

MADISON TOWNSHIP

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Living

By J. Larry Helton, Jr.

History

DILBERT SHARRETT

Longtime township resident, Delbert Sharrett, is a local piece of living history. His life reads like that of a war and romance novel that could easily be made into a movie.

Delbert's grandmother's family came from the border of France and Germany, through Ellis Island, and settled in Fayette County, Ohio. The family built a log cabin and lived close by the remaining Native Americans in Ohio. He recalls his grandmother singing their songs. Farming was a way of life for their family. Delbert was born on his mother's birthday. The year will remain a secret, because Delbert doesn't want to disclose his age.

His high school years were spent in Washington Courthouse, Ohio. With only a year left in school and his lack of desire to return, his mother encouraged him to join the service. He was sold on the Navy after seeing his uncle in uniform. Soon after his decision was made he traveled to the recruiting station in Dayton, was sworn in in Cincinnati, and was taken out for his first Navy meal to a Chinese restaurant. On September 10, 1941 his six-year commitment had begun. His military experiences are the first half of the story.

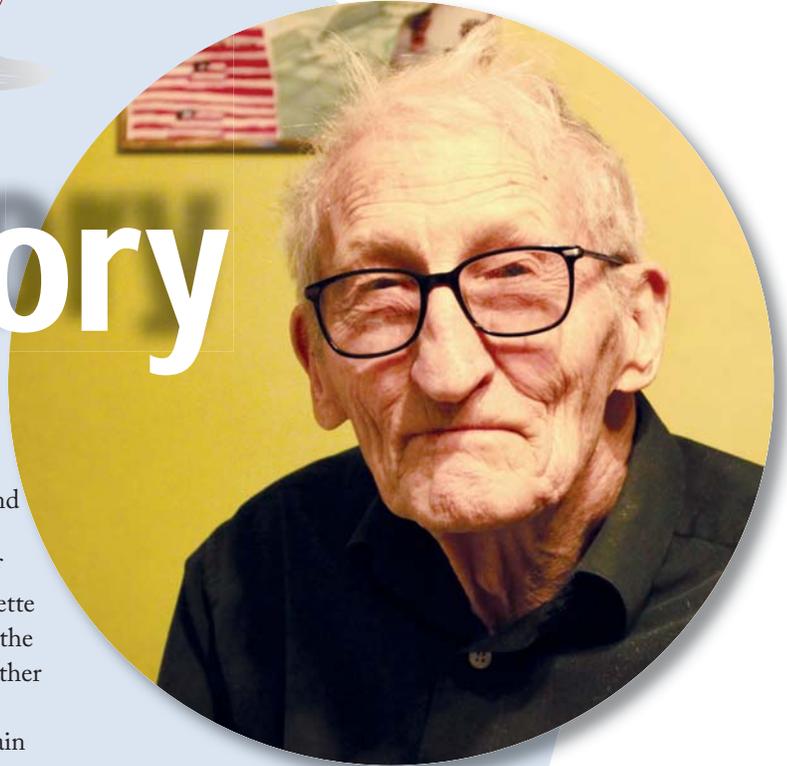
Delbert's basic training was in Great Lakes, Illinois. His first assignment was as a seaman guard at the base power plant. He patrolled with a 30/30 rifle with no ammunition or training on how to use it and guarded the lakefront. He informed his commanding officer that he did not want to be at that job. So, the next day he was on his way to Pearl Harbor on a tourist ship, arriving December 2, 1941 and was assigned to his ship, the USS Seagull. Five days later, 80 miles from the harbor, on December 7, 1941, they received a message, "This is no drill. We are being bombed." It was repeated and then the message said, "Man your battle stations."

His ship was ordered back to the harbor. The first close call was when a US submarine could not identify their ship and almost ordered torpedoes be shot at them. The second close call was when his ship was ordered to commence with firing and

many of the shipmates had not been trained with firing. Delbert stated, "The sky looked like the Fourth of July." One tragedy Delbert witnessed was that all planes were ordered to fly around the harbor, but one did not. The plane flew over the harbor and was shot down by everyone. The bombing went on for a little over an hour. Delbert reports that there was no time to think. Miraculously, the Seagull took no hits and lost no Navy men. However, one man went crazy and was sent home. The worst thing for Delbert was when one of the submarines could not emerge from the water. The men lived for 17 days and could not be rescued.

Days after the bombing of Pearl Harbor his ship stayed at battle stations waiting for the Japanese to attack from the other side of the harbor. This never happened. During this time mail could not be sent out and due to Delbert's orders of his assignment not yet on board the ship, he was reported as missing. Due to this Delbert's father joined the Navy to "Get a Jap". He asked to go to the Pacific, but instead got stationed in North Africa. When working an airfield he at least got to shoot a sniper out of a tree.

After the attack the leader of the Pearl Harbor bombing, Mitsuo Fuchida, went out and bought a Bible and became a Christian. Mitsuo traveled the United States and Europe to tell his story. He came to Cincinnati Bible College and met



YOUR Township Administrator...



By **Todd Farler,**
Madison Township Administrator

State, County, or Township...which road do you live on?

Most residents believe simply because they live in Madison Township, that they live on a township road. However, you may be surprised to learn which government entity actually owns and maintains your road. The government entity that “owns” a road is responsible for all aspects of the road, including maintaining the ditches, pavement repair, resurfacing with pavement or other methods, snow removal, and removal of large trash items or dead animals. Most noticeable are State Route 122, (Middletown Eaton Road) and State Route 4 (Germantown Road). The entire stretch of these roads running through our township falls under the jurisdiction of the Ohio Dept. of Transportation. The Ohio Dept. of Transportation also maintains any intersection that their roads cross.



roads in our township. These include all of Elk Creek Rd, Trenton Franklin Rd, Woodsdale Rd and Middletown Germantown Rd. Their list also includes the southern part of Wayne Madison Rd, all of Howe Road between Eck Rd and Elk Creek Rd, and all of West Alexandria Rd from SR 122 to Elk Creek Road. And like ODOT, the Butler County Engineers office maintains jurisdiction over any intersection where their road crosses a township road.

You’re always welcome to contact Madison Township, but the Ohio Dept. of Transportation and the Butler County Engineers Office has asked to have our residents contact them directly so there is no loss of information or specifics when someone calls in with a road issue. You can reach each agency at the following numbers: Ohio Dept. of Transportation (District 8) 513-933-6568 and Butler County Engineers Office at 513-424-9144. **MT**

The Butler County Engineers Office also “owns” numerous

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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.

MADISON HOSTING

RecyclingEvent



MAY 18 & 19

Event only open to residents of Madison Township. Proof of residency must be shown. Residents may bring a maximum of 10 tires per address. Tire retailers, tire dealers, and businesses are prohibited from participating.

Madison Township will be hosting a tire clean-up event in September! We received a generous grant from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency which allows for residents to drop off unwanted tires at no cost. Collected tires will be sent to recycling facilities where they are shredded into chips, which are primarily used for energy-related and civil engineering applications such as asphalt, rubber mulch, playground surfaces, fuel hoses, and other products. This is a great way to help the environment as tires left in the environment for long periods of time can leach toxic chemicals, such as zinc, heavy metals, vulcanization and rubber chemicals into ground and surface waters. The tire amnesty program will only be honored from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on May 18th (Friday) and on May 19th (Saturday) from 8:00 a.m. to Noon, at the Madison Township Administration Building, located at 5610 West Alexandria Road. It's time to get rid of those old tires stacked in the garage or barn, or laying out in the yard!



Tires must be brought to the Madison Township Administration Building during the following hours:

Friday, May 18nd 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Saturday, May 19th 8:00 a.m. - Noon

QUESTIONS?
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Thank you to Butler County Recycling and Solid Waste District for their sponsorship.

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Continued from cover page.

Delbert's Dad. This leader of the attack apologized to Delbert's Dad for his actions. Delbert's Dad stated, "That did more to heal my soul toward the Japanese people than anything."

After three years in Hawaii, Delbert was transferred to a new ship named the USS Tingy, located in the Tokyo Bay. They were being trained to invade Japan. Instead the Peace Treaty was signed and they "partied". He was then assigned to the USS Maryland.

The second half of the story is the love story of Delbert and his wife, Lillie Mae. One of his shipmates at the time was writing to Lillie Mae's sister. From this relationship Delbert began communicating with Lillie Mae. They wrote letters back and forth for about three years. Her mother invited Delbert to visit their home in Ashland, Oklahoma when he was on leave. Lillie Mae was not aware Delbert was on his way for a visit. Finally in 1944 or 1945 he got off the bus about 13 miles from her town. He started walking. Someone gave him a ride on a wagon part of the way. When he finally arrived Lillie Mae was at church. Later, while stationed in San Diego, Delbert sent for Lillie Mae so they could be married.

After his discharge from the Navy he was offered a job in Hawaii. But instead his first plan was to get his high school diploma. By then they already had an 18-month-old son. The baby called, "Daddy" as he walked across the stage to get his diploma. This son, Clyde, was named after one of Delbert's shipmates who lost his life in the war.

His second plan was to become a veterinarian through Ohio State University. But, there was already a second baby on the way. Out of need to provide for his family he looked for work. His father and uncle were already working for Armco. He

applied for work and started that day. Most of his work was on the pickler and then at the coal mill. He retired after 30 years, in 1978. Delbert has now been retired longer than the number of years he worked. They purchased their home on Middletown-Germantown Road, in Madison Township, in 1950. They raised their family of one boy and two girls in that house where Delbert still resides today. Lillie Mae passed away in 2010. It is clear when talking with him that he dearly loved his wife and after 65 years of marriage her loss will always leave a void in his life.

He and Lillie Mae babysat children in their home, including Kent and Teresa Hall's daughter and son. Delbert still has the toy fire truck that was played with by Madison Township's own trustee, Thomas Hall. He still has a connection with many of the children, who now as adults, bring their own children to visit him.

Delbert continues to be busy with life. For the past 40 years he has had lunch with friends at KJ's restaurant in Germantown every Thursday. He is a member of the Madison Lion's Club. Delbert is one of the four to five remaining members of the Submarine Veterans of World War II.

When asked, he shared these thoughts about his Navy experiences and World War II. Delbert said, "It is sad. I try not to think about it, but if not for the war I would not have met my wife." His view of the Japanese people is that they are well mannered. His happiest moment was seeing the Golden Gate Bridge coming back across the Pacific Ocean. Being a God-fearing man, "We teach love. Why would anyone want to hurt our country as much as we help people? Do what you're supposed to do."

"Over and out." **MT**

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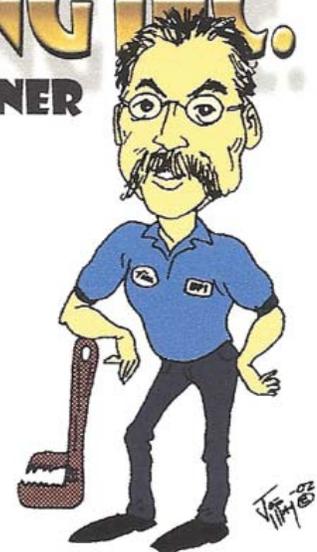
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OUR LOCAL WOODPECKERS:

Woodpeckers

TAPPING INTO NATURE

By Dr. Alan Cady – Miami University

We all know them by sight and sound... flashes of black-and-white flitting through the trees and a familiar drumming that echoes across the woods. Our woodpecker friends are well-known to us, but they are sometimes unappreciated about how they are anatomical marvels and ecological kingpins. I thought this would be a good opportunity to share some interesting facts about how woodpeckers make a living and a few details about our local woodpeckers.



Figure 1 - Downy (on left) and Hairy (on right) woodpeckers.

WOODPECKER BASICS

Woodpeckers belong to a large group of birds including toucans and honeyguides. They have been on Earth for the last 30 million years and now represent about 240 species worldwide (~ 20 species are threatened with extinction due to habitat loss). Woodpeckers are important participants in terrestrial ecosystems because they consume many potentially destructive insects, create places for other animals to live (by making cavities), and contribute to nutrient recycling by speeding wood decomposition. Let's look at some fun facts about basic woodpecker anatomy and behavior.

ANATOMY

Their Head (Why don't they get a headache?): Woodpeckers are able to perform an activity that would kill or maim most other animals... they use their mouthparts to drill into wood. Anyone who has seen or heard woodpeckers plying their trade have marveled at their ability to repeatedly slam their beaks into solid wood at incredible rates and force without turning their brains into mush. It turns out that the anatomy of their skull operates to transfer the shock of hammering away from their brain and into other parts of their skull and body. The tip of their beak is constantly growing and self-sharpening. Woodpeckers have a very long tongue that literally wraps around the back of their head, allowing it to extend deeply into the cavities they excavate to extract bugs. Furthermore, there are barbs and 'sticky parts' on the end of their tongues which snag bugs and larvae in their tunnels in trees, allowing retrieval to the bird's mouth.

Another avian specialty is that woodpeckers' eyes are secured deeply into their sockets, and are able to 'look forward' (like we

Continued on page 6.



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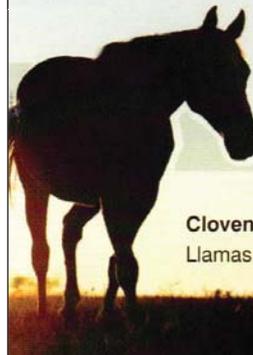
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Continued from page 5.

do). Most birds can only see on either side of their head (that's why they move their heads side-to-side to view things; think of a chicken). This allows woodpeckers to focus forward on where their beak is drilling and also to 'see around' trees for possible predators. A keen observer will note that woodpeckers have specialized feathers protecting their nasal passages and eyes from flying woodchips, similar to having 'safety glasses'.

FEET AND TAILS

Woodpeckers' feet are specialized for gripping the flat sides of trees with two toes forward and two toes backwards (termed 'zygodactyl' for you science nerds). This grip creates a solid foundation and provides two 'pillars' of support. The third pillar is their tail feathers. They are short, pointed, and very stiff. The birds 'lean' back against these feathers, and along with their legs, it creates a tripod for their drilling activities. Take a look for this next time you see a woodpecker doing their job.

BEHAVIOR

Woodpeckers are VERY territorial. This comes from the limited number of trees in any one area. Those trees represent their source of food and nesting sites, so they are quite protective of them.

All the drumming and calling you hear (especially in the Spring) is mostly related to establishing territories and then maintaining and defending those territories. The males like to project their message as



Figure 2 – Red-Bellied woodpecker (male). Note the pointed tail feathers.

far as possible, so some of you may have had the experience of a woodpecker persistently tattooing upon your downspout or soffit in an attempt to amplify their signal.

Most woodpeckers have a distinctive flight pattern discernable at a distance. They open their wings and exert a few powerful wing strokes, then fold their wings and momentarily dip down until the next set of wing strokes. When they approach a tree or branch, they make a short swoop down then immediately up, allowing them to grab the tree with their zygodactyl feet.

Our recent devastating infestation by the Emerald Ash Borer has been a bonus for our woodpeckers. They are happily feeding on these beetle larvae, but unfortunately there aren't enough woodpeckers to stop the Borers. However, this underscores the importance of our woodpecker friends to controlling all the other insects which invade our trees. Without our native woodpeckers these native insects would decimate our forests. Thus, there is a balance between our native pests and predators... it's the invasive species which cause the problems.

OUR LOCAL WOODPECKER FRIENDS

Let's go over some items of interest about the seven species of woodpeckers we see around here. We'll start with the most common one first.

DOWNY WOODPECKER

(Picoïdes pubescens)

This is the smallest and most common woodpecker in our region (Figure 1). It is a sparrow-sized bird with a beak shorter than its head. If you notice, the outer tail feathers have stripes.

(Compare it to the Hairy Woodpecker)

It comes readily to feeders with suet (or similar cakes). Watch for their territorial displays where they flash their wings at rivals.

Continued on page 10.

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Madison Field Turf

A grass roots movement began last fall to create a fundraising campaign for the purpose of purchasing a field turf for Madison Local School District. Since that time, the Madison Field Turf Project has formed a committee of parents, community members, alumni, Madison Board of Education members, district staff and Madison Township representatives, with a mission to oversee the fundraising and ultimately the installation of a turf field.

Due to the wear and tear on the field and inefficient drainage, the current field surface deteriorates throughout the fall season and as a result is unable to be used until the following summer. The current field requires constant costly upkeep and repair and poor field quality often results in cancelled or rescheduled games and practices.



Currently, Brandenburg Field hosts:

- Junior High, JV & Varsity Football
- Junior High, JV & Varsity Cheerleading
- JV & Varsity Girls Soccer
- JV & Varsity Boys Soccer
- Madison Marching Band
- Madison Youth Athletic Association Football and Cheer K-6



The installation of field turf will provide a playing and practice surface that can be used at anytime during the year. Additionally it will create opportunities that currently aren't possible with the current state of the field such as Spring Baseball/ Softball practices, educational projects that can utilize the field during physical education and other academic courses, and the opportunity for the elementary students to use the field for recess, field day, and more.

To learn more about the Madison Field Turf Project and to DONATE, visit www.madisonfieldturf.com or pick up a pledge form at the Madison Township Building or the main offices at Madison Local Schools.





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Zach Banks - 3rd All-SWBL Wrestling
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SW District District Qualifier
2x OHSAA State Qualifier

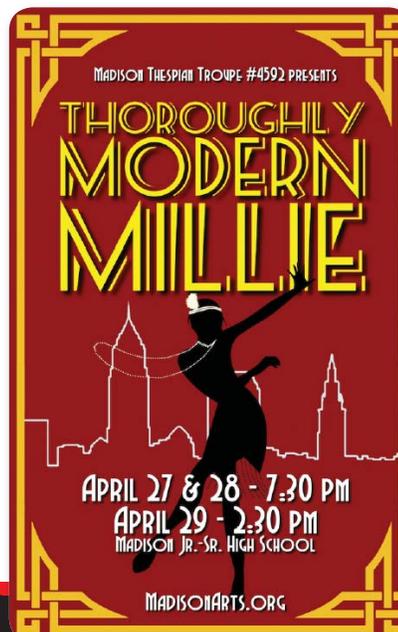
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SW District District Qualifier

Quincy Brown - 4th All-SWBL Wrestling
SW District Sectional Placer/District Qualifier
OHSAA State Qualifier - Alternate

Brendan Olige - SW District District Qualifier

Upcoming Dates

Spring Musical	April 27-29
Spring Choir Concert – Grades 7-12	May 7
Spring Band Concert – Grades 5-8	May 14
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Continued from page 6.

RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER

(Melanerpes carolinus)

You probably have seen or heard this very active woodpecker among the woods and suburbs (robin-sized; Figure 2). Don't be fooled by the 'red-bellied' name... the 'red belly' doesn't really show. This is the only 'grey' and 'ladder-backed' woodpecker living around here, and they are very active in the treetops. Their call is a 'chur-churr' often as they move from tree-to-tree.



FIGURE 3 – Northern (Yellow-Shafted) Flicker (male). Note the 'moustache'.

NORTHERN FLICKER

(aka Yellow-Shafted Flicker) (Colaptes auratus)

This is a relatively large woodpecker (pigeon-sized) that is not like your normal 'head-banger' woodpecker (Figure 3).

They often will forage on the ground for ants (yes, they can withstand the formic acid produced by ants because they have a special saliva that neutralizes the acid). This ground-foraging is different from most other woodpeckers. If you see a 'big brown' woodpecker on the ground, it's probably a Flicker. (Males have a 'moustache' extending from the corner of their mouth.)

They have a distinctive 'flick-flick-flick' call as they move and fly. Do not confuse it with the 'auk-auk-auk' call of the Pileated woodpecker.

Note the prominent white patch on their 'butt' when they fly.

HAIRY WOODPECKER

(Picoides villosus)

This is the larger 'twin' to the Downy woodpecker, but there are ways to tell them apart.

The Hairy is robin-sized, and their beak is as long as their head. The Downy is sparrow-sized and their beak is shorter than their head (Figure 1).

Hairy woodpeckers are not as common as the Downy.



FIGURE 4 – Pileated Woodpecker.

PILEATED WOODPECKER

(Dryocopus pileatus)

This is the largest woodpecker in North America (crow-sized; Figure 4).

The Iroquois Indians called this bird 'The King of the Woods' for a reason. Its ringing 'auk-auk-auk-auk' calls and large oval-shaped holes (Figure 5) are signatures of this secretive bird. I've seen a Pileated throw wood chips from a log while searching for carpenter ants like a woodsman swinging an axe. I've even had them come to a feeder in search of suet, but that's unusual.

A truly impressive bird.

Continued on page 11.

YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER

(Sphyrapicus varius)

This is the only migratory woodpecker we have living here. We see them as they move north-and-south and in the winter (we're in their northern winter range).

These are inconspicuous sparrow-sized woodpeckers (Figure 6) with a specialized method of obtaining food during the summer.

They drill small holes on tree bark (Figure 6), causing sap to flow. They then return to feed on the sap and the insects attracted to the sap. (The trees eventually heal.)



FIGURE 5 – Typical drilling holes made by Pileated woodpeckers.

RED-HEADED WOODPECKER

(Melanerpes erythrocephalus)

This is the only totally redheaded wood pecker in Ohio (Figure 7). (Don't confuse it with the male Red-Bellied.)

These are the least common woodpecker in our area. They prefer open park-like areas with oaks and hickory trees. (They like to eat acorns.)

If you want to attract and support woodpeckers in your neighborhood, it's all about habitat! They require trees of various ages, with a certain number of dead standing trees. Thus, if you can keep some dead trees standing (without

danger), that will help support woodpeckers (and other wildlife too). Providing suet, commercial 'woodpecker cakes', or peanut butter during the winter and early spring will help attract woodpeckers. I have 6 of the seven species around my neighborhood and feeders this winter just by hanging suet cakes. If you do, be sure to hang the cakes under a platform so starlings won't pirate them. (The woodpeckers can hang upside down with ease, but starlings cannot.)



FIGURE 6 – Yellow-Bellied Sapsucker and typical drill holes.

that this short narrative has increased your appreciation and knowledge of woodpeckers. The next time you hear the rat-a-tat-tat in the woods, perhaps your ear will be more finely-tuned to what they are 'saying' and increase your appreciation of these important members of our community. **MT**



FIGURE 7 – Red-Headed woodpecker.

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Madison Roads

By Todd Daniel, Road Superintendent

WINTER REPORT

This past winter again brought below average snowfalls but came with other challenges including ice and sub-zero temperatures. Total salt usage for the season came in at 425 tons (\$25,000.00). Likely because of the previous mild winters, we experienced a reduction in salt prices per ton from \$68.42 in 2017 to \$58.73 in 2018. Hopefully this trend will continue.

SUMMER PROJECTS WILL INCLUDE:

- Resurfacing of Franklin Madison Rd. – Montgomery Co. Line to Keister Rd.
- Resurfacing of Renee Dr. – Elk Creek Rd. to State Route 122
- Resurfacing of Radabaugh Rd. – State Rt. 73 to Sycamore Rd.
- Resurfacing of Michael Rd. – State Route 122 to Hetzler Rd.
- Resurfacing of Pritchard Rd. – Chip Seal – Montgomery County line to dead end
- Resurfacing of North First St. – Chip Seal – Trenton Corp. to dead end
- Resurfacing of Hinkle Rd. – Chip Seal – Hetzler Rd. to Rocky Rd.
- Retrace of Dickey Rd. – Kalbfleisch Rd. to No Mans Rd.

- Retrace of No Mans Rd. – Dickey Rd. to Elk Creek Rd.
- Retrace of Eck Rd. – All
- Retrace of Myers Rd. – All
- Retrace of Thomas Rd. – Franklin Madison Rd. to Middletown Germantown Rd.
- Retrace of Sycamore Rd. – All

We will be resurfacing or retracing just under 9 miles of roadway at a cost of around \$250,000.00.

The Butler County Engineers Office will be starting the Bridge replacement on Myers Rd. sometime in April. Completion date is scheduled for early June weather permitting. This project cost is \$758,813.00 and is funded by a federal grant. Below are some additional projects the county will be doing in our township this year. Capital improvements this year should total around \$1,583,203.00.

WEST ALEXANDRIA RD AT DICKEY RD

Drainage improvements - piping, ditching, install catch basins. Road closure are necessary. The project will start mid-April.

Continued on page 14.



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Don Roberson, NRA Certified Instructor

Continued from page 13.

Completion will take about 2-3 weeks. The estimated cost is \$30,000. Funding comes from the BCEO FA

WEST ALEXANDRIA RD CULVERT #01.698

This is a replacement culvert. A road closure is necessary. The project will start in early April and the completion will take approximately 3 weeks. The estimated cost is \$45,000. It is being funded by the BCEO FA.

TRENTON FRANKLIN RD AT MICHAEL RD

Drainage improvements, ditching, guardrail replacement. A road closure is necessary. The project is projected to start mid-July and be completed in 3 weeks. The estimated cost is \$80,000 and is being funded by the BCEO FA.

ELK CREEK RD - OHIO 122 TO WEST ALEXANDRIA RD

We will be resurfacing (asphalt) on 1.5 miles. The estimated cost is \$184,390. The funding is from the BCEO.

In the 2017 spring newsletter I made mention of a grant we received from the Butler County Stormwater District for a new salt bin. After going thru a couple of bid processes with bids coming in too high, we decided to do more of the work in house and now have an acceptable bid. Demolition will begin the end of March of the existing salt bin and construction will start soon after. This will be a great addition to our facility and will now allow us to store our annual usage of salt.

We will continue to work with the county engineers and our fellow townships to provide the best and safest roads that we can.

If you have any questions regarding the roads, parks or cemeteries please contact me at 513-424-0821 Ext. 303 or at Tdaniel@madisontownshiponline.com. [MT](mailto:Tdaniel@madisontownshiponline.com)

Grant Received

MIDDLETOWN COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Madison Township recently received a grant from The Middletown Community Foundation to purchase a movie theater package, allowing us to show "Movies in the Park" this summer! Follow us on Facebook or sign up to receive our Notification E-mails as to when the movies will be show and what will be playing! Bring your lawn chairs and blankets and get ready for some family summer fun!



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Opening ceremonies begin after the parade with Madison's Steel Drum Band and Start Skydiving. Make sure you get your nominations in for the Military Service Award and Citizen of the Year Award. Recipients will be announced during opening ceremonies. Bring your antique tractor or hot rod for the tractor and car show that starts immediately following the parade. There's fun for everyone with shopping in the Marketplace, delicious food vendors, and Kidzone with Inflatables and Glitter Tattoos. Let your star shine in the Mr. and Miss Springfest Contest beginning at noon. We want to see the cutest little ones in Madison so we've added baby and toddler divisions. Get your act together and be part of Madison's Got Talent! Our second annual talent competition is open to all residents and all types of acts and starts at 5 p.m. And of course don't forget to stop by and get your tickets to win some amazing prizes in the Basket Raffle! Ticket sales open until 7 p.m. and drawing starts at 7:30 p.m.



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MetroParks

Butler County's Smallest Park Chrisholm Historic Farmstead



Have you noticed anything new sitting on top of the hill at 2070 Woodsdale Road, Trenton OH 45067 in Madison Township? Chrisholm Historic Farmstead, one of MetroParks of Butler County's smallest parks with big character, is home to the new Chrisholm Playscape! The Playscape, designed with natural materials like logs, rocks and more, opened in the Fall of 2017. Explorers of all ages can enjoy a variety of elements including a wooden tractor, log bridge, and pig pen enclosure all designed to foster learning and imagination. Come and visit Chrisholm MetroPark which has been a farm for over 187 years. Future plans include a Farmscape targeted to begin construction at the end of 2018. FREE public programming called Show and Tell on the Farm happen almost every Thursday & Sunday throughout the entire year. Topics range from history, natural science, agriculture education, gardening, and live animal demonstrations. Fun and interactive field trips about Amish-Mennonite history and farming; along with Jr. Master garden camps, too are available. The beautiful Augspurger House is open almost every Sunday from

2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. thanks to the Friends of Chrisholm docents. The Friends of Chrisholm organization is dedicated to the preservation of this Amish-Mennonite Settlement in Butler County, Ohio. Surrounding the Augspurger House are flower, herb, and vegetable gardens maintained with the help from OSU Extension Master Gardener volunteers. Another volunteer organization that helps support the farm and all our park sites is the Friends of MetroParks of Butler County. They raised funds to help support the fun, unique playscape area, and the chicken coops on site. Besides interacting with the resident chickens and rabbits, park visitors can observe Eastern Bluebirds nesting and Monarch butterfly caterpillars munching in the gardens. Mark your calendar for Fun on the Farm scheduled for September 8th. Enjoy a petting zoo, a farmer's market, barn dancing, hayrides, samples of open hearth cooking, and more. Want to find out more about programming or rental of the Augspurger House, Shelter and Rosemont Barn, call 513.867.5835 or visit www.YourMetroParks.net. Chrisholm Historic Farmstead is open 365 days of the year, 8:00 a.m. till dark. A motor vehicle permit is required. FREE to Butler County residents. Non-residents \$5/daily or \$10/annually for non-residents. **MT**



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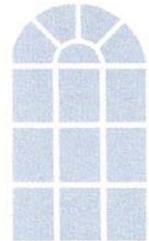
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Gardening

By Marvin Brown

SPLISH - SPLASH WHAT A WAY TO RELAX!

It's a warm summer evening. The sun has set and dusk is closing in. You're sitting on the patio listening to the gentle sound of falling water. A little bird comes to get a drink. You watch as colorful Koi fish slowly swim among the water plants and rocks. An old bullfrog sends out a raspy call to his mate. Now this is relaxation!

We added a water feature in the spring of 2015 so we know firsthand the personal pleasure it has brought to us. No matter how often we pass the pond during a day's time, my wife and I almost always stop to watch the fish or count the frogs. It has become a challenge to see who can find the most frogs sticking their noses from under a leaf or sunning themselves on a rock.

But installing a water feature or pond is much more than digging a hole and filling it with water. First of all, site selection is important. Sunlight can be a positive or negative. More sunlight means more blooms on your flowering plants (water lilies, water iris, etc.) But it may also mean a greater problem with algae. Less sunlight means less bloom, but foliage is generally greener and more lush.

For us, a natural or informal pond, meant to blend in with natural (native) landscape, was preferred over a formal looking water feature. Designing a natural pond is fun since irregular shapes are not the exception but the rule. Winding curves or oblong lines; your personal expression is the guideline.

Filtration is also important in maintaining a healthy pond. If you are planning to have fish, a quality biological filtration system is important. When fish are present, so is fish waste. Fish waste breaks down into ammonia, which is very toxic to fish. Ammonia is also a result of decomposing material at the bottom of the pond (leaves, excess fish food, tree needles, etc.) If you do not have fish, a mechanical type filter is sufficient. A mechanical filter will collect large debris and sometimes collect much smaller particles like sludge and some types of algae.

Plants are also an important part of the pond. Oxygenators (submerged plants) are perhaps the most important of all the pond plants. They're important because of what they do for the ecosystem. These plants absorb dissolved minerals in the water that might otherwise become toxic. In short, oxygenators act very similar to a biological filter. They transpire directly into the water



Floating plants use their buoyant leaves to float on the surface. Their roots hang in the water providing small fish a place to hide and a favorite place for fish to lay their eggs. Water lettuce and water hyacinths are two favorite examples.

The queen of pond plants is the water lily. Their floating lush green leaves provide a great resting place for the large bullfrog and cover for fish. The large round leaves provide protection from the sun as well as predators. Their vividly colored flowers are impressive and oftentimes fragrant.

Adding fish may be the most enjoyable part of the pond experience. There are several types available, the most popular being goldfish and koi. Koi are noted for making great pets. They can be taught to eat right out of your hand. The biggest factor in successfully keeping fish is water quality and maintaining a healthy ecological balance.

Algae is the pond owner's most common enemy. It will clog filters, hinder some aquatic plant growth, and just plain look ugly. Algae needs sunlight to reproduce and thrive. Shading the pond with plants helps with this problem. These plants compete with the algae for available nutrients. Without aquatic plants all of the nutrients feed the algae.

Adding a pond or water feature to your landscape will be one of the most rewarding things you'll ever do. OK, are you ready to start digging? **MT**

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By Lieutenant Jordan Peters

Fire Department

Spring is in the air and that means the residents of Madison Township will be cleaning up their yards, picking up tree limbs and branches, and doing overall cleanup on the outside of their houses. In the State of Ohio it is illegal to burn trash. The Madison Fire Department will assist farmers or residents that would like to burn tree branches or limbs in a safe manner. If you need assistance, please contact one of our stations and a representative will come out to do a safety check and assist in any way we can. For more information on open burning in Ohio please visit:

www.com.ohio.gov/fire
www.southwestohioair.org

GRANTS

Recently, MTFD put in for the community connection grant through Butler Rural Electric. Lieutenant Josh Goodwin and Twp. Administrator Todd Farler put in for the grant last Fall, and Lieutenant Jordan Peters put in for the grant this Spring. MTFD was awarded the grant both times for a total amount of approximately \$3500.00. With the money from these grants MTFD was able to purchase a FLIR thermal imaging camera, (2) 800 MHZ fire pagers, and some

portable LED scene lights. We would like to extend a big thank you to Butler Rural Electric for helping out so many local communities such as Madison with this awesome program.

AWARDS

In December, MTFD recognized 4 very special people to us for 40+ years of service. D/C Rife Denlinger, FF Denzil Ferguson, FF Bob Strassburger, and FF Andy Bolen were each given Plaques, a Fire Department Flag, and a Firefighter Edition Henry rifle for 40+ years of dedicated service to the Madison Community. All 4 of "The Elders" (as we like to call them) run out of Station 152 in Poasttown where they can be found every morning telling stories, drinking coffee, solving the world's problems. Thanks for your service to our community gentlemen!

In closing, we hope everyone has a safe 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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