

MADISON TOWNSHIP

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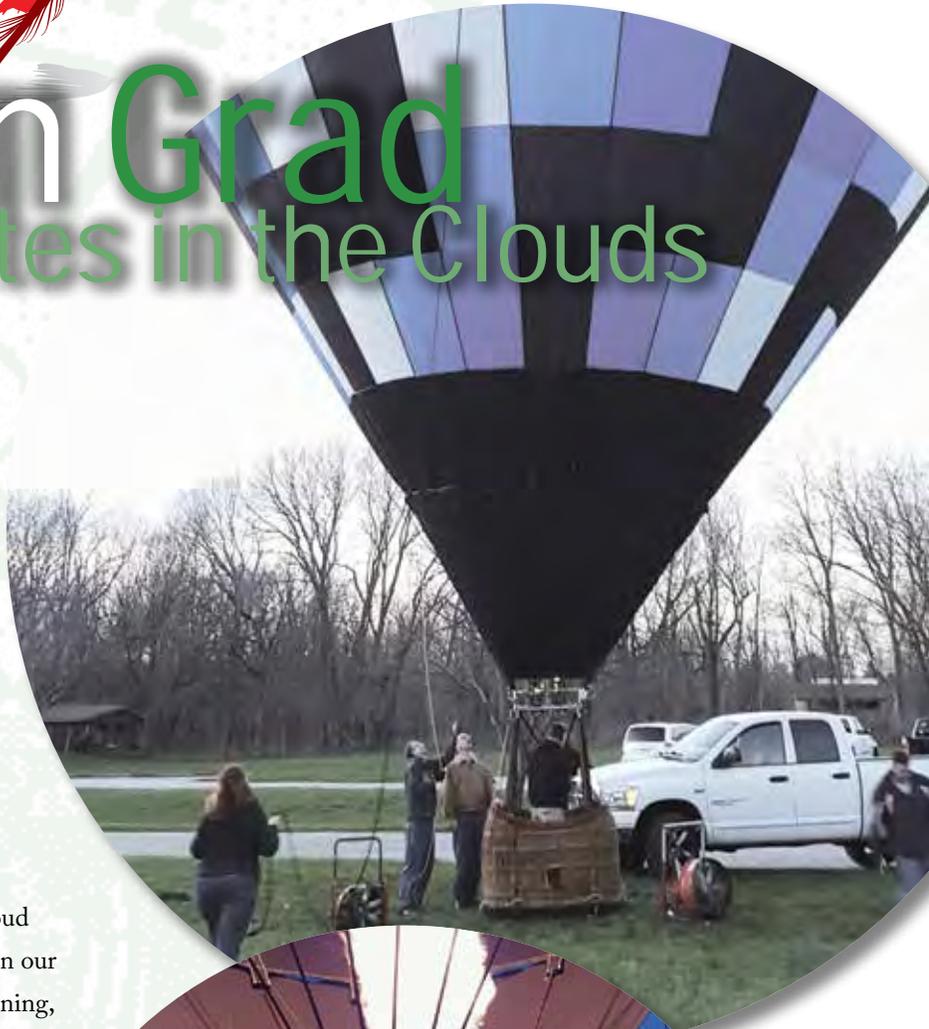
By Rebekah Lenos

Madison Grad Competes in the Clouds

Each summer Madison residents head to Hook Field and Smith Park to see the colorful hot air balloons dot the sky above Middletown. Some stay home with blankets spread in their yards and hope one will land on their property. However, not many of these people truly understand why the balloons are there or what the competition aspects of the “balloon festival” entail. Even fewer are aware that there are hot air balloon pilots who reside here in our community. Chris Jessee is currently working on becoming one of those pilots. Even though he can fly solo at this point; he must still carry an endorsement. However, by June of this year he should be receiving his official license.

Chris Jessee is not new to the community. He is a proud Madison High School graduate, raising his own family in our mohawkstrong community. He is also not new to ballooning, as he worked as a crew member for a couple of pilots in the area. His involvement with experienced pilots enticed him to pursue his own pilot's license. This undertaking is not a simple one. According to the FAA, to become a hot air balloon pilot there are a number of steps that must be completed. The first of those steps is to become a student pilot and work under an experienced pilot for between one to two years. It can also be an expensive hobby including training costs, equipment, and certification renewal. Meeting all these requirements is not easy, but well worth the excitement as was evident from a phone interview with Chris.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)



YOUR Township Administrator...

By Todd Farler,

Madison Township Administrator

Updates, Updates, Updates . . .

The Wayne Madison Road Reconstruction Project should be nearly completed by the time of this newsletter. This \$1.4M road project initially began back in 2013 when we applied for OPWC grants, and has now come to fruition. The project is expected to be not only completed prior to the projected due date, but also under budget, including additional work we incorporated.

The new fire station has been through numerous design and budgetary revisions and is now expected to begin construction sometime in early summer. We are striving to work within a reasonable budget, and still provide a suitable fire station that will serve the township for the next 40-50 years. This new station will be located on West Alexandria Road, on the left hand side of the township park entrance. This should be an exciting construction project to see arise from the ground this summer!

In February of this year, Madison Township accepted ownership and operations of Miltonville Cemetery, which is located on Howe Road. This cemetery is almost 10 acres in size and is now the largest cemetery the township owns. Lots can be purchased for this cemetery through the Madison Township administration office. This will now become the third cemetery (including Elk Creek cemetery and Pheasant Hill cemetery) that Madison Township considers an "active cemetery", whereby we actively sell lots and provide burial services.



