

# MADISON TOWNSHIP

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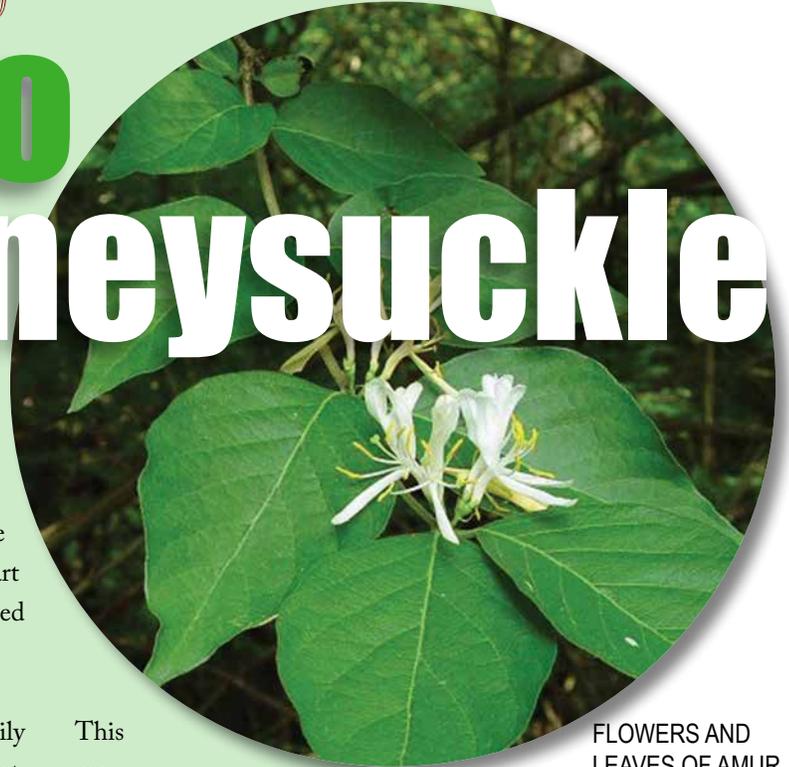
# Heave-No to Honeysuckle

By Alan Cady

If you were to look up the term 'invasive species' in the dictionary, you'd see a picture of Amur Honeysuckle (*Lonicera maackii*). This plant has spread itself across the countryside so thoroughly that many people think it is part of the natural landscape. Bush Honeysuckle was first introduced to North America from western Asia in the late 1800's to be used as an ornamental and hedge coming to southern Ohio in the late 1950s. It is able to grow in marginal soils, and so readily spreads. It reproduces rapidly and distributes itself through root sprouts and seeds. Honeysuckle berries are readily eaten by birds, contributing to the plants' prolific spread because the seeds pass through their digestive system with subsequent excretion. (Please do not confuse the bush honeysuckle living here with the climbing type (vine) of honeysuckle – *Lonicera japonica*.) Let's take a look at why you should do all you can to eliminate this scourge from our environment.

## ECOLOGICAL IMPACTS

As honeysuckle is 'shade-tolerant' it readily thrives in the forest understory, spreading its leaves early in the Spring and dropping them late in the Fall. This acts to shade the forest floor for most of the growing season preventing the growth of native wildflowers and the regeneration of the native tree species. An area overrun by honeysuckle will have few wildflowers or young trees, altering the woodlands of Ohio. Our grandparents would not recognize most forests we have now. However, if honeysuckle is removed the native forest floor flora usually returns in a few years. The challenge is to keep the honeysuckle from returning. Another negative impact from honeysuckle is the large amounts of water and nutrients they steal from the native plants and trees.



FLOWERS AND  
LEAVES OF AMUR  
HONEYSUCKLE

This may become significant enough to slow the growth of trees in the area.

The presence of honeysuckle may negatively impact bird populations. Songbirds that usually nest in native shrubs also will nest in honeysuckle. However, the low, arching growth form of honeysuckle and the thicker stems allow predators like snakes, raccoons, and skunks easier access to bird nests. Birds nesting in honeysuckle may suffer as high as 85% nest failure. Although birds like to eat honeysuckle fruits, the berries do not provide a high-fat, nutrient-rich diet to supply energy required by migratory birds for long flights. Because the berries are sweet, birds sometimes will consume those rather than native food sources providing proper nutrition. Thus, honeysuckle berries could be considered 'bird junk food'.

Honeysuckle forms dense thickets which may impair the movements of mammals and birds, changing their patterns of movement, foraging, and distributions. On the other hand, deer often find cover in areas of honeysuckle, contributing to their presence in areas they traditionally were not found. As many folks find when they try to remove honeysuckle, vines of Multiflora Rose (*Rosa multiflora*, another invasive species) and grape (*Vitis*

*Continued on page 11.*

# YOUR Township Administrator...

By Todd Farler,

Madison Township Administrator



## Vegetation, Garbage, Refuse, and Other Debris

These six words are what's used to notify residents when a violation occurs on their property. The language is taken directly from the Ohio Revised Code, as required by law for us to enforce any such action. The meaning of each word; "vegetation, garbage, refuse, and other debris" is also specifically defined in the Ohio Revised Code. As such, they are normally left in content together to cover any and all instances when letters are sent out. As a side note, this has nothing to do with the actual physical condition of the house, such as gutters, windows, siding, or roofs. This only pertains to the land on which the house sits.

