

MADISON TOWNSHIP

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Coyote Confidential: A LOOK INTO THEIR LIVES

By Dr. Alan Cady

The North American coyote (*Canis latrans*) is a model of adaptability and versatility. When Europeans first came to North America, the coyote was found only in Southwest North America. The removal of major predators and the spread of humans across the continent have allowed coyotes to expand their range to cover all of North America (all the way to the Arctic Circle!). Despite their reputation in myth and cartoons, these animals are now fulfilling an important role in a wide variety of ecosystems.

Most coyotes in Ohio are found in farmland and mixed woods, but they are quite capable of living in suburban and even urban habitats. They thrive with humans probably because we provide them with places to live and things to eat. They generally are very shy of humans, but they may become habituated (lose their fear of people). Although they are found all over Ohio, their greatest populations are in counties running in a line from Southeast Ohio, through to the Central part, and then west across to the West-central part of the State. Butler County is considered to have a 'medium' population level. Caesar's Creek Wildlife Area in Fayette, Madison, and Pickaway Counties is our closest high coyote population density. Let's take a closer look at these interesting and important canids living with us.

APPEARANCE AND BEHAVIOR

Coyotes are relatives to wolves and dogs and they are well-known to interbreed. Almost all coyotes tested have wolf or dog DNA. They are medium-sized (averaging about 35 lbs.) colored variably from gray to rusty-brown to off-white (depending on where they live; Figs. 1 & 2). They have a bushy tail (usually with a black tip) that is carried down at a 45° angle while walking or running. (Fig. 3) This is an easy way to distinguish between a dog and coyote at a distance. Also, they tend to be a bit thinner than dogs and have large erect ears.

They are mostly crepuscular (active at dawn & dusk) or nocturnal (active at night). However, people are seeing more coyotes active during the day (diurnal), especially in urban and suburban areas due to their habituation. One of the most distinct behaviors of coyotes



Continued on page 8.

YOUR Township Administrator...

By **Todd Farler**,
Madison Township Administrator



WUHAN VIRUS ■ 2019 NOVEL CORONAVIRUS ■ SARS-COV2 VIRUS CORONAVIRUS DISEASE OF 2019 ■ COVID-19 ■ CV

Started local, went global. It has run the gamut of names since it became public knowledge. Its initial source of origin has yet to be determined: Animal to human or lab to human? Stay at home unless you want to go walk around in public to get exercise? Stay at home unless you are going to a select business that arcanelly got chosen as essential? My barber shop was ordered to shut down, but the guy running the liquor store can stay open? Initially we were told that cloth masks do not help and may even be harmful, but now we are being told to wear one if you go out anywhere? These are many of the questions I have heard over the past several weeks, and perhaps many you have asked yourself

The person working at Kroger must go to work. The person preparing and delivering your package to your front door must go to work, but Congress stays home? Small businesses that were charged as being “unessential” are trying to stay alive while large and profitable corporations receive millions in bail out money? Some of these issues are just hard to process in an objectionable and logical manner.

Does the government have the right to shut down these businesses, and who had the legal sovereignty to decide which businesses were deemed essential? I expect these cases to be on the docket of the United States Supreme Court before long.

To think rationally about this situation is a matter of looking at statistics. The question then becomes, what statistics do you look at: Global-National-State-Local? Do we go by the “known” cases or go by the “probable” cases? Ohio has a population of approximately 11.7 MILLION people. As I write this, there has been 757 deaths in Ohio tied to the COVID-19 virus. That equates to about 1 out of 15,455 people in Ohio. Butler County has a population of approximately 383,000 people. As I write this, there has been 5 deaths tied to the COVID-19 virus in Butler County. That equates to about 1 out of 76,600 people in Butler County. I do expect by the time you read this that the numbers will have increased, hopefully of no significance, but that is yet to be determined.

Did we flatten the curve? Who decides how flat, is flat enough? If the outbreak/epicenter would have originated in Boise, Idaho, would the rest of the U. S. economy have been shut down?

We do not know the beginning and we do not really know the ending, but we do know a few things: We have lives to live, families to raise, and jobs to perform. We will somehow get through this. We will help family members, friends, and we will help community members. It is who we are, it is what we do, and it is what makes Madison Township a Great place to Live, Work, and Play. **MT**

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Dayton Power and Light.....	937-224-6000
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MISSION STATEMENT OF MADISON TOWNSHIP

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



Trustee Thomas Hall

In the midst of the past month and half, all of our lives have changed. The new normal is what we all have been adapting to. The Covid-19 Virus has completely changed our lifestyles, work environments, and education system.

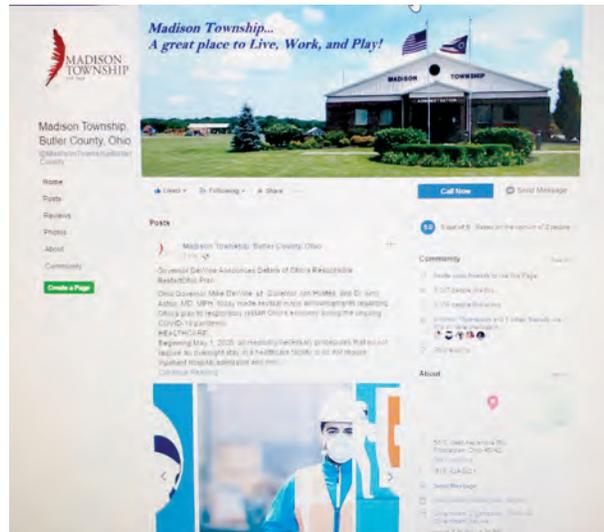
As we all await for the stay at home orders to be lifted, to try and resume our everyday lives, I have grown such a higher appreciation for the smallest of things in life. To say that anyone could prepare for something of this magnitude is far from the truth. In Madison, we have even had our own share of cases of the virus, 4 in total.

