

MADISON TOWNSHIP

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James M. Cox

GOVERNOR & MEDIA GIANT



By J. Larry Helton, Jr.

Born on March 31, 1870 in Jacksonburgh, Wayne Township, Ohio, James Middleton Cox was the youngest of a family of seven – five boys and two girls. Born and raised on the family farm, young James was expected to do his share of the chores from sun up to sun down. Planted, harvested, or raised; corn, grain, maple syrup, lamb, beef, and pork were all sold in Hamilton. The money earned provided for June taxes, December assessments, groceries, and clothing.

The Cox family first came to the area in 1809, traveling from Virginia, to New York, to New Jersey, then to Ohio. James Cox's grandfather, Gilbert Cox, of English descent, first stopped in Franklin where he married his first wife Anne Craig before crossing the Great Miami River on log rafts near Trenton. Gilbert purchased 862 acres of land in Jacksonburgh with the deed dated March 24, 1809 with the village population of 302. The family first lived in a log cabin with eleven children.

In 1817, construction on the Cox Farm began with the help of family and friends, finishing in 1820. The materials were prepared on site with walnut timber from

the nearby forest and bricks molded from clay found on the property. A two-story house emerged with the following: full basement, eight rooms, three bedrooms, lean-to kitchen, long hallway, upstairs landing, and a fireplace in every room with two in the basement. James' father, Gilbert, acquired this farm after the death of his mother Eliza Andrew, who must have been Grandfather Gilbert's second wife. Eliza had been born just a mile from the Cox Farm in a log cabin on Dry Fork. Of course, James inherited the farm at a later date.

Today the Cox Farm consists of nine buildings, four silos, four dwellings; main house, farm manager's house, tenet house, carriage house, and four barns with the main one being 10,340 square feet in area. At one time, 4,000 bushels of corn was the average harvest until the 1980s, sheep and cattle were the primary livestock. Ralph E. Schramm, a specialist in cattle breeding, managed the farm for fifty-three years before retiring in 1982. In 1993, all but 108 acres were sold and most of the machinery auctioned off. The farm, on State Route 744 in Jacksonburgh, is now in private ownership.

Religion was of the utmost importance in the Cox home. Each morning began with prayer and a chapter read from the Bible. The family attended the United Brethren Church where James first attended Sunday school. Many social events of Jacksonburgh revolved around the church community, winter revivals, ice cream socials, oyster suppers, Christmas celebrations, and baptisms at Elk Creek. No playing cards or liquor were to be brought into the Christian homes and the village tavern was known as the "den of the Devil". The tavern was a lifelong moral issue for James - "it remained so abhorrent in my consciousness, that when I became governor, I had it condemned as a fire menace and torn

Continued on page 6.

YOUR Township Office...

By Roxanne Mantz,
Madison Township Office Manager



WELCOME SPRING



Join Madison Township in logging off and getting outside as we welcome the first signs of Spring. We are eager to see the blossoms and blooms in the parks and we know you are too! A year ago, parks and many recreational activities were closed with the original stay-at-home order from the state of Ohio. So many of us were working overtime as essential employees or stuck inside doing our part to help our community and neighbors stay safe and healthy. The renewal of Spring has never been more welcome and we encourage you to take a breath of fresh air as you explore nature in our wonderful community. And what better way to take a break than to take a trip to one of Butler County's MetroParks! Immerse yourself in nature this Spring and Summer at one of Butler County's eleven parks. There are 4,500 acres waiting to be explored across the county. Each park has its own unique landscape, but they each offer an array of experiences; consider bird watching, hiking, biking, learning about historic sites, picnicking, geocaching, watching your children or pets play. Our county is even lucky enough to

have parks that offer water sports, horseback riding, fishing and much much more. Each park has its own conservation and education programs and for that we are so thankful to live right here, a quick step away, in Madison Township. We know that the pandemic has changed a lot of things, but it has not and will not diminish our spirit as a community. A recovery is upon us as we enter these warmer months, but we ask that you continue to protect your neighbors as we move forward. Please practice social distancing and wear a mask if you are inside of a building or structure. Madison Township supports you through this recovery.

The township is still offering free masks to each of our residents. Please visit us at the Administration building to say hello and/or collect a mask. The Administration building is open from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m., Monday through Friday and is located at 5610 West Alexandria Road, Middletown, Ohio 45042.

Read on to obtain more information on Butler County MetroParks. If you have any comments or questions, as always please reach us at 513-424-0821.