It's unfortunate that we need to send these letters, but we've all seen "that property" that everyone starts to notice because of the tall grass or accumulation of garbage, refuse, or other debris. Many times, these are the properties that have been foreclosed and the departing resident piles items outside. The bank is then negligent in maintaining the property until they receive notice from the township, and even then, they may or may not respond accordingly. That same property also then becomes an easy target for other people use the yard as a dumping ground. Other times it's just a matter of the current homeowner not properly maintaining their property and allowing the grass to grow exceedingly high or simply compiling "junk and stuff" in the yard. Either way can be calamitous for the neighbors or the neighborhood.

There is a sequence of events that must occur prior to a violation being remedied, and this is the drudging part of the process. Once

the township is notified, the property must be visually inspected to see if it meets the criteria as specified in the Ohio Revised Code. Then a title search of the property must be obtained (which can sometimes take seven to fourteen days) to obtain a mailing list of all owners and lienholders. The letter is then sent first class and signature required certified mail. Upon receipt of the letter, the owner then has seven days to rectify the violation. Extreme situations are sometimes given additional time to remedy the violations.

As you can see, it's not always a quick fix, nor is it inexpensive. The good news is that we have a very good response most of the time, without having to bring in a paid contractor to take corrective action. If it does get to this point, and we normally recoup our expended monies by placing a lien on the property if necessary.

As spring is upon us, please be mindful to keep your property in good condition and do not let garbage, refuse, and other debris accumulate on your property. If you notice a property in such condition, maybe reach out to your neighbor and offer to help. If the property is vacant or your neighbor doesn't seem to be too motivated to correct the situation, simply call our office and report the address. Any call can be anonymous. Please just remember that once you call, we need to follow the proper procedures as required by law, but know that we're working on it.

As long as we each do our part, and maybe help out a neighbor occasionally, this is something that helps keep Madison Township a Great Place to Live, Work, and Play! **MT**

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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 Trustees

By Brian McQuire, Trustee

**A**s spring arrives we have the opportunity to enjoy an annual renewal of nature. We have an opportunity to see that no matter how bad the winter can be we will always be blessed with its end and certain change for the better. Change can be good or bad, but it will always be certain. How we can adapt to this change is what will certainly guide how our lives will be affected.

What I am saying is, it is a decision we can and must make.

Fortunately, we, as duly elected trustees of Madison Township, make decisions that are for the betterment of the people of Madison Township. Decisions that are based on what we believe will be best for all the people, void of single minded political ideals. This single mindedness leads to lack of accomplishment, grid lock, political infighting, and nothing moving forward for the betterment of all. If this sounds familiar you just have to turn on your TV and see what is happening on a daily basis in Washington D.C.

Sometimes politics comes to Madison Township, which is very unfortunate. Our elected school leaders have made a decision to protect our students by any means and with as many layers of protection as possible. Our most vulnerable should be protected any way we can, regardless of political belief. But, I believe, politics arrived to stop or at least slow down any attempt to protect our children any way we can. You must ask yourself, what are you willing to do to protect your children?

We, as trustees are always looking to improve our township services, making decisions based on improving those services with a minimal amount of cost to you the taxpayer. One of those

improvements we are considering is to combine our 3 EMS/Fire stations down to one central location. Doing this will cut the need for multiple apparatus purchases, saving the township hundreds of thousands of dollars. Our oldest stations have seen skyrocketing utility bills that will require very expensive upgrades. And, all of our stations were designed to house trucks and equipment that were in service during the time of construction. This means our current stations, built in the early 1900's will not be able to house the trucks and equipment of today. We have already had to lower the floor of the life squad building, built in the 1980's, to accommodate our new EMS truck. There are numerous other reasons that have been presented to us by our fire/ems personnel that would seem to make it necessary to upgrade all of our facilities. Looking to our future it makes sense to ask the question, do we upgrade or build new. Both of these options requires costs that will exhaust our resources in just a few years, requiring us to go back to the people of Madison Township for additional funding. The question we must answer is do we stay with what we have, or do we make the decision to act now and move our township forward to accommodate our future needs? That decision, with your input, is what you elected us to make.

