. 3, 2016
Pyramid Hill Sculpture Park
763 Hamilton-Cleves Rd., Hamilton
Admission: \$20 Per Car
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LIGHT UP MIDDLETOWN

Nov. 26 - Dec. 31, 2015
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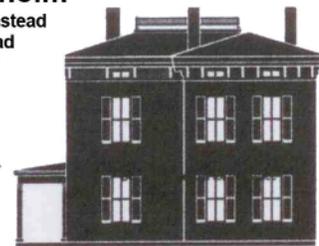
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Christmas Eve **Santa Visits** Madison Township Fire



SOUTH POLE (Station 151, Miltonville) Leaving at 3 p.m.

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 Leichty 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.

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NORTH POLE
(Station 152, Poasttown) Leaving at 3 p.m.



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

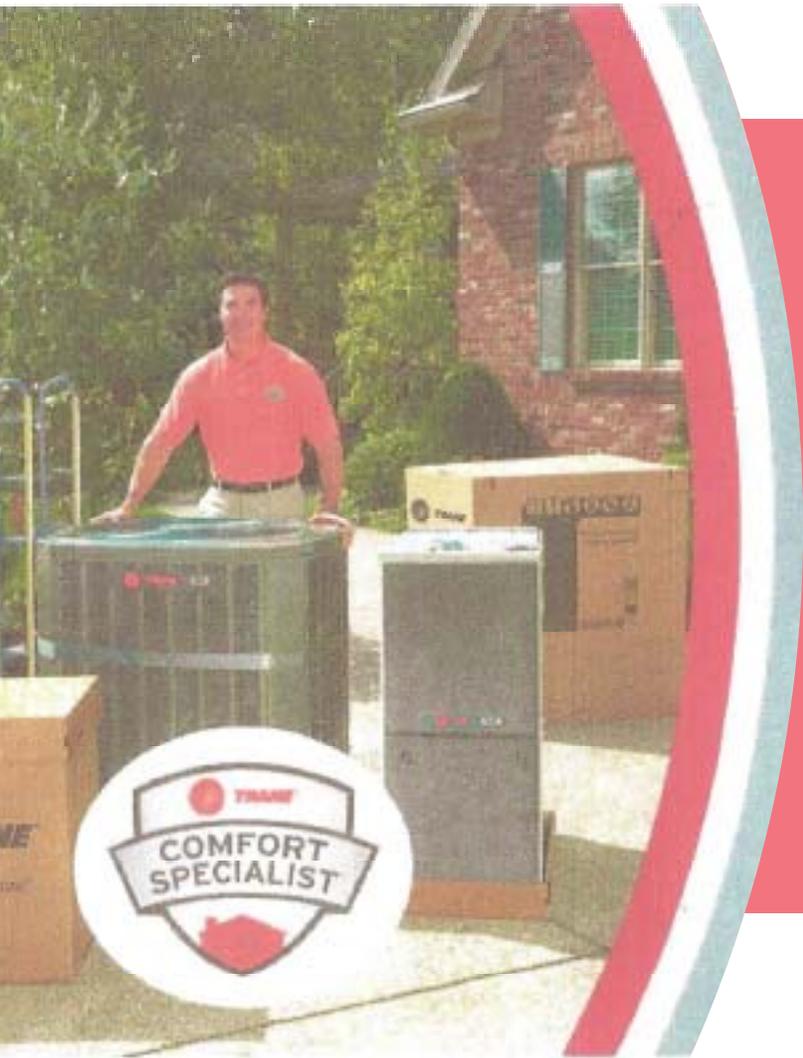
onto Kalbleisch Rd, returning to Hetzler Rd and turning left, then making a right turn onto Keister, stopping by Bertha and May Ave. Santa then continues east on Keister Rd, crossing Rt 4, stopping by Twin Oaks. Santa then back tracks to Old Germantown Rd and heads south. He then stops by Hoover Ct and 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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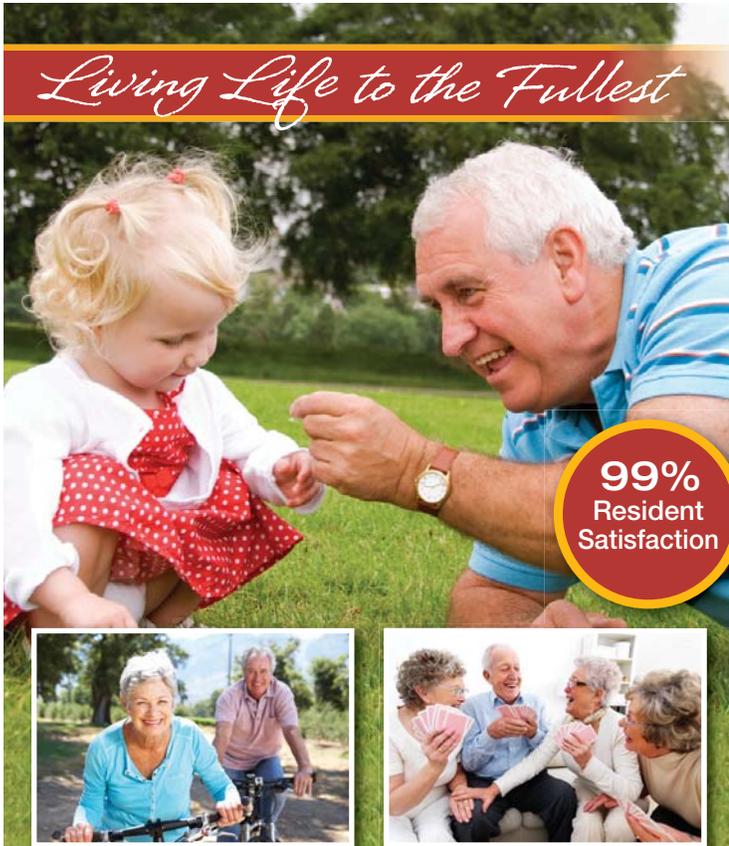
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