

MADISON TOWNSHIP

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The Mennonites of Madison Township

The following excerpt from The Amish Mennonite Settlement in Butler County, Ohio by Doris L. Page and Marie Johns offers the best summary of the Amish Mennonites in southern Madison Township:

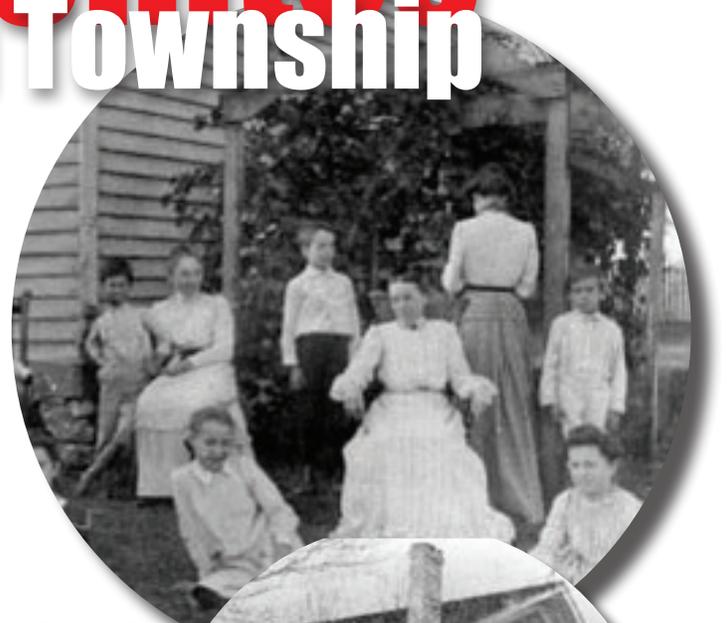
“The Mennonite Settlement in Butler County was the third of the Amish branch of the Mennonite Church in Ohio. In 1819 the original group of six Amish Mennonite families formed a settlement. Christian Augspurger stands out as the foremost pioneer and leader of the small group. They came from Alsace Lorain, a region which passed back and forth between Germany and France. Although a part of France at that time, its people clung to their German language and customs.

The Amish Mennonites were firm believers in strict religious standards and formed a small congregation as soon as they were settled in Butler County. The Hessian immigrants who joined the settlement were also Mennonites. The newcomers were accepted into the congregation, although they had not been connected with the Amish branch in their native state German state of Hesse.

The Hessian Mennonites differed from the original Amish group. They were accustomed to less discipline in worship and resented the austere Amish dress code. Two churches were eventually formed in 1835, each working independently of the other. The congregations were known as the Augspurger Church and the Hessian Church. In the beginning, the former, despite its strictness, was the stronger of the two. Changing attitudes concerning discipline and intermarriage with Hessian families brought about a decline in membership of the Augspurger Church.

In the settlement, farming was a way of life. Each farm was self-sustaining. And yet this colony contributed to the shaping of America with its own distinctive character.”

Thirty-six families had traveled with Christian Augspurger to the United States, for religious freedom, promised land and to build a better life for their families, but only six of those families continued on to Butler County, Ohio. First they settled in Milford Township near Collinsville, then many moved onto the fertile lands of Madison Township in the areas south and west of Trenton and along the Great Miami River, as well as areas in St. Clair, Wayne, Lemon, and Liberty Townships. As recorded by Rev. W. H. Grubb in 1916, “...six families came to Butler County in



ABOVE: MENNONITE
CHURCH
GATHERING 1902



RIGHT: HESSIAN
CHURCH

August of the same year [1819]. They were as follows: Christian Augspurger, his brother Joseph, their second cousin, Jacob Augspurger, Christian Sommer, John Miller and John Gunden. These were all members of the Amish branch of the church.”

In 1832 the Hessian Mennonites immigrated to the United States. They settled in Ohio, and purchased land in Madison and Lemon Townships, some moved on to Illinois and Iowa. The Hessian Mennonites had not been closely connected to the more traditional Amish before settling in Ohio. However, the Hessians joined the Augspurger congregation, but in time, differences in beliefs arose. The Hessians were considered more liberal, had worldly goods, books, pewter plates and mugs, musical instruments, and wore modern clothing. They did not agree with

Continued on page 6

YOUR Township Office Manager

Welcome Our New Newsletter Team

Fall is here, and old man Winter is right behind. As we start to finish up the 2023 year, 2024 will be here before you know it. As the Office Manager I still learn something new every day. I would like to let everyone know that you are more than welcome to stop in the Township Office and ask any questions you might have, as well as any concerns. You may also stop in and meet me and just say “Hi”.