Finally, we should thank our first responders for the dedication and sacrifice they make every day. We should be on the lookout for our road crews as they make necessary repairs. And, we should enjoy the benefits of our park, as we have an enjoyable spring and summer, in the best place to live, work and play in our state. **MT**

**Madison Township**  
*Springfest*

Sponsored by  
**The Madison Lions Club**



**Saturday, May 11, 2019**

9:30 am - Parade  
10:00 am - Festival Opening Ceremonies

- Mister & Miss Springfest – 12:00 pm
- Madison's Got Talent – 3:00 pm

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- Basket Raffle – Drawing at 5:30 pm
  - Craft Show
  - Vendor Booths
  - Food
  - Kids Inflatables



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## AREA'S FIRST DOCTOR

# Dr. Squier Littell

by J. Larry Helton, Jr. – 2019

**O**n December 1, 1776, in Essex County, New Jersey, Squier Littell, was born, the son of Captain Eliakim Littell, a distinguished officer of the Revolutionary War.

Squier Littell obtained his early education and study of medicine in New Jersey, practicing there for a short time. After marrying Mary Pearce, daughter of Trenton's future founder Michael Pearce, he and his family joined the trek to the Northwest Territory with the Pearce group.

With a brief stay in Cincinnati, due to "bad luck endeavors", Squire and Mary moved on to Lemon Township in 1802 (which would be divided and become Madison Township in 1810). There, Squire purchased a large amount of acreage from his father-in-law. The land lay between what would later become Bloomfield (Trenton) and what would later become Augspurgen (Woodsdale), next to Michael Pearce's land and that of David Enyeart's, in the southwest quadrant of Section 5. The map of 1836 shows ownership of 73 acres. When Trenton was platted, Squire chose not to include his land within the village.

Squire found a great woman in Mary. She had great power over him and could calm him in his greatest fit of rage. Though they had no offspring of their own, they raised five nephews and two nieces, mainly due to the deaths of the children's parents.

The nephews were Dr. Squier Littell II of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, who had several medical works published; Eliakim Littell, the oldest, also of Philadelphia who, along with his brother, published a successful magazine, *Museum*. Eliakim later moved to Boston, Massachusetts and created another magazine, *Living Age*. John, the youngest, who studied but never practiced law, amassed a fortune in publishing law books. At one time, John was a congressional candidate from Philadelphia, lacking just a few votes to win.

The two nieces, Mary and Rachel were daughters of his brother-in-law, the Reverend Stephen Gard. Mary eventually married Ezra Potter and Rachel married William Potter.

Squire Littell's fame includes his being the first resident doctor of Trenton, Madison Township, and Butler County. This piece of history is stated on a sign near the city limits at the electrical station on East State Street and upon the historical marker at Founder's Park in the center of Trenton.

There was however, a Dr. Cotton, a black man, who lived in a log cabin along Indian Creek during the 1790s, who prescribed many folk and Indian remedies, making use of native roots,



leaves, barks, and herbs. Why he doesn't receive credit as the first resident county doctor is unknown. Also, a Dr. Sloan arrived at Fairfield at the same time as Squier Littell, but only Littell remained in the county for a number of years.

Dr. Littell practiced medicine from the time he first came to Trenton until a short time before his death. Being a very popular and successful doctor who used the latest medicines, he had a population of 4,000 in Butler County to doctor, with many of those being in early Middletown. His patient base also extended for a 60-mile radius between Cincinnati and Dayton.

In 1813, during the War of 1812, Dr. Littell was appointed surgeon of the First Regiment, Third Detachment of the Ohio Militia, under the command of Colonel James Mills and stationed at Dayton. The regiment was ordered to St. Mary's after being divided into three divisions. Soon after the move, Dr. Littell resigned and returned home, as did his assistant Dr. Jacob Lewis, who came to Butler County, but died before being able to set up a practice of his own.

During the cholera epidemic of 1833 in Hamilton, Dr. Littell supported Dr. Daniel Millikin's decision to delay burial of cholera victims for fear of declaring dead those that may just be comatose. Then for a short time in 1834, Dr. Luther Jewett joined Littell's practice before opening his own.

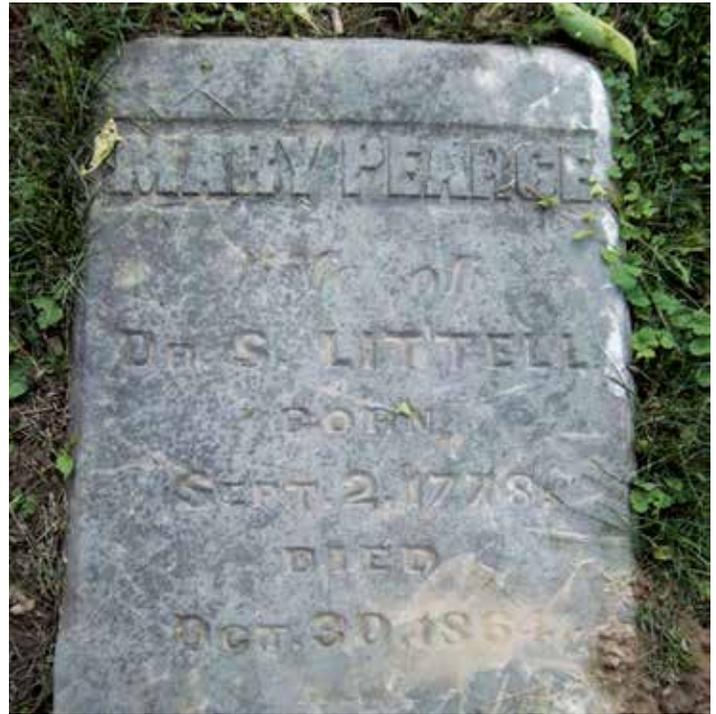
At one time, Dr. Littell, more than six feet tall and weighing 350 pounds, was declared the largest man in Butler County. He

was no longer able to make house calls by horseback due to his weight, so he rode in a spring-wagon, probably the first of its type in the area, to make his rounds.

Even when returning home, his size made it necessary to recline on his carpeted floor, instead of in a chair. He was described as domineering and striking, with a compelling glance, a piercing black eye, and fiery disposition. Using harsh words when needed, speaking and using his influence only in private, and accomplishing whatever he desired, were all part of his personality as well.

Doctoring was not all the Dr. Littell delved in. Sometimes he toiled as a farmer and sometimes as a farmland supervisor. About 1820, he and Joseph Taylor established the first storehouse in Trenton. Similar to a trading post, it was of a log house on the south side of State Street across from Michael Pearce's house. At a later date, a second story, brick addition was completed that faced State Street. Known as the Littell-Taylor Storehouse, it was the "hub" of the village – part store, tavern, post office, and house where Dr. Littell and his family resided. A unique feature of the cellar was its quicksand that would "swallow up any object tossed into it".

With Dr. Littell's family growth and other interests, he purchased the home of Michael Pearce in 1819 for \$2,000 and rented out his storehouse from 1822-1838. The Littell-Taylor



Storehouse served the community for many years in many different aspects of business, finally as an antique store that closed in 1960 to make way for a new city building and firehouse.

*Continued on page 6.*

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Continued from page 5.

In 1821, with the establishment of the Trenton Post Office, Dr. Littell became the first postmaster of the village. Appointed by President Martin Van Buren, he served a second term as postmaster in 1837, against the wishes of the majority of Trenton residents who had petitioned for someone else.

Being a strong Jackson democrat and charter member of the local Masonic Lodge, Dr. Littell held offices of local trust and influence. He was one of fifteen leading Butler County men who were named commissioners of the Bank of Hamilton, in 1818, to set up a stabilizing influence in the county.

In 1824, Dr. Littell was a stockholder in the Miami Bridge Company that was formed to build a bridge across the Great Miami River at Hamilton.

Chosen in 1834, Dr. Littell served a seven-year term as an associate judge for Butler County.

Dr. Littell's influence and works even extended into Warren County when he was called upon to join a group of prominent men to help mediate the dispute of an uprising against the members of the Shaker religion in Turtle Creek Township.

Today that area is home to the Otterbein Retirement Community and the Lebanon Correctional Institution.

Through the years as a farmer, store keeper, postmaster, and various political assignments, Dr. Littell continued to practice medicine until age, infirmities, and his continued weight problem forced him to retire. By this time in his life, he had made many discoveries that led to better medical care for future generations.

Moving to Gratis in Preble County, then known as Winchester, Dr. Squier Littell died on November 12, 1849 at



the age 72. He is buried in a simple plot in the Winchester /Old Gratis Cemetery behind a house at 118 East Franklin Street. His wife, Mary, was laid to rest by his side on October 20, 1864, at age 86.

Having accumulated some wealth, he willed his assets to his nephews. It was not until after both Squier's and Mary's deaths that their heirs allowed the Littell farmland to be annexed into the village of Trenton, some acreage in 1865, then the rest in 1880. *MT*

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# MADISON LOCAL SCHOOLS

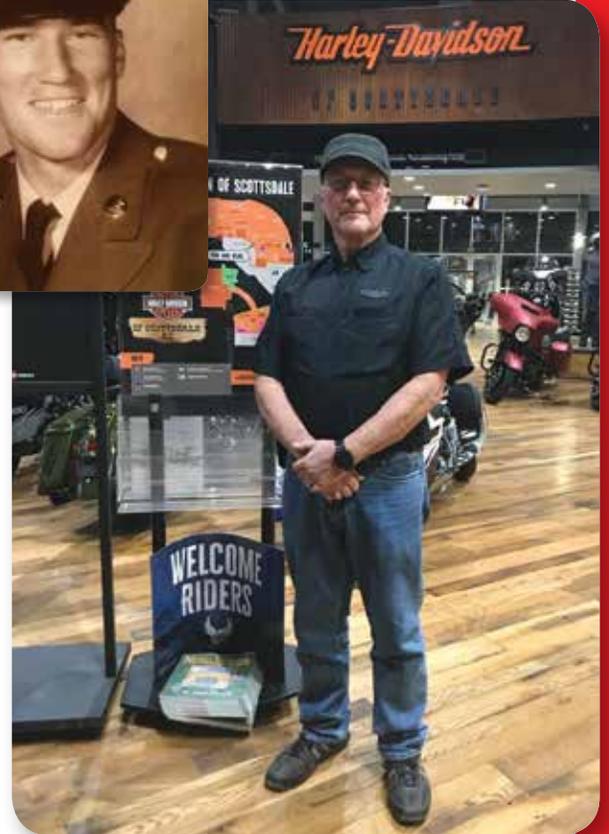
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## Madison Family History

Madison Township has a rich family history, one of those families is the Bowling family. Mike Bowling, the oldest of nine siblings graduated from Madison. He graduated from Madison High School in the class of 1964 with a class size of ninety-six students. During his family's career at Madison, Mike and his siblings participated in many different activities; some activities included track and football. Mike went to multiple buildings during his education at Madison. When entering ninth grade at the new high school at the time, Mike voted on the school colors and the mascot. He jokes about how red and white are the true colors and black was thrown in as an accent color over the years. Mike also met his wife at the "new" high school. He spent his time throughout high school working at Browns Run Country Club.

Mike Bowling currently continues to reside in Madison Township, where he raised his daughter, Tina Bowling, who is currently teaching at Madison Elementary. Mike occasionally comes in to the classroom to reenact part of the French-Indian War. He also helps out at the school as a substitute custodian. When asked about the changes that have taken place, Mike

mentions the new buildings and the increase in students. He believes that it has still remained an old "country" school. When asked why he still resides in Madison Township he states, "Why leave?", he likes the community.



## Upcoming Dates

High School Top 20 Awards	May 8
Springfest Rehearsals	May 10
Springfest	May 11
Spring Band Concert (5-8)	May 13
Spring Choir Concert (7-12)	May 14
Spring Band Concert (9-12)	May 15
Senior Final Exams	May 16
Senior Fun Day	May 17
Graduation	May 24

**If you know of a family in Madison Township who should be highlighted in our Madison Family History section, please email [jen.wilcox@madisonmohawks.org](mailto:jen.wilcox@madisonmohawks.org)**



# MADISON LOCAL SCHOOLS

*Achieving Excellence One Student at a Time*

## Mohawks Helping Mohawks

In the last year, Madison school district has focused on bringing a “Mohawks Helping Mohawks” mentality to life. Students, staff, administrators, and members of the community have all come together with the same goal of helping our community in every way possible. From an increase in attendance at extracurriculars, to fundraising events; the Mohawk community has stepped up.

As 2018 came to an end, a student of our own started a fight that she would not face alone. Mattie Cole, a sophomore here at Madison, was diagnosed with Ewing’s Sarcoma. Ewing’s Sarcoma is a type of cancer found in the bones or in the tissue surrounding the bones. After experiencing excruciating hip pain, Mattie’s family discovered she had a cancerous mass on her hip. The doctor’s informed the family that Mattie’s treatment would include chemotherapy, radiation, and possibly surgery. While the family tried to process the devastation and shock, there was also panic and fear in not knowing how they were going to pay for the costs. The Cole family does not have insurance and would be forced to pay for these expenses on their own. Immediately, the mohawk community stepped up. A GoFundMe account was immediately created and has now raised over \$25,000. Shirts and bracelets have been sold,



WALLY STOGNER SIGNATURE SAYING ADORNS BRACELETS SOLD TO RAISE MONEY FOR HIS BAND!

events have taken place, and there continues to be more opportunity to participate in the help. Recently, Edgewood and Madison school districts teamed up for a staff basketball game to contribute to the cause. Admission to the game, concessions, raffles, kiss the pig, and a half court shot competition all made profits that directly benefited the Cole family.

Along with Mattie, we have another student facing a very similar battle. Walter (Wally) Stogner was diagnosed with Osteosarcoma, a bone cancer, in his ankle the end of his junior year. This diagnosis resulted in the amputation of his leg below the knee the summer before his senior year of high school. While many would let cancer be a setback, Wally refuses to see it that way. Wally wanted to take his journey with Osteosarcoma and turn



EDGEWOOD AND MADISON STAFF COME TOGETHER TO SUPPORT MATTIE COLE!

it into something great by creating a new club. This club would be called, "Boomwhacker Band" and would require new instruments, tubes tuned for a specific note, that aren't cheap. Wanting to make Wally's dream a reality, Madison's Theater Manager, Joel Brown, designed and sold bracelets in Wally's name to help pay for the instrument expense. The "Live "Gooder" Like Wally" bands were a hit and enough money was raised to buy the Boomwhacker tubes. Living completely cancer free now Wally said his ultimate goal for the Boomwhacker Band is to, "just have fun together." The band also hopes to bring the community together through music at events and concerts in the near future.

"Mohawks helping Mohawks" has become a trend that extends even beyond helping individuals in need. That same mentality has been embraced in the support of athletics, music programs, and art programs. In the last few years, there has been an increase in ticket sales for the theatre program at Madison. The community has shown tremendous support that is well appreciated by those involved. Brandi Robertson, the director of this year's musical says "As a director, I have been refreshed and excited by the support our community has offered the program in the last four years. Ticket sales are higher than they have been in many years, and the kids love seeing a full audience of people ready to laugh and have fun along with them!" From April 24 to April 28, the drama department will be performing Grease the musical. More information on showtimes and tickets can be found at [madisonarts.org](http://madisonarts.org).

As our community and school continue to grow so does the love and support in which those people provide. From fundraisers to help those in need, to showing an extracurricular group that their hard work doesn't go unnoticed, Madison has really stepped up. In just a year Madison Township has seen a large increase in community involvement, and that to all has been heartening and refreshing."



PROM KING AND QUEEN, WALLY STOGNER AND JESSALYN ROBINSON

## Theater Production of "Grease"

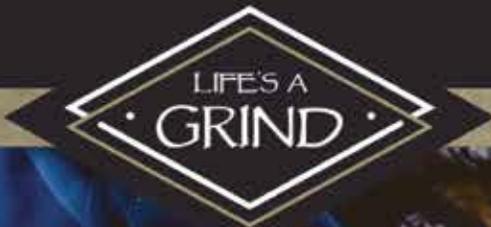




# GRIND LIFE

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*Continued from the cover.*

spp.) often use honeysuckle as a natural trellis, forming an almost impenetrable barrier.

## HONEYSUCKLE REMOVAL

Almost no native animals eat honeysuckle (not even deer!). There are natural enemies in Asia where honeysuckle evolved, but our native insects, reptiles, birds, and mammals do not find honeysuckle tasty. (However, goats have been found to consume honeysuckle.) There are no apparent diseases that significantly infect honeysuckle, but there may be a virus that could be used to control this plant.

There are a number of different techniques for honeysuckle removal depending on its size and location. Just cutting it down without follow-up does not work because it will re-sprout with a vengeance. Pulling the plant is the preferred method since it is fairly easy, quick, and no chemicals are used. Since their root systems are shallow, small plants may be pulled, but be sure to get all the roots. It is easiest to pull after rain when the soil is soft. Larger bushes require more attention. There are tools which may uproot plants too big to pull by hand (known as



AMUR HONEYSUCKLE (LONICERA MAACKII)

honeysuckle 'poppers'), but these often leave roots behind which will re-sprout. These sprouts may then be pulled by hand, but this

*Continued on page 12.*

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requires another visit to the area.

Although chemicals may be used to control honeysuckle, care should be used since non-target plants in the area may be damaged or killed. There are two methods where cutting honeysuckle is necessary.

Perhaps the best technique is to paint the stump with an herbicide designed to kill brush immediately after cutting.

I use an old toothbrush to apply the chemical. Sometimes two applications are necessary, about 30 minutes apart. This is preferred if chemicals need to be used since it has no impact on surrounding vegetation (like spraying would). Another method is to cut the large honeysuckle and allow it to re-sprout. Then these sprouts may be carefully sprayed. The leaves will conduct the herbicide down into the roots. It is important not to use these chemical techniques in the early spring since most of the fluid motion in the plant is up from the roots. After the leaves are established and the plant has started its yearly growth there is transport of materials down into the roots.

Regardless of how you do it, it pays off to remove this invasive species. The native plants, trees, and birds will thank you, and you'll have a better view of the landscape. **MT**



FRUITS (BERRIES) OF AMUR HONEYSUCKLE

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# Fire Department

## LED LIGHTS AT STATION 152

At the first of December, Ian Welling a life long resident of Madison Twp., came to Station 152 to purchase a Christmas tree for his family. Upon looking for a tree he noticed how dim the Christmas tree lot lights were. He starting asking about replacing them. He talked with Lt. Gary Hollon of the Madison Fire Dept. about the lights. Gary and Ian are in the Knights of the Inferno Firefighters Motorcycle Club. Ian asked Gary if this was something the club would be interested in helping with. Gary told Ian to see if he could get any of the three lights donated and the club would pick up the rest. Now, this project consisted of replacing the three Christmas tree lot lights and new wiring. As Ian went out to see if any company would be interested in helping with the project, he found a lot of support. On December 8th, the new LED lights started getting installed. Ian called upon the Knights of the Inferno Motorcycle Club to help him install

*Continued on page 14.*



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Continued from page 13.

the lights. He also called upon his brother, life long Madison resident, Justin Welling. Ian and Justin are both electricians for Wagner Industrial Electric Inc. With the assistance of Wagner Industrial Electric Inc. and a few other companies, installation started. The Christmas tree lot received 4 new LED lights and all new wiring. However, the project did not stop there. Ian had gotten enough donations to completely do the entire firehouse with the club picking up the final tap.. The Engine bay received all new LED light fixtures. The Tanker and Brush Truck bays received some new fixtures and other fixtures converted to LED lights. Both restrooms, storage closet, Chief's office, Deputy Chief's office, meeting room and kitchen were all converted over to LED lighting. Also replaced were 3 building lights with new fixtures with light sensors so the lights will automatically turn on and off. All the regular lights bulbs were also replaced with LED bulbs. Ian ended up having every bulb replaced with an LED bulb in Station 152. with this being done, the township should see a reduction in the electric used at that station.

