

MADISON TOWNSHIP

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CURRENT PHOTO

PHOTO FROM 1986

The Great

By J. Larry Helton, Jr.

Mound

Madison Township is home to the largest Indian mound in Butler County. It is second only to the Miamisburg Mound in the Miami Valley and is the third largest of all Indian mounds in the United States. The Great Mound is located in Section 19 on the north end of Wayne-Madison Road on 14 acres that have been preserved and protected from development since 1989 when The Archaeological Conservancy in Sante Fe, New Mexico purchased it.

The Great Mound is a coned-shaped burial, observation, and signal mound constructed between 400 B.C. and 400 A.D. by the Adena people who migrated and lived in this area from around 1,000 B.C to 700 A.D. The Adena predate the Hopewell and Ft. Ancient peoples, who were later cultures of mound builders. Below the base of the Great Mound are the remains of the first tribal leaders, in what would be considered a type of memorial mortuary tomb. The leaders were buried with clay tablets, figurines, jewelry, and other significant items from their lifetime. As time passed, layers of dirt were carried and added so as to create more chambers for more deceased leaders. This tradition continued and gradually the mound would increase in size. The Great Mound is estimated to have 20 to 30 tombs with the remains of tribal leaders within. Most others that were not in leadership roles were cremated. Eventually, the mound gained such a magnificent height that a view of 20 miles made it possible to communicate with mounds in Franklin, Miamisburg, Dayton, Jacksonburg, and those near Hamilton. In 1990, volunteers for The Archaeological Conservancy used mirrors to show that it was possible to signal between The Great Mound, the Kinder Mound of Franklin, and the Miamisburg Mound.

In 1836, James McBride notes the Great Mound on the first map of Butler County and in the late 1800s, John P. McLean writes of it in his book, *Mounds of Butler County*. The first recorded excavation was in 1879, causing the upper quarter of the mound to be destroyed due to dirt not being returned after the digging was completed. This is still evident when visiting the top of the mound today. Little was revealed, other than some bones and evidence of a fire, due to the shallow digging and haphazard way the excavation was conducted. At that time the mound measured 42 feet high and 511 feet wide. Today the mound measures 34 feet high and 176 feet

wide due to the event in 1879, erosion, and the years of encroachment from the farmer's plow, which in turn has caused many arrowheads and stone tools to surface.

The Great Mound and the land around it has a short history of owners. Shortly after 1800, Benjamin Morrison purchased the 360 acres from the U.S. government, who later sold to the Long and Fisher family who owned it for nearly 150 years before selling it to the Conservancy. The land purchased was then down to 14 acres. At times during the last 100 years, there was interest for the mound and the land to be incorporated into a park. Around 1900, Hampton Long fenced in the area and kept tamed deer, allowed climbing on the mound, and family picnics. In 1971, the mound was put on the National Register of Historic Places, and in 1973, the Ohio, Kentucky, & Indiana Regional Council of Government's Planning Commission wanted the area purchased for park use. In later years, the City of Middletown wanted to purchase the mound and surrounding acreage and connect it to Sebald Park by way of the longtime closed extension of Wayne-Madison Road to Elk Creek Road. The City still owns Sebald Park, but leases it to the Butler County MetroParks, who would also like to develop a park at the mound site.

In the early 1800s, over 250 mounds and 17 ancient enclosures were documented in Butler County, only second in the state to Ross County. Then by 1879, only 12 were known to still remain in Madison Township. Recently, it has been stated that 90% of all past documented ancient earthworks in the United States are now gone. Madison Township has a treasure to behold – The Great Mound.

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TOWNSHIP CONTACT NUMBERS

EMERGENCIES ALWAYS CALL 911

Madison Township Admin. Building.....	513-424-0821
Fire Station #1 (Elk Creek Road).....	513-988-9124
Fire Station #2 (Germantown Road).....	513-424-3384
Life Squad Building (Mosiman Road).....	513-425-9009
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Butler County Sheriff.....	513-424-2456
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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

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.

Your Township Administrator...



PARK UPDATE

As our park continues to develop, we hope all our residents are taking advantage of the inviting settings, nestled back in our park.

We're continuing to refine the existing facilities and adding new upgrades as we receive grants from varying agencies. Our most recent upgrade is the underground installation of water and electricity. We were awarded a Community Development Block Grant to cover 100% of the anticipated material and labor. With the cost slightly over \$31,000, this upgrade brings us one step closer to finally being able to build a permanent building which will house a concession stand and restrooms; thus alleviating the ever so present, but much needed port-o-johns. Our own local contractors, Blashock Plumbing and Fraley Excavating were awarded the contract for the water line installation. Although the water lines and electrical lines will be install, at this time they'll only be underground which will not allow for any immediate use. As we get closer to building the concession stand and restrooms, these utilities will be incorporated into their construction.

The hiking trails are coming along as we continue to "cover" the trails when we create/acquire mulch from various situations.

You'll also notice later in the newsletter, that we've partnered with students from Miami University of Oxford, Engineering Department, for the design/build of a pedestrian bridge which will span one of the largest gullies back along the hiking trails. Construction is expected to begin in the fall and we're currently seeking funding to pay for the material.

Whether you like hiking through the woods, walking along a paved path, playing tennis, or the serenity of sitting by a small pond, come on out and enjoy the many options we have to offer inside YOUR park.

Thanks for making Madison Township a great place to live, work, and play!

Todd Farler
Madison Township Administrator

Trustee News...