Rather in then focus on the negative, the uncertainty, I wanted to take this opportunity to reflect on the good in these very unprecedented times. To the nurses, hospital workers, doctors, thank you. To the life squad members, the firefighters, police officers, and all first responders, thank you. To the teachers, who had to change and adapt their entire lesson plans and learn to teach all their kids virtually, thank you. To the cafeteria workers, administrators, and community members, thank you for making sure that meals still made it to kids that truly needed it. To the parents, who have had to adjust their work environments, help out in the

teaching of the curriculum, while thinking of ways to keep the family busy, thank you. Let us not forget the workers of the grocery stores, the truck drivers, and all the workers who are deemed essential. Without any of the efforts of the many men and women listed above we would not have been able to make it thru this pandemic.

In times of need, we realize who we really are and what we are truly capable of. Seeing the community come together, work together, and grow together, has been such an inspiring thing to see. As we continue into 2020, I hope we reflect on these times and try to remember the positive things. Madison Township is a place that we all call home. As

our township continues to adapt to the current conditions, please be sure to check out our Facebook page to follow any and all information that we pass to you. As of now, all of our road projects and improvements are still scheduled to take place this year. If there ever is any questions or concerns, please be sure to reach out to me directly or anyone of the Madison Township Administration. Thank you for reading, stay safe, and God Bless. **MT**



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

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MADISON TOWNSHIP

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

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



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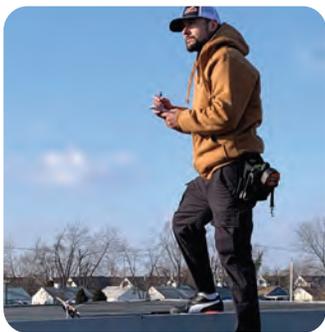
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MADISON UNDER ORDERS

By Megan Lapensee
Madison High
School Student

On March 22 we went into a stay at home order. The stay at home order means that unless you are going somewhere essential then you are to stay at home. To many of us this means no seeing our friends, teachers, going to work for most, and almost everything closing down. Being a close community in Madison, some of your friends are right next door, but without being able to go anywhere; we can't really see our friends.

Our community in Madison is small compared to the other communities surrounding us. Until quarantine I honestly didn't realize how big of a family we can be. There are families in Madison that are struggling to help their children since they still have to go to work or there are the families struggling because the parents are out of work. They are not alone. There are people in Madison that have come together to help those ones in need. There are those that are making lunches, the families helping watch children, and the families that are just there for one another. Watching all of these people in our community come together to help people is really a beautiful thing.

We really don't have many businesses compared to other places, but the businesses that we have, everyone goes to. Places like

Peggy's Produce, Madison Inn, Great American Hair Co, and Marion's Drive Thru are all places that we know of and love. We miss being able to go into Peggy's and grab a few fruits and vegetables to last your family a few days because you trust what she has out is the best. We are missing getting a few friends together and going to the Madison Inn to listen to a live band playing for everyone. We all miss going to Jody Cole's house to get a cut or color at American Hair because you want the people that have been doing your hair for years to continue doing it the best way. We miss driving home from work and needing something to drink so we pull through Marion's to get something to drink and talk to the wonderful people that work there. While we're all at home we cannot enjoy most of these places like we used to.

While businesses are closed, schools are closed too. In many ways the school is the center of our community. It brings all of the people in school together because we all go to the same school. Many have grown up with each other which has bonded people closer together and created some amazing friendships. This is what community is all about: friendship and being there for each other. When we're in school everyone says they just want to be done,

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Continued from page 5.

but now that we were cut short of our year everyone misses school more than they ever have. We all used to walk up and down the halls passing each other and saying, "Hi". I miss being able to walk to my classes with my friends and sit at lunch together and laugh. Not only do I miss my friends, but I also miss my teachers. I always looked at online learning wondering how it would be and now that I'm actually doing it I can say that it is not all that I dreamed of. I miss being able to ask my teachers questions about what we were learning. Learning online means not achieving my full potential because I don't have all the help that I really need. My teachers are doing an amazing job, all of the teachers are. I will never be able to thank all of the teachers enough for what they have done to teach us, but school isn't all about what happens there. It is about what goes on outside too.

Prom was an event that I was really looking forward to this year. It didn't happen though. I know I'll have next year, but I was looking forward to being with all of my friends and having fun together. The juniors and the seniors always get their prom together. I'm really close with quite a few seniors and I know that this prom would've been fun. I know that the seniors were looking forward to their last prom and I don't even have words on how they must feel. I know that something special will happen for them in honor of the last prom that they were going to have. Another big part of our lives at school are sports. The spring sports were starting to practice and get into the swing of things, but it all got put on hold. When we were told we were not going to go back to school we knew that, that meant the Spring sports season wasn't going to happen. I have sympathy for everyone that plays a spring

sport that didn't get to have their season. If you have next year, then make that the best season you've ever played. I believe that you can do it. Seniors, I hope you had an amazing year this year. I know that it wasn't the year you were quite picturing for yourself, but every year is unique in its own way. You are all going to go off into the real world and I hope you enjoy wherever you end up in life. I wish you all the best of luck.

I really can't wait for Ohio to start opening up again. I'm looking forward to being able to see my friends again and enjoy being able to go to the lake in the summer. I'm hoping that there will be a marching band season starting in late mid summer. That is definitely something that will make my senior year amazing. I'm still working and that scares me just a little bit. I'm worried that when we start to open up Ohio people aren't really going to listen to the rules that they still want to keep in place. I want everyone to stay safe and I feel like everyone might not follow those rules. I really don't want another spike where we have to shut everything down again because that just means we go through this whole process all over again. But I am very hopeful that everything will turn out okay and we will be able to go back to having a somewhat normal summer.

Madison may be under orders now, but hopefully what we have done means life making its way back to normal. Our community has come together in ways it never has before and I can't wait to see what that means for our future. **MT**

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Continued from the cover.



is their voice. Indeed, their name, *Canis latrans*, means ‘Barking Dog’. Research has shown that there are at least 11 different types of vocalizations used by coyotes, from whines, yips, woofs, huffs, barks, growls, and the chorus of yips and howls we hear at night when family groups reunite. The iconic ‘lone howl’ of a coyote probably announces the presence of a lone individual separated from its group.

FEEDING

Coyotes are omnivores (meaning they eat both meat and plants) and are considered opportunistic when foraging, eating whatever they can find or overpower. They generally eat small mammals (mice, voles, rabbits, squirrels), birds (sometimes a turkey!), fish, insects, carrion, fruits, nuts, and vegetables. (Fig. 4) They sometimes will capture livestock (chickens and sheep are typical

targets). Coyotes have been attributed to helping keep Whitetail deer populations in check, preying mostly on young and injured individuals. As mentioned earlier, humans have contributed to the coyote range expansion by providing large amounts of relatively high-quality food by placing it out in garbage pails, compost heaps, pet food, and dumpsters. They will hunt in pairs or family groups, but not in organized packs like wolves. Unlike wolves, coyotes tend to approach prey from the front rather than the rear.

Coyotes have become an important predator across their range because humans have removed almost all other large predators. This also has helped coyotes expand their range since they have ‘filled’ the role of these traditional predators. These ‘top predators’ are vital to ecosystem structure and ‘health’ because they keep herbivore populations in check. If deer, rabbit, and other rodent populations get too large, they eat the plants down to dangerous levels, jeopardizing overall ecosystem productivity and organization.

REPRODUCTION

Coyotes place their dens in burrows, hollow logs, and under ledges. They sometimes use human structures (under sheds, barns, crawl spaces). At times 2-3 females will den together when a large area is available. Litter size ranges from 1-12 pups which are born in April-May. They make good parents, with both sexes caring for the young. Coyotes often will transport food they have found in their stomachs, regurgitating the food for their pups upon their

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Psalm 133:1 Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!

COME JOIN US IN WORSHIP

Elk Creek Baptist Church
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Sunday School - 10:00 a.m.
Sunday Morning Service - 11:00 a.m.
Sunday Evening Service - 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday Evening Service - 6:00 p.m.

COVID-19 Update: A Letter From Superintendent Tuttle-Huff

In the face of COVID-19, ***“Madison Local Schools will equip and inspire students to pursue their individual purpose in life.”***



On March 12, 2020, Governor DeWine announced that all Ohio school buildings (K-12) would be closing due to the spread of COVID-19. On March 30, Governor DeWine extended remote learning through the end of the school year.

In the face of this unprecedented pandemic, our future remains uncertain, but Madison Local Schools is committed to upholding its mission to **“equip and inspire students to pursue their individual purpose in life.”**

Madison Local Schools has responded to the needs of not only our 1,500+ students, but our entire community. Our entire school staff remains accessible to answer questions and address concerns via email. While administrators are actively planning and responding to this national health crisis, teachers are creating lesson plans and engaging with their students remotely. They’re using tools like Google Classroom to provide lessons Zoom to video conference with students.

Food operations are a top priority. We appreciate the Madison staff who are volunteering their time to prepare and deliver food. **If your family is in need, please call my office at 513-420-4777 or email me at lisa.tuttle-huff@madisonmohawks.org.**

Services to students with disabilities also remain a high priority and our school district is making a good-faith effort to provide the right services to address the needs of every student. If a student with a disability cannot access their lessons, please let us know. We will consult with you to determine the best strategy for meeting your child’s needs.

The emotional well-being of our students is of the utmost concern during this time of uncertainty. **If a student or parent is in crisis, he or she can use the following hotline for assistance:**

Talbert Crisis Hotline: (513) 281-CARE (2273) or text Talbert to 839863.

You can also contact our social workers or counselors via email:

Crystal.Allred@MadisonMohawks.org

Ashley.Saylor@MadisonMohawks.org

Rachel.Reynolds@MadisonMohawks.org

You can contact Crystal Allred at **513-360-8606**.

We will all continue to work together striving to find new and creative ways to bring educational experiences and emotional support to our students throughout this process.

Stay apprised of everything going on in the Madison Local School District by visiting our school website, social media outlets, and our new e-newsletter, “Achieving Excellence”, sent out every second and fourth Friday of the month. **These semi-monthly newsletters will include important information about what is happening in our district, including:**

- District news and issues
- Student and teacher achievements and recognitions
- Curriculum information
- Progress reports on existing district goals
- Important dates and events
- And especially, updates on all of the fun things students are doing throughout the year.

Sign up today to be sure you get your e-newsletter “Achieving Excellence!”

.....

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Madison Local Makes Top 10% of Fastest-Improving Schools in Ohio

Student achievement at Madison Schools is increasing! Our current achievement rank is in the 60th percentile, which is an all-time high over the past seven years. **That means Madison Local has a higher level of achievement than 60% of the school districts in Ohio. Here are some of the high points:**



On the state report card, Madison ranks in the **top 10% of schools in Ohio** for the fastest academic improvement.



Madison Elementary was the recipient of the **Momentum Award**, which is presented by the State Board of Education. This award recognizes schools for **exceeding expectations in student growth** for the year.



Our high school students are high achievers, with two-thirds maintaining a 3.0 grade point average or above – and **42% achieving a 3.5+!**



The integration of the virtual online reading program **Mindplay** into our curriculum has inspired tremendous growth among our second and third graders. **Mindplay challenges students to learn to read on their terms.** By March 1, on average, students had achieved a years' worth of growth in reading skills.



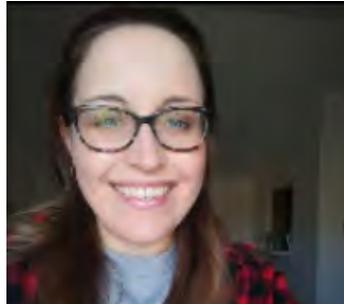
Project-Based Learning Encouraging Student Ownership

This is a challenging time for all of us, but it also presents interesting learning opportunities for students. Madison High School is using this time to provide high school students with structure and support, but also introduce them to a college-style online learning environment.

Teachers are focusing on bringing project-based learning opportunities into the virtual classroom. Many of our teachers are offering online face-to-face Google Hangout/Meet and Zoom sessions multiple times per week, where students can engage in large class group settings, small group settings, or individual settings.

Although there are set hours teachers are expected to be available to students, staff at Madison HS have done an excellent job providing 24-7 support. Principal Andrew Huber reports several conversations he has had with staff members who have told him of email exchanges at 11:30 pm and even 1:30 am.

One thing that has not changed and has possibly become even more prevalent is the importance of student-teacher communication. Teachers act as facilitators, adjusting lessons based on student feedback; this ties in directly to the high school's year-long goal to push students to take more ownership of their education by voicing their opinions and making their own choices.



Madison Elementary Teachers Get Creative With Distance Learning

At Madison Elementary School, staff members are dedicated to helping students become lifelong learners and contributing members of a global society, under whatever circumstances we face.

Madison ES teachers are hard at work collaborating with other teachers, utilizing online resources, and using their imaginations to present engaging learning opportunities for their students. **Here are a just a few examples of what all of our teachers are doing across the district:**

5th Grade Teacher Laura Griffin

Ms. Griffin and intervention specialist Brianna Hiteshaw log into Google Meet each morning to teach mini math lessons. Students are instructed to complete one round of Xtra math before tuning into her LIVE session. Students also have the option to watch a recording of the lesson, and then they must complete an exit ticket through Edulastic, ixL, or iknowit.com.

This 45-minute daily interactive math lesson allows students to ask questions and post answers in a chat room environment, creating discussions. More importantly, Laura and her students get to see each other and reconnect everyday!

2nd Grade Teacher Kelsey Martinez

Ms. Martinez has focused on her students' love for classroom read-alouds. She also recognizes that her students may have limited access to books at home, so she is keeping that love alive by posting daily recordings of herself reading aloud.

Kelsey is currently reading one of her personal childhood favorites - Charlotte's Web. She releases a chapter each day, along with pictures of the pages so students can follow along as they listen. She releases each chapter in evenings, for a fun opportunity for families to share a bedtime story.

Preschool Teacher Kayla Grace

Ms. Glace kept the Mohawk Spirit alive with a virtual Spirit Week! This was a great opportunity to connect with her students and raise morale. Kayla reached out to parents, asking them to take pictures of their kids to be posted on their class site so kids could see their friends showing off that Mohawk Pride. Students loved including their pets!

These are just a few of the creative approaches teachers across the district are taking with their students to engage and inspire during this time of learning-at-home. Thank you to all students, parents, and staff members for staying flexible and being willing to adapt as we continue our educational journey together.



LogCabins OF MADISON TOWNSHIP

By J. Larry Helton, Jr./Photos

French or English fur traders built the first log cabins within the Ohio territorial boundaries during the late 1600s. They were to serve as temporary structures that were easily built using the surrounding timber.

Through the 1700s and early 1800s, those who constructed log cabins can be chronologically put into four groups:

- The **backwoodsmen** who traded with the Indians and other whites.
- The **squatters**, representing the first families, who needed more stable housing.
- The **pioneers**, who eventually traveled westward, but cleared land for farming.
- Then the **settlers** who established secure homes and businesses.

Most of the log cabins in Ohio were built before 1850. Those still in existence today date between the War of 1812 and the Civil War. The last known traditionally built cabin was in southeastern Ohio in 1937 where many cabins still stand.

Log cabins, houses, barns, and outbuildings had basic designs and were constructed of hand-hewn timber, usually oak, walnut, cherry, maple, hickory, ash, chestnut, or poplar, though other woods were used as well. Daubing or chinking used between the logs could be moss, sticks, wood, mud, clay, rocks, or a mortar mix sometimes combined with animal hair. Tools needed might include the following: felling ax, broad ax, adz, auger, saw, drawing knife, hammers, froe, and a beetle, more commonly known as a mallet. Generally speaking, a log cabin became a log house when more than one room was added.

BLANTON CABIN



Log structures can be dated somewhat with the type of notches used to assemble the logs. There are several notches that were used: full-dovetailed (1700s); steeple, aka inverted V (pre1825);

TRENTON TOLLHOUSE



half-dovetailed (1825-on); saddle; mortise and tenon joint; others; plus some were just stacked. An interesting observation here in the township is that of all of the notches that are visible are steeple notches. So the notch dating system is not foolproof, depending on the age of the builder and who taught them surely played a role. Chinking material is not good for dating, as it was often added to or replaced over time. With the technology available today, logs themselves can be dated through samples to determine species of tree, ring count, when the tree began growing, any times of drought or other stresses, when the tree was harvested, and compared to other log samples. This is the dating system that was used to determine the age of the Blanton Cabin at the park, by the Wooster Tree Ring Lab at The College of Wooster, Wooster, Ohio.

In 1876, General Roeliff Bunkerhoff, a prominent individual in politics and history, interviewed Richland County settler, James Sirpliss, to obtain a first generation nomenclature of the construction of the primitive log cabin:

“A primal log cabin is composed of logs, puncheon, clapboards, with stone or wooden chimneys, and oiled paper window lights.

“After the erection of the cabin, the next operation is of the putting on the roof and the completion of the chimney. Instead of shingles, the roofs were laid with clapboards, which are that kind of lumber and somewhat resembles staves out of which barrels are made, being split

Continued on page 16.



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FEIKE CABIN



with an instrument called a froe.

“Puncheons are planks made by splitting logs into several slabs of certain thickness. These answered for floorboards, tables, benches, etc. The cave beams are those ends and logs, which project over to receive the butting poles, against which the lower row of clapboards rest, in forming the roof.

“The trapping is the roof timber composing the gable ends; and the ribs are those logs on which the clapboards are placed.

“The trap logs are those unequal in length lying above the cave bearers, and form the gable ends of the building upon which the ribs rest. The weight poles are those small logs laid on the roof, which keep down the clapboards.”

The first recorded crude cabin built in the area was of Middletown’s and Lemon Township’s famed pioneer, Daniel Doty. It was on the east side of the Great Miami River, built in 1791-92.

Crossing the river to the west side, Samuel Dickey, our first recorded pioneer, built a log cabin for his family. He was able to look out and see Doty’s land; Dickey brought his family to live at the cabin in 1799. Since the land west of the river was not yet for sale, Dickey was deemed a squatter. When land became open for purchase, Dickey did so and moved his family on into the township further.

According to landowner and former house owner, Vern House, in 1807 Jacob Snyder, a millwright, purchased the land along State Route 122, near Hursh Road, where the Elk Creek Cemetery is located. At the curve in the route, he built a cabin, where he and his wife raised seven children. At some point in time the cabin was made into a two-story log house, a rear addition and front enclosure added, and sided. Aside from being a house, it was also a stop along the stagecoach route, and a tollhouse, along what was once referred to as the Road to Winchester (original name of Gratis) or the Road to Eaton. After being hit a few times by vehicles, the State of Ohio has purchased it through eminent domain. Siding has been removed in a few areas to expose the logs. The house is

slated for demolition in August.

In 1808 only a few log cabins miles apart were found in the township (still part of Lemon Township until 1810) as stated by early settler Abraham Marts.

Another two-story log tollhouse still stands at 122 North Second Street in Trenton; built between c1820-1830. Two stagecoach companies traveled that route—Western Stage Company and Ohio Stage Company—crossing Elk Creek onto Trenton-Franklin Road.

At 113 North Miami Street, Trenton is a log cabin built c1820-25, in 1845 it was a cooperage, where barrels were made, and Killian Fieke purchased the business in 1859. It is of the original plat of Trenton and until the 1980s still had a dirt floor.

Also from the original plat at 17 East State Street, Trenton is the cabin built by Adam Schaefer, a blacksmith. Once housing the Trenton Library, it is now part of the larger house of the Trenton Historical Society Museum.

What was the Potter Farm at 310 Hamilton Avenue, Trenton has upon it a log house that was constructed c1830 or earlier, and since sided. For many years it was the home of local historian Doris Page.

The most known and written about log cabin in Madison Township is the Blanton Cabin, moved from No Mans Road to the Township Community Park on West Alexandria Road. Built by Jacob Francis in 1833, a second story added in 1856, and still in the Francis family until 1925. In 1933, one hundred years after being built, Jesse and Mary Blanton raised a family at that house. The Blanton family continued to own this house until it was donated to the Historical Society of Madison Township and reconstructed and restored back to the original cabin in 2010-11.

There are at least seven more known log structures in Trenton that are hidden by siding, some hidden in all of the small settlements, and throughout the township as well; some known, some not. Even some barns and outbuilding have log framing within, including the barns that once housed the Middletown Janitorial Supply on Trenton-Franklin Road near Poasttown.

Continued on page 16.

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In recent months and years, log structures have been razed in the township for various reasons: the County would not allow occupancy or to incorporate them within new structures; condemned; for road improvements; or for new construction. These include: house on Kalbflesch Road; house on Howe Road; house (perfect cabin within) at the junction of Elk Creek and No Mans Road; two houses at the intersections of Elk Creek and

West Alexandria Roads. Most of these the logs have been saved for future use. Even the State has a plan for the logs from the tollhouse they are removing.

To see several log buildings together for reference, you can visit Governor Bebb Pioneer Village, 1979 Bebb Park Lane, Okeana, Butler County, Ohio and Caesar's Creek Pioneer Village, 3999 Pioneer Village Road, Waynesville, Warren County, Ohio. **MT**



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Continued from page 8.

return to the den (coyote ‘baby food’). Males generally live with the family for about a year, but females may linger longer.

Coyote populations will adjust their litter sizes according to available food and habitat space. This is why removing coyotes to reduce their population size usually does not work. Their reproductive rates will increase after population reduction until their population size once again reaches carrying capacity for the habitat (carrying capacity is how many individuals may be supported by the resources in a habitat).

LIVING WITH COYOTES

Although coyotes often live close to humans they are very good at avoiding us. This is why most people are unaware of how many coyotes are in the area. These well-adapted animals will take advantage of whatever resources are available for their food or shelter. Here are a few tips about living with coyotes...

PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY

Coyotes are curious and inquisitive beasts. Like dogs, they also have very sensitive noses and will find and investigate possible sources of food and shelter. Thus, keep your outdoor grills and garbage cans clean and covered. Anyplace you don’t want them to enter should be fenced. You should secure crawl spaces and other out buildings to prevent coyote entry or burrowing under foundations as they seek protected denning sites. If you have problems with coyotes on your property, motion-activated lights and sprinklers will deter their entry or loitering. If you find an unwanted den, placing cloth soaked with vinegar at the den entrance or playing loud music by the den may persuade them to leave.

PROTECT YOUR PETS

Remember that ‘invisible fences’ may restrain your pet, but not a coyote. If you truly want to protect your pet, fencing their area or keeping them inside at night will work. Spaying/ neutering your

dog will deter attracting coyotes, and not letting your pets roam at night will help keep them safe. Do not leave pet food outside, and keep outdoor kennels clean. If you walk your dog, use a leash and alter your schedule. Although cats and dogs may become prey, research has shown that most reports of pet attacks are unfounded.

PROTECT YOURSELF

As mentioned before, coyotes avoid humans, but under certain circumstances they may become habituated (familiar) with people. This usually is the result of people feeding them when they are young or other such chronic close human-coyote contact. The only recorded instances of coyotes biting humans are from habituated animals. (The message here is Do Not Feed Coyotes!) Most attacks of coyotes on humans are with children. Thus, teach your children what coyotes look like and how to behave if coyotes are encountered. **DO NOT RUN!** This triggers their predatory response. Face the animal and make yourself ‘look big’. Jump, yell, clap hands, stomp, and make a general ruckus to show them who’s boss. Again, don’t turn your back on the animal and don’t run. (Many of you recognize these as general rules when encountering aggressive dogs.) If you’re walking in areas of known coyote activity, carry a deterrent (cane, pepper spray, etc.), and if accosted, use the ‘make yourself big’ tactics mentioned above and throw things (sticks, stones, insults). If the situation arises, keep yourself between the coyote and children or pets.

It is thought that if a coyote is observed during the day there is ‘something wrong’ (e.g. rabies). Actually, coyotes often are seen foraging during the day, especially in the Spring or early Summer when they are looking to feed their pups.

I hope this short introduction to coyotes has given you a better understanding of their lives and habits. There is much more detailed information out there if you wish to pursue a deeper knowledge of these interesting neighbors. **MT**



FIGURE 4

Fire Department

By Assistant Chief Jordan Peters

Hello Madison Community! Hope everyone is staying well while we continue to deal with the Covid-19 epidemic. As you can imagine, we have been taking special precautions to protect our personnel, as well as those we serve when we respond to emergencies. In the event you have an interaction with one of our members, please do not be alarmed if they are wearing extra PPE (personal protective equipment). We are utilizing PPE items such as N-95 masks, eye protection, and sometimes Tyvek suits or disposable gowns in order to protect ourselves and our patients. Please remember to follow all guidelines set forth by the CDC so you and your family stay safe.

MTFD recently placed in service a new Fire Engine, as well as a new Rescue Truck. Engine 151 is a 2019 Rosenbauer Pumper Tanker on a Freightliner Chassis. This unit carries 2,000 gallons of water, as well as 20 gallons of foam and can be utilized as a fire engine, or tanker truck either one. It replaced a 1988 GMC Tanker Truck that was taken out of service due to mechanical issues. Rescue 151 is a 2019 E-One Mini Pumper/Rescue on a Ford F-550 Chassis. This unit carries 300 gallons of water, as well as

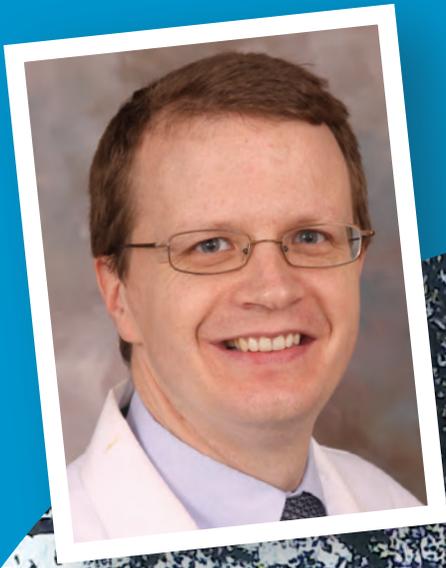


20 gallons of foam. It also carries our vehicle extrication equipment as well as an assortment of other rescue tools on it. Rescue 151 replaced a 1998 Pierce Engine that was taken out of service due to mechanical issues. Both units listed above are stationed out of Station 151 in Miltonville. **MT**



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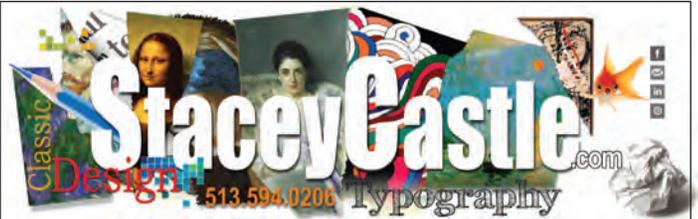
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ROAD DEPARTMENT

BY TODD FARLER



TENTATIVE 2020 TOWNSHIP ROAD PAVING SCHEDULE FOR MADISON TOWNSHIP IS AS FOLLOWS:

- Michael Rd. - Hetzler Rd. to Trenton Franklin Rd.
- Blair Ct. - All
- North Mosiman - SR122 to dead end.
- Weatherwood - All
- Aljen Road – All
- Corlee Lane – All
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ELK CREEK

WATER QUALITY REPORT

By Lynn White – Butler County
Soil and Water Conservation

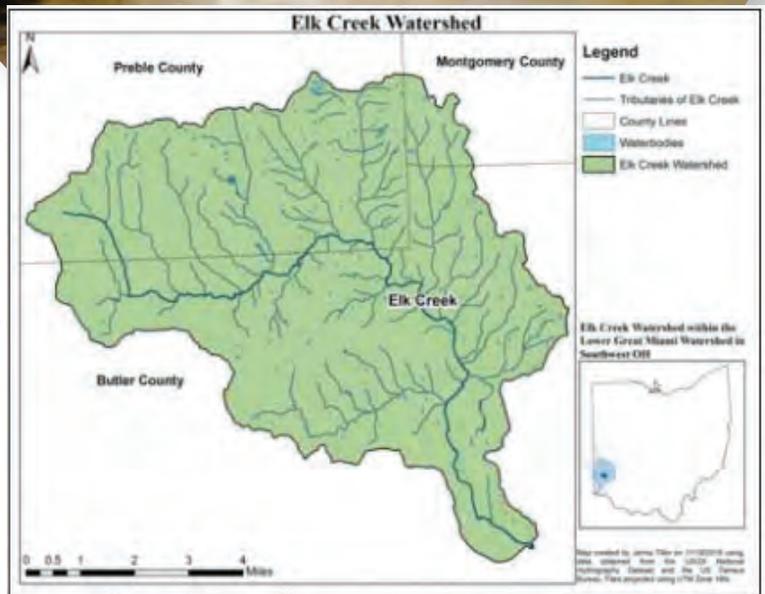
Understanding the types of land-use and land-cover (LULC) within a watershed is essential for effective watershed management, because different LULC classes correspond with varying levels of impact on water quality conditions. For example, agricultural practices may impact water quality by increasing nutrients from fertilizer applications, fecal coliforms from livestock, and sediment loads from runoff. Additionally, impervious surfaces associated with urban and suburban development can result in higher levels of surface water runoff traveling at a faster speed compared to areas with forest cover. The pollutants collected along the way and higher volume can cause flooding, erosion, and a decrease in water quality.

Elk Creek Watershed not only covers land in Butler County, but also portions of Montgomery and Preble Counties. Much of this land (69%) is agricultural and is a fairly even mix between hay/pasture and cultivated crops. Forest covers about 22% of the land, mainly along steeper slopes. Developed land only makes up 9% and includes communities such as Jacksonburg and West Elkton. A small portion of the City of Trenton also extends into the watershed.

It is interesting to note that (in 1995 and confirmed in 2017) Elk Creek was determined to have a highly or exceptionally diverse aquatic community or warmwater habitat organisms. It is classed as exceptional warm water habitat by the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). For the majority of streams in the Lower Great Miami River watershed, the aquatic life use designation in 2010 was Warmwater Habitat. Impairments for aquatic life are found to be from natural sedimentation. A 2016 EPA report did indicate that fish tissue could be a risk to human health.

In 2003-2004, the USGS completed a nitrate study in cooperation with the Miami Conservancy District in response to reports that drinking wells near Trenton, had nitrate concentrations exceeding federal standards for drinking water. The study found that in general, lower nitrate values were found in the headwaters of Elk Creek, and higher values were found in the lower watershed near Trenton. The report concludes that soil organic matter and ammonia fertilizer are the primary contributors.

With the watershed having such a rural character, bacteria is an issue to watch out for. Improper handling of manure and faulty septic systems can be large contributors. If not properly maintained, septic systems can pose significant health and environmental risks. Failures in home septic systems may contribute to E. coli,



Salmonella, Shigella, polio, hepatitis, and Cryptosporidium soil and water contamination.

A great location to access the creek is at Elk Creek Park: Sebald entrance on Elk Creek Road in Madison Township. A wide variety of wildlife can be observed there, including: fish, turtles, crayfish, dragonfly nymphs, snakes, deer, and raccoons. We will be at this park location twice this summer. Along with our partner, Metroparks of Butler County, we will hold a free family creeking program on Thursday, June 4 at 10 am. These creeking programs are held throughout the summer in different park locations. We provide the nets, you provide the families. We will also be at this location on Saturday, June 27 at 9 am for a free program for teens and adults where we will show you how to assess stream habitat. Registration is required for this teen/adult program. More information can be found at www.butlerswcd.org

To find our more about Elk Creek and its water quality conditions, you can access a watershed inventory report on our website at www.butlerswcd.org/projects. The report was a part of a year-long professional service project completed during the 2016-2017 school year by graduate students in Miami University's Institute for the Environment and Sustainability for Butler Soil and Water Conservation District. **MT**

TURNING POINTS

By Teresa Crim
Madison High
School Educator

A few months ago, I was given a mug by a friend that says, "I survived another staff meeting that could have been an email." Today I filled it with my favorite tea, sat down for my High School Department Head meeting on my front porch with my laptop because it is a beautiful Spring day. At the time I received the mug, the idea of email meetings seemed funny - how much time I would save if all our staff, parent, and student meetings were just emails. Fast forward, now watching April slip away, I realize I could not have been more mistaken.

I used to fantasize what it would be like to work from my house. Video chat with students, teach virtual lessons, use all of this amazing technology that was available, wear jeans every day and never have to leave my couch. It was always just a fantasy because down deep I knew I would miss my students. Again I had no idea. Teaching virtually from home is missing some key elements - relationships, interaction, and collaboration.

The coronavirus pandemic created a whole new world for education. Even teachers who used technology and were familiar with learning management systems - like Google Classroom - were thrown into a collective thought: How will we teach without our kids? So much of what happens in a classroom is unscripted. Yes, there are lesson plans written, worksheets copied, activities planned, and assessments given to students in classrooms daily and all of it seems to be carefully constructed. Which it is, but there is also the flexibility to change the way the information is presented based on the class, the environment, and the individual students who need extra help or an extension activity. When assigning similar work over the Internet, we can't see the smiling spark of understanding, the confused frown creeping in, or even the silly shenanigans of students sitting with their friends. Without the chance to experience the learning with students, teaching is tough. Numerous people have said to me about homeschooling their own kids - I don't know how you do this everyday. My response to them should be - I don't do THIS everyday. What we are doing now is good. Teachers, like me, are working hard to find a way to use the technology our students love to make learning fun, but it is not the same as what we do everyday when we are with our students in our classrooms.

Pride is what I feel when I see how well parents and students have adapted to this crazy circumstance. We have an amazing community who has risen to the challenge created by this pandemic. I have a renewed respect for the ability of parents to support their students, advocate for them, and collaborate with their teachers. Having my two kids at home, and trying to motivate and teach them subjects I am not an expert in has reminded me that we are all in this together. I may teach for a living, but even I wasn't ready for the change in education in my own household. My heart goes out to those parents who are essential workers and trying to do all of this, while worrying about the health and well being of their families.

I am also proud of how my colleagues have grown and changed through this process. I have witnessed their ingenuity. Some teachers are holding class through Zoom or Google Classroom, trying to harness the excitement and energy created in a real classroom. They have tried to create paper versions of important lessons for the students who lack internet access or technology with which to work. I have seen unique educational ideas where students create art or engineering projects with household items. Others are creating instructional videos to post online, finding texts, music and movies for their students to analyze. Many have managed to make this an opportunity to make learning and practicing fun for students and parents, creating community based fun like the Mystery Singers of Madison based on "The Masked Singer" television show. Still others are helping our amazing cafeteria and support staff create food boxes or helping the bus drivers deliver meals to members of our community who are in need.

Madison Township is a special place. It may not be sheltered from the coronavirus pandemic, but we are fighting against it as a group - a socially distant one - but a group nonetheless. This school year has been a turning point for all of us, opening our eyes to what it would be like if everything was done through emails and technology. We now know that we can do this. As I click the "Join Now" on my Google Meet, I dream about when I can sit in my classroom and ask my students to join me in welcoming a new school year. Let's hope dreams can come true! **MT**

“Jan’s Recipe for Baked Chicken Casserole”

--Submitted by Barbara Dunn--

4 to 6 cooked chicken breasts

8 (4x4) slices of Swiss cheese

1 (10 ¾ ounce) can cream of chicken soup or celery soup

1 cup herb seasoned stuffing mix

¼ cup melted butter

Arrange chicken in a lightly greased 13 x 9 x 2 inch pan. Top with cheese slices. Combine soup and a small amount of milk to make it spreadable. Spoon over cheese and chicken.

Mix melted butter with stuffing mix and spread over chicken. Bake at 350 degrees for 40 minutes. Serve and enjoy!

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