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www.MadisonTownshipOnline.com

TOWNSHIP CONTACT NUMBERS

EMERGENCIES ALWAYS CALL 911

Madison Township Admin. Building 513-424-0821

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

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

Fire Station 153 (Mosiman Road).....	513-425-9009
Madison Board of Education	513-420-4750
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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.



2020 LAST YEAR LIFE CHANGED

I was looking at last year's newsletter and reading how life had changed during the beginning of 2020, little did we know what was in store. 2020 was a year full of decision and indecision. Our community went from total lockdown, to only essential personnel, to wearing mask and on and on. School and community events were scheduled, rescheduled, rescheduled again and finally cancelled. This included yearly events that everyone looks forward to and life progression events like graduations, weddings, etc. I won't even mention toilet paper. Everyone was happy when the calendar turned to 2021. 2020 was in our rear view mirror and 2021 was (is) going to be a better year. We all have hope, hope that tomorrow will be better and we will return to our lives without restrictions, mask or fear.

Staying at home in Madison is not always a bad thing. I have purposely taken time to enjoy the beauty of the spring flowers and budding trees. Our community is full natural beauty. While restrictions still exist, I definite hope we are starting to see the end. Several spring and yearly events that were cancelled last year have been announced so please take the time to enjoy and support them.

I would like to thank our Life Squad and Fire

Department for the outstanding job they have done. In the course of their normal duties, many additional procedures and requirements were heaped on them. Through it all, they maintained their services and professionalism. I would also like to thank our road crew. They quietly met the challenges that Covid presented them. The scheduled road maintenance was completed and our roads cleared of snow.

The lack of broadband internet service has had a deep impact on our community. Everything from school, doctor appointments and at-home work assignments have all put a strain on home wireless systems. I am continuing to work on this with our State Rep. Thomas Hall and State Rep. Rick Carfagna (primary sponsor) so that when HB2 passes, we can start expanding to areas without service.

Something that was reinforced during this period is that time is precious. It goes quickly and you cannot get it back. We should make every effort to savor each moment. The glitz and glamor can sometimes be bypassed for simpler things. Time is the most valuable resource we have, be thankful when someone spends it with you. **MT**



MADISON TOWNSHIP

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

www.madisontownshiponline.com

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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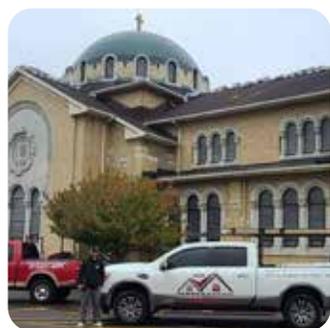
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Continued from page 2.

Butler County MetroParks are open from 8:00 a.m. until dark. Read more about each park at www.yourmetroparks.net.

Take a Break- Log Off - Shut Down - Get Outside - Explore During this past year, with the Covid mandate most of us are working from home and staying inside doing our part to help our communities and neighbors stay safe and healthy. Those of us who are essential employees have worked on site and everyone needs a reason to explore and take a breath of fresh air.

Taking a quick trip to Butler County's Metro Parks is a great way to stretch our legs and see nature at it's best.

This summer is the perfect time to get outside and see the wonderful parks that Butler County has to offer. Butler County Metro Parks are located in Butler County Ohio and include 11 parks, 4,500 acres across the county. These parks offer so many experiences from bird watching, hiking and bike trails, historic sites, picnicking, geocaching, play areas, water sports, horseback riding, fishing, dog parks.

Each park also has its own conservation and education programs.

Remember to practice social distancing and wear a mask if you are entering a building or structure.

Madison Township offers free masks for our residents in the Administration Building located at 5610 West Alexandria Road Middletown Ohio 45042. Office open from 8:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. [MT](#)

PARK INFORMATION

Parks are open 8:00 am until dark.

Metro Parks and Locations:

Chrisholm - 2070 Woodsdale Road Trenton Ohio 45067

Elk Creek - 5580 Elk Creek Road Middletown Ohio 45042

Forest Run - 1810 New London Road Hamilton Ohio 45013

Four Mile Creek - 2385 Treiber Road Hamilton Ohio 45011

Gilmore - 7950 Gilmore Road Hamilton Ohio 45015

Governor Bebb - 1979 Bebb Park Lane Okeana Ohio 450563

Great Miami River Trail - Bike & Walking Trails all along the Great Miami River

Indian Creek - 1899 Oxford- Reily Road (SR 732) Oxford Ohio 45056

Rentschler Reserve - 5701 Reigart Road Fairfield Township Ohio 45011

Voice Of America - 7850 VOA Park Drive West Chester Ohio 45069

Bicentennial Commons - 100 South Carmody Boulevard Middletown OH 45044

If you wish to make a donation to the park you may request a form by contacting MetroParks personnel by calling 513.867.5835 or info@yourmetroparks.net.