Dwight Walter - Trustee



Winter has been kind to us this year – a record warm winter! – and saved on our salt which is now stored for next year.

We are fortunate not to be in such financial straits as many other communities...all the township employees and elected officials have worked hard to be fiscally sound and treat the taxpayer money like it was their own personal reserves. Just like in your household we save a penny here and there and it amounts to many dollars.

Grants procured by our administrator have been a large addition to the things in Madison that make it a special place to live and raise your families. Our firemen and life squad cannot be thanked enough for their service and dedication to this community...when you see one of them let them know how much they mean to you.

Enjoy your summer and plan a picnic at the Madison Community Park!

Check out all the MidPointe Library System has to offer. With locations in Middletown, Trenton and West Chester, you can always find the best in books, movies, music, games and more.

www.MidPointeLibrary.org

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Madison Fire Station 153
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Call to reserve your date for your next special event!

Call 424-0821

SCHOOL SAFETY A TOP PRIORITY

Schools MADISON

Madison Local Schools work diligently each year to ensure the safety of our students and staff. Preventative measures as well as crisis response plans are tested and reviewed regularly to confirm that all equipment and procedures are in working order. However, in the wake of recent school violence and natural disasters that have devastated schools and communities too close to home, many may be asking, "what safeguards are in place in our schools to keep our students and staff safe?"

First, Madison maintains an important relationship with the local fire department and Butler County Sheriffs Department. Several times a year the school and agencies work together to conduct fire, tornado and lock down drills in the schools. From pre-kindergarten to twelfth grade, it is important for our students to know and understand the procedures and correct actions should any of these drills become a reality.

Second, Madison's campus is secure at

all entrances with access to guests granted and logged by our office staff each day. All staff, including classified workers, coaches, and substitute teachers all have FBI background checks on file in the Board of Education Office prior to their service in our building.

Madison is also taking aggressive steps to keep our students informed about the potential dangers of bullying. Through various educational programs provided by our guidance counselors and outside character education groups, our students and staff are taught how to recognize and react to bullying in and out of the school buildings. This includes education geared toward cyber bullying online and via text messaging.

With all of these measures in place we are proud to say that we provide a safe, healthy environment for our students and staff to work and learn in each day.

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10 YEAR

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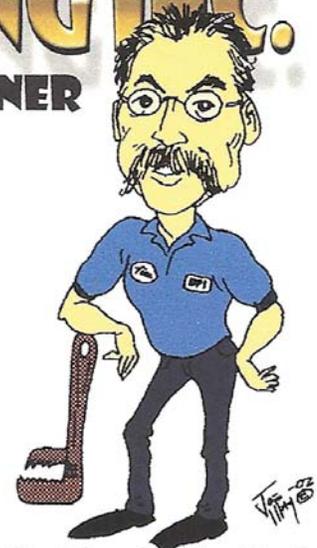
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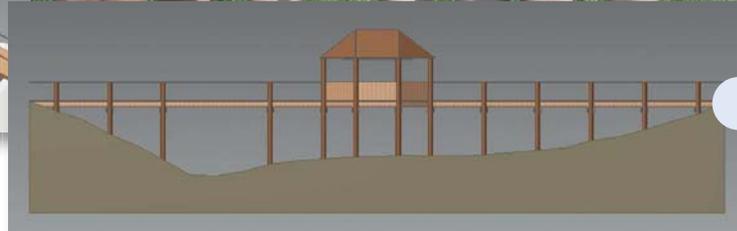
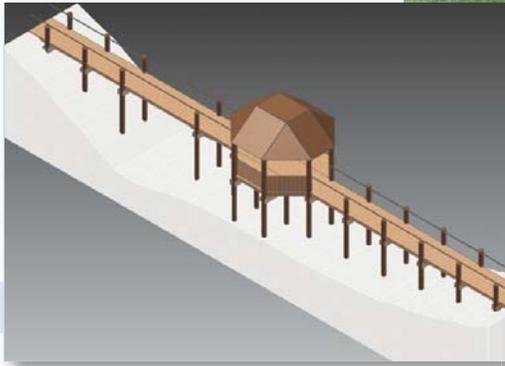
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Miami Students

Pictured left to right is Matt Labadie, Chris Hamilton, Austin Anderson, and Austin Greive.

These four senior engineering students from Miami University are working on their senior capstone project by designing, engineering, and building a pedestrian bridge along the hiking trails in our community park. Currently they are in the design and engineering stage, with construction set to begin sometime this summer or fall. We are currently seeking grants/funding to pay for the material cost.



Volunteer Fireman

From left to right: Rife Denlinger, Andy Bolen, Bob Strassburger and Denzil Ferguson



The following volunteer fireman received special recognition this past year for each having 30+ years of service with our township fire department.

Their example of such an exceptional level of volunteerism is part of what makes Madison Township such a wonderful place. Please be sure to offer a “Thank you” when you see them throughout our township!

MADISON TOWNSHIP Fire Department

Kent Hall - Fire Chief Madison Fire Department

BURNING BRUSH

With spring arriving and the unusual warmer weather that we are having, some residents of the township take this time to clear away brush and debris on their property. At times this brush and debris are discarded by way of burning. In an attempted controlled fire on the property, this can at times become an out of control fire that leads to a field fire and sometimes ending up on your neighbors property. If you would like to do away with brush in a controlled setting and you believe the brush pile is too big, give your local station a call and we will send a representative out to look at the brush pile that you have accumulated, and we'll assist you in any way that we can. Keep in mind that burning trash, rubbish, roof tiles, plastics, etc. are prohibited by state fire laws and EPA regulations.

YEARLY STATS

Madison Fire Department had a busy year for 2011, handling just under 800 calls for service. Of those, the EMS Division averaged just under 2 EMS calls a day, with Fire and EMS handling an average of one injury crash a week and also handling an average of two structure fires every two weeks. With those numbers help us identify the needs of Madison Township and what priorities are in reference to emergency services in the township. The Madison Fire Department currently has on order a new 2012 life squad that should be delivered in May of this year. This squad will be a re-mount unit, meaning it will be receiving a new Dodge chassis and the existing box will be completely re-furbished on the interior and exterior, and then will be re-mounted on the new chassis. All items on this squad will be updated including electrical, inside and outside lights, upholstery, outside painting and

lettering, etc. The savings on utilizing a re-mount is between \$40-\$50,000 per vehicle, therefore allowing us a significant saving to utilize elsewhere in the department. The second squad that we have in the township is budgeted for replacement in the next 12 to 18 months, giving us two newer life squads in the township.

FIRE BUDGET

Madison Fire Department currently has a 20 year plan in place with budgeting set for replacement of 10 different types of fire apparatus including life squads, fire engines, tanker trucks and brush units. Along with these big ticket items we are also budgeting for replacement of fire gear, upgrades on the Jaws of Life, communication equipment, additional hours for part time EMS coverage and many other items that are needed for emergency service in the township. The ability of our department to maintain our equipment and increase our level of service is tied directly to the fire levy that was passed last year. That you for supporting our fire department and allowing us to serve our township in the most efficient manner.

HOUSE NUMBERS

The Madison Fire Department is also picking up an old tradition of providing numbered street signs for Madison residents. These signs can be placed on your mailbox on your street or other locations that first responders can see if you would need emergency services at your house. There is a limited number, so first come first serve, although we are trying to target senior citizens and those with physical impairments. If you are interested, please call Station 152 at 424-3384.



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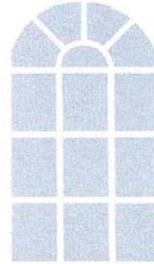
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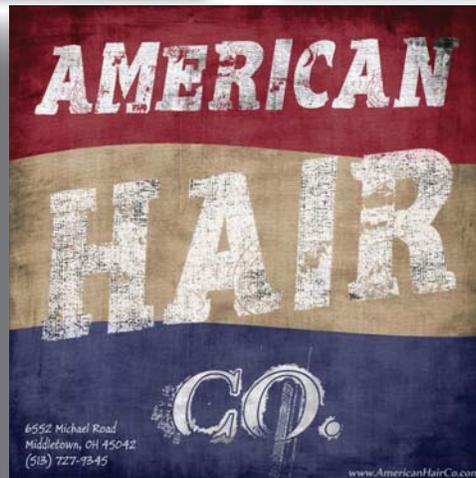
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Events

By Jenny Fink - 2012 Madison Township Springfest Chairperson

Springfest

www.madisonspringfest.com



The 8th Annual Madison Township Springfest is our community festival that allows the good people of this great township a chance to come together and celebrate all things that makes this a wonderful place to live. This year's event will be held on Saturday, May 12th kicking off at 11:00AM and concluding at 9:00 PM on the grounds of the Madison Jr-Sr High school.

Guests this year can expect to enjoy much of what they have in the past, such as delicious food, free and low cost activities for the kids, live entertainment, art and Madison Twp. history exhibits and a huge

basket raffle. The Madison Fire Dept. will be hosting a water-ball competition and the Madison Athletic Dept. hosting a 5K run/walk in conjunction with Springfest.

Madison Jr-Sr High has always graciously offered the use of our school facilities for this event; however, it is important to point out that this is not a school only event. This is a community event for all of Madison Township. This festival is fully funded by donations and proceeds from the event. We enjoy great support from Madison Local Schools and the Madison Township Administration; however, we receive no funding from either.

Springfest doesn't happen on it's own. A small army of volunteers come together each year to put this on for our community. Please consider becoming a Springfest volunteer yourself. You may contact Jenny Fink (513) 594-5650 for more information.

Check out the Madison Twp. Springfest website for up to date details www.madisonspringfest.com

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Tips for Grilling Fruit & Vegetables



GRILLING FRUITS

Almost any fruit can be cooked on the grill. Hard fruits such as apples, pineapples and pears are easier to grill than softer fruits such as peaches, nectarines, plums, and papaya. Softer fruits require more attention when being grilled to prevent overcooking, which will cause the fruit to become mushy. Softer fruit only needs to be heated, not cooked.

TIPS:

- Use an indirect type of heat; fruits are best grilled when the coals have begun to die out or placed on the outer edges.
- If placing fruit directly on the grill rack, cut into pieces that are large enough to not fall through. Skewers or wire baskets can be used.
- Fruits can be grilled with skins on. Softer fruits benefit from leaving their skins on in that it helps maintain their shape and holds them together.
- Brushing fruit with melted butter or favorite oil during grilling will help to keep the fruit from sticking to the grill.
- To enhance the flavor of the fruit, try brushing cut fruits with melted butter and sprinkling with sugar, cinnamon, brown sugar, or lemon juice while grilling. Sugar will burn so it is best to apply at the end of cooking time.

SUGGESTED FRUIT TO TRY:

- Crack open a fresh coconut for an unexpected great grill taste. Slice the coconut into wedges and lay the pieces white side down on the grill over low coals. Grill until lightly browned. Dip the grilled coconut in melted chocolate and enjoy!

GRILLING VEGETABLES

The flavor of the vegetable intensifies when grilled. A lot of the moisture evaporates from the vegetables as they are grilled, flavors become more concentrated and the sugars become more condensed, which increases the sweetness and flavor of the vegetables. Some vegetables can be cut into pieces and some can be grilled whole. Others vegetables, such as winter squash, should be precooked before they are grilled.

TIPS:

- Vegetables should be grilled over a medium heat. The length of cooking time will vary depending on the type of vegetable and how it has been prepared. Vegetables should have browned grill marks and be tender when pierced with a fork.
- Cut vegetables into uniform size pieces so they will cook evenly.
- Before placing on the grill, brush with oil to prevent them from sticking to the grates. The vegetables must be dry before applying oil or the oil will not stick.
- When grilling harder vegetables, such as potatoes, with other vegetables, they may need to be cooked before grilling to ensure that all the vegetables are done at the same time.
- Seasoning the vegetables with a coarse salt, this will draw out extra moisture from the vegetables, which will intensify its sweetness and flavor.
- Brushing vegetables with butter or favorite oil during grilling helps to keep the vegetables from sticking to the grill grate.
- Experiment by sprinkling different herbs and spices over vegetables while grilling.

	
<h3>2012 Residential Recycling Programs</h3>	
Computer & Television Recycling Drop Off	Freon Appliance Collection
<p>The Solid Waste District will offer multiple days to recycle residential computer and electronic waste.</p> <p>What: CPU's hard drives, monitors, keyboards, speakers, scanners, desktop printers and copiers, DVD and VCR players, televisions, cell phones, cordless phones, compact disc, and other data storage devices.</p> <p>Limit of 5 computer systems and 2 televisions per household.</p> <p>When: 2nd and 3rd Saturday - April, May, June, August & September 1st and 2nd Saturday - July</p> <p>Hours: 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.</p> <p>Where: Butler County Engineer's Office 1921 Fairgrove Ave. Hamilton, OH 45011</p> <p>Please note: This event is for residential computer and electronic waste. Businesses should contact the District for resources to recycle computers & electronics.</p>	<p>Butler County provides residents with a curbside "on-demand" Freon Appliance collection program at no charge.</p> <p>What: Refrigerators, freezers, air conditioners, dehumidifiers.</p> <p>When: April to September. Service collection days are Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Call Unwanted Appliances at 1-888-886-9268 to schedule a pick up.</p> <p>Unwanted Appliances provides certified Freon technicians to remove the Freon from your appliance. Freon Appliances must be placed at the curb or on a driveway for removal.</p> <p>Please note: There is a limit of two "like" appliances per household.</p> <p>For example, no more than two refrigerators, two freezers or two air conditioners will be collected. Appliances must be free of food, with all containers empty.</p>
Household Hazardous Waste Drop Off	
<p>What: Dispose of old paint, fluorescent light bulbs, mercury thermometers, household & automotive batteries, automotive fluids, pesticides and other hazardous items in a safe, environmentally acceptable manner.</p> <p>When: Scheduled to begin in June, 2012.</p> <p>For complete program details contact Butler County Solid Waste District at 513-887-3653 or visit www.butlercountyrecycles.org</p>	
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Gardening

By Rick Henry

CONTORTED HAZELNUT: A TREE FOR ALL FIVE SEASONS

The Contorted Hazelnut, (*Corylus avellana* 'Contorta') is a perfect plant for all 'five' seasons. This highly ornamental tree is known by several names including: "Harry Lauder's Walking Stick," the Contorted Filbert; and the Cork-screw Hazelnut.

I know from first-hand experience that this is both a beautiful and a tough plant which thrives in Madison Township. Since 1994, I have used this in many commercial plantings in Southwestern Ohio. I have found that this is characteristically a disease-free plant that does not require any special preparation when planted in well-drained soil. The photo above is a Contorted Hazelnut that resides in my backyard. I took this photo on a gray cloudy day, and please note the colors and hues that it contributes while the other deciduous trees are bare. Since planting it in 2002 it has grown virtually unattended from a five gallon container to its present size of about 8' x 8'. This is an ornamental tree that should be on every gardening enthusiast's plant list for many reasons. It is practically a maintenance-free plant. For example, I have never trimmed, pruned or fertilized this tree, and I have never had to treat it with pesticides or fungicides; it is a very tough plant and well-suited for even the unstable weather patterns in our zone. Most folks like me, who plant the Contorted Hazelnut in full sun, and as a specimen tree (freestanding and room to reach its mature size), find all that is required is to increase the size of the mulch bed around the tree each year as it grows. Other than a little extra mulch each year, the only thing left to do is enjoy it, and enjoy it year round.

This particular tree is very attractive in the spring when its foliage begins to appear. The leaves come out in a tender bright green shade and in a somewhat sparse fashion. Then, there is a transition to its summer appearance, with its lush and textured dark green leaves completely covering its ornate framework. Next, the amber-brown fall color is very artful and romantic to view, especially when some of the leaves start to fall exposing some branches, which twist and turn in every direction. But, for some, the great attraction to this plant is the 'winter interest' that it provides to a garden. While some ornamental grasses and shrubs with brightly colored stems can provide excellent winter interest, when a Contorted Hazelnut is present in a residential landscape in the wintertime, all eyes will be drawn to it first. When all the leaves have fallen completely off, the twisted and turned branches are clearly visible even from a window in the house. Somewhat like a painting that draws your eye and keeps your attention, the Contorted Hazelnut becomes an object to gaze upon when it and other plants have gone dormant.

But, from the point-of-view of other folks, the best is yet to come. What happens next is in late winter, as in the photo above (taken in early March), this plant decorates itself with ornaments. These ornaments are yellowish-bright lime green flower clusters called 'catkins.' When the Hazelnut hangs its catkins during this time it is a great thing to see. Late winter is a unique time that I think some-

times goes unnoticed and unappreciated by even some of us gardeners. What I mean is many people rightly think of our gardening year in terms of four seasons. We think of spring, summer, fall, and winter—right? But, I wonder if it has occurred to many that there is a kind of in-between season for gardening as it relates to the growing season of a plant. There is a period of time where the plants are neither dormant, as in winter, nor shutting down as in fall, but they are not fully active either as in spring or summer. This is a time when we are in a kind of limbo, not knowing really what is going to happen and on what timetable. A season when the grass is green, but it is not growing and does not need cut.

This "fifth season," if you will, is a time of year when the Contorted Hazelnut can really enhance and add to one's garden and one's life. Somewhat like a sunset on a Haystack Rock on the ocean in the Pacific Northwest, as the colors move from orange to purplish to muted darkness, when the Contorted Hazelnut is in this flowering stage it can really hold our attention and even be a source of great reflection. During this fifth season, some folks have shared with me that it can be a time when they experience sadness and grief, or even regret. However, others have shared with me that during this period of time, just as they know the sunset is ephemeral and the flowers on the Hazelnut are fleeting, this fifth season of life can be the most fulfilling and rewarding time, and a source of great beauty. I think this special time of the year can be appreciated in a fuller way by the latter group. Because they know when the sun does disappear, it will not be gone long—there will be a reuniting soon. And, this latter group also knows that whenever the flowers do finally fall from the Hazelnut, this does not signal 'the end' of anything, but just the opposite . . . this is a gesture for the new bright green leaves to appear, and a first movement of 'the beginning' of the new gardening year. I hope everyone has a rewarding and fruitful growing season this year. Happy gardening!

If their are gardening tips/information you are interested in, send in your requests to the Madison Township newsletter.
Email: ToddF@MadisonTownshipOnline.com

Historical SOCIETY

By Donna Walter



In the spring of 2008, the Raymond Blanton family donated their family homestead to the Society and thus began the project of moving the log cabin beneath its outer structure and reconstruction in the Madison Community Park. The circa 1833 Blanton Cabin dedication will be held the day after Spring Fest on Sunday, May 13th at 3 PM at the cabin in the park on West Alexandria Road with a rain date scheduled for the next Sunday. Representative Tim Derickson will be our speaker and the cabin will be open for tour.

This will be our opportunity to thank the many people who volunteered on this project with over 2,000 volunteer hours, the area businesses who generously donated time, talent, equipment, and funds, and the many people who supported the project with their monetary donation. We extend a special thank you for grants received from the Middletown Community Foundation, Duke Energy, Spring Fest Committee, and Butler Rural Electric. To commemorate the completion of this project, an ornament in the likeness of our cabin will be for sale both at Spring Fest and at the dedication. The cabin will be open on Sunday afternoons during the warmer months of the year and an 1833 period flag will fly from the flagpole in front of the cabin when it is open for tour. This will be used to educate the youth and adults of the area and will serve as a reminder to the community of its heritage and encourage preservation efforts. We are still accepting primitive furniture and home accessories for display in the cabin that is indicative of the 1833 era. To donate these items please call John and June Gilmore at 423-7988.

With this project the Society is carrying out its mission, To Preserve the Past-In the Present-For The Future.

The Society publication MADISON TOWNSHIP: The Second Hundred Years 1910 - 2010 which included many family histories can be obtained by calling John and June Gilmore or any officer. Copies will also be available at Spring Fest.

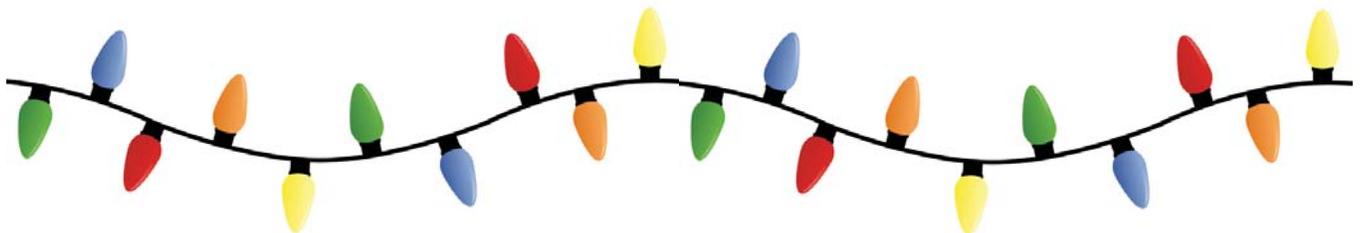
SAVE THE DATE

2nd Thursday's of
Jun • Sept • Dec
7:00 p.m.

Pleasant Ridge United
Methodist Church

SAVE THE DATE – Mark your calendar now for future meetings – the 2nd Thursday of June, September, and December at 7:00 PM at the Pleasant Ridge United Methodist Church. We provide a speaker with a variety of historical topics and encourage you to bring pictures and show-and-tell items to share with the group. The December meeting featured Scott Fowler who wrote a book on Lesourdsville Lake and presented a slide show. Our March meeting speaker was Anne Jantzen who talked on Charles Richter and his Richter scale for measuring earthquakes who was from just south of Madison Township. Officers were elected at our December meeting. They are Donna Walter-President, Mark Whiteman- Vice President, John Gilmore-Treasurer, Stephanie Burk-Secretary, Phyllis Richmond-Corresponding Secretary, and Directors Connie Back, Merle Rhodes, David Kelhoffer, Nancy McCann, and Larry Helton. The next meeting is Thursday, June 14th so come join us for an evening of reliving the history of Madison Township.

Please visit the Society at Spring Fest in the library at the high school on Saturday, May 12th and enjoy our historical displays along with Tony Steer who will entertain and enlighten us with his portrayal of Daniel Boone.



2011 Christmas Decoration Contest Winner!

The winner of the 2011 Christmas Decoration contest was Doris Stroede, who lives at 5316 Trenton Franklin Rd. Thank you to all those that participated in the contest and to those that voted. This year's contest is expected to have even more contestants and more lights, so start planning early and get ready to light up Madison Township for Christmas!

FarmersMarket

OpenBurning



The Farmers Market will start up again within the next few week! It will begin on Saturday, May 19th, from 8:00am till noon, inside the Madison Township Community Park and run throughout the summer on every Saturday. Last year we only had two vendors, therefore many of you may have shown up at the park and wondered where everyone was at?They'd already sold everything!

As we go into the second year, we're hoping to pick up a handful of new vendors to help equal out the supply vs. demand. No need to run into Middletown or Trenton to get your fresh produce grown by someone, somewhere else....buy from Madison and help our own economy!

We're keeping a "traditional farmers market" where only perishable item are allowed to be sold, and there's still time to be a vendor. There's no charge, just let us know you're coming and bring a truck load or a basket load and sell it! You'll make a few extra dollars, and maybe make new friend from our township!

If you're interested in being a vendor, simply contact our Administrator, Todd Farler at 513-424-0821. Start planning now... the market will be open soon!

Open burning in the Township...be Careful and Courteous!

This time of year is a great time for many resident to clean up, spruce up, and gather up all the natural debris that accumulated in their yards. Many residents choose to burn the leaves and branches that finally fell through the winter months. You are "Open Burning" any time you light an outdoor fire. The Ohio EPA regulates open burning with fairly strict rules. Here's a few of the materials that may not be burned:

- Garbage-any wastes created in the process of handling, preparing, cooking, or the consumption of food.
- Dead animals or animal waste, including straw cleaned from stables or animal pens.
- Any materials containing rubber, grease, asphalt or made from petroleum, such as tires, cars and auto parts, plastic, or plastic-coated wire

Fires are normally to be limited to 5ft by 5ft, and should burn for no more than three hours.

No open burning can take place within 1,000 feet of an inhabited building located off property where the fire is set. Nor can the fire obscure visibility for roadways, railroad tracks, or air fields. Also, open burning is prohibited when air pollution warnings, alerts, or emergencies are in effect.

If you have any questions or would like more information concerning Ohio's Open Burning Regulations, please contact the Division of Air Pollution of the Ohio EPA, at 614-644-2270.

Be Careful Be Courteous

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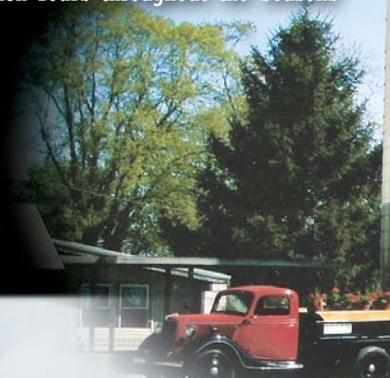
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Sunday: 10:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Sunday Brunch Buffet
10:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.



TRAINING EXERCISE

Fire Department



The Madison Township Fire Department recently had a specific training exercise. This training exercise let them experience firsthand how to deal with the newer make automobiles that are battery powered or battery assisted. With all the new electrical wiring and high voltage contained inside the automobiles, this training exercise was for their own protection as much as the protection of occupants inside the vehicle. The training was provided courtesy of Davis Stovers, an instructor from Sinclair Community College and a representative of the Chevrolet company.

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Community

THE EAGLE SCOUT HAS LANDED

Matt Whiteman recently obtained the distinction of earning the Eagle Scout award. Nationally, only about 5% of all Boy Scouts achieve this distinguished level. Volunteering, leadership positions, and 21 merit badges, are just a small part of what it takes to achieve this prestigious award. For his Eagle Scout project, Matt decided to give back to the community in which he lives. He designed, built, and installed three benches along the hiking trails in our community park. The benches were placed at strategic locations throughout the hiking trail, allowing two resting locations that overlooks scenic views and one at the trail head as you enter/exit the hiking trails. We'd like to say congratulations to Matt for his personal accomplishment and thank you for giving back to the community!



FOUR WHEELERS & DIRT BIKES... FAST, FUN, AND SOMETIMES ILLEGAL!

For most people that have ridden a four wheeler or dirt bike, there's not much else that compares to the freewheeling, fun time that comes with riding something so versatile. Today's off road vehicles can go almost anywhere, regardless of terrain. These vehicles are specifically designed and built to conquer the roughest, muddiest, and steepest landscape they can roll over. Some are built for speed and others built for power, each having its own advantages and disadvantages. Regardless of having two, three, or four wheels, they all have one thing in common...they should only be ridden on private property where permission is granted by the land owner.

Too often riders think just because their vehicles can go "up that hill" or "down that creek", they don't have to ask permission from the owner. Other excuses are..."they've always rode there" or "no one will catch us".

Regardless of the justification, it's illegal to ride on

property that isn't yours or where you don't have direct permission from the land owner.

Violators can be charged with trespassing and/or destruction of private property, depending on the situation.

Over the years, most of us have seen these vehicles ride along the banks of the Great Miami river as we've come across SR 122 bridge. The vast majority of that land is owned by the Miami Conservancy District, with some parcels being owned and farmed by private land owners. Years of illegal riding has cause extensive damage to portions of the river bank and thousands of dollars are lost annually due to damaged crops.

Recently the Madison Township Board of Trustee's contacted the Butler County Sheriffs office and decided to take a hard stance against those riding illegally along the Great Miami river. With the backing of the Miami Conservancy and the farmers, a plan was made to squelch this activity.

Deputies were put in place on a day when riders were expected to be out, and it wasn't long before they started coming into view. Within hours, between 10 -15 riders were apprehended and issued citations for trespassing. Repeat offenders will have their vehicles confiscated. Word spread quickly amongst the four wheeler community and activity has almost come to a complete stop.

The Madison Township Board of Trustee's will continue to work with the sheriff's office in controlling this situation, as future "stake outs" will be planned and executed by the sheriff's office.

Everyone wants to have a good time and enjoy the outdoors, and riding an off rode vehicle is one way ...just remember to do so safely and on land where you're legally allowed to ride.





FOREST HILLS

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Forest Hills Country Club and Banquet Center



Middletown's oldest and most historic country club is surrounded by oversized native trees and the Great Miami River. Here lies the jewel of Middletown, the Forest Hills Country Club. This challenging 9 hole course is uniquely positioned to offer you an unsurpassed golf experience in the greater Dayton and Cincinnati area.

Our complex also includes an Olympic size swimming pool with two diving boards and a baby pool for the little ones. For the competitive swimmers in your family, we have the Club Swimming Team.

Whatever your occasion; a birthday or anniversary party, wedding reception, rehearsal dinner, class reunion, or luncheon, you want it special. We can help. Our spacious banquet area holds up to 200, with attached covered patio overlooking the golf course. We offer full service catering and full service bar. Other specialty items are available to complement any event.

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In addition, we offer a 2500 square foot fitness center with a variety of weight training machines, free weights, cardiovascular equipment. We also have a personal trainer who will design a workout program to help you meet your fitness goals.

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Volunteer Garden Group



Pictured left to right are: Debra Smithson, Carl Roberts, Joanne Wagner. Not pictured: Tony Carpenter

Last year the volunteer Garden Group got together and created a total makeover and complete redesign of the area in front of our Administration building and it turned out beautiful! This year they came back again for a "Spring Clean" of the flowers, plants, and bedding. Weeds were pulled, bushes and plants were trimmed, new mulch was spread and the entire area looks fresh and revived! If you'd like to be a part of the Garden Group, please call the Administration building at 513-424-0821.

Firearms

SHOOT SAFELY & RESPECTFULLY

Our administration office occasionally receives calls regarding the discharge of firearms (shooting of guns). Discharging of firearms for hunting and target practice is allowed in Madison Township, as it is in almost all unincorporated areas in the State of Ohio. Madison Township follows the Ohio Revised Code regarding this matter which states that a person can shoot guns as long as it is done in a safe manner. Madison Township cannot enact any other laws restricting the discharging of firearms other than those addressed in the Ohio Revised Code. Whether you're hunting or shooting your guns for target practice, please be safe, respect your neighbor's property and privacy, and at all times keep a proper distance from their homes and animals. If you feel someone is discharging a firearm in an unsafe manner, please call the Butler County Sheriff's Office at 513-785-1000.

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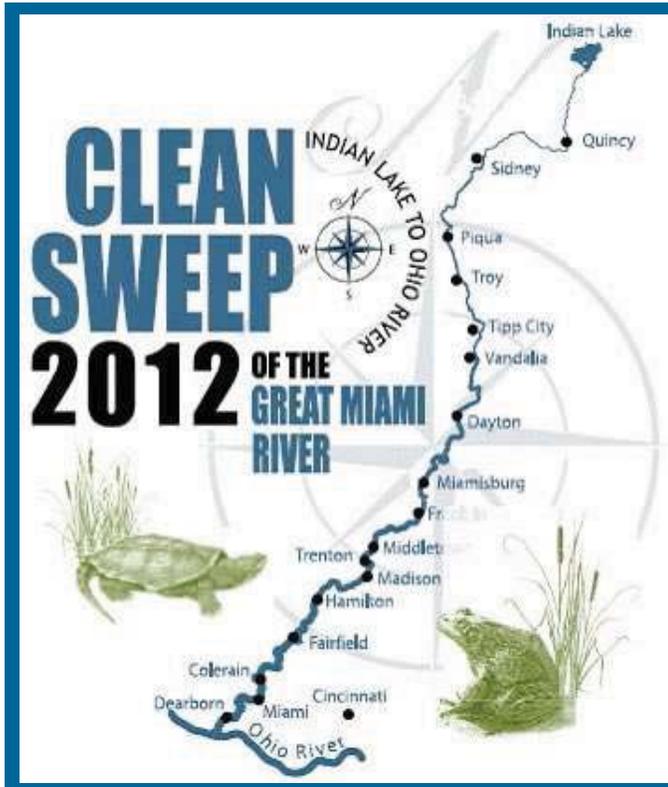