The paving of State Route 122 will pick up where it left off at Mosiman Road, and will continue eastward all the way into Preble County. Anticipated start date of this project is mid-summer, so prepare for driving delays and some congested traffic during this period. Additional work will also be revisited on the section of State Route 122 that was paved last summer, so be prepared to add a few minutes to your travel time.

Along with our regimented schedule of township road paving, we received a CDBG grant to pay for the paving of a few other township roads which will be paved this summer. These include Front St., Veidt Ave., and Woods Ave., all of which are located in the neighborhood near the Madison Inn. These roads enter and exit onto Trenton Franklin Road and SR 122, so that area will see some congestion as well.

A nice addition to the park sometime this summer will be the installation of grills near each shelter. With the help of a grant from Butler Rural Electric, we will be installing a permanent charcoal grill near each shelter in the community park. Please be mindful when using the grills and help all park patrons by cleaning up after yourself and your party. The park is a wonderful asset to our community, so please help keep it up for everyone's use and enjoyment!

To receive updates as these projects move along, and other local road updates/detours, and severe weather updates as we receive them, go to our webpage www.MadisonTownshipOnline.com and sign up on our Notification List!

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Butler Rural Electric Cooperative.....	513-867-4400
Southwest Regional Water.....	800-232-5330
Duke Energy.....	800-634-4300
Dayton Power and Light.....	937-224-6000
Middletown Public Library.....	513-424-1251

MISSION STATEMENT OF MADISON TOWNSHIP

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



Thomas Hall
Trustee

My name is Thomas Hall and I am Madison's newest Township Trustee. Being only twenty years of age makes me one of the youngest elected officials in the state of Ohio. I am a 2014 graduate of The Madison High School and currently in my second year at Miami University majoring in Economics.

I have lived in Madison my entire life. My parents, Kent and Teresa Hall, have both been in the public service field for over 25 years. Most of my days growing up were spent hanging out at the firehouses and interacting with all the many great people we have on our department.

While I was at school at Madison I served as Class and National Honor Society President. I enjoyed every single minute of being at Madison and got to meet and work with a lot of great people. I was also involved in athletics as I played Golf, Basketball, and even baseball for my senior year.

I want to say thank you for electing me township trustee. It has truly been a dream come true. I have been involved with various political teams/ events over the course of the last few years. I have been very blessed with getting the chance to meet and develop great friendships over these past few years with local and national leaders. I have also had the

honor of becoming the Butler County Township Association's (BCTA) secretary, marking the youngest to ever be nominated. Through this, I hope to engage with surrounding townships to try and make Madison Township an even greater place than it already is.

I am especially excited for our township in these next several months. Most of you have heard about our new fire station that is going to be located on West Alexandria in front of our park. We expect to be breaking ground for this new building in early summer. The other \$1.4 million dollar project is the Wayne Madison road reconstruction project currently underway. Both projects are among the largest projects this township has ever seen!

If there ever is any problem or question that you have about our township, do not hesitate at all to call or email any of us from the township. We are all here for you. The best thing about Madison is how we are truly a big family. To get in direct contact with myself, my email is Thomashall12@aol.com. Thank you all and have a great day. I look forward to meeting and working with all of you! **MT**

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MADISON GRAD COMPETES IN THE CLOUDS (CONTINUED FROM COVER)

Chris, as most pilots do, started by crewing for other local pilots from the area. Crewing gave Chris the opportunity to be exposed the competition part of ballooning. The challenge of competition was part of the appeal of ballooning from that point on. According to HotAirBallooning.com, There are a number of types of competition including Hare and the Hound, CNT, Watership Down, Key Grab, Minimum Distance Double Drop, ELBO, and the Multiple Pilot Declared Goal. In the Hare and the Hound, the hare balloon takes off first followed by the other balloons called the hounds, which launch a predetermined time after the hare. The hare then lands at a suitable site and lays out a large fabric X, usually about 50 feet in diameter. The hound balloons attempt to drop their markers as close to the center of the X as possible. The closest marker achieves the highest score. In the CNT, the target X is placed in a secure area (usually the festival site). The balloons can launch anywhere they want as long as they are outside of a predetermined radius from the X, usually 1, 2, or 3 miles. Pilots fly in, drop their markers at the X, and scoring is based on the distance from the center of the X. Chris said generally in competition, he can launch from any site and time is not a factor, but he must find the goal area and accurately drop a beanbag, or marker, as close to the target as possible. Although he participated in competitions with other pilots he is just starting to “fly solo” in the competitive ballooning community.

Chris isn't completely solo however, as he has made ballooning a family affair. His crew is primarily made up of family members.

He likes that it is something they can do together. Who knows, maybe there will be future generations of Jessees following in his footsteps. If you have an interest in crewing you should contact an area balloon pilot to see if you can meet the requirements and challenges. There are a number of them listed with pictures of their balloons on The Ohio Challenge website (www.ohiochallenge.com).

One of the things Chris would like the Madison community to know is balloon pilots don't have steering wheel but are instead at the mercy of Mother Nature. This means there is a bit of adventure to the sport, because pilots have to think on their feet and sometimes adapt quickly. He states it is still a safe endeavor, and obviously from his commitment, one he finds exciting. The FAA website states pilots must train in a number of safety procedures and understand how to handle any emergency situation that might occur. According to the NTSB, less than one fatality a year on average has occurred in the years since 1964. Air safety expert, Carl Holden told USA today “People have been flying hot air balloons safely, since 1783 to be exact, long before the Wright Brother's first successful powered flight in 1903.” That is a lot of leisurely lofting.

This summer when you look to the sky in early July, one of own may be flying over your head. Keep in mind he is doing more than just decorating the sky and creating tableaus for your summer pictures. These pilots are serious competitors with their heads in the clouds. Be sure to wave and wish Chris, and his competition, good luck. **MT**

// People have been flying hot air balloons safely, since 1783...long before the Wright Brother's first successful powered flight in 1903. //



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Summer Events for everyone...

Creeking in The Parks

10:00 am — 12 noon

Creeking is fun!

Have a blast investigating creek critters, cool fossils, and spend some time splashing in the water. Shoes required, please no flip-flops.

Cost: Free

Locations & Dates:

June 16

Forest Run MetroPark Wildlife Preservation

June 23

Indian Creek MetroPark

June 30

Sebald MetroPark

July 7

Rentschler Forest MetroPark Timberhill

July 14

**Mill Race Metropark
(4-Mile Creek just north of Oxford)**

July 21

**Antenen Preserve
(Within 4-Mile Creek Metropark in St. Clair Twp)**

August 4

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Upcoming Dates

- May 4 7-8th Grade Academic Awards Program
- May 6-8 Spring Musical "Legally Blonde"
- May 9 MJSHS Vocal Concert
- May 10 4th Grade Musical Performance
- May 11 9-12th Grade Academic Awards Program
- May 16 MJSHS Band Concert
- May 24 Last Day for Students
- May 26 2016 Graduation Ceremony

NOTE from the NURSE

Important Information Regarding Immunizations Required for School Attendance for incoming 7th and 12th graders:

All students entering 7th grade in the 2016/2017 school year must have an updated Tetanus/Whooping cough booster shot. They must also have an MCV4 (meningococcal) vaccine to start 7th grade.

All students entering 12th grade in the 2016/2017 school year must have an MCV4 (meningococcal) vaccine to start their senior year.

INDIVIDUAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

Austin Philpot

1st Team SWBL Boys Basketball
Honorable Mention District 15
District 15 All-Star
OHSBCA Scholarship Society Gold Member

KC Lindon & Zach Friend

All-SWBL Honorable Mention Boys Basketball

Katy Canter

1st Team SWBL Girls Basketball
Honorable Mention District 15
District 15 All-Star

Kelli Bush

1st Team SWBL Girls Basketball
2nd Team All District

Hunter Whiteman

All-SWBL Honorable Mention Girls Basketball
District 15 All-Star

Ally Hoskins

All-SWBL Honorable Mention Girls Basketball

Nick Svarda

Defending Division III State Wrestling Champion
SWBL League Wrestling Champion
SW District Sectional Champion
SW District Qualifier - 3rd place
SW District State Qualifier - 2nd place

Gunnar Dawson

SWBL League Wrestling Runner-up
SW District Sectional Champion
SW District Qualifier - 4th place
SW District State Qualifier

Jacob Farler

SWBL League Wrestling Champion
SW District Sectional Champion
SW District Qualifier

Drew Price

SWBL League Wrestling Champion
SW District Sectional Champion
SW District Qualifier - 5th Place
SW District State Qualifier (Alternate)

TEAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

Varsity Girls Basketball

2016 SWBL Buckeye Division Champions
2016 Sectional Tournament Runner-up

Competition Cheer Squad

2016 State Qualifier

COACHING ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

Brian McGuire - SWBL Buckeye Division Girls Basketball Coach of the Year



Text or Call 844-SAFEROH

YOU can anonymously report anything that is suspicious or endangering you, your friends or your school.



MADISON LOCAL SCHOOLS

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2016 Prom



Queen, Kara Jackson King, Sam Schenck



Allisa Pucket Greg Wnek



Becky Boyer Jesse Dearth



Drew Norvell Sam Schenck



Kara Jackson Luke Campbell



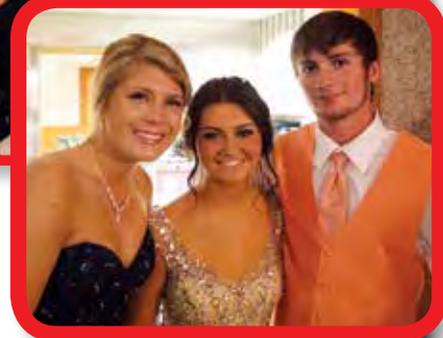
Natalie Higgins Brandon Brinley



Kaleigh Dietz Austin Philpot



Rebekah Lenos Owen Palmer



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 Instagram: #GoodtoBeaMohawk

Kindergarten and Preschool Registration

Registration packets can be picked up in the Central Registration Office or at madisonmohawks.org by completing a Kindergarten or Preschool Registration Packet Request Form.

Kindergarten Eligibility: Any child whose fifth (5th) birthday is on or before August 1, 2016. Madison Local School District offers full-day kindergarten to district residents. Kindergarten is not available for open-enrollment.

Preschool Eligibility: Any child whose fourth (4th) birthday is on or before August 1, 2016. The preschool program is a half-day paid service offered to district residents. Preschool is not available for open-enrollment.

For more information about registration please call 513-420-4766.



Moving Forward Together:

Over the past few months, Madison Local School District has begun to move forward with tremendous collaboration and support from our community and beyond. Through candlelight vigils, parent forums, enhanced security and professional counseling, our students, staff, parents and township residents are moving forward together. We are "Mohawk Strong."

A number of immediate action items were initiated in early March including an additional part-time School Resource Officer and increasing our current SRO's position to full-time. This additional coverage allows for uniformed, armed law enforcement to be on campus at all times during the typical school day. We feel this is a necessity as we work to help our students and families regain their trust in the safety of the school. Additionally, the district quickly partnered with Access Counseling Services, a local trauma certified counseling agency, to provide support one-on-one, in small groups and even parent training sessions for stress and crisis intervention. The services offered by Access Counseling Services are at no cost to Madison families. For more information about the counseling services and group programming available to all Madison students, contact your child's guidance counselor.



Finally, through a partnership with the Ohio Department of Education and Homeland Security, Madison Local School District is utilizing an anonymous tip line to report any suspicious activity, school related threat, or concerns about the welfare of a student. Students and parents may call or text the tip line, 1-844-SAFEROH, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The Safer Schools Ohio tip line, staffed by trained Threat Assessment and Prevention personnel, assess the threat and then notify the proper authorities. The service is a free service for the district.

Kindergarten Readiness Academy

June 3rd & 4th

This two-day program is designed specifically for students enrolled in kindergarten at Madison Elementary School for the fall of 2016.

Kindergarteners enrolled this spring are invited to participate in the Kindergarten Readiness academy for FREE!

Give your child a great start with the MES Kindergarten Readiness Academy! This free program, taught by the MES Kindergarten Staff, will focus on important skills needed for the first day of school and beyond.

RSVP by calling 513-420-4766.

Boots & Beauties - Father/Daughter Country Dance

Saturday, May 14, 2016

Grades PK-3 5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.

Grades 4-6 7:15 p.m.-9:15 p.m.

The Mohawk Ranch – MJSHS Commons and Gym
\$15 per couple (\$3.00 each additional child)

Tickets are available to purchase in both main offices.
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Basket Raffle tickets will also be sold.

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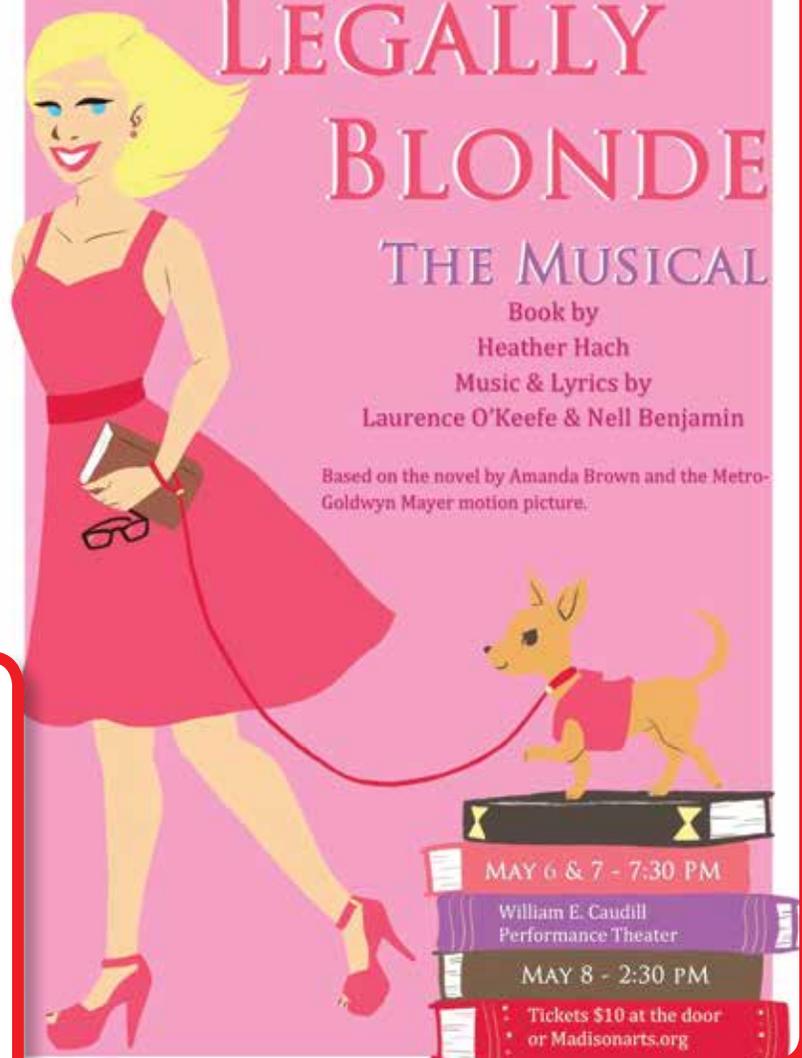
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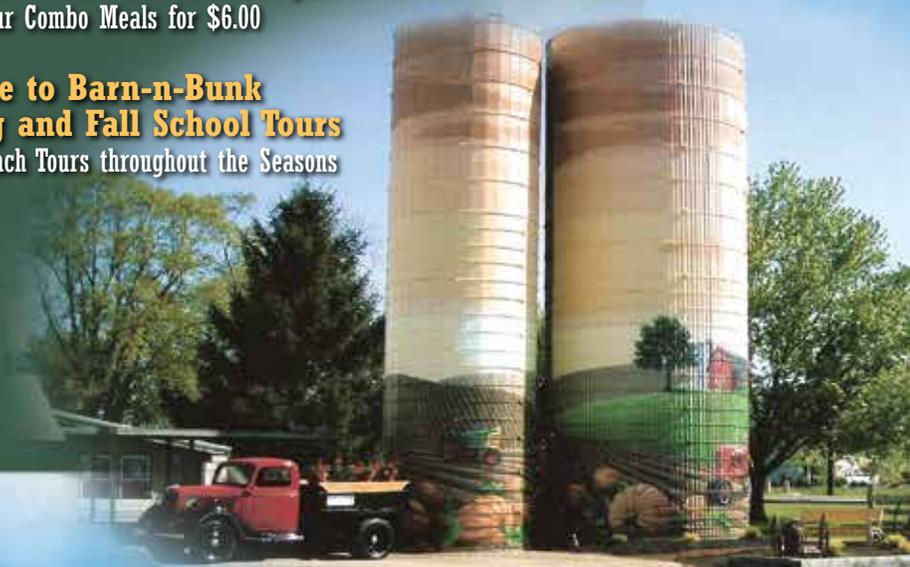
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Meet the Harvestmen:

FACTS, FIGURES, AND FUNCTIONS

By Alan B. Cady Ph.D.
Professor of Biology Miami University

Harvestmen (a.k.a. Daddy-longlegs or Granddaddy-longlegs) are common denizens of our landscape, living with us in our gardens, hedges, farms, and woodlands. There are many myths and misunderstandings surrounding these harmless, interesting, and beneficial animals. Hopefully you'll get to know them better and understand their importance in your gardens and other ecosystems.

Facts about Harvestmen

Harvestmen belong to a group of arthropods named Arachnida, which also is occupied by scorpions, ticks, mites, and spiders. Harvestmen (Order Opiliones; the latin opilio means 'shepherd') have been called 'Harvest-spiders', 'Shepherd spiders', and in Europe, 'Reapers'. They earned the name 'harvestman' and reaper' because they often appear when crops are being harvested (or gardens are being weeded) because insects are injured and killed during these operations. Since many species of harvestmen are scavengers, injured, dead, and dying insects offer a ready source of food for hungry harvestmen.

Harvestmen ARE NOT SPIDERS!

Although they superficially appear like spiders (both have 8 legs), harvestmen are as closely related to spiders (both are arachnids) as cats are related to rats (both are mammals). Spiders and harvestmen have distinctive anatomical differences. Spiders have 2 main body parts while harvestmen appear to have one; most spiders have 8 eyes but harvestmen have two, and although they both have 8 walking legs, most spiders have much stouter and shorter legs than harvestmen, whose legs usually are long and thin. Harvestmen do not have silk glands and so cannot build webs, and very importantly (to dispel a myth), harvestmen do not have venom glands (and thus no venom!). Unlike their spider cousins, harvestmen in North America have small, weak jaws. Thus, they usually consume small, weak prey or decaying vegetation, fungi, or



Continued on page 12.

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plant juices, and so a very broad range of food resources are available to them.

The long, thin, flexible legs of harvestmen allow them to move across the complex surface of leaves and stems on plants and bushes with great agility. Their legs also are very sensitive to touch and chemicals. Watch them move around on the land and on plants... their second pair of legs act like 'antennae' or 'feelers', testing the environment ahead of them. If two harvestmen meet, a great flurry of leg waving and touching often ensues since they use their legs for much of their communication.

Harvestmen are mostly nocturnal as they are very sensitive to low humidity levels and will rapidly desiccate (dry out). Being active during the high relative humidity levels found at night helps solve that problem. Moreover, birds, a major harvestman predator, are not active when dark. Because they require areas of higher humidity, harvestmen tend to seek dark, moist places during the day. This is why you often will find them in protected spots in sheds, crawl spaces, and other outbuildings.

Unlike their more predatory relatives, many harvestmen are gregarious, especially during the day when suitable resting places are in short supply. They sometimes will form close aggregations of many dozens of individuals (you'll not see spiders do this around here!). Given this unusual

behavior, these congregations have been studied, and it has been found gathering together helps preserve moisture and serves as a defense against predators, much like a school of fish or flock of birds. If one individual detects danger, the alarm spreads rapidly across the group.

Sometime you will see small reddish 'dots' on the legs of harvestmen. These are parasitic mites which have attached to the hapless harvestman's legs and are drinking their body fluids. Harvestman may tolerate a few of these unwelcome guests, but sometimes there are so many that the arachnid is injured.

Myth: Harvestmen are Deadly (NOT!)

There is a myth out there stating that harvestmen have a deadly venom and thus are dangerous to humans. **This is NOT TRUE.** Harvestmen are completely harmless. This myth is completely false for a very good reason... harvestmen do not have venom glands! Furthermore, they do not possess a mechanism to deliver this non-existent venom. As stated above, harvestmen's jaws are so small and weak that they could not bite you even if you tried to help them do so. Thus, if you ever see someone stomping on harvestmen, please ask them to stop. If they state harvestmen are deadly, ask them how many people they have ever heard of dying from a harvestman bite.

Continued on page 13.

Figure 1



Brussels sprouts plants in the enclosure Without Harvestmen Present



Brussels sprouts plants in the enclosure With Harvestmen Present

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Beneficial Harvestmen

Harvestmen are generalist predators, and will eat whatever they are able to overpower. As mentioned earlier, they feed mostly on small, soft-bodied prey. It happens that most garden pests are small, soft-bodied arthropods such as various small larvae (caterpillars), aphids, mites, scale insects, and insect eggs. All of these are on the menu for harvestmen, and given their large populations and their harmlessness, harvestmen are good predators to have in your gardens and flower beds.

