

MADISON TOWNSHIP

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TRAGEDY ON THE RIVER

By J. Larry Helton, Jr.
Photos by Luke Helton

In southeastern Madison Township, in sections 4 and 5, at what is now the area of the crossing of Radabaugh and Sycamore Roads, was a settlement called Brownstown. Bloomfield (Trenton) was founded in 1816, with records stating that Brownstown, a mile east, was founded approximately at the same time. Bloomfield (Trenton) flourished and Brownstown eventually ceased to exist, but that area is still not within the City of Trenton limits today, but remains a part of Madison Township.

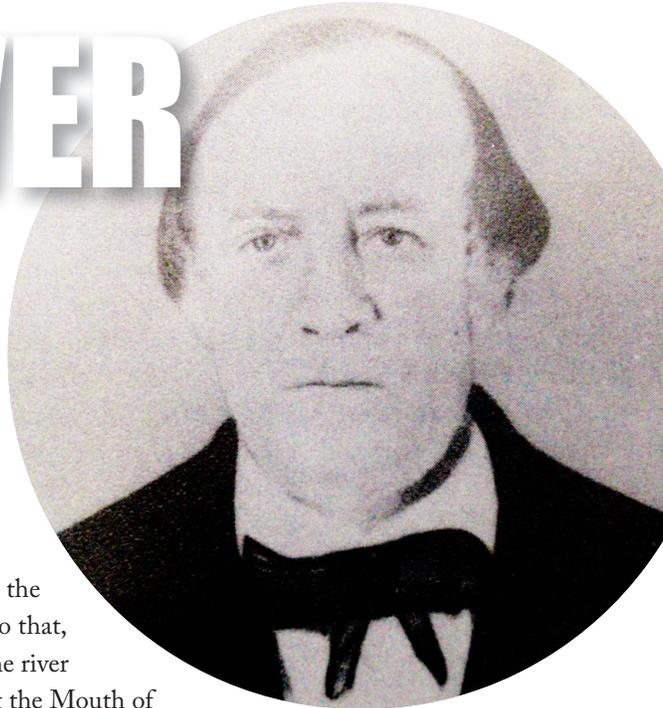
Brownstown was settled by families originally from New Jersey and from Brownstown, Pennsylvania, thus its name. The land had been owned by Bloomfield's (Trenton's) founder, Michael Pearce, before selling it to Henry House in 1815. House platted out lots of eight acres each. By the 1830 census, Brownstown heads of households were: Aaron Ball, Aaron Southard, John Blair, Hugh Masterson, Smith Thompson, Catherine Boyland, John Boyland, and William Hubbard.

It was 1800 when Davis Ball, a native of Essex County, New Jersey and Revolutionary War Minuteman veteran, and his wife Mary Hatfield moved to Butler County, Ohio. He purchased land from Michael Pearce in the partial section 4, south of the State Road along the Great Miami River, circa 1814-16. On April 21, 1816, Aaron Ball, son of Davis Ball, purchased land from Michael Pearce in the north partial section 4. Aaron Ball also purchased land just across the river from there from Robert Boal, Jr. on September 9, 1816. The purposes of these land

purchases were for a ferry operation to get people, animals, wagons, and goods across the river. Prior to that, fording of the river took place at the Mouth of Elk Creek and at Gregory's Ford in Augspurger (Woodsdale). It was the fall of 1818 that Ball's Ferry began operation at the big bend in the river, about a quarter mile to half mile south from the state road, with Davis Ball as the ferryman and Aaron Ball as the pilot of the ferryboat. The state road was the route from Chillicothe (state capital 1803-1810 & 1812-1816) to the College Lands (Miami University, Oxford).

A ferry of those times was a flat-bottom type boat that was guided and kept its course by two ropes stretched across the river. Pulleys were attached to each of those ropes, with ropes then passed down from each pulley to the ferryboat, which then allowed a way to propel across the river with ropes and water flow. When

Continued on page 8.



DAVIS BALL



YOUR Township Administrator...

By **Todd Farler**,
Madison Township Administrator



CHRISTMAS LIGHTS DECORATIONS DRIVE-BY

Ho! Ho! Ho! ...Before you know, Christmas will be here!

Madison Township will be having a 2020 Christmas Lights Decorations Drive-By!

With this being such an incongruous year, many people are already looking forward to saying “Goodbye 2020!”. What better way to close it out than with beautiful and unique Christmas lights! You can decorate the house, the WHOLE house, trees, lawn ornaments, lawn decorations, lawn figurines, or use your Christmas imagination! As a note, this will be for EXTERIOR decorations only.

There are few things more delightful than riding in

your car with family members on a cold winter evening while viewing beautiful Christmas lights on a clear night. Plus, there’s no waiting in line and it’s free! Some people like the traditional large bulbs that are red/blue in color and simply outline the house, while others go a more contemporary route with the new LED multi-color mini lights! Maybe someone will find Santa on their rooftop? Anyone having a live animal nativity scene? Either way, it will be a great reason to load up family or friends, grab a thermos full of hot chocolate, and drive around to see what others in the township have designed for their Christmas decorations.

If you would like to have your house placed on a list provided to our community, simply send me your address no later than December 14th. The address list will be distributed by December 16th, so your house must be ready for viewing ON the 16th. You can send me your address at ToddF@MadisonTownshipOnline.com or call me at 513-424-0821. If you wish, you do not have to submit your name, simply your address. The address list will be created and, on our website, our Facebook page and sent via our Email Notification. Pictures of the decorations may even end up posted to our Facebook page! **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.

TRUSTEE News...



Trustee, Thomas Hall

various projects on our roadways even thru a pandemic. On the other hand, it is has been quite stressful for a lot of us in navigating our way thru the township. As a lot of those projects finish and roadways open, we will try our best to communicate with you all the status of the roads.

From a public safety side of things, our Madison Township Fire Department did see a drop in emergency service calls at the onset of this pandemic. That drop did not seem to last long, as our call volumes are up and well above our average. Like our Madison Township Facebook page, our fire department has their very own page, "Madison Township Fire Department", where they routinely post information about the community and some of the calls that they are responding to.

Last thing I want to touch on is the CARES money that we have received from the State of Ohio, that was passed thru the Federal Government. Madison Township, just like neighboring jurisdictions did receive multiple rounds of payment to be used in our township. However, those monies allocated to us have to be designated for Coronavirus needs for our township. We have gone ahead and stocked up on supplies for our fire and life squad and are now looking at ways to best use the monies we are given. If the monies are not used, they will be returned to the County by the end of this year.

As we get into the fall season, I can't thank you enough for choosing to live in Madison Township. I am grateful to be able to serve in this amazing community. If there is ever any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to myself or other Madison Township Officials. Stay safe and God bless everyone! **MT**

2020, a year that will be hard to forget. As we get into the fall season, our township activities have yet to slow down. The Covid-19 Pandemic brought many new hardships, challenges, and much uncertainty. For those of you that have lost family members or loved ones, my heart goes out to you. It is a pandemic that has affected our township, our public services, and our neighbors. As we still are recovering from this pandemic, please be sure to check our Madison Township Facebook page for further information.

We have heard from many residents this year with the ongoing construction, maintenance, and road detours. On one hand, I am grateful to have the Butler County Engineers Office, the Ohio Department of Transportation, and our very own Madison Township road crew, to be able to continue the

MADISON TOWNSHIP



Please send us story ideas or even something you'd like to submit. We are always open for ideas, content and images.

www.madisontownshiponline.com

Township meetings are held every 3rd Wednesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. all are welcome to attend.

Please register for Madison Township email notification and always know what's going on in your township. Visit our website home page and click the link.



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Continued from the cover.

crossing from west to east, ropes were taken up in the front and slacked off in the rear, allowing the ferry to turn partly sideways in the river where the current of the water would hit the side and slide along towards the rear. It took part manpower and part waterpower to get across the river. To cross east to west the procedure was reversed.

Ferries on the Great Miami River were licensed and rates were charged: per person; for man and horse; per heads of sheep and hogs; per head of cattle; for empty cart and team; for sleigh and team; for loaded cart and team; for empty wagon and team; for four-wheeled carriage; and for loaded wagon and team.

On March 27, 1819 the river was a swollen and rushing torrent from rain and melting snow. Aaron Ball was away piloting a boat down the river to Cincinnati, so his dad, Davis Ball, was in charge of the ferry operations. A group from Seven Mile: Captain Michael Aul(d); Thomas Wilson; Thomas Thompson (18); William Craig; Daniel Craig, who was Davis Ball's son-in-law; a boy, Captain Aul(d)'s son; a little girl, Miss Hueston, arrived at the ferry. They had come by a double-tongued wagon loaded with freight, with a team of horses (two or three), and a dog. All of the party was dressed in heavy winter clothing due to the bitter cold weather. Mr. Ball refused to take them across the river due to the flooded conditions. However, he relented when they pleaded and offered to assist with the crossing. One stipulation though, the little girl was to remain behind.

It is said that the entire population of Brownstown came out to

witness the risky crossing. Once on the ferry, the inexperienced men attempted to take up slack in the ropes too hard, snapping one then the other, causing the ferry to capsize midstream within five minutes. Many years later, in 1882, a first hand witnessing of the tragedy was recalled: "It was an agonizing sight to those on shore. An old lady who is now living in Amanda related the story to us. She was then a blooming girl, but is now about eighty-four years of age. Her name is Ryerson. She was there with her father, and saw the whole affecting disaster. The force of the current carried the men toward the opposite shore, so that the rails and pieces of wood which were thrown in by Mrs. Ryerson's father and others did not reach them. Mr. Ball was found two hours after on a sandbar below, standing perfectly upright. On his way down he kept praying and talking to the people on the bank. One of the Craigs was almost saved. He had nearly reached the shore, when he turned about to help his brother, and was caught in the current. Another of the men swam down after the boat, but could not get to it. Young Aul, who was saved, was perched upon it. He was a mere boy. The dog and the two horses were drowned. The dog, in his frantic efforts to save himself, several times placed his paws on the shoulders of the men who were floating down, and helped to exhaust their strength. Those who were drowned were Captain Aul(d), Daniel Craig, Davis Ball, Thomas Wilson, and William Craig. The neighborhood turned out, and their bodies were shortly afterward recovered." Added notes: Thomas Thompson was able to swim ashore. Records differ on whether the dog survived or not. It was Davis Ball's birthday.

GREAT MIAMI RIVER





After that fateful event, son, Aaron Ball continued to operate the ferry until May 15, 1861, when he sold the business to Peter G. Schertz, a Mennonite and native of Alsace, France. Schertz operated the ferry until 1867, when a two-span covered bridge was constructed and connected the State Road across the river, causing the ferry operation to no longer be needed.

Peter G. Schertz (1826-1892), his wife, Mary A. Augspurger, and his five children moved to a Mennonite settlement in McLean County, Illinois in search of a new occupation. Upon Peter's passing he was buried alongside other relatives in the Imhoff Cemetery in that same county.

For many years, the Trenton Historical Society was in borrowed

possession of a small ferryboat from Ball's Ferry. It had been on loan for display by the first curator of Trenton's museum and historian, Edward J. Keefe. At some point in time, Mr. Keefe told me he had removed the boat and stored it in the top of the barn at Chrisholm, the Augspurger Farmstead in Woodsdale, long before that property was in the hands of DUKE Energy, The Friends of Chrisholm, or the Butler County Metroparks. It has never been located and presumed gone forever, but all is not lost from the days of a place called Brownstown and Ball's Ferry. Three structures remain from Brownstown: Augspurger House built 1857 at 6328 Sycamore Road; Ehersman House built 1860/62, 6331 Sycamore Road; Jacob Augspurger Barn built between 1825-1850. One structure near the ferry site: House built 1864, 3200 Radabaugh Road. At the Elk Creek Baptist Pioneer Cemetery in Trenton: Davis Ball (3/27/1758-3/27/1819) and Mary Hatfield Ball, gravestone bases only; Aaron Ball (1791-3/9/1863) and Puah Thompson Ball, sister of Thomas Thompson.

Over time, the name of Brownstown became synonymous with Ball's Ferry, and with the growth and success of Trenton the town may have been forgotten entirely had it not been for this tragedy. **MT**

Sources: works and research of Edward J. Keefe, George Crout, myself; A History and Biographical Cyclopedia of Butler County Ohio of 1882.

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THE SPIRITS OF MADISON

A FICTIONAL MODERN DAY GHOST STORY

By Nilsa Kuchera

Why are there so many car accidents in Madison township? Why are there so many car wrecks on the West Middletown bridge? Do people get distracted by the scenery or is there something else involved? There have been many incidents where people drove over the bridge and wouldn't make it past the train tracks into or out of Madison. The West Middletown bridge is a bridge overlapping the Great Miami River. These are questions and concerns many people in Madison Township have asked over the years...

The tale goes that people with bad intentions leaving or entering Madison wouldn't make it to their destination. The Rock Throwers, which are known as Native American gods or spirits, would help protect and serve agricultural areas. When feeling the negative intentions of those in bad spirits, they would defend themselves. They'd pick up and throw rocks from the

river. They aim for those driving in motor vehicles because they move too fast for these entities to catch on foot. You may never see them because legend tells them to be invisible. You can feel their strength. Just picture a morning at the scene.

It's 6 am. You are driving into school or work. The ominous fog that falls upon Madison on cold and wet autumn days occurs that morning, leaving the roads as clear as a hot breath up against a cold car window. The river runs fast and steady. The car wheels turn and turn, rolling over the shaking concrete bridge. The fog sits over the bridge like a pillow, soft and fluffy, inviting you to the beautiful wonderland of leaves and filtered sunlight.

Across the bridge driving towards you is a man just coming home from his third shift job and a stop at his favorite drinking hole. He begins swerving back and forth. Cold chills attack your body as you see him heading straight towards you. His headlights

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blind you. The sound of his engine in your ears grows closer. Your mind swirls with what to do. You feel a sudden cold wind on your body although you have no windows open. You hear a sound like a distant Mohawk war cry. You panic, but it is for nothing. He swerves into the rails on the side of the bridge. You stop your car. You feel a gentle, comforting hand on your shoulder, but no one is there. Only the fog remains.

You ask yourself: "How did that happen?"

Every car on the bridge comes to a halt. You step quickly out of the car to assist the man. You approach his car and open the door. The smoke fills your eyes and nose.

When it clears you see the limp body of the man slumped over his wheel. He is barely breathing. As the engine smoke clears, you see a strange sight.

There poking through the windshield next to him was a sharp sided rock.

You check his pulse and see his chest rising fast falling heavy. You call 9-11 and say "I'm on the West Middletown bridge and a guy crashed right into the rails. There is rock through his windshield." Your own heart beating in your head and your body shaking in fear as you listen to the women on the other side say "Help is coming soon."

After fifteen minutes, the trusty law enforcement and ambulances arrive on scene to you, still in shock from what had occurred. One pulls you aside and begins to question, "What happened?" The others rush to the car .

"A rock -".

"What rock?" A responder said and gave you a strange look. You peak around the front of the car there is no rock . The man still slumped over with a rested chest and closed eyes. They remove his body from the corpse of the car, placing him in an ambulance and the car on a trailer to be hauled away. The fog begins to lift. As the scene is cleared, cold chills head up your arms. A Canadian geese flies over head, circling, examining the outcome, and lands on the other side of the river.

For many years, this bridge has collected cars like bodies in morgues. These geese collect the souls of the people on each side of the river. They are known to be the servants of the invisible ones. They are waiting for the day the invisible ones let them go.

Until then we deal with the curse of cars, of people, bridges, and geese. Next time you cross that bridge, remember: The invisible ones are always watching and waiting to show you what stone cold could mean. MT



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FALL IS IN THE AIR


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THIS IS CORONAVIRUS

To the sons and daughters and children of the future, in a way to be soft spoken, I give you the explanation. To the sickness and the pain, in a way simpler than what you will see in your books. In a way not to make you worry, but to give the knowledge you seek to gain. To give you an understanding not of the numbers, but of the experience. Brought to you by this poetic lyric are the details of a twisted tale of a society with its security of health now broken, This amazing work, the devastating yet awe inspiring lyric and in itself is a prestigious feat.

Coronavirus, A Beginning of a new end a new sickness spreading through wind Coronavirus great minds quickly progress To help all of those who are stuck in the mess coronavirus Cleansing wipes are no more and with no mask you can't leave through the door Coronavirus It made the whole world stop And all stores to close Giving us no where to shop Coronavirus people section off and quarantine but coronavirus Is a hard mess to clean Coronavirus Nothing to medicate with And Even killing many Some believe its a myth Coronavirus People worry what to do next And they blow toilet papers importance Out of context Coronavirus Separates families Because it spreads Through the air Giving many the disease Coronavirus Causes many to cough Yet some don't see the dangers and still they scoff	Coronavirus Some think its just a hex But what will those same say When they get it next Coronavirus Doctors become stressed With more people falling ill They know they can't rest Coronavirus People don't laugh as much But with a face mask It's hard to do such Coronavirus Smiles are erased In this pandemic We are forced to face Coronavirus Smiles are covered by a mask Making even the few smiles So they don't last Coronavirus Small steps were sure to take In order to be better a safe world we try to make Coronavirus We all strive to heal And find a cure To soon revel Coronavirus Karma for all bad deeds done No meds heal Not even one Coronavirus Many have it As their fate So wash your hands and wear a mask before it is too late. coronavirus
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MADISON LOCAL SCHOOLS

Achieving Excellence One Student at a Time

Intermission is Over!

DRAMA PROGRAM

There will be a drama program at Madison High School this year! Students auditioned in late September for roles in one of two one act shows.

The first "Help Desk" is a comedy about the problems

"Help Desk"

that occur when calling to find a solution. From customer service to scammers, this show will make you enjoy your next encounter with the voices on the other end of the line. The second show, "The Internet is Distract- Oh, Look a Kitten!", traverses the struggle many students have encountered - writing the last minute term paper. Here the main character looks to the internet for help and is quickly sucked in by the proliferous marketing, searches, and social media. The

"The Internet is Distract- Oh, Look a Kitten!"

student's journey for knowledge is a hilarious way to see how easy it is to be distracted even at the most important of times by our technology. Both shows allow for audience and actor social distancing to keep our students and community safe. Plans are in the works to present these shows live in the theater and to sell live stream tickets where it can be viewed from the comfort of your own couch. As guidelines are presented by the state for in person performances, these shows are adaptable. Keep your eye out for more information for how and when to watch the talents of our Mohawks on stage!

Athletics

Matt Morrison, Athletic Director of Madison Local Schools, would like to thank the school district and township for coming together to resurface the tennis courts at the community park. This year's tennis team went from 2 wins to 12 this year. Kori Markle, girl's tennis coach, said, "The girls have worked hard building from last year's team to find a great amount of success on the court. It is always nice, as a coach, to watch a team grow. We have appreciated the new surface to help us in our endeavors." With a third place finish in the league, these girls are taking advantage of the playing time they have on a beautiful new court. Along with the new surface the team is thankful to the athletic boosters for providing a storage shed for equipment as well. Both of these improvements are helpful now and in the years to come.

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MADISON LOCAL SCHOOLS

Achieving Excellence One Student at a Time

Student of the Month for September

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

KINDERGARTEN	KINLEY HOWARD
1ST GRADE	RILEY FRANKLIN
2ND GRADE	LAYNE ROSTORFER
3RD GRADE	COLTON KING
4TH GRADE	OLIVIA BRYAN
5TH GRADE	LEAH CHUPKA
SPECIALS	BECKHAM GRAY

MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

6TH GRADE	DAMIEN GOODLETT
7TH GRADE	DALTON PIERSON-ELLIOTT
8TH GRADE	BRAYDEN KETCHEM

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

9TH GRADE	EVAN TERRILL
10TH GRADE	COLIN MCQUEEN
11TH GRADE	AUDREY WILLS
12TH GRADE	DEVIN OLIGEE

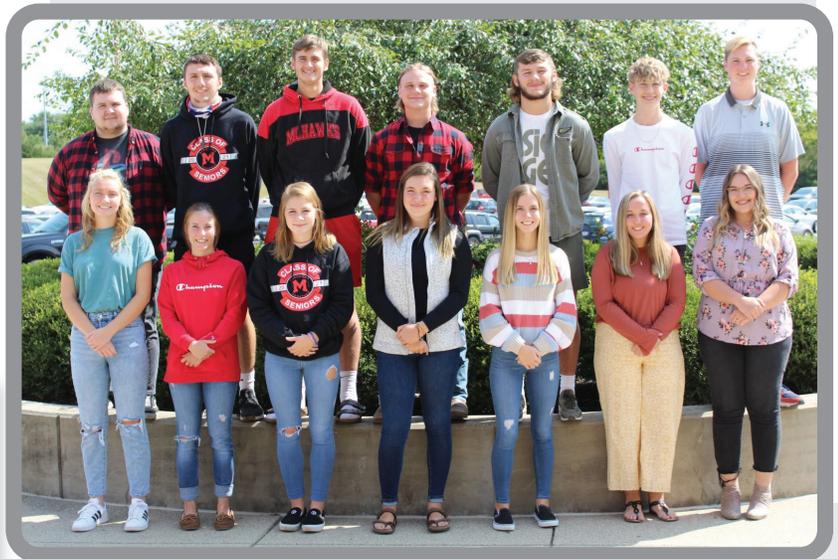
STAR EMPLOYEES FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	MELINDA BARKER
MIDDLE SCHOOL	CARA WAGNER
HIGH SCHOOL	CHRISTINA ANSPACH

Homecoming Week

BY ETHAN SANDER - 12TH GRADE

Many questions have been posed about the Homecoming week in the midst of the pandemic. It is a special time for students and one the school did not want to see completely gone during these interesting times. During the week of Homecoming, from September 28th to October 2nd, Homecoming was celebrated by a spirit week and the Homecoming football game. Starting on Monday the 28th, students were given the option to participate in spirit week



with the following prompts: Monday is Character/ Meme Day, Tuesday is Tropical/Tacky Day, Wednesday is Dress like a Teacher Day, Thursday is a Throwback/Neon Day, and Friday is School Spirit Day. On Friday, students are told to wear the color corresponding to their grade. Freshman would wear gray, Sophomores were in white, Juniors were in black, and Seniors were in red.

Even without an official Homecoming dance to end the week, a court was still selected to represent each grade. The candidates were: Freshman - Riley Cockerham, Makena Payne, Kylie Wells, Hunner Johnson, Jaylin Pendleton and Kwenton Rhodus. Sophomores included: Emily Asher, Jaylyn Moore, Zavier Rhodus and Mason Sorrell. The Juniors included: Avery Huff, Dakota Williams, Audrey Wills, Preston Brown, Wyatt Bullman and John Schwab. The Seniors included: Shelby Abeny, Grace Baker, Regan Dorman, Carly Evans, Taylor Johnson, Olivia Kraft,

Back to School

BY ETHAN SANDER - 12TH GRADE

As school started for students on August 17th, the Coronavirus pandemic swayed the opinion for how the school should open. The return to school for students meant many precautionary measures had to be taken to ensure safety for everyone. In order to reduce the amount of students in the building, the school provided two options for the students. The first option was to allow any student to do remote learning and work from home. Students who chose to operate from home have the option to return to school after the first semester is over. The other option for students was a staggered start learning system face to face. The staggered learning path lasted for only the first three weeks of school. Classes ran in the following order for students: Last names A-M would attend school on Mondays and Wednesdays and students last names N-Z would attend on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Upon arrival at school, students would be required to wear masks throughout the day except in the event of breaks.