At the time all this took place, Ian welling was a Prospect for the club. Every Prospect has to do a final prospect challenge to help the fire service, fire personnel or someone present or past that has served in the military. Lt. Gary Hollon is also the State Vice President for Ohio and the President for his chapter that covers Butler and Warren counties. Ian Welling passed his final challenge and was patched in on March 3, 2019. Pictured from the Knights of the Inferno from left to right are Scott Smith, Ian Welling, Ronnie Roberts, Justin Welling, Colin Smith, Steve Dyer and Lt. Gary Hollon. not pictured is chad Roberts and Heather Roberts. **MT**

Ross Blaine  
Angela Blaine

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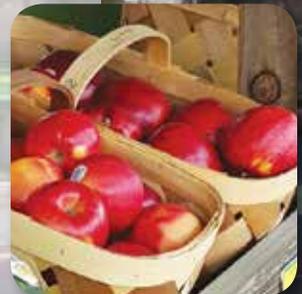
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# Fire Department

By Chief Hall

In December of 2018 Madison Fire Department station 152 received a Christmas Gift from some Madison Township residents and a couple of their friends and companies. Ian Welling, a life long resident of Madison Township, came to station 152 to purchase their annual Christmas tree, Christmas tree sales an annual fund raising event for the fire department. Ian Welling noticed how old and dim the lights were that illuminated the Christmas trees, after having a short conversation with Lt. Gary Hollon of the fire department, Ian Welling made a decision to volunteer to replace the lighting for the Christmas trees. This project soon escalated with Ian Welling and Lt. Hollon current members of the Knights of Inferno Firefighters Motorcycle Club, Ian then soliciting the help of members of the club and also donations from companies in the area. One of the volunteers, Justin Welling, Ian's brother, both work for Wagner Industrial Electric who along with other companies donating material

to start the process of replacing the old lights and fixtures to energy saving LED lighting. At the completion of this project volunteers over several days replaced not only lights for the Christmas trees but also lights for the entire fire station inside and out. Light fixtures and bulbs were replaced with new energy saving LED's in the bay areas, bathrooms, kitchen, living quarters, office areas, parking lot areas- with light sensors, with this being done a cost savings for the fire department and ultimately the residents of the township. Ian Welling at the time of this donation was a Prospect for the motorcycle club, a Prospect has to do a challenge to help a fire service member or department in order to receive their final patch, on March 3rd of 2019, Ian Welling received his patch.

Thank you! Ian Welling, Justin Welling, Wagner Electric, Knights of Inferno Motorcycle Club and the other volunteers and companies involved in the cost saving project for Madison Township Fire Department. **MT**

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# Firefighters & Cancer

## ACCORDING TO STUDIES:

Cancer caused 70 percent of Line of Duty deaths in Firefighters in 2016. Increasing cancer danger is because of the plastics that are commonly used and found now in most structures, as well as the fire retardants used on furniture and other things found in homes and offices. Almost everything in modern buildings today is made of processed plastics, it burns very hot and fast and gives off more carcinogenic by product than traditional fires did in years gone by.

Firefighters with cancer has been the number one cause of deaths among firefighters in the United States for the past 12 years. Every fire, car fires, bedroom fires, kitchen

fires all give off carcinogens, these toxins don't just enter the body via inhalation, it comes through the skin.

## WHAT NEEDS TO CHANGE:

Firefighters need proper training and equipment, including fire gear that protects the entire body. It's crucial to thoroughly clean all equipment and the body after a fire. Fire gear should be stored in proper storage rooms with proper ventilation, this also places fire gear away from diesel fumes that are created by fire apparatus.

## IMMEDIATE ACTIONS THAT SHOULD BE TAKEN:

- Use SCBA during attack and overhaul.
- Do field decontamination of personnel and equipment at the scene of a fire.
- Use Wet-Nap or baby wipes for firefighters to properly wipe down after a fire incident.
- Change firefighters personnel clothing at the scene of a fire.
- Firefighters should shower as soon as possible with cold water, washing away toxins.
- When returning to station, Personnel Protective Equipment cleaned thoroughly.
- Fire gear should not be taken home or placed in private vehicles.
- Properly decontaminate the fire apparatus (fire engine) after a fire call.
- Keep fire gear out of day rooms, living quarters or sleeping rooms.
- Stop the use of tobacco products.
- Use sun screen or sun block when possible.



**FIREFIGHTERS CANCER RATES ARE GREATER THAN MOST AMERICANS**

Testicular Cancer	2.02 TIMES GREATER
Multiple Myeloma	1.53 TIMES GREATER
Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma	1.51 TIMES GREATER
Skin Cancer	1.39 TIMES GREATER
Brain Cancer	1.31 TIMES GREATER
Malignant Melanoma	1.30 TIMES GREATER
Prostate Cancer	1.28 TIMES GREATER
Colon Cancer	1.21 TIMES GREATER
Leukemia	1.14 TIMES GREATER

Likely causes are the chemicals emitted from regular household products when they burn.