Donations to the Metro Parks may be tax deductible. Donors should consult their tax advisor for more information.

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Continued from the cover.

down by the state fire marshal". In later years James would attend Episcopalian churches.

Aside from farm work, James earned a dollar per month cleaning the United Brethren Church and forty cents a week as the school janitor. He also worked as a newspaper delivery boy, printer's devil, and reporter and proof reader part-time for the Middletown Signal.

Beginning school at age five, using McGuffey Readers, James attended the Jacksonburgh School until the age of sixteen. The sandstone plaque from that school can be found in the sidewalk of the farmhouse next to where this school and Wayne School stood. As a teen, James lived with his sister in Middletown and obtained a diploma from Amanda High School, in Lemon Township, now a vacant lot next to Amanda Elementary. His teacher was John Q. Baker, who married James' sister Anne.

James was a lover of the county fair, nature, camping, hunting, and golf. His first love in marriage, then divorce in 1911, was Margaret Blair.

Early into adulthood. James Cox dabbled with the idea of becoming a teacher - "in middle of forenoon while I was following the plow, I would often see one of the neighborhood teachers starting to work and about four in the afternoon while I still had long hours of toil ahead of me...spurred my ambition to teach".

By chance one day he was in Hamilton on the day of the teacher exam, so he decided to take it, then passed it and obtained a two-year certificate to teach. At age seventeen, he began his teaching and principal career at West Middletown, in Madison Township, before moving to Rockdale and then to the "best country school", Tytus, which later became Maple Park, in Lemon Township. James was also employed as the superintendent of Middletown's night school where one of his regular attendants was an old, ex-slave Sarah Mitchell.

During his teaching days, James sometimes delivered Saturday's entire local circulation of the Middletown Weekly Signal that was owned by his brother-in-law, John Q. Baker, who had also been his high school teacher. James taught and worked in a printer's office at the same time until he was twentytwo. Then moving on he states, "teaching experience was never more than an incidental past-time, because printer's ink had moved into my blood".

At twenty-two, James began full-time newspaper work at the Middletown News-Signal, then on to the Cincinnati Enquirer, due to his fantastic coverage of the West Middletown train wreck of 1910. This was the break that launched him into a full career in the newspaper

world. Though he had little finances, he made up for it in courage and vision and was a newspaper publisher by age twenty-eight. James began purchasing newspaper companies: Dayton Daily News (1898), Springfield Press Republican News (1903), Miami Metropolis (1928), Alanta Journal (1940), Dayton Journal (1949), and finally the Alanta Constitution.

In 1934 James entered radio and acquired WSB Radio in 1939 with the subsequent founding of WSBTV. With all of this became the Cox Media Company.

In 1905, James Cox launched his own political career. First, in 1909, he was the private secretary to Paul J. Sorg, of Middletown fame, in Washington, D.C. It was Sorg who helped him buy the Dayton Daily News. He was also elected to Congress before becoming Ohio's 46th governor from 1913-1915 and 48th from 1917-1921. He was an elected Democrat from Montgomery County at that time.

During his govern of Ohio the following took shape: prison reforms, state government overhaul, revised state and rural school laws, worker's compensation, and minimum wage; totaling fifty-seven laws in order to put the effect on the amendments adopted to Ohio's constitution. One of the greatest endeavors was the 1913 Flood Control and Relief Program. Cox declared martial law and three National Guard units were moved into Hamilton to aid victims, establish a ferry, and construct a temporary pontoon bridge. He devised legislation to operate the Miami Conservation District for Flood Control that became a model for other state's flood control programs.

James Cox's political career didn't end there, he ran for presidency against Warren G. Harding after receiving the Democratic nomination at the convention in San Francisco in 1920. His vice-presidential candidate was the assistant secretary of the navy, Franklin D. Roosevelt. The Cox-Roosevelt platform was based on President Wilson's League of Nations that pointed to still unstable international situations and that one in every six Americans were still illiterate. They urged Americans to work hard for peace and progressive reforms. The public was still war weary and not up to meet Cox's and Roosevelt's idealistic challenges. Without public support they "lost by one of the widest margins ever tallied by a candidate for the highest office in the land". Even after the loss, James continued for a time in politics as the vice-chairman to the United States Delegation to World Monetary and Economic Conference in 1933 in London, England. After which he continued in the field of media.

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In semi-retirement, Cox spent most of his time divided between Trails End in Dayