

# MADISON TOWNSHIP

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## THE MADISON HOUSE

PAINTING OF THE MADISON HOUSE,  
LATER KNOWN AS THE MADISON INN.

**By J. Larry Helton, Jr. - 2022**

**J**ohn Mumma, of German and Mennonite descent, was born in York County, Pennsylvania in 1780. He was married to Ann Bare, had a family, and emigrated to Ohio c1832 at the age of 52. Mumma became a landowner of tracts in Butler and Preble Counties, plats in Middletown, and a considerable amount of land in the bend of the Great Miami River. Census records show he was living in Lemon Township in 1840. In that same year, Mumma purchased the grain mill on the west side of the river, south of the bridge, in Madison Township. That mill, originally built and owned by Middletown's founder, Stephen Vail, was producing 4,000 barrels of flour and ground 450,000 bushels of grain per year. Already having knowledge of the milling business, Mumma previously had invented and patented a new type of water wheel in 1838. He

went on to have extensive vineyards as well, resulting in the business of wine and distilled gin.

In anticipation of the coming Cincinnati, Dayton, and Hamilton Railroad, John Mumma built the Madison House at what would become Ohio State Route 122 and Front Street in 1846. It was a plain brick structure, two and one half stories, 72 feet by 21 ½ feet, with 30 rooms above ground and 11 rooms in the basement. The north room served as the office and barroom, later as a grocery storeroom, with the dining room behind it. Later additions were added to the back, it had two ballrooms, and in the 1880s great front porches were added to two levels.

The Madison House was built in 1846 and the CH&D railroad began in 1851. Brothers, John J. and William R. Walter, who had been running the Madison House and Railroad Omnibus Line, platted the village of Madison City on May 20, 1854. The Madison House was recorded on Lot No. 1. Madison City would be renamed Heno in 1890, then West Middletown in 1907.

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# MADISON TOWNSHIP



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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.

**Jeff Willoughby,  
President of Trustees**

**S**pring, it's a word that brings a smile to your face. It's a time of warmth and renewal. A time when you can enjoy the outdoors, create home improvement plans, play sports and the list goes on and on. It's a time of hope and after the last two years I think we all can use that.

I made a similar statement last year when we thought COVID was on a downturn and then the variants appeared. Most experts state that COVID will be with us in the future but not as impactful as 2021. It will become another flu, no more lockdowns, 6' separation or mask. I am happy that we can shake hands and give hugs again without feeling fear. Social interaction is an element that we all need.

Through all of this, the township has been progressing. The funding that was made available through CARES and APRA has allowed us to take care of items which would have impacted the township budget in a negative way. The Fire Department and Life Squad have been able to replace worn out equipment and improve service. This includes new fire-retardant clothing and air packs to better protect our crews and vehicles that will improve our response times and elongate the service time of ambulances. The road crew has also been able to address repairs that were not in the budget. There has been over \$200k worth of culvert repairs approved with more to come. Some have already been completed. This would have been over a quarter of the yearly Road Department budget.

Another issue that can be addressed with these funds is broadband expansion. Our community was impaired by the lack of this service during the chaos of 2020 and 2021. We have been in contact with State and County officials along with area service providers to extend the service. This has been a frustrating journey as there are over 90 different programs to extend broadband but no



coordination to ensure that it happens. The

latest development is Butler County's desire to expand the service to all of the unserved or underserved areas in the county. This would be the best solution as they have the funding and resources to undertake a project with this breath.

On May 3rd, the trustees are asking the community to approve a 3-mil levy for our Fire Department and Life Squad. The current budget projections go negative in five years. This would lead to an overall decrease in services. The levy would enable the township to address equipment service life issues and facility needs. There will be another meeting to discuss this on April 21st 6:00PM at the Poasttown Fire Station. Please plan to attend if you have questions.

There are many events popping up for spring and Easter so make sure to enjoy them. Now, if the Ohio weather will cooperate and decide what season it is, that would be great.

Best wishes and God bless. **MT**



MADISON HOUSE, MIDDLETOWN, OHIO, MARCH 1913. THIS PHOTOGRAPH SHOWS DAMAGE CAUSED TO THE MADISON INN BY THE 1913 FLOOD.

Prior to the railroad, the Madison House was an important stagecoach stop – serving two stage lines. The Ohio Stage Company’s route was from Cincinnati to Lebanon, first day with overnight stay at the Golden Lamb Inn; second day with overnight stay at the Madison House; third day on to Eaton and Richmond, Indiana. The Western Stage Company made daily trips between Cincinnati and Dayton, with the route to Trenton, to the Madison House for lunch, to Poasttown, and on to Carlisle. John Mumma had sold land to the railroad company for the laying of tracks, but never saw the train come through Madison City in 1851, having passed away in 1849 at the age of 62. He was laid to rest at the Middletown Pioneer Cemetery followed by fourteen other family members.

The Madison House was a fine hotel of the 1850s being ran by proprietor Louis Wagner. Meals were 15

**The Western Stage Company made daily trips between Cincinnati & Dayton, with the route to Trenton, to the Madison House for lunch, to Poasttown, and on to Carlisle.**

cents each with a recorded inventory paid of 5 cents a pound for beef; 6 cents a pound for pork; 15 cents a pound for butter; 15 cents a pound for coffee; 4 cents a pound for flour; 40 cents for a bushel of potatoes; chickens 15 cents each; turkeys 50 cents each. The barroom inventory consisted of: lamps, decanters, tumblers, chairs, benches, a clock, hand bell, writing desk, pitchers, candlesticks & holders, bottles & platters – total value of \$240. The bar was stocked with: 12 gallons of sherry, 15 bottles of brandy, 4 bottles of white wine, 4 gallons of East India bitters, 10 gallons of white whiskey, 5 gallons of gin, 2 gallons of peach brandy; “sundry liquors and bottles at the bar”. Lodging, first for railroad workers, was \$2 a week with 15 cent meals; then for railroad officials stopping by, who were charged 25 cents a meal that included liquor, extra side dishes, and fancy desserts.

*Continued on page 6.*

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*Continued from page 4.*



During its time, the Madison House could be likened to a min-mall. In the storerooms along the front were: Albert Beckford's grocery store and tavern; William Long's agricultural equipment warehouse; W.C. Ward's wagon and buggy shop; Samuel McFall's cabinet shop; J.M. Gardener's cobbler shop; Eckelbarger's blacksmith shop; and Joe Thunn's blacksmith's shop.

As merchandise became mass produced and more readily available, the general store would become the focal point of the business. Store owners were: Reed and Company; Abraham Crider; Harvey Selby; Harry Selby; Dan Snider; John Pritchard; Dan Shartle, who used script as well as money for purchases; and John Hunt who took over the store August 19, 1919 until its end, still renting out rooms by the week, the month, and longer. In hand I have a ledger of all rents collected from 1931-1961 and grocery store receipts 1957-1959, showing many last names of current residents of Madison Township, thanks to grandson Willam Hunt.

The Madison House would go on to be called



PAINTING BY HERBERT W. FALL, 1850

the Madison Inn and operate as a restaurant and bar. It survived the Great Flood of 1913, remained untouched by two disastrous West Middletown fires, a fire itself in 1979, then was destroyed by a fire of unknown cause on May 26, 1993. Owner since 1976, Charles “Bud” Wilmont, Sr., went on to rebuild a new modern building with the namesake Madison Inn II. Wilson, Schramm, & Spaulding Funeral Home is the oldest Madison Township business with Thomas Wilson taking his cabinet, furniture, and coffin making business from Madison Township into Middletown in 1839. This leaves the Madison Inn as the oldest, continual, business in Madison Township and on its original site going on 176 years.

Madison Inn II at 101 South Front Street in West Middletown is still ran by the Wilmont family today. From their Facebook page, “Cold beer and cocktails, delicious food, great live music and a beautiful outdoor patio. Come in, unwind, and see why the Madison Inn has been everyone’s favorite hangout since 1846!” **MT**



## Household Hazardous Waste Drop Off



**WHEN:** Every THURSDAY, 2 p.m. - 7 p.m.  
July thru end October 2022

**WHERE:** US Ecology  
3555 Yankee Road, Middletown

**DO NOT** drop materials off outside of designated service day or time. Visit [recycle.bcoho.us](http://recycle.bcoho.us) for a complete list of accepted items. This program is open to Butler Co. residents only.

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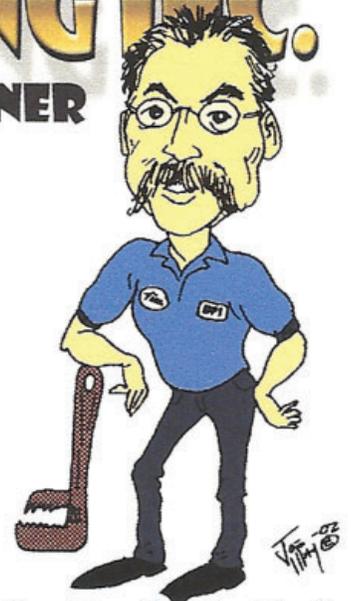
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# OHIO FAIRS' MAYA KIDD QUEEN

**M**aya has been an active member in the Butler County 4-H program for the past 10 years. She has participated in various components of the program. Currently, she serves as the President of the Jr. Fair Board and is a CARTEENS youth presenter. Each year, she shows market lambs at the fair and completes various other types of projects. As 2021 Butler County Fair Queen, she represented Butler County at various fairs and events. Currently, she still holds this title and will until the Butler County Fair of this year, where she will crown the next Butler County Fair Queen and King. Each year, it is required for the county fair queen to compete for the state title during her reign. During this past January, Maya headed to Columbus with her family to compete for the Ohio Fairs' Queen title at the OFMA (Ohio Fairs Manager Association) convention. There, Maya met 78 other fairs queens from all over the state of Ohio. Now, crowned as the 2022 Ohio Fairs' Queen, Maya hopes to represent Butler County and Madison Township well as she travels across the state of Ohio.



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## KEY TO PANFISHING IN OHIO

Make long casts with a very slow retrieval and frequent long pauses.

Identify the north-end of waterbody with muck/mud bottoms, leaf litter or vegetation, and protection from direct wind.



YELLOW PERCH



BLUEGILL

OPT FOR LIVE BAIT, MAGGOTS, CRAPPIE MINNOWS, OR SMALL CHUNKS OF WORM SUSPENDED ON SIZE 8-12 HOOKS.





# MADISON LOCAL SCHOOLS

*Achieving Excellence One Student at a Time*

## On the Plank

By **JEFF STAGGS,**  
**SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS**

Let me be the first to say THANK YOU, MOHAWK FAMILY for making the first semester successful and working with our staff as we all navigated this pandemic together. We are well into the second semester of the 2021-22 school year and before we know it, it will be graduation time!

Our students continue to thrive here at Madison and I am confident that our upcoming Ohio State Testing will confirm just that - that we are excelling as a district! Remember that the best support you can give your children when preparing for State testing is a good night's sleep the night before testing, a healthy breakfast the morning of, and encouraging them to do their best.

Winter sports are wrapping up while spring sports are gearing up and ready to begin. We are very proud of the individual accomplishments, as well as team efforts given throughout our winter sports season. We are looking forward to a successful spring sports season and hoping for beautiful weather too.

We are beginning to see more and more normalcy as we are getting back to several pre-pandemic activities and events. This shows true with our 8th graders being able to get back to Washington DC! We look forward to this trip as a district and cannot wait to hear all about it from our students. Class of 2026...represent Madison Mohawks well in our Nation's capital while making lifetime memories with your fellow classmates.

On behalf of the Board of Education, we are happy to welcome Mr. Lawson to the board. We look forward to working with him and adding to the already amazing things we do at Madison. We also would like to thank Mr. Robinson for his years of service and dedication to the students, staff, families, and community of this great district.

And lastly....Gooooooooooooo, Mohawks!



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# MADISON LOCAL SCHOOLS

*Achieving Excellence One Student at a Time*

## Madison Thespians present MAMMA MIA

Madison High School  
Thespians present

# MAMMA MIA!

April 28 - May 1

Tickets available now at  
**MadisonArts.org**

Music and Lyrics by BENNY ANDERSSON, BJÖRN ULVÆUS  
with STIG ANDERSON · Book by CATHERINE JOHNSON

The Madison High School Thespians will present their spring musical “Mamma Mia” in four performances during the last weekend in April. ABBA’s hits tell the hilarious story of a young woman’s search for her birth father. This sunny and funny tale unfolds on a Greek island paradise. On the eve of her wedding, a daughter’s quest to discover the identity of her father brings three men from her mother’s past back to the island they last visited 20 years ago.

The story-telling magic of ABBA’s timeless songs propels this enchanting tale of love, laughter and friendship, creating an unforgettable show. A mother. A daughter. Three possible dads. And a trip down the aisle you’ll never forget!

Performances will be in Madison High School’s Theater on Thursday April 28 through Saturday April 30 at 7:30 pm, with a final matinee performance on Sunday May 1 at 3:30 pm. Ticket prices are \$15 for adults, \$12 for K-12 students, and free admission for preschoolers. Reserved seating tickets are available now at MadisonArts.org.

Concessions and break-a-leg gifts for the cast and crew will be available before the shows and during intermissions, provided by the Madison Association for Stage Kids. High school students as well as adults are invited to volunteer with MASK before the show and during intermission. Volunteers will each receive two free tickets to the show. To volunteer, sign up at [madisonarts.click/playhelp](http://madisonarts.click/playhelp).

## Powderpuff - Seniors WON!



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## Cooking



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# Drying Delicious Herbs

By Roxanne Mantz

**D**rying is the easiest method of preserving herbs. Simply expose the leaves, flowers or seeds to warm, dry air. Leave the herbs in a well-ventilated area until the moisture evaporates. Sun drying is not recommended because the herbs can lose flavor and color.

The best time to start drying most herbs is just before the flowers first open when they are in the bursting bud stage. Gather the herbs in the early morning after the dew has evaporated to minimize wilting. Avoid bruising the leaves. They should not lie in the sun or unattended after harvesting. Rinse herbs in cool water and gently shake to remove excess moisture.

**The sturdier herbs**, such as rosemary, sage, thyme, summer savory and parsley are the easiest to dry. Tie them into small bundles and hang them to air dry. Air drying outdoors is often possible; however, better color and flavor retention usually results from drying indoors.

**Tender-leaf herbs**, such as basil, oregano, tarragon, lemon balm and the mints have a high moisture content and will mold if not dried quickly. Try hanging the tender-leaf herbs or those with seeds inside paper bags to dry. Tear or punch holes in the sides of the bag. Suspend a small bunch—large amounts will mold—of herbs in a bag and close the top with a rubber band. Place where air currents will circulate through the bag. Any leaves and seeds that fall off will be caught in the bottom of the bag.

Another method, especially nice for mint, sage or bay leaf, is to dry the leaves separately. In areas of high humidity, it will work better than air drying whole stems. Remove the best leaves from the stems. Lay

the leaves on a paper towel, without allowing leaves to touch. Cover with another towel and layer of leaves. Five layers may be dried at one time using this method. Dry in a very cool oven. The oven light of an electric range or the pilot light of a gas range furnishes enough heat for overnight drying. Leaves dry flat and retain a good color.

When the leaves are crispy dry and crumple easily between the fingers, they are ready to be packaged and stored. Dried leaves may be left whole and crumpled as used, or coarsely crumpled before storage. Husks can be removed from seeds by rubbing the seeds between the hands and blowing away the chaff. Place herbs in airtight containers and store in a cool, dry, dark area to protect color and fragrance.

Dried herbs are usually 3 to 4 times stronger than the fresh herbs. To substitute dried herbs in a recipe that calls for fresh herbs, use 1/4 to 1/3 of the amount listed in the recipe.

*Note: You may use a dehydrator, follow the manufacturers directions.*



# How to: Use a Gas Grill



## Location:

- Pick a level surface
- Try to choose a spot that won't get much wind
- Choose a location away from dry bushes and trees
- Avoid getting too close to a pool or chemically treated lawn – these chemicals can cause rust
- Try to avoid being directly under a tree

## Preparing your gas grill for cooking

There are a few things to do before cooking for safety. Always check your manual before cooking in case your grill has special instructions.

Seasoning -- Most grill grates need to be seasoned before cooking so your food won't stick. Just spray them with a cooking spray that can handle high heat. Even if your gas grill isn't brand new, season the cooking grates every year before your first cookout. Seasoning also helps prevent rusting.

**Preheating** – Most of us are used to waiting for a charcoal grill to preheat, which can take a long time, especially when everyone's hungry! Gas grills only need a few minutes for heating. Follow your gas grill's manufacturer instructions for starting.

## You're ready to start grilling! Some good tips:

- Most meats taste even better after soaking in a great marinade, and you'll want to brush on a little extra while cooking for extra flavor.
- Use caution when basting, marinade or fat can drip into the flames and cause a flare-up. Always baste with a brush to get it right on the food.
- Grilling vegetables can be tricky because they can fall through the cooking grate. Use skewers to make veggie kebabs or use a nonstick grilling pan.
- Avoid flattening your burgers and other meats. It's the juice that makes grilled meat so delicious.
- Keep your menu simple for a great cookout.

## Grilling safety tips

Grilling with gas can be done safely if you stick with the manufacturer's recommendations and follow these safety tips:

- Keep the lid open when lighting. Gas can build up under the lid and cause a flash of fire when you start your grill.
- Never leave your gas grill unattended when cooking.
- Don't wear clothes with loose sleeves that might get trapped in the grates or catch on fire.
- Never lean over the grill when lighting it or cooking.
- Don't cook too much at once. Excess fat drippings might cause a fire.
- Never use your gas grill indoors or in an area with poor ventilation. Check out the section above about setting up your gas grill for tips on safe places to place your grill.
- Keep children away from the gas grill when cooking and be sure they don't play with it when it's not in use. They might loosen a connection that can cause a gas leak.
- If you're using a propane gas grill, store your propane tanks upright and out of direct sunlight. Never store them in your vehicle or inside your garage.
- Don't smoke near your gas grill or your propane tanks.
- After cooking, check to be sure your burners are shut off. Turn off the gas and allow your gas grill to cool, then shut the lid. If you're using a grill cover, be sure the entire unit is cool to the touch before covering.

## You can't beat the taste of freshly grilled meats and vegetables.

Working with a gas grill can help with the expense of stocking up on charcoal and lighter fluid, as well as cleanup. Whether you're buying a new gas grill or already have a gas grill that you're ready to fire up this season, get to know some grill safety and maintenance before enjoying cookouts.

## Choosing a Gas Grill

There are a few things to consider when choosing your new grill. Gas type, size of grill and options that your new grill may come with. Things to consider:

**Natural gas** – Natural gas grills connect directly to the natural gas line in your home. What are few advantages to a natural gas grill? Never running out of fuel in the middle of a cookout and not worrying about returning propane tanks. Natural gas is also somewhat less expensive but does require a connection to your gas line.

**Propane** – Propane grills are the most common when it comes to gas grills. You can buy a propane cylinder and fill it at your local Tractor Supply store or get a prefilled tank from a gas station or grocery store. Just be sure to keep up with replacing or refilling the propane tanks when they get low.

**Size** – The size of your grill depends on how many people you plan to feed. Got a big family? Go with a larger size grill. Entertaining a couple friends? Choose a space-saving grill to get the job done.

**Quality** – Low-quality gas grills can rust quickly, so you'll need a new one in a few years. Mid-range grills are built to last about a decade and easier on your wallet than a higher-level gas grill. If you grill often, try to invest in a premium or luxury-class grill that will last for the long haul.

**Grilling Cookware & Accessories** – The options you choose will reflect your own chef-level talent. You can add a box for wood chips to turn your grill into a smoker, get a charcoal tray for that mixed-fuel taste, or get a gas grill with special lighting to dazzle guests. If you're looking to grill lots of poultry, think about a rotisserie add-on. When purchasing any additions, keep in mind if they need an electrical outlet and if one is near your grilling area.



# BARN-N-BUNK FARM MARKET

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Sunday: 11:00 a.m. - 5 p.m.

By Kent Hall, Chief

# Fire Department



It's spring time and with that said residents will be cleaning up yards and burning brush. Remember in the State of Ohio there are limits and restrictions set for burning, any questions or if you think you will need assistance with this project contact your local fire station.

The Madison Township Fire Department operates three stations, **STATION 151** located at the intersection of Howe and Elk Creek, this station covers fire related calls and has approximately 20 volunteer personnel at this station.

**STATION 152** located on Germantown Road in Poasttown, this station also covers fire related calls and has approximately 15 volunteer personnel at this station.

**STATION 153** located at State Route 122 and Mosiman, this station is for EMS and runs three part time personnel around the clock that responds to medical calls and assist during fire related calls.

If you are part of an organization, church, boy scouts, etc.. and would like to visit one of the stations for a tour, give your respective station a call and we can set something up.

The Madison Township Fire Department with approval from the Township Trustees will have on the May ballot a Fire Levy, this levy a 3 mill levy that would generate approximately 850,000.00 additional dollars which is needed to continue to operate the department. This levy would cost a homeowner on a 100,000.00 dollar home approximately 100.00 dollars a year more. The levy would allow us to purchase much needed equipment, apparatus, construct new facilities and refurbish others, allow staffing at two different locations which would decrease response time.

Please Vote Yes on the Fire Levy. [MT](#)




**VOTE YES ON THE FIRE LEVY!**

# RoadReport

BY TODD DANIEL, ROAD SUPERINTENDENT

## WINTER REPORT

This past winter we again experienced below average snowfall. Total salt usage for the 2021-22 season was 349 tons ordered at a cost of \$26,625.00.

Although salt demand has been down the last few years the price of salt continues to edge up. Bids are currently out for the 2022-23 season.

## SUMMER PROJECTS

Roads this year receiving treatments:  
Resurfacing – Hinkle Rd. – Hetzler Rd. to Mont. Co. Line  
Resurfacing – Kalbfleisch Rd. – Hetzler Rd. to Elk Creek Rd.  
Resurfacing – Leichty Rd. – All  
Retrace – Dickey Rd. – West Alexandria to Kalbfleisch Rd.  
Retrace – Howe Rd. – Elk Creek Rd. to Wayne Madison

## ARPA

Signed into law on March 11, 2021, The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (“ARPA”) provided \$350 billion in additional funding for state and local governments. The state funding portion was approximately \$195 billion with \$25.5 billion distributed equally among the 50 states and the District of Columbia and the remaining amount distributed according to a formula based on unemployment.

The local funding portion is approximately \$130 billion, equally divided between cities and counties. Localities will receive the funds in two tranches—the first after the U.S. Treasury certifies the proceeds to each jurisdiction and the second one year later.

**WE RECEIVED \$938,000.00**

The trustees have decided that with a portion of these funds they would like to address some failing stormwater pipes.

## THIS WILL INCLUDE:

1. A CIPP process on a 36” x 75’ CMP pipe on Emerson Road
  2. A CIPP process on 1550’ of 12” and 18” pipe on Niderdale Way
  3. Replacement of multiple pipes on roads to be paved
  4. A gunnite process on a 65” x 40” x 440” pipe on Niderdale Way
- TOTAL COST OF \$230,000.00**

## RECOGNITION

In closing I would like to recognize and thank Mr. Danny Alley for his years of service for the Madison Township Trustees.

I met Danny back in the early 90’s while he was working for Lemon Township. He then went on to the BCEO as a supervisor for several years. We then had a job opening and was able to bring him back into the township. That was over 20 years ago.

Danny has been a major part of every capitol improvement project during that time. Which included the construction of our storage building, park shelters, park construction, cemetery building restoration etc.

Also during that time I had the privilege of watching him use his animal skills which included. Removing a raccoon from a residents basement, wrangling cattle multiple times that had escaped their pasture or freeing a horse that was stuck in a bog that could not escape on its own.

Whether it was plowing in a snow storm, salting backwards in an ice storm or cutting and chipping for 2 weeks after a wind storm he was always up to the task and ready to work.

He will be missed and hard to replace.

I thank you and we thank you for making this township a better place than you found it.

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