I wanted to make you aware that our newsletter is now being produced locally with Daubenmire Printing Innovations out of Middletown. They are



handling everything from design and printing to mailing it to you. We look forward to a great working relationship with them. If you or your business have any graphic design and/or printing needs, we highly recommend Daubenmire Printing Innovations.

Thank you,
David Runnells
Office Manager

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Todd Daniel 513-464-0613

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David Runnells 513-424-0821

WEBSITE

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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.

TOWNSHIP CONTACT NUMBERS

EMERGENCIES ALWAYS CALL 911

Madison Township Admin. Building 513-424-0821

Kent Hall, Fire Chief 513-464-0709

Fire Station 151 (Elk Creek Road) 513-988-9124

Fire Station 152 (Germantown Road) 513-424-3384

Fire Station 153 (Mosiman Road) 513-425-9009

Madison Board of Education 513-420-4750

Butler County Sheriff 513-424-2456

Butler County Auditor 513-887-3149

Butler County Engineer 513-424-9144

Butler County Board of Elections 513-887-3700

Butler County Zoning 513-424-5351

Butler County Health Department 513-863-1770

Butler Rural Electric Cooperative 513-867-4400

Southwest Regional Water 800-232-5330

Duke Energy 800-634-4300

Dayton Power and Light 937-224-6000

Middletown Public Library 513-424-1251



Fire Department

BY KENT HALL, FIRE CHIEF

It's that time of year again, cold weather is coming, with that said it's time to start thinking about how you heat your residence. Electric, gas, wood, however you do it could be a good time to check and inspect your furnace or have the chimney cleaned out to prevent chimney fires.

The Madison Township Fire Department will be at the Madison Schools the first week of October for Fire Prevention Week. During this time elementary kids will learn about Fire Safety, be able to talk with fire department members and be able to look at and see the fire trucks and equipment.



We're Hiring!

The Madison Township Fire Department is looking for some good men and women that would like a career in fire fighting or EMS service.

If you think you would be interested, please stop by one of the three stations or give us a call and we will provide you with an application.

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Road Department

BY TODD DANIEL, ROAD SUPERINTENDENT



As an employee of Madison township since November of 1992 and your Road Superintendent since 1996 I would like to announce my retirement at the end of this year. I thought I would share a little bit as to how it all started and where we are today.

In October of 1991 my wife Jennifer and I, while living in Idaho were provided with an opportunity that we accepted. Because of this we were required to sell or give away most everything we had to move to Sibre, Nigeria West Africa to do mission work and live indefinitely. Since this was so close to the end of the Gulf War and we were living in a Muslim country tensions were still very high in the area and towards us. Six months into our stay fighting broke out in the capitol Jalingo and spilled into the villages like wildfire. Soon after, we were accused of being spies and were threatened with imprisonment. After some intervention and negotiations, the government of Nigeria repatriated us from their country. Upon returning to the US things didn't look real promising with a pregnant wife, no job and only 2 suitcases (as one was stolen on our return trip) to our name. But things have a way of working out.

Several months later after returning to Ohio I was approached by my former principal, coach, and friend Larry Brandenburg about a job opportunity for Madison Township. I honestly at the time did not even know there was such a job, let alone what it entailed.

I soon found out that resources were very limited and that there appeared to be a lot to take care of. In 1992 we were still in the red barn at the corner of Trenton Franklin

Rd. and SR122. I remember the first rain, the roof leaking and the nail bins filling up with water. We had an outdoor salt bin with no cover (tarp) and had only room for one load of salt. Keep in mind we still had over 100 lane miles of roadway. There were two of us and only two trucks. This was an extreme challenge at times, especially during the blizzard of 1996.

Right around 1994 SK Construction built us a brand new two bay township building which we are still in today. A couple years later BD Morgan added two additional bays.

Once we moved into the new building the trustees decided to take our township to the next level by hiring Bill McGuire as our first township administrator. This was a great decision. Since many families in our community had little or poor drinking water his first task was to explore the possibility of bringing county water throughout the township. By the spring of 1999 this was a reality and over 50 miles of water line had been installed. This has most likely brought the greatest value to our community in the last 30 years.

Several years later trustee Gerald Cottongim stated it would be nice to have a park on the adjacent land the township owned. Gerald passed in 2007 but with the leadership of trustees Alan Daniel and Dwight Walters the park was made a reality in 2008. Much of the work on the park was completed by two of our local contractors Fraley Excavating and Neal Excavating. Since that time, we have made many more improvements to our facilities, of which most were completed in-house, which include shelters, walking trails etc.

I am grateful for all the quality people I have been able to hire and work with all these years. Many part time and several full time. They are the ones who made it all happen 24 hours a day 7 days a week. I cannot mention them all, but they know who they are and how much I appreciate

each of them for their hard work and dedication to this community.

I want to also thank the wives and families of the men who worked for me. Time after time their husbands or dads would answer the phone no matter the time or day to deal with some type of emergency on the road. I know many times this changed their holiday plans, birthdays etc. but these guys always answered the call and came ready to work. Thank you for your sacrifice.

I also would like to thank my wife and kids for their understanding and support for me to do my job when it was not convenient for them or their plans. Many, many calls in the middle of the night and miscellaneous other times. Thank you.

I would also like to thank my current trustees for their support and trust. I believe this group will continue to provide good solid leadership going forward.

In closing, I would like to say it has been a pleasure serving the people of Madison Township all these years and I know my father feels the same way. It was always our goal and intention to leave this township and community in a better place than we found it. I feel that we both have done that.

God bless,
Todd Daniel



MADISON LOCAL SCHOOLS

Achieving Excellence One Student at a Time

Message from the Treasurer

Dear Madison Community,

As I continue into my second year as treasurer for Madison Local Schools, I would like to take this opportunity to communicate some thoughts in general, and more specifically, information regarding the district's financial data. I have witnessed great generosity of time, talents and funds from individuals of this community in support of the overall success of our students. I have the pleasure of working for a Board of Education whose members are dedicated and passionate toward leading the district's initiatives to provide the best education and opportunities possible for its students. I am very happy to play a small role in the great work being done at Madison toward the district's mission "to equip and inspire students to pursue their individual purpose in life!"

Public school finance is multifaceted, complex and cyclical; an overview of school funding can be found at: education.ohio.gov/Topics/Finance-and-Funding/Overview-of-School-Funding. The most comprehensive information containing Madison's actual and forecasted revenue and expenditure data is the Five-Year Forecast. The forecast should be reviewed with its corresponding "Assumptions" which are approved by the Board of Education. Current and previous forecast and assumptions can be found on the Ohio Department of Education website: education.ohio.gov/Topics/Finance-and-Funding/Five-Year-Forecasts/Submissions-of-Traditional-and-JVSDs.

The five-year forecast is a representation of a moment in time; it reflects a budget using trends from previous data, information from current data and anticipated changes based on approved assumptions which impact business processes such as salaries, wages, transportation and health care costs. A summary representation of the district's May 2023 forecast is below. Total revenues - 1,070, total expenditures-4,500, and excess of revenues over (under) expenditures-6,010, depict the district in deficit spending for fiscal years 2023 through 2027, meaning expenditures exceed revenues. These numbers will change based on anticipated assumptions for the November 2023 forecast; revenues are expected to increase, as are expenditures, but at a lower rate.

Madison Local School District
Butler County
Schedule of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances
For the Fiscal Years Ended June 30, 2020, 2021 and 2022 Actual;
Forecasted Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2023 Through 2027

	Actual			Average Change	Forecasted				
	Fiscal Year 2020	Fiscal Year 2021	Fiscal Year 2022		Fiscal Year 2023	Fiscal Year 2024	Fiscal Year 2025	Fiscal Year 2026	Fiscal Year 2027
Revenues									
1.070 Total Revenues	16,486,620	17,092,286	17,166,637	2.0%	17,092,686	17,882,823	18,071,657	18,096,716	18,170,536
Expenditures									
4.500 Total Expenditures	16,094,940	16,602,988	16,720,055	1.9%	17,789,057	19,252,036	20,183,427	20,979,538	21,833,213
Other Financing Uses									
5.040 Total Other Financing Uses	54,428	595,648	109,897	282.0%	109,897	109,897	109,897	109,897	109,897
5.050 Total Expenditures and Other Financing Uses	16,179,368	17,198,636	16,820,052	2.1%	17,888,954	19,361,933	20,293,324	21,089,435	21,943,110
6.010 Excess of Revenues and Other Financing Sources over (under) Expenditures and Other Uses	386,218	(21,890)	925,854	-998.0%	(606,069)	(1,679,110)	(2,221,667)	(2,993,719)	(3,772,574)
7.010 Cash Balance July 1 - Excluding Proposed Renewal/Replacement and New Levies	6,236,333	6,624,551	6,602,653	2.9%	7,528,507	6,722,438	5,943,328	2,821,681	(122,056)
7.020 Cash Balance June 30	6,624,551	6,802,653	7,528,507	6.9%	6,722,438	5,043,328	2,821,681	(172,059)	(3,644,632)
8.010 Estimated Encumbrances June 30	247,849	542,979	89,846	17.7%	89,846	89,846	89,846	89,846	89,846
10.010 Fund Balance June 30 for Certification of Appropriations	6,376,705	6,060,078	7,438,661	8.9%	6,632,592	4,853,482	2,731,815	(261,904)	(4,034,478)
12.010 Fund Balance June 30 for Certification of Contracts, Salary Schedules and Other Obligations	6,376,705	6,060,078	7,438,661	8.9%	6,632,592	4,853,482	2,731,815	(261,904)	(4,034,478)
15.010 Unreserved Fund Balance June 30	6,376,705	6,060,078	7,438,661	8.9%	6,632,592	4,853,482	2,731,815	(261,904)	(4,034,478)

More detailed and real-time financial information is presented at the monthly Board meetings; these reports are available to the public through the district's website: www.madisonmohawks.org/departments/board-of-education, click on policies and minutes, then click on meetings and view the agenda for the specific date.

Please reach out to me at belinda.flick@madisonmohawks.org if you would like additional information.

Respectfully,
Belinda Flick, M.Ed.
Treasurer/CFO
Madison Local Schools

The Mennonites of Madison Township

Continued from page 1

the congregation's strictness of worship, way of life, manner of dress, and distrust of higher education for their children. After much debate, on May 8th, 1835, the congregations became two: the Augspurger congregation, nicknamed the "hook and eye" church, under Rev. Augspurger and Rev. Schrock, and the Hessian congregation, nicknamed the "button" church, under Rev. Naffziger, due to the way members fastened their clothing.

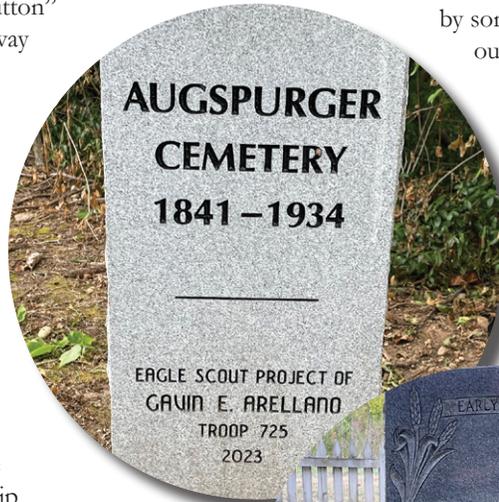
Meetings for worship were in homes prior to the 1860s, but with growing membership the Augspurger congregation built a meeting house on Gephart Road, St. Clair Township in 1863. In that same year the Hessian congregation was incorporated as the Apolostic Mennonite Society of Butler County and in 1864 built a meeting house on Wayne-Madison Road, Wayne Township and established a cemetery. In 1876 and 1890 Sunday School was incorporated and until 1890 all lessons and services were in German. In 1892, the Society of what had been the Hessian congregation, called a trained minister, Rev. H. J. Krehbiel. The Augspurger congregation minister at that time was Rev. Peter Imhoff. Both ministers encouraged a closer relationship between the congregations, resulting in a merger in 1897, and taking on the Society's name. At some time the Amish Mennonites became Mennonites, having moved on from being Amish. The total membership was then at 250. In 1907 a new church was built at 2 East Main Street in Trenton and the former buildings were abandoned. In 1977 the congregation changed the name to the Trenton Mennonite Church.

