

# MADISON TOWNSHIP

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## CODDINGTON WAX STRING COMPANY

BY J. LARRY HELTON, JR.



**G**eorge Warren Coddington was born May 20, 1831 in Cincinnati, Ohio. His first marriage was to Mary Elizabeth Hulbert and his second marriage was to Ruth Jane Doty on March 18, 1858 in Butler County, Ohio. Ruth was the granddaughter of the first white settler of Butler County, Daniel Doty.

While a young man, George went to Missouri, but near the close of the Civil War he came to Middletown and settled on Clinton Street. He was at first in the trade of masonry, then photography, and took up violin making in his shop. George was an inventive genius and his first patents were for a truck that would hold logs in a sawmill and one for a steam turbine. His greatest wealth came from the patents for a waxed string for fruit jars and the machinery to manufacture them around 1880. It was at that time that George set up a factory at the intersection of Middletown-Eaton Road, Trenton-Franklin Road, and Vine Street in West Middletown. In 1886 he had noted that when a can or jar was in use that sometimes a "slight blow to the lid would cause the sealing material to become detached", resulting in spoilage. So, George invented a fruit can fastener that prevented that and later that same year a new head for the glass jar, receiving patents for both.

George's son, George D. C. Coddington, born in Middletown on February 13, 1869, was also an inventive

genius. In his youth he assisted his father in perfecting the machinery for the manufacturing of the standard wax strings, with a capacity of 300,000 daily. At the age of twenty, George D. C. began concentrating his efforts on the invention of a submarine vessel, with drawings, specifications, and a working model, in which he presented to government officials. He was turned away and returned home, only to revise his submarine vessel and present it again. His ideas were accepted this time and were incorporated in the models of submarines built by J. P. Holland, the "Peacemaker" and the "Holland". He remained in the "east" at that time.

When the wax string business was threatened by the development of the new rubber ring George D. C. returned to his father's West Middletown factory, built a home up the hill, and married Mary F. B. Link. He then invented a new and improved rubber ring, along with a machine to coat these rubber rings with wax that made a proper closure, receiving a patent for these January 5, 1904. His wax-coated rubber rings rivaled those of others that were not a tight enough seal to prevent spoilage. George D. C. went on to produce a wax-coated paper ring that would take the place of the rubber ring on Mason jars. Other inventions with patents included: the "helping hand", named by his son Earl, a device for lifting hot pans or kettles from the stove; the rocker washing machine; and a sealing wax machine for sealing fruit cans, that molded wax cakes, weighed, removed from the mold, and automatically put the wax cakes in cartons. That machine was used at the factory at the

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# MADISON TOWNSHIP

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David Runnells ..... 513-424-0821

### WEBSITE

[www.MadisonTownshipOnline.com](http://www.MadisonTownshipOnline.com)

### TOWNSHIP CONTACT NUMBERS

### EMERGENCIES ALWAYS CALL ..... 911

- Madison Township Admin. Building.....513-424-0821
- Fire Station 151 (Elk Creek Road).....513-988-9124
- Fire Station 152 (Germantown Rd.).....513-424-3384
- Fire Station 153 (Mosiman Road).....513-425-9009
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- Southwest Regional Water.....800-232-5330
- Duke Energy .....800-634-4300
- Dayton Power and Light.....937-224-6000
- Middletown Public Library .....513-424-1251

## MISSION STATEMENT OF MADISON TOWNSHIP

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

## David Runnells, Office Manager



I would like to introduce myself, as the new Office

Manager here at Madison Township Administration. I come with 30 years of experience being involved with the Township. I started on the Madison Township Life Squad in 1991 as a Paramedic. I then was brought on the South Madison Fire Department in 1994. I have worked my way up the chain of command and currently I am the Deputy Chief of Station 151(South Madison Station) and the department. I still maintain my EMT certification and continue to assist the EMS division as well. I retired from the Butler County Sheriff's Department of 25 years as a road Deputy and was assigned to Madison township most of my career patrolling. I reside with my fiancée in the City of Trenton and have 2 children that are grown up. I have 3 grandchildren. I have always helped Madison Township in a lot of ways and would like to continue to do that and offer my assistance for you here in Madison Township.

Feel free to stop in at the Administration Building and say "Hi".

I would like to thank the Madison Township Trustees for giving me this opportunity in helping them, to help you. **MT**

**Thomas Hall,  
State Representative**



## Ohio House of Representatives

**H**appy Fall to my fellow Madison Township residents! My name is State Representative Thomas Hall. Born and raised right here in Madison, it has been the honor of a lifetime to serve not only two terms as a Madison Township Trustee but also to serve in the Ohio House of Representatives.

Serving as state representative has truly had its ups and downs during the last year and a half. Beginning the term in January 2021, our state and country were in a completely different place than it is now. We have overcome challenges and grown together.

My first term to put into one word would have to be: FAST. As a state representative, the term is only for two years. Each state representative can serve up to four terms before being termed out. Throughout my first term, I have introduced over 15 pieces of legislation for our great district and the entire state of Ohio. Of those bills, three of them have already been signed into law by Governor DeWine, and three others have passed the House and are awaiting further consideration in the Senate. Specifically, one of the bills in the Senate deals directly with township government and its operations, known as HB 501, the Ohio Township Association's omnibus bill.

I have worked tirelessly in this district to ensure that every corner has been heard and represented. My meetings with over 600 constituents and attending over 200 local events in our district have truly helped in my decision-making in Columbus as your state representative. I will continue to be as active in our community and this district moving forward.

Our current district consists of the Northern and Western Parts of Butler County. Due to redistricting, the new district and Butler County as a whole are quite different. Our new district contains Madison Township, Liberty Township, St. Clair Township, the cities of Middletown and Monroe and the Village of New Miami. However, these maps are only two-year maps and are subject to change again as soon as next year for the 2024 primary.

I will continue fighting and being a voice for our township and our district in Columbus. Please do not hesitate to contact my office with any questions or feedback. Madison Township is and will always be HOME. God Bless!

### **Bills signed into law:**

**HB 99-** Regards persons authorized to go armed within school safety zone

**HB 176-** Revise the Athletic Training Law

**HB 377-** Regards coronavirus local fiscal recovery appropriation

### **Awaiting further consideration in State Senate:**

**HB 230-** Regards Ohio's information technology systems/shared services

**HB 458-** Eliminate August special elections except for US House nomination

**HB 501-** Authorize property taxes for school resource officer services

With any questions, concerns or ideas you may have for me regarding our communities or legislation at the Statehouse, please contact my office at Rep53@ohiohouse.gov. **MT**



# VOTE YES ON THE FIRE LEVY!



- This 3 mill levy would generate approximately \$850,000 additionally a year.
- The levy would cost a Madison Township homeowner approximately \$100 a year more on a \$100,000 home.
- The levy would allow the Fire Department to construct new buildings and facilities. Current facilities are over 100 years old.
- The levy would allow the Fire Department to replace outdated apparatus that is over 30 years old.
- The levy would allow the Fire Department to replace outdated rescue equipment that is over 20 years old.
- The levy would allow for more staffing around-the-clock from two different stations which would mean faster response times for medical and fire-related calls.
- The levy would allow the Fire Department to retain newly-hired employees with the department having up-to-date facilities and apparatus.
- There has not been a levy in 12 years.

Vote for the **Safety**  
of Your Community!



## Questions?

Contact Chief J. Kent Hall

513.464.0709 | [johnkenthall@aol.com](mailto:johnkenthall@aol.com)

Paid for by Madison Fire Association

Continued from the cover.



rate of 10,000 per day. A note on Earl Coddington, the third inventive genius, went on to invent a new type of engine, automatic gear shifter, and engine starter for the improvement of automobiles.

From a Middletown News-Signal article in 1921: “At the Coddington Wax String factory, wax strings are made and shipped to all parts of the U. S. This industry has been in operation for many years and the goods manufactured there have become so well-known that they are now considered a necessity and the housewives much prefer the cleanly wax string to old-fashioned method of pouring sealing wax on their canned goods. The wax string does away with the possibility of accident by burning with hot sealing wax and this one feature alone had made the Coddington wax string a well-known commodity.” “At present the factory is operating, making approximately 180,000 strings daily. This gives employment to about 20 people and the work is clean

and the surroundings pleasant.”

In the early 1920s, the Ball Brothers, of Ball glass jar fame, purchased all of the Coddington patents for \$20,000. Around 1924 the wax string manufacturing ceased operations, due to canned goods being bought more and home canning less. Several years before, other machinery had been installed within the factory that made binder twine used by the new threshing machines, with this operation ceasing about the same time. At that time, the building was converted into Coddington’s Machine Shop and operated by a new generation of Coddingtons.

Over the years, the Coddington Wax String factory has been home to other businesses. In 1975 it was the Play Time Coffee Shop. West Side Feed was once there. Today it is an apartment building at 5320 Trenton-Franklin Road. Interestingly there are the newly renovated Historic Iglehart Street String Factory Apartments at 14 Iglehart Street in downtown Middletown. No documentation can be found linking these two buildings. However, the date of construction and design of the buildings are similar. **MT**

- *Madison Township Bicentennial Sketches (1799-1999), George C. Crout*
- *MidPointe Digital Archives, MidPointe Library*
- *Personal research*
- *RootsWeb*

# Fire Dept.

**BY DAVID RUNNELLS,  
DEPUTY CHIEF FIRE DEPARTMENT**

With Fall and Winter knocking on our doors, we are here to help out in any way, for your safety at home.

Fall & Winter is a very busy time for heating sources. “Fireplace’s”, “Wood Stoves”, and other means of heat sources. Always remember to have your heat sources checked by a qualified technician. Inspected and cleaned is all about “SAFETY” for your family.

Chimney inspections and cleaning is very important to prevent “Chimney Fires”. This can also lead into, giving off to much Carbon Monoxide.

With Fall comes, changing the clocks. This is also a great time to change all “Smoke Detectors” and “Carbon Monoxide Detectors”- Batteries. Make sure you have detectors in multiple areas of your home. Hard wire detectors need to be tested as well.

9-1-1 is the most important, if at anytime you feel there is a threat to your family fire or gas related, “Do Not Hesitate to Call- The Fire Department, we will respond to check everything out for your safety. Always Have an escape route/plan in place in case of a fire. **MT**

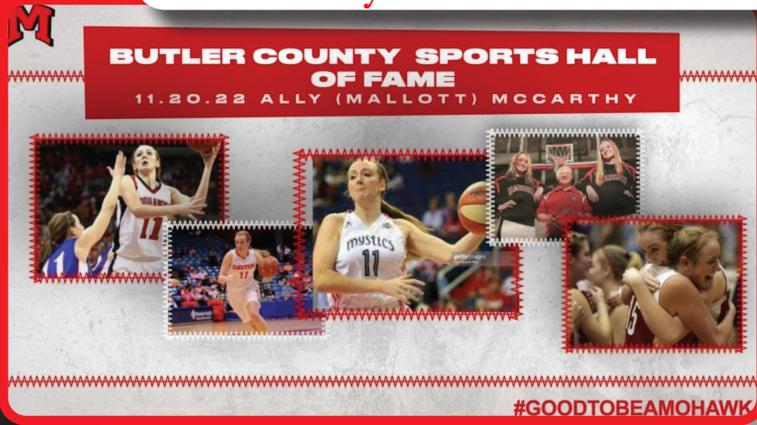




# MADISON LOCAL SCHOOLS

*Achieving Excellence One Student at a Time*

## McCarthy Inducted into BCSHOF



Ally (Malott) McCarthy Inducted into BCSHOF  
Posted on: September 7, 2022

It's another exciting day to be a Mohawk! Our very own Ally (Malott) McCarthy will be inducted into the Butler County Hall of Fame.

The Butler County Sports Hall of Fame, established in 1982, is honored to announce its 40th anniversary class of inductees. The BCSHOF has been recognized as the longest-running county hall of fame for athletics in the State of Ohio. This year's inductees, (Class of 2022), will be officially honored at the BCSHOF banquet at the Courtyard Marriott in Hamilton, Ohio on Sunday, November 20, 2022.

More details on tickets, sponsorships, donations, event particulars, times, etc. will be forthcoming in the near future.

Introducing the Butler County Sports Hall of Fame Inductees (Class of 2022):

- Zach Apple (Edgewood High School)
- Steve Eyl (Hamilton Badin High School)
- Gary "Spud" Hornsby (Hamilton High School)
- Joseph Douglas Lewis (Middletown High School)
- Ally Malott McCarthy (Middletown Madison High School)
- Geovonie McKnight (Middletown High School)
- Mark Pater (Hamilton Badin High School)
- Dr. Thomas Reeb (Fairfield High School)
- Terry Tallen (Hamilton Badin High School)
- Anna Smith Winters (Ross High School)
- Ashleigh Witte (Lakota West High School)

**Congratulations to Ally and her family for all of her past and continued successes!**  
**#GOODTOBEAMOHWAK**

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STAFF MEMBERS WERE ASKED BY FOOTBALL PLAYERS TO WEAR THEIR JERSEY, OF COURSE THE STAFF WERE HAPPY TO SHOW THEIR SUPPORT.

# Madison Thespians plan full season of plays and musicals for 2022-23

The Madison High School and Middle School Thespians will be presenting three shows in Madison's theater this season.



**November 18-20, 2022**

**Madison Middle School Thespians will present  
Roald Dahl's Matilda the Musical Jr.**

The children are rising up, and rebellion is nigh in Matilda Jr., a gleefully witty ode to the anarchy of childhood and the power of imagination. This story of a girl who dreams of a better life and the children she inspires will have you rooting for the "revolting children" who are out to teach the grown-ups a lesson. Matilda has astonishing wit, intelligence... and special powers! She's unloved by her cruel parents but impresses her schoolteacher, the highly lovable Miss Honey. Matilda's school life isn't completely smooth sailing, however – the school's mean headmistress, Miss Trunchbull, hates children and just loves thinking up new punishments for those who don't abide by her rules. But Matilda has courage and cleverness in equal amounts, and could be the school pupils' saving grace!



**January 26, 28 and 29, 2022**

**Madison High School Thespians will present  
Twelfth Night**

William Shakespeare's fast-paced romantic comedy with interwoven plots of romance, mistaken identities and practical jokes. Separated from her twin brother Sebastian in a shipwreck, Viola disguises herself as a boy, calls herself Cesario, and becomes a servant to the Duke Orsino. He sends her to woo the Countess

Olivia on his behalf, but the Countess falls in love with Cesario. Meanwhile Olivia's uncle, Sir Toby Belch, parties with his friend Sir Andrew Aguecheek and they play a trick on Malvolio, Olivia's steward. Eventually Sebastian turns up and causes even more confusion, chaos and comedy. Will the Duke convince the Countess that he is worthy of her love? Will the Countess discover that the object of her affection is not who he seems? Will Viola ever be able to tell the Duke that she loves him? And how much chaos and confusion can two practical jokers cause – as if things weren't already confusing enough?

**April 27-30**

**Spring musical, the Madison Thespians will perform  
Disney's Mary Poppins**

Everyone's favorite practically perfect nanny takes the stage in this Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious musical adventure! Based on the books by P.L. Travers and the classic Walt Disney film, Disney and Cameron Mackintosh's Mary Poppins delighted Broadway audiences for over 2,500 performances and received nominations for nine Olivier and seven Tony Awards, including Best Musical. The jack-of-all trades, Bert, introduces us to England in 1910 and the troubled Banks family. Young Jane and Michael have sent many a nanny packing before Mary Poppins arrives on their doorstep. Using a combination of magic and common sense, she must teach the family members how to value each other again. Mary Poppins takes the children on many magical and memorable adventures, but Jane and Michael aren't the only ones upon whom she has a profound effect. Even grown-ups can learn a lesson or two from the nanny who advises that "Anything can happen if you let it."

**Performance times and online ticket ordering for all shows can be found at**

## Madison Band Excels at Competitions



In the first two competitions of the school year, the Madison Mohawk Marching Band received numerous awards from the judges. At the Bellbrook Invitational on September 17, Madison was awarded Second Place in division AA, as well as Best Percussion and Best Music Performance. Then at

the Simon Kenton Marching Band Classic on October 1, the band achieved First Place in division AA, Best Color Guard, Best Music and Best Overall Effect.

Madison's Band will be participating in more competitions this fall: the Northern Kentucky Marching Festival on Oct. 8; the Mason Invitational on Oct. 15; the Centerville Invitational on Oct. 29; and the MSBA Championships in Miamisburg on Nov. 5.

## Madison Band hosts 1<sup>st</sup> Junior Band Camp

In August, the Madison High School Band hosted their first weekend Junior Band Camp to introduce elementary and middle school students to various band instruments, play games, perform for parents, and encourage them to take band classes and eventually perform in the Madison High School Band. Many current high school band members assisted the high school band staff in demonstrating instruments and instructing the students. The camp took place over two weekend evenings, and over 40 campers attended. The Madison Music Boosters was also very active in the camp, providing snacks, checking in students and helping in many other ways. The band hopes to continue the Junior Band Camp each fall.



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# Road Report

BY TODD DANIEL, ROAD SUPERINTENDENT

As we approach fall many of the projects that were slated for this year have now been completed.

This would include 5 culvert replacements on Hinkle Road, 2 on Kalbfleisch Road and 1 on Leichty Road. These were all done in house. Also, the retrace of Howe Road and lower Dicky is complete. As of this print we are waiting for paving crews to move into our township to complete their work.

Late spring we were able to complete the CIPP process on a large pipe beneath Emerson Road. This process allowed us to treat a very serious problem without the closure of a road that has no outlet.

Using a different method (gunnite) we were able to successfully treat a failing pipe that was in excess of 400' long on Niderdale Way. This process also enabled us to treat the issue with minimal disruption to the neighborhood or roadway.



The additional pipes on Niderdale Way are scheduled for completion late this fall. Also, we will be resuming our crack fill program in the coming weeks.

## CEMETERY

I would again like to thank the Pack 28 Boy Scouts for their help in honoring each of our veterans in the 5 cemeteries we maintain by placing flags on each of their graves.

## REMINDER

Headstone foundations are poured twice a year. Late spring and fall.

## WINTER

For the 2022-23 winter season we will be using Morton Salt at a cost of \$85.92 a ton. Each year we join in with the Butler County Engineers office and most other townships in Butler County to bid out our salt needs. **MT**