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Volunteer to clean up the Great Miami River

Saturday, May 5
8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon

**Madison Twp:
West River Bank
At Rt. 122**

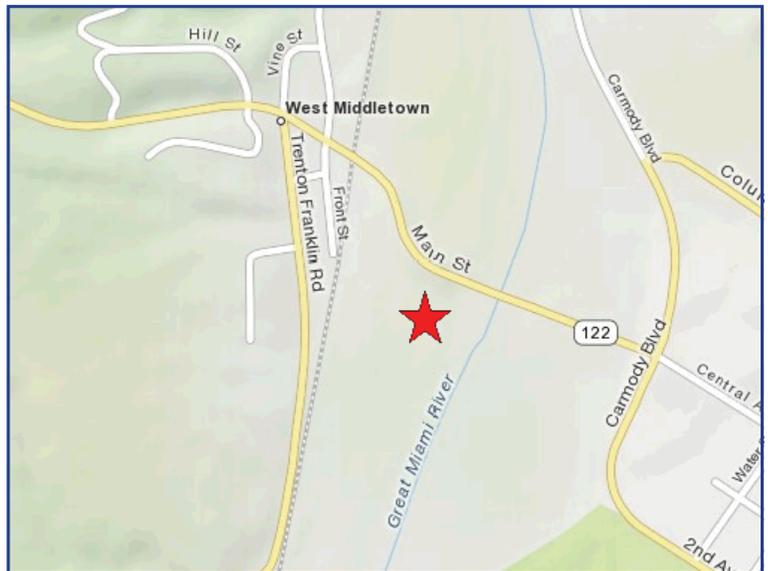
Volunteers will clean up the Great Miami River from Indian Lake to the Ohio River. Clean Sweep is a fun, rewarding community beautification project for individuals, clubs, companies, schools, Scouts, churches and other groups.

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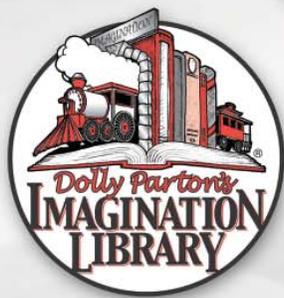


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To Participate, Contact:

Todd Farler 424-0821

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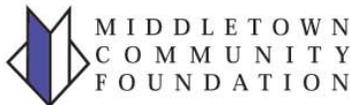
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If your child lives in the Middletown, Edgewood, Madison, or Monroe District, register for Dolly Parton's Imagination Library with our registration form or at www.mcfoundation.org/library.

This program is sponsored locally by **Women Living United**



Miriam G. Knoll Foundation, The Barnitz Fund of JP Morgan Chase, Arthur Harvey Foundation, Middletown Public Library, TV Middletown, Atrium Medical Center, U.S. Postal Service, Middletown/Edgewood/Madison/Monroe School Districts
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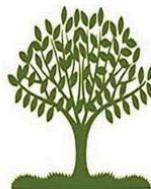
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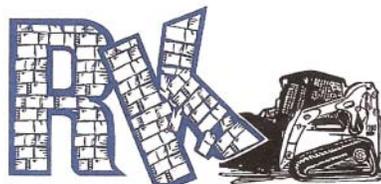
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Home Repair Program

(Grant of up to \$5,000)

The Home Repair program is intended to repair one item that is of an emergency nature. The repairs are those which pose an immediate or crucial threat to the health and safety of the household.

SUCH REPAIRS INCLUDE:

Structural Issues • Roof Replacement • Furnance Replacement
Electrical Improvements • Plumbing Improvements
Water and Sewer Connections

WHERE ARE THE FUNDS COMING FROM?

For this years federal funding from HUD, the Butler County Board of Commissioners will be committing funds to assist residents with home repairs.



These funds are provided by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development

Call (513) 785-5391

HOME Rehabilitation Program

(0% Interest Loan up to \$25,000)

Rehabilitation funds are utilized to assist as many homeowners that are living in substandard housing as possible. All repairs are completed to bring the home up to current code and ensure that it is safe, habitable, and energy efficient—not intended for cosmetic purposes. Once an application is received they will be reviewed to ensure they meet the eligible requirements. Examples of work performed are new siding, windows, doors, electrical and plumbing improvements, furnaces and hot water heaters.

There are 3 types of loans: an installment loan, deferred loan, and a combination installment and deferred loan. The type of loan you qualify for is determined by income. Payments are generally minimal or may be deferred. The interest rate is 0% with no hidden fees or closing costs.

HOW DO I QUALIFY FOR ANY OF THE PROGRAMS?

The home must be owner occupied and not have delinquent property taxes. The home must be in Butler County...but not inside the city limits of Hamilton or Middletown. The home will be evaluated for conditions needing repairs that fit into one of our programs. Rental units and mobile homes are not eligible.

The total household income should be below the limits in the chart below. For example...for a family of three to qualify...the total household income should be below \$51,350 per year.

2012 Income Range	Household Size
\$39,950 or less	1
\$45,650 or less	2
\$51,350 or less	3
\$57,050 or less	4
\$61,650 or less	5
\$66,200 or less	6
\$70,750 or less	7
\$75,350 or less	8

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