After three weeks of staggered start, students returned to school full time and everyone was required to attend. It was obvious that students enjoyed getting to see some of their peers they had not seen since March. Many safety precautions have been placed in order to ensure the health of students, teachers and staff. One of the safety precautions for everyone is to wear a mask throughout the day. Masks are mandatory in the state of Ohio; therefore, everyone must cover their mouth and nose with them except during mask breaks. The decision for mask breaks is determined by teachers and staff in the office. This allows a class to go outside and either walk around



campus, sit under the pavilion at the tables or spread out in the courtyard. Another safety precaution enforced is for teachers to wipe down the desks in classrooms before students enter for the next class. Teachers are provided with cleaner and rags in order to disinfect surfaces that may be contaminated. Another safety precaution taken is setting up clear plastic shower curtains in between the desks or partitions between desks in order to reduce exposure and to act as a barrier. A final precaution set in place at the high school is a two minute early dismissal for freshman classes. This allows the halls to be clearer and move more consistently. At lunch, students are given the option to sit inside or outside. However, the requirement for this is only four to a table and a seating chart is in place, this is in effect even if students are outside. The seating chart for students is specifically designed for any contact tracing that needs to be done.

Although the start of school looked a little different this year, there is still the buzz of students, laughter, and a lot of learning going on. This small bit of normal is something all are cherishing even more than usual!

Kaleigh Retherford, Trey Adkins, Jesse Allmon, Brogan Babcock, Hunter Bechtel, Devin Olgee, R. J. Staton and Gavin Turner.

The Homecoming game was held on Friday, October 1st with minimal attendance by students. In order to keep the spread of the virus under control, the administration came up with a solution so that some students could attend. At the beginning of spirit week, an announcement was made telling students that if they dressed up for at least three of the five days their name would be entered in a raffle. After all who participated were accounted for, thirty student's names were drawn, and they were allowed to attend the game. Overall, despite how different this year has been for all, it was a great week full of a lot of school spirit and excitement.



THE BUZZ

ABOUT MOSQUITOES

By Alan Cady

ZZZZZZZZZ-SLAP! These are sounds typically associated with peoples' interactions with mosquitoes. Humans have had an intimate relationship with these insects for millennia. Mosquitoes have significantly shaped the course of human history by carrying and spreading some serious diseases (killing an estimated 52 billion people over human history) and excluding large areas of our planet from human habitation. Besides that, their influence may go beyond just 'annoying' when their overwhelming presence prevents occupation of certain areas by man and beast. Here is a brief look at mosquitoes in Ohio and how we might better co-exist with them.

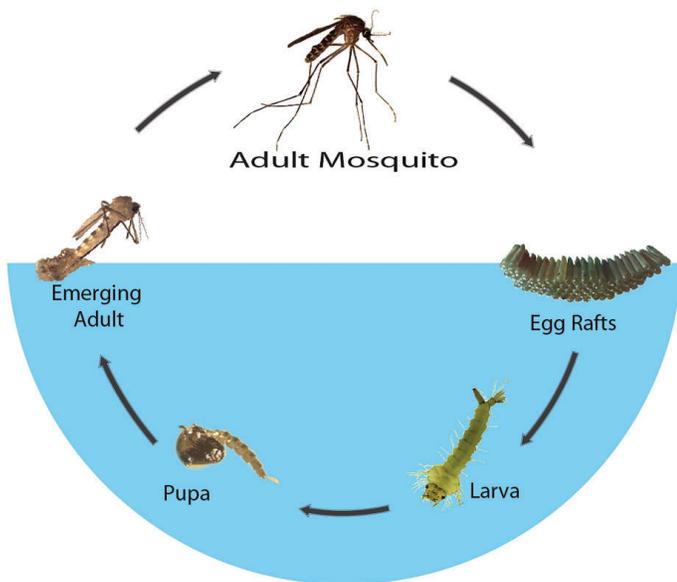


FIGURE 1 – MOSQUITO LIFE CYCLE.

MOSQUITOES IN GENERAL

Mosquitoes are Insects in the very large Order Diptera (di=2, -ptera=wing) which makes them relatives of flies and gnats. They are found on all continents (except Antarctica) with 3,500 species worldwide, 176 species in the U.S., and 59 species in Ohio. There are just 6 species that have been found in Ohio which might carry a disease, and one of those does not reproduce here.

People often wonder 'what good' are mosquitoes are considering how infuriating they may be. Since mosquitoes live in both aquatic and terrestrial habitats they serve as a significant food source for a variety of other animals in these ecosystems. In the water, their larvae and pupae are important to fish during their various life stages and

multitude of other aquatic insects feed on mosquitoes. On land, millions of the flying mosquito adults are eaten by birds (e.g. swallows, swifts, martins) and bats, while a number of predaceous arthropods consume large numbers of mosquitoes. For example, another name for dragonflies is 'mosquito hawk' and there are some species of spiders that specialize on catching mosquitoes. Since male mosquitoes (and some females) eat nectar from flowers they also may serve as a pollinator.

MOSQUITO LIFE CYCLE

Mosquitoes use both water and land habitats to complete their life cycle. They show Complete Metamorphosis (like butterflies, beetles, bees and wasps) which has the egg, larva, pupa, and adult life stages (Fig. 1). Water is required for the egg, larva, and pupa. The type of water they occupy varies with the species (permanent or temporary), but the water is always still, stagnant, or slow-moving. Their early life cycle may be completed in 4 – 30 days, with most species using 8–20 days.

ADULT

About 2 days after they emerge, females mosquitoes start looking for a blood meal, which is necessary for them to develop and lay eggs. Males do not bite and they feed on nectar. Females of some species may oviposit (lay eggs) just once, but others may oviposit many times. Well-fed females may live up to 5 months, with the average adult lifespan being about 6 weeks.

EGG

Eggs usually are laid on the water, but some species place their eggs in moist soil next to bodies of water in anticipation of higher water levels. Eggs may be placed singly, but most species attach their eggs to vegetation, other structures around the water, or in

Continued on page 15.

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FIGURE 2 – MOSQUITO LARVAE ('WRIGGLERS') AND PUPAE.

floating 'rafts' with up to 200 eggs. They usually hatch within 2 days, but the eggs of some species are able to overwinter or survive drying for extended periods of time.

LARVAE (Fig. 2)

A mosquito larva also is called a 'wiggler' because of the way they swim. They spend most of their time hanging at the water's surface, breathing through their 'siphon' (breathing-tube) and eating microorganisms and organic matter in the water. This necessity to breathe has been exploited in the past as a means of mosquito control by spreading oil on the water surface, blocking their access to oxygen. The larval stage may last 1-14 days depending on temperature and food supply.

PUPA (Figs. 2 & 3)

This stage is called 'tumblers' because of the way they move through the water. This is the stage where they metamorphose from the larva to the adult (like a caterpillar becoming a moth in a cocoon). They also must breathe air, and stay as a pupa for about 2 days.

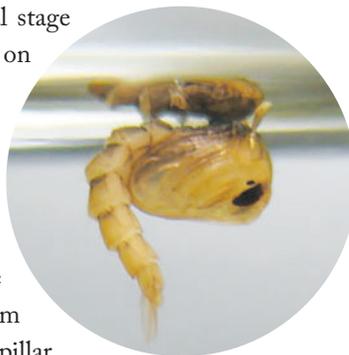


FIGURE 3
MOSQUITO PUPA
'TUMBLER'.

MOSQUITOES AND DISEASE

There are 5 varieties (6 species) known to be in Ohio that may carry diseases. Most of the diseases are viral and one is a one-celled microorganism (malaria). All the diseases are transmitted from

the mosquito to the other host (usually a vertebrate – a bird or mammal when in Ohio) when the female mosquito takes a blood meal.

ASIAN TIGER MOSQUITO (*Aedes albopictus*)

This mosquito carries the Zika virus as it flies during the day looking for mammals (and humans). It first entered Ohio in the 1980s, and breeds in temporary water and containers.

EASTERN TREEHOLE MOSQUITO (*Aedes triseriatus*) (Fig. 4)

As its common name states, this mosquito breeds in hollows in trees that have collected rainwater and also in other similar protected containers. It seeks mammals during the day, and carries the La Crosse virus (~ 20 cases per year in Ohio).



FIGURE 4
AEDES
TRISERIATUS.

MALARIA MOSQUITOES

(*Anopheles quadrimaculatus*, *Anopheles punctipennis*)

Although malaria was eradicated from the U.S. in the early 1950s, these mosquitoes historically carried malaria in Ohio. Malaria may still enter Ohio via travelers coming from other areas which has malaria. The malaria parasite (*Plasmodium*) historically has killed 2 million people a year worldwide, with 228 million cases and 405,000 deaths in 2018. Thus, this is a major cause of human death on Earth. These mosquitoes feed on humans at dusk

& dawn and breed in permanent water holding vegetation (lakes, pond, ditches) and slow streams.

NORTHERN HOUSE MOSQUITO

(*Culex pipiens*) (Fig. 5)

These mosquitoes fly at dusk & dawn, seeking birds for a blood meal, but they also may bite mammals when their population levels are high. They transmit St. Louis Encephalitis and the West Nile virus (an important disease for birds). These breed in stagnant, standing water.



FIGURE 5

A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE MOSQUITO GENUS CULEX.

YELLOW FEVER MOSQUITO (*Aedes aegypti*)

Although this mosquito does not breed in Ohio, they may be transported to Ohio from more southerly areas. It may carry the viruses causing Dengue Fever, Yellow Fever, and Zika. They seek their blood meals during the day and breed in containers.

DOG HEARTWORM – Dog Heartworm is a parasitic worm that lives in the circulatory system of dogs that may be carried by species of *Aedes* or *Anopheles* mosquitoes in Ohio. It causes severe cardiovascular problems and may kill dogs. If your dog goes outside and is not being treated to prevent heartworm, there is a very high probability it will contract this debilitating parasite.

PREVENTION

The strategy is to prevent human interaction with mosquitoes and involves avoiding the insect and their bites and stopping them from breeding. There are many techniques and simple steps you may take to reduce contact with mosquitoes and decrease their populations.

Since mosquitoes require standing water to breed, it is important to remove these places. Natural bodies of water and landscape pools should support mosquito-eating fish. If the pools are small enough, they also may be ‘filtered’ or screened. Of course, swimming pools should be chlorinated, drained, or covered. As you saw from the description of specific species (above), containers holding water are a major place for mosquito breeding. The good news is that (for the most part) these may easily be eliminated. Remember to remove flowerpots, pet dishes, and clean clogged rain gutters. Old tires are a major place for mosquito breeding (especially treehole mosquitoes). If you have a tire swing set up, drill holes in it to permit drainage. Dumps and trash piles also are major places to collect and hold water long enough for mosquitoes to breed. Preventing mosquito breeding is an important reason for burying trash.

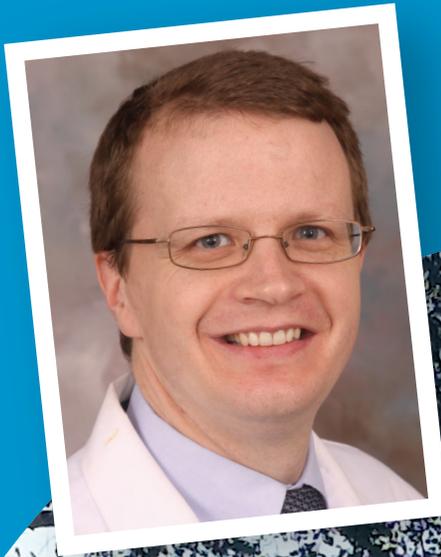
Repelling and preventing mosquitoes from biting are other tactics that are easy and effective. Wearing light-colored clothing with long sleeves and pants block most mosquitoes, but some may still bite through cotton fabric. If this happens, wool fabric will block them. Where the mosquitoes are particularly dense and you must stay still in one place, I have found gloves and a net that covers your hat and head to do the trick. When camping, protect yourself with a net-tent over your sleeping area.