What remains of the early Amish Mennonite and Mennonite settlements in Madison Township?

- The name Augspurger is almost synonymous with these settlements: Augspurger Road, Augspurger was the former name of Woodsdale, the Augspurger paper mill office and three tenant houses in Woodsdale remain, a few houses and farms. One such farm is still owned and operated by an Augspurger at Miltonville. Other names from those congregations and descendants who's houses and/or farms remain are: Ehresman, Eicher, Gingrich, Imoff, Iutzi, Kennel, Meyers, Moon, Mosiman, Ross, Rupp, Schrock, Thomas, Woodrey.
- The only remaining church building is the Trenton Mennonite

Church built in 1907 at 2 East Main Street, Trenton where these combined congregations still meet, and the first Mennonite parsonage built in 1900 at 203 West State Street.

- Chrisholm MetroPark, 2070 Woodsdale Road, Woodsdale. Historic farmstead of Christian Augspurger, later inherited by son, Samuel Augspurger. Historical markers, outbuildings, cemetery. Site of the Augspurger Family Cemetery, there is evidence of 27 possible burials within, 7 known: Christian and Katharina Hauter Augspurger, Joseph and Magdalena Augspurger, Christian Augspurger, Barbara Augspurger Iutzi, Anna Augspurger Kennel, possibly George Iutzi.



RIGHT: MARKER AT AUGSPURGER CEMETERY



RIGHT: MARKER AT AUGSPURGER CEMETERY

- Augspurger Cemetery, bordered by 6328 Sycamore Road, Kay Drive, and dead-end of Trenton Place, at the Trenton City limit sign down a grass covered lane. Established in 1830, Rev. Jacob Augspurger was the donor of this half acre cemetery land. Adjoining farm was owned by Rev. Nicholas Augspurger, son of Rev. Jacob Augspurger, who was regarded as a leader in the Augspurger congregation, keeping the church records. He was elected

into full ministry in 1847, performing 78 marriages, baptizing 140, and conducting 70 funerals, before passing away at the age of 60. Later this cemetery was deeded to the church, but since deeded and maintained by Madison Township. This cemetery had been severely vandalized over many years, with broken and missing stones. Just this year, Gavin E. Arellano of Trenton, as an Eagle Scout project, cleaned up and restored this cemetery. There are approximately 125 burials in this cemetery, which is on the Ohio Historic Inventory. Only a few graves can be read or recorded: Augspurger – Anna, Albertina, Catharina, Christian S., Elizabeth, Ferenika, Ferenika (2), Magdalena Gautshe, Maria, N.G., Nxn, Otto, Rev. Joseph, Rev. Nicholas, Samuel, Willie, possibly Elizabeth, possibly Jacobina Rupp; Rev. Joseph Meyer, possibly with wife Mary Augspurger; Heinrich Ehresman; Gaughe – Christian, Joseph, Katherine, Magdalena, Veronike; Jacob Kinsinger; Meyer – Jacob, Joseph, Joseph

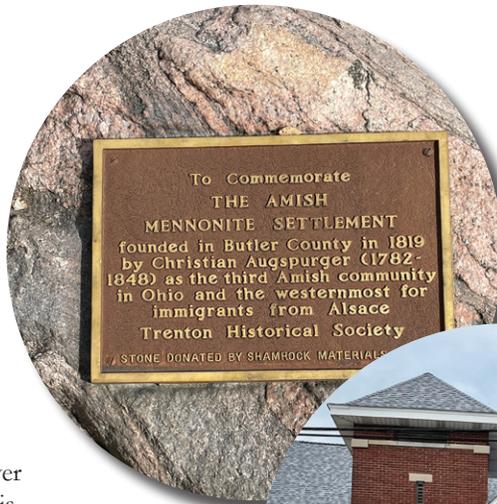
(2), Moses; Joseph W. Meister; Catherine Ramseyer; Andrew Zimmerman.

- Trenton Mennonite Cemetery, 3079 Wayne-Madison Road,

Trenton, St. Clair Township, just across the Madison Township line near the railroad tracks. There are over 450 graves within this cemetery and is still in use today. Many of the names aforementioned can be found upon the gravestones. In 1937 the Joseph C. Augspurger Memorial Chapel was erected upon what had been the site of the Hessian Church, by Joseph C. Augspurger in memory of his parents, Jacob J. and Catarine Augspurger.

This is just a brief history of the Amish Mennonites and Mennonites of our area. There are many publications on this subject with greater detail. A visit to the Chrisholm grounds, a tour of the house and buildings, a visit to the Trenton Mennonite Church, visiting the cemeteries, or a driving tour of the 111 sites related to this history in Madison Township, plus those

RIGHT: HISTORICAL MARKER AT CHRISHOLM HISTORIC FARMSTEAD



RIGHT: TRENTON MENNONITE CHURCH



in neighboring townships, will give you an appreciation of this early culture.

A lot of information can be found online, but here are some printed sources that can be found at the library or purchased from area historical societies or groups:

- Damals auf dem Lande, Once Upon A Farm: A Self-guided Driving Tour of the Historic Amish Mennonite Community of Butler County Ohio by Friends of Chrisholm Historic Farmstead.
- History of the Mennonites of Butler County, Ohio by Rev. W. H. Grubb.
- Madison Township Bicentennial Sketches (1799-1999) by George C. Crout.

- The Amish Mennonite Settlement in Butler County, Ohio by Doris L. Page and Marie Johns.
- Woodsdale's Story by Doris Page.



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A History of the Sons and Daughters of Italy Lodge

BY DR. STEPHANIE BURK



October is the month in which Italian Americans honor all those contributions made by Italian immigrants seeking a better life on American

shores. From the sports stadiums to the glittering entertainment world, science and government, Italians have long had a hand in the development of our society. Many left terrible hardships and poverty in the "old country" only to face new challenges here, but they survived and prospered.

The Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America was founded in the early 1900's as a fraternal Lodge with the express purpose of helping Italian immigrants find a place in a strange new world. Our local Lodge (Frank D. Vitori Lodge #2142) was chartered in 1963 and we are blessed to have some original members still participating in our activities. This October we will celebrate our Lodge's 60th anniversary with a gala party at The Windermere.

With the passage of time, the focus of the Order has changed from helping immigrants to preserving Italian culture and heritage as well as making significant philanthropic contributions to such groups as the Alzheimer's Association and the Cooley's Anemia Foundation. If you've eaten the Spaghetti Dinner at the Fenwick/John XXIII Festival, you've supported our Lodge's contribution toward local education, and hopefully had a meal to remember as well.

Although Italian ancestry is a plus, the Lodge now accepts social members as well, so anyone having an interest in any or all things Italian is welcome to join.

My Sicilian grandfather, Frank Burk, came to this country in the late 1800's - and yes, he changed his last name, from Ippolito to Burk - and passed away long before I was born, so as a kid my exposure to Italian culture was limited to spaghetti dinners on Saturday nights after Mass. My cousin encouraged me to join the local Sons and Daughters of Italy Lodge about 20 years ago, and soon after joining I went with the

group to an Italian street festival in Ontario. I was still a bit of a stranger, but one of the ladies linked arms with me as we joined a parade through the streets and said "this is how your people in Sicily would have done." My people - suddenly I had "people." Wow! I went from being an only child with no known ancestry beyond my grandparents to someone whose "people" reached back through the ages. I belonged! It was a moment I won't ever forget.

Fast forward to now, and I am in my third term as Lodge President . . . I am looking forward to our 60th Anniversary celebration - where we will honor those who came before us, dance the night away, set aside our "spaghetti dinner" aprons and let someone else do the cooking.

Of course my "other job" is the local vet at Western Hills Veterinary Clinic, so if this article piques your interest in your Italian heritage or Italian culture in general and you think you might like to explore further, you know where to find me. Alternatively, you can find our Lodge on Facebook - Sons Of Italy 2142 Frank D. Vitori Lodge.