I have conducted experiments on harvestmen using Brussels sprouts plants (which are very susceptible to ravages from cabbage butterfly larvae). Damage to the plants was compared in enclosures where harvestmen were present versus enclosures without these predators. The results were astounding! Where harvestmen were absent, the Brussels sprouts plants were eaten-to-the-ground, while in the enclosure having harvestmen, the Brussels sprouts plants were almost untouched (Please see Figure 1). (Please note that cabbage butterfly larvae also may have a severe impact on other garden plants.)

During the experiment, the harvestmen in the enclosures were directly observed scouring the edges of the Brussels

sprouts leaves and eating the cabbage butterfly eggs, and they also are known to consume early stage cabbage butterfly larvae. Thus, the presence of harvestmen protected these Brussels sprouts plants at an important time early in the season when the young plants are attempting to establish themselves.

Since harvestmen tend to leave gardens at daybreak to seek cool, moist places to spend the day, the trick is to keep them in the garden all day so they are well-positioned to attack the bad guys at night. Therefore the problem is how to keep them there.

One idea is to provide refuges in the garden where they may escape the hot and dry daytime. My research has shown that small leanto-style shelters positioned in cool spots in gardens will attract and protect harvestmen during the day. Any other similar structure providing them a place to stay moist and cool should encourage them to remain in the area during the day.

I hope that this article has given you some information allowing you to enjoy our harmless harvestman friends. Please remember, they are NOT venomous, and they can protect your garden and flower beds from many different pests. **MT**



(513) 887-3653

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Township History

By J. Larry Helton, Jr. - 2016

Cemeteries of Madison Township - Featuring Miltonville Cemetery



It comes with sadness, grief, and heartbreak, but death becomes us all. The unknown and the hereafter have always brought on mystery, curiosity, and fascination. Cemeteries are peaceful, yet fearful places, places of memories, places to ponder, and places to pray. Below are the cemeteries of Madison Township

with a bit of history. The true history can be felt as you drive or walk through them and make a connection to the names you recognize – the names of the founding families, the names of the roads you drive on, the names of your neighbors, the names of someone you once heard of, and so on.

Jacob Kemp, Sr., with his wife, settled in what is now Madison Township in 1806. In 1811, Jacob began serving as a circuit minister and organized the first groups of the United Brethren meeting in homes. He had assisted in the organization of the Old Miami Circuit of the United Brethren Church and had become an elder by 1818. Jacob would become the prime force in the organization of the United Brethren Churches at Miltonville, Poasttown, and Pleasant Ridge; and assisting in the establishment of Union Chapel.

A deed recorded May 28, 1823 shows a site sold in Miltonville for six dollars for the promotion of religion from Samuel Mattix and his wife. The church trustees: Henry Kumler, Thomas Baker, John Sellars, Richard V.V.

Crane, and Daniel Ross, were to oversee the construction of a combined Methodist and United Brethren meeting-house with land around it for a burying ground. There had already been burials on that land as early as 1796, with the first recorded one being in 1800.

In the years 1825, 1832, 1837, 1845, 1848, and 1863 the Miltonville United Brethren Church was host to the Miami Annual United Brethren Conference. Around 1847, the United Brethren Church as a whole took an option on forty acres at the western end of Howe Road with plans to found a college. Plans were never exercised and Otterbein College in Westerville, Ohio was built instead in 1847. Miltonville United Brethren Church continued to be prominent in the denomination and held the General Conference of the United Brethren in Christ in 1853.

In 1873 a new church building was erected and stood at the southwest edge of the cemetery. The engraved sandstone plaque above its entrance read “U. B. CHURCH 1873”. The vacant, rectangular area where the church once stood can still be found today, but in time may disappear, as it was recently plotted of for future gravesites.

In 1882 the Miltonville United Brethren Church closed due to dwindling membership. The building and cemetery was turned over to the newly formed Miltonville Cemetery Association on May 20th of that year. The Association purchased or accepted by donation additional ground from Peter Thomas. The total acreage is four acres plus a fraction of an acre.

A cold storage vault was constructed in 1888 and still sits in the center of the cemetery. The same stonemason built the one in Middletown’s Pioneer Cemetery circa 1870 and then lined it with stone from West Middletown circa

Continued on page 21.

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By Rick Henry

Gardening

THE ART AND

SCIENCE OF GARDEN ART

Garden art means different things to different people. To some people garden art is an old worn out work boot with flowers planted in it. To others, it is an expensive bronze statue given a prominent place. And, to others it can be a hand painted sign with a meaningful and thought provoking message. But, I think most people, who include any type of art in their gardens and landscapes, will agree that it does add something very special that goes beyond mere esthetics.

Often times there will be a strongly personal aspect involved with a piece that is placed in areas like landscaped beds, highly visible spots in our backyards, and even our vegetable gardens. I have noticed in some gardens here in Madison Township, and elsewhere, something that is more of a rule than an exception. Garden art almost invariably reflects very personal aspects of the owner(s) of the garden. I have noticed that the art one places in his/her yard is not always just something to be enjoyed, but it often times makes a definite statement. Whether it is a cultural representation, an expression of the spiritual/philosophical beliefs of the owner or even just a reflection of the whimsical personality of the owner, garden art is usually both enjoyable and meaningful.

However, I think there is one aspect of garden art that can primarily only be appreciated by those of us who have experienced this for ourselves. Primarily, this is the effect that it can have on us as we are walking amongst our trees and plants in our backyard after a long day at work, or during a time of leisure. And, this is actually kind of a very funny thing to even consider. Because, when we walk through our garden and come upon our Dad's old work boot with flowers in it, or a statue, or a painted sign...it seems to catch us off guard somewhat. It's like we are seeing it for the first time even though we see it each time we walk past it. It seems like we are somewhat surprised at times, and it makes us just stop and stare, and reflect. We just kind of become present, or get in the zone, as the expression goes. For many, this is the main beneficial aspect of garden art. Our trees, shrubs, and plants can have certain effects on us as can all of the Beauty of nature. But, there is something about a well placed and personally chosen piece of art in the garden that can speak to our emotive capacities in a unique way.

There are thousands of examples of garden art on the internet in case anyone is inspired to add this element to their gardens. But, there



might just be something more personal in your home that could be used as garden art.

It's a personal thing. Some are fans of wind chimes, this could be a good place to start for some. Wind chimes can be decorative as well as providing an extra benefit when the wind blows even gently. It is not an uncommon experience for those of us who hear the chimes begin to sound to just pause and breathe, and smile. There are many benefits of garden art on different levels.

Someone has said, "Art can do something that plants alone cannot," she said, "It (garden art) creates a 'there' there." To me, this is the first and foremost positive aspect of garden art, in whatever form it takes. But, like other things, this is something that can only be experienced for oneself to be understood--it means different things to different people. One person may choose a green ceramic frog wearing a pink bikini with a big smile on her face. Another person may choose an expensive copper or bronze statue. Or, another may choose something else. But, in the end, if each person has chosen a piece of art that brings about a kind of mindfulness and speaks to them personally, then each has made an excellent choice. And, chances are they will appreciate being 'there' as they view their garden art in the future. **MT**

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Cemeteries of Madison Township continued from page 16.

1878. Body boxes inside the vault were used to store bodies in the winter until the ground thawed for burial. One such body box still exists within this vault.

On May 22, 1949, the Miltonville United Brethren Church building was struck by lightning and completely destroyed by fire, including all of the churches records. After the fire, the sandstone plaque, the church bell, and a Civil War with cannonballs disappeared from the ruins.

At some point in time, the sandstone plaque was brought back to the cemetery and laid behind the caretaker's building. It was found broken into two pieces, whether from the fire or other reason is unknown. There were no signs of damage or marks from being in the fire. To date, the cannon, cannonballs, and church bell are unaccounted for.

In 2009, the Miltonville Cemetery Association gave the sandstone plaque to me for preservation. Larry Helton, Sr., Rick Jackson, Merle Rhodes, and I put the plaque into a concrete memorial alongside other Miltonville historical items beside the Miltonville Fire Station, after a recommendation of the Historical Society of Madison Twp. and approval from the Madison Twp. Trustees. It is interesting to note that the reverse of the plaque had previously been used as a gravestone for "Josephine W., Daughter of Alford & Electa Luce, Born March 29, 1810,

Died Feb.13, 1847; Fontaine M., Their Grand Child & Adopted Son, Born March 17, 1816, Died Aug. 17, 1847". There is no record of these burials or a reason why a gravestone was used for the church's plaque.

With state laws and the disbanding of the Miltonville Cemetery Association earlier this year, the Madison Township Trustees are now the overseers of the Miltonville Cemetery. Improvements and restorations are already underway to preserve the cemetery, the cold storage vault, and grounds.

The Madison Township Trustees and township workers are also responsible for the upkeep and maintenance for four other cemeteries in township: Augspurger, Pleasant Hill, Elk Creek, and Mount Pleasant

The Augspurger Cemetery is back a dirt lane on Sycamore Rd. outside of Trenton. It is a congregational cemetery that was deeded about 1830 that has been heavily vandalized. Only around twenty-five of the one hundred or so graves remain marked either with whole or partial stones.

Pleasant Hill Cemetery is along Elk Creek Road between West Alexandria and Kalbflesch Roads. Originally a congregational cemetery, a church stood at the front southwest corner. Misplaced and broken stones are compiled on a slab behind the church site.

Continued on page 22.

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Cemeteries of Madison Township continued from page 21.

Elk Creek Cemetery on Middletown-Eaton Road, near Hursh Rd. and next to the Elk Creek schoolhouse, was also a congregational cemetery. The Zion Evangelical Reformed Church stood at the top of the hillside. When it was no longer a house of worship, the local Grange used it for meetings. Needing more room, they decided to dig a basement underneath causing the collapse of the building. A little further east, the bricks were re-used to construct a new meetinghouse. The cornerstone from that building is all that remains on site.

Mount Pleasant Cemetery on Thomas Road and up the drive by the Sorg's summerhouse, another congregational cemetery, has dual caretakers. The Madison Township trustees oversee the gravesites around the Mount Pleasant Baptist Church building of 1830 and the Mount Pleasant Cemetery Association, which was established in 1883, oversees those inside the fenced area.

One other congregational cemetery that appears to be only remembered sparsely in records and in atlases was along Brown's Run Road across from the Thomas Road. A church and cemetery are noted and little else. It has been told that the cemetery was up on the hillside, was Civil War era, and that "a child had gathered up the metal veteran plaques and took them to school for show-n-tell".

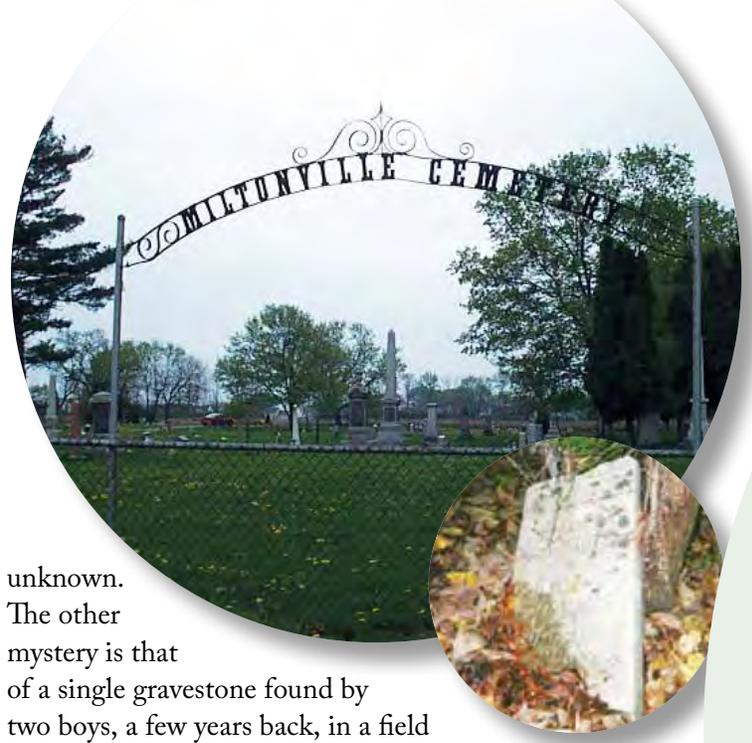
There are four family cemeteries known to exist in the township: the Huff-Dine Cemetery on Mosiman Road; the Augspurger Cemetery on the grounds of Chrisholm, a Butler County MetroPark, at Woodsdale; the Nuxhall Cemetery at Trenton-Franklin and Brown's Run Roads, with one grave "of a giant measuring at least eight feet long"; and one of miscarriages and stillborn births on Brown's Run Road. The Augspurger Cemetery is open to the public; the others are on private property.

Two mystery burials also remain. An old map of a certain area of Keister Road has three crosses marked upon it representing graves. Many years ago, at least one of these graves was excavated and an intact human skull was found. A Mr. Fox had it in his possession and then it became a museum piece for the Butler County Historical Society. It was last known to be stored in the museum's basement, but when contacted in recent years, its whereabouts is

unknown. The other mystery is that of a single gravestone found by two boys, a few years back, in a field off Aljen Road. The stone's inscription, "James H. Anderson, Died in 1814 at the age of 43".

Though now incorporated within Trenton's city limits, the cemeteries there have many who were part of Madison Township's past. The Pioneer Cemetery, originally known as the Elk Creek Baptist Church Cemetery, is at the crossroads of West State and Hamilton-Trenton Roads. The church circa 1820 was razed in 1924, yet the steps remain almost two hundred years later. Many years ago, several of the fallen and crumbling gravestones were "hailed off and left in the city dump". Around the corner on Hamilton-Trenton Road is the Holy Name Catholic Cemetery. St. John's Cemetery on North Miami Street is located behind the First Church of the Nazarene, where the St. John's German Evangelical Church originally stood. On the other side of North Miami Street is the St. Peter's Lutheran Church and Cemetery.

Three other cemeteries worth mentioning with connections to Madison Township's past are: the Augspurger Memorial Cemetery on Wayne-Madison Road in St. Clair Township; the Morningstar-Coon Cemetery on Franklin-Madison Road in Franklin Township; and the Sunbury Cemetery on Eby Road in German Township. **MT**



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By Fire Lieutenant Jordan Peters

Fire Department

Spring is in the air! We hope everyone is enjoying the nice weather! For those of you who will be cleaning up their yards and doing some spring cleaning, we would like to share some spring fire safety tips with you.

- When burning brush, make sure you abide by the regulations set forth by the state of Ohio EPA and State Fire Marshal's office. If you have any questions regarding what can or cannot be burned or need assistance with burning brush, please contact a Fire Department representative at any of our 3 stations.
- Keep your grill away from combustibles, buildings, fences, handrails and landscaping that can easily ignite
- NEVER use gasoline to start a fire
- When burning, keep a Garden hose or fire extinguisher close by in case the fire gets out of control
- Keep children and pets away from any open flames, it only takes a second for curiosity to cause serious burn injuries.
- Check your smoke detectors, carbon monoxide detectors, and fire extinguishers to ensure they are in working order.
- Make sure all yard and pool chemicals, paints, and other harmful or flammable substances are properly stored and out of reach of children and pets
- Check all fuel containers for leaks and ensure they're properly stored
- Have all power equipment cleaned, serviced, and readied for use

We are making progress on our new station which will be located on West Alexandria Road by the Community Park. Our Architect

has finalized the plans and the bids for our new station have been placed by the contractors. We should be announcing the date when we will be breaking ground soon!

As most of you know, On February 29th at 11:19am Madison Fire/EMS was dispatched to Madison High School for an active shooter. Fire and EMS units responded, and patient care was rendered to the victims. From the Fire Departments standpoint, the incident went very well and fortunately there was no loss of life. This is the type of call that we all know can happen, but would never believe it could or would happen in our community. We would like to applaud our Fire and EMS crews, especially Capt. Jeff Lawwill, FF/ EMT Chris Wells, and FF/EMT Nicholas Laswell who were the first EMS crew into the school. These 3 provided exceptional patient care and handled the situation to the best of their ability. We would also like to extend our thanks to the numerous agencies that provided assistance at the incident as well as the BCSO.

In closing, we hope everyone has a great spring/summer. Please feel free to like our page "Madison Township Fire Department" on Facebook to keep up to date on department news, weather updates, safety tips and much more! If you have any questions or need to speak to a Fire Department representative feel free to stop by any of our stations or call us anytime! As always, Stay Safe! **MT**



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