Chemical repellants are widely used to deter mosquitoes. The most effective contain DEET (diethyltoluamide), but it may irritate the skin and eyes. Various picaridin formulations have recently been shown to be very effective. Natural oils and scents have been used for centuries to repel mosquitoes (lavender, eucalyptus, vinegar, citronella), even Vick’s VapoRub! These may be applied to the skin or clothing, and some are burned as a candle. **MT**

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UNDERSTANDING OF
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Gardening

By Marvin Brown

THE SEASON OF PUMPKINS

BOO! Did that scare you? I guess not.

But doesn't it 'scare' you to realize that we are again at the season of the year when we think about faces carved into pumpkins illuminated by a candle (OK, now we have fake pumpkins that are illuminated electrically.) History.com tells us that the practice of decorating jack-o'lanterns originated in Ireland, where large turnips and potatoes served as early canvasses. People have since been making jack-o'lanterns for centuries. The practice originated from an Irish myth about a man nicknamed "Stingy Jack." According to the story, Stingy Jack invited the devil to have a drink with him. True to his name, Stingy Jack didn't want to pay for his drink, so he convinced the devil to turn himself into a coin that Jack could use to buy their drinks. Once the devil did so, Jack decided to keep the money and put it into his pocket next to a silver cross, which prevented the devil from changing back into his original form.

Next time, Jack again tricked the devil into climbing into a tree to pick a piece of fruit. While he was up in the tree, Jack carved a sign of the cross into the tree's bark so that the devil could not come down.

Soon after, Jack died. As the legend goes, God would not allow such an unsavory figure into heaven. The devil, upset by the tricks Jack had played on him, would not allow Jack into hell. He sent Jack off into the dark night with only a burning coal to light his way. Jack put the coal into a carved-out turnip and has been roaming the earth ever since. The Irish began to refer to this ghostly figure as "Jack of the Lantern," and then, simply "Jack O'Lantern."

In Ireland and Scotland, people began making their own versions of Jack's lanterns by carving faces into turnips or potatoes and placing them into windows or near doors to frighten away Stingy Jack. In England, large beets were used. Immigrants from these countries brought the jack-o'lantern tradition with them when they came to the United States. They soon found that pumpkins, a fruit native to America, made perfect jack-o'lanterns. What is fall without pumpkins – big ones, mini ones, orange ones, white ones, carved ones, and the best, pie kinds. Although we can load up a wagon at the local pumpkin patch, we might start a new tradition by growing our own pumpkins in our own garden. These hardy crops will flourish just about anywhere with the right care.

Pick your pumpkin seeds. They come in hundreds of varieties



differing in size,

color, taste,

and texture. Seeds are

available each spring at local garden centers, home improvement stores, or through a seed catalog. Check them out. Plant the seeds in full sun. Pick a day after the last frost and sow seeds directly in the ground. Each seed packet will list how long on average the plant needs to produce full-grown pumpkins (Days for Maturity). Pumpkins generally take about three months to reach maturity. Water and care for your plants. Most vegetable crops need a deep soaking once per week. Pumpkin leaves can look wilted in the afternoon heat, even if the soil is still moist. Resist the temptation to douse the dirt even more if the foliage perks back up again in the evening, as overwatering can contribute to root rot. Mulching your plants will help keep plants more consistently hydrated and also help keep down weeds. Fertilize the soil as needed. Pumpkins are heavy feeders. Using an all-purpose vegetable fertilizer (not lawn fertilizer) can provide the right food they need. Harvest your pumpkins. After several months of growing, the pumpkins will reach maturity when the rinds harden and reach the desired color. Cut the vine with pruning shears leaving several inches of stem attached. Then enjoy the fruits of your labor – either by carving, cooking, or decorating.

Hopefully the 2021 growing season will offer more moisture in the form of rain than what we have had during 2020. Try your luck at growing pumpkins. What Madison Township gardener will have the largest pumpkin jack-o'lantern in the fall of 2021? Or will it be a turnip jack-o'lantern? **MT**

TIRE RECYCLING EVENT

WHEN: Saturday, November 14, 2020
8 a.m. - 1 p.m.

WHERE: 2 Locations
Ross High School
3601 Hamilton - Cleves Road
Hamilton, Ohio 45013

Madison Jr./Sr. High School
5797 W. Alexandria Road
Middletown, Ohio 45042

WHAT: Car, truck or tractor tires (on the rim is okay)

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- Butler County residents only
- Large quantities of tires will NOT be accepted
- No Exceptions



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SERVICE TIME

Sunday School - 10 a.m.

Sunday Worship - 11 a.m.

Sunday Evening - 6 p.m.

Wednesday Evening - 7 p.m.

Youth Meetings Every Wednesday - 7 p.m.

Fire Department

By J. Kent Hall, Fire Chief, Madison Township Fire and EMS

COVID COVID

THE 2020 YEAR HAS BEEN A YEAR WHICH MOST PEOPLE WILL LOVE TO FORGET with the virus hitting the global community, and Madison Township has not been exempt from that fact. While the Madison Fire and EMS has not been as busy as most larger departments with the virus, our members have been on the front lines suits, facial coverings, N95 mask, eye equipment, cleaning and sanitizing new equipment for disinfecting this

With this virus, it shows how the lines; first to be called when a resident have had our own members become become ill and then quarantine, this emergency services.

The virus has hit most Fire and with the cost of purchasing additional The State and Federal governments passed local, state and federal laws to cost, and this has been a big help to Madison Township Fire and EMS. The fire budget for Madison Township is set at approximately \$750,000.00, with approximately \$400,000.00 strictly for payroll. The remainder of the budget is for purchasing equipment, paying all utilities for three stations, maintaining nine pieces of apparatus, and numerous other requirements needed to keep emergency services going.

“...EMERGENCY RESPONDERS ARE ON THE FRONT LINES; FIRST TO BE CALLED WHEN A RESIDENT IS IN NEED OF EMERGENCY SERVICE.”

being required to wear full body protection and constantly cleaning squad and fire apparatus, and using emergency equipment. emergency responders are on the front is in need of emergency service. We infected with the virus, thus having causing a shortage of members for

EMS departments in their budget safety equipment to protect personnel. have stepped up to the plate and has reimburse those departments for that

FIRE PREVENTION

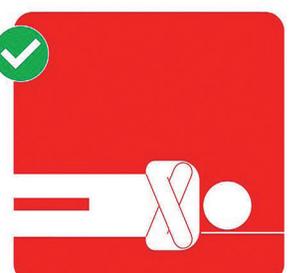
With this being the start of Fall and Winter weather, it's time to check your batteries in the smoke and CO detectors. Make sure your furnace or heating equipment for your household is in good working condition. If using wood for your fireplace, this might be a good time to clean and inspect your chimney for any creosote backup as we receive a lot of calls in the township for chimney fires caused by creosote that has built up in the chimney stack, simply because of not being cleaned properly. In October our Fire Marshal and Fire members will be going to the schools for Fire Drills and Inspections and this is a good time to go over Fire Safety with your kids, making them aware of Fire exit plans. Something as simple as were to go at a meeting point when outside your house after you discover a fire. Always practice “Stop, Drop and Roll”, teach them not to hide from Fire and EMS members and other Fire Safety information involving your family.



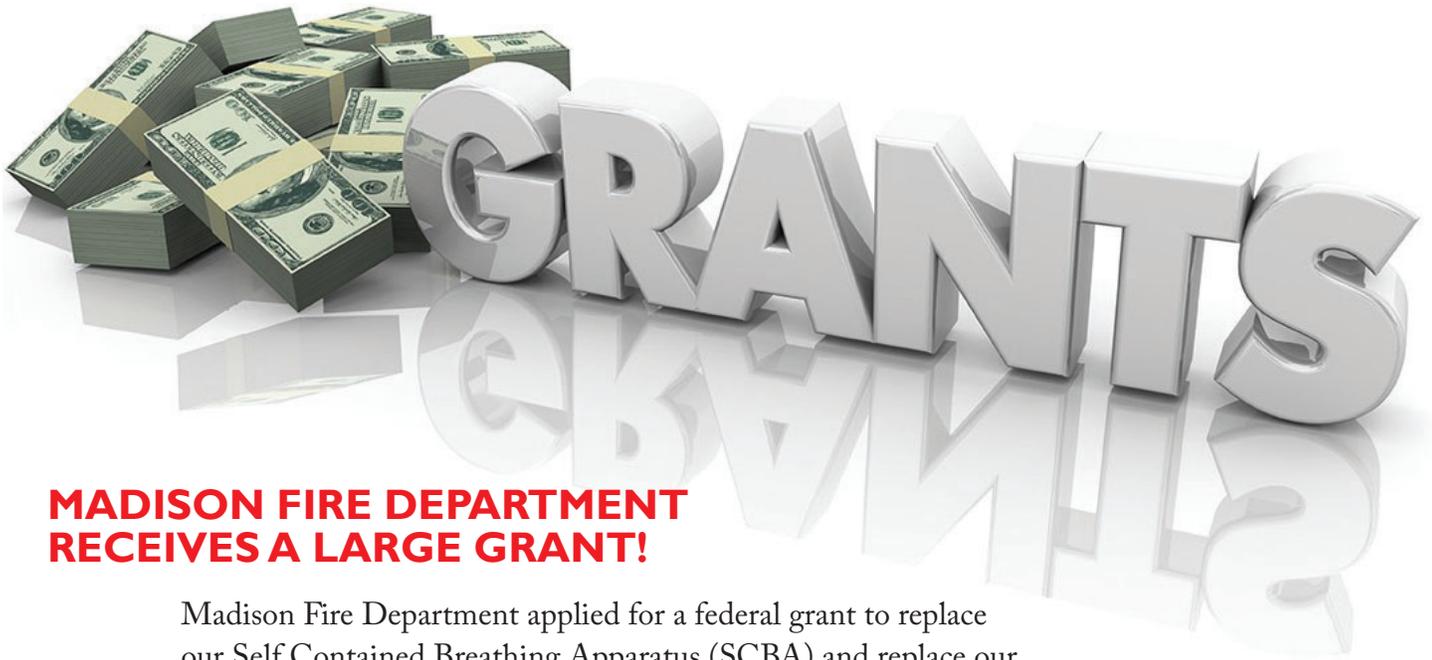
STOP!



DROP!



ROLL!



MADISON FIRE DEPARTMENT RECEIVES A LARGE GRANT!

Madison Fire Department applied for a federal grant to replace our Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) and replace our Cascade unit, this unit being able to fill the SCBA air bottles. This grant totaled approximately **\$190,000.00**. We were notified earlier this year that we had been awarded the grant. The cost of the air packs totaled approximately \$140,000.00 and the Cascade unit is approximately \$50,000.00. This grant will tremendously help with the budget of the fire department by being able to put the monies that were designated for the SCBA's towards other equipment items. A big Thank You! to Todd Farler, Township Administrator, in assisting with this grant process.

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ROAD DEPARTMENT

BY TODD FARLER

THE TOWNSHIP ROADS THAT ARE TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED TO BE PAVED IN 2021

- **Kalbfleisch-Hetzler Rd. to Dickey Rd.**
- **Hetzler Rd. - Michael Rd. to Hinkle Rd.**
- **Wayne Madison- Unimproved north section**
- **Thomas Rd. - Midd. Germ. to Rt.4**
- **Leichty Rd. – All**



BUTLER COUNTY ENGINEERS OFFICE:

Elk Creek Road bridge will temporarily become a one lane bridge with signal lights on each end. This section should be opened sometime in November. The section of Elk Creek Road near Sebald Park, where slippage occurred, should be completed and opened by December. It was a busy year for the Butler County Engineers office in Madison Township. Along with the two unforeseen road/bridge repairs on Elk Creek Road, the BCEO invested over **\$2,000,000!** in road, bridge, culvert, and ditch work in Madison Township! The pavement resurfacing of West Alexandria Road and Middletown Germantown Road were two of their larger projects. A large shout out and Thank You to the BCEO for maintaining their projects in Madison Township!

We are all aware of the numerous detours and logistical nightmares of trying to navigate Madison Township this summer. However, the road work completed by Madison Township and the Butler County Engineers Office was short term compared to the long-term benefits that will come back to Madison Township!



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