More states are recognizing the link between Firefighters and Cancer with 37 of them establishing legislation that is intending on improving medical concerns involving firefighters with cancer as it relates to there firefighting duties. Ohio and Georgia are one of the most recent states to join this battle with Florida in the process. **MT**



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A sign for Middletown Medical Group listing staff members. The sign is white with black text and is mounted on two green posts. The background of the sign is a photograph of the medical group's building.

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# FireDept.

The Madison Township Fire Department recently had two fund raising events to help two families where loved ones were recently diagnosed with cancer. Several members of the fire department created "Mattie Cole" fire department shirts that were sold throughout the township and at the school, total money raised and donated to the Cole family was over \$1,000 dollars.

Another fund raising event recently put together by the fire department was a gun raffle where the monies raised are going towards the Cole and Allmon families, both families receiving a total of \$1,250 dollars. The firearm was donated by the owner of Locked and Loaded Firearms in Franklin, Ohio. **MT**



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# Gardening By Rick Henry

## VEGETABLE GARDENING IN RAISED BEDS



**O**n an increasing basis I have noticed my neighbors, here in Madison Township, and elsewhere are turning to raised beds with well defined borders in their vegetable gardens. Most of the raised beds I see are for smaller plantings of tomatoes, peppers, and any vegetable that is somewhat compact. Some people seem to opt for raised bed kits from stores which are made from cedar wood, and are about 8" high. Or, it seems to be most popular to construct raised beds that range from 12" – 24" high from such materials as 1" x 12" boards, concrete block, or railroad ties. Personally, I would shy away from the railroad ties because of the chemical aspect—possibly untreated 4" x 6" posts could be a better option for my fellow organic gardeners.

But, the least popular option is what I think I am most interested in today. I have noticed a trend with older gardeners to construct raised beds for their vegetable gardens that are actually waist high. Like the other options mentioned above, these beds have a footprint of about 4' x 12' and are lined up in rows with paths in between them for walking and working in one's garden. But, in distinction to the others, there no crawling around on the

ground or even any bending over involved with this type of raised bed.

If you are a person who needs more exercise and help staying flexible, than possibly this is not the best choice for you. But, if you are an elderly gardener or a person who gets plenty of exercise otherwise, then this could make gardening much more enjoyable and much more fun. If you are a person who likes to stake (or cage) and grow your tomato plants to be very tall, or use any kind of trellis for other vegetables, then a 4" – 12" boarder would be better in terms of ease of harvesting. But, for everything

*Continued on page 22.*

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Continued from page 21.

else the higher the raised bed the easier it is to do everything from planting to weeding to harvesting.

After you have decided on the size and materials to be used for your garden, the next consideration is what kind of soil to fill it with. As with any landscape bed or planting, good soil is the single most important consideration. And, this is a big plus with raised bed gardening because it is easy to create a growing environment with soil that is superior to your native soil (as well as being assured of good drainage). The smaller your beds are the more you might consider filling them with some of the excellent vegetable soil mixes that are available at local garden centers, or possibly mixing them with some of your native soil in order to lower the cost of getting started. The goal for this type of vegetable gardening is to create a soil that is loose and will allow the roots of your plants to grow freely. A loose soil mix will hold both water and nutrients longer and create the perfect environment in terms of air spaces for the roots. With this done correctly you will have developed the perfect growing conditions to allow the roots of your plants to grow freely and to promote healthy growth of your plants.

If you opt for the larger raised beds or even decide to go with many smaller beds, then it would be more economical to mix your own soil and buy the ingredients in bulk. Knowing soil volumes and individual amendments vary depending on where you purchase them, you can use the following for a good guide in order to end up with an excellent growing medium: 1.) 60% Topsoil; 2.) 30% Compost; 3.) 10% soilless material such as peat moss, perlite and/or vermiculite.

Because of the sides of the raised bed and mulching around the plants much less watering is required than a regular garden. Actually, it is easy to overwater raised beds with borders, so that is something to keep in mind in order to not create problems. The idea is to have your beds full of a nutrient rich soil mixture which is kept evenly moist. For any who remember the old ver-



sion of the PBS show "The Victory Garden," Roger Swain in his bib overalls was a master at raised bed vegetable gardening. His garden was always very impressive to me and was very inspiring. When I first moved to Madison Township 34 years ago, my first vegetable garden was entirely made up of raised beds using 12" cedar just like Roger's. At that time, I even got a pair of bibs and a wide brim straw hat like his just to remove all doubt that I knew what I was doing, even though I didn't. I have moved away from this over the years, but I think for all the reasons mentioned above (save time--make your gardening easier--more enjoyable) I am ready to return to this type of gardening. There are so many examples in nature and gardening, and in life in general, that parallel the simple statement of Jurgen Moltmann which is, "In the End, the Beginning." As we enter a new growing season together this year, may you find happiness, health, and peace in your gardening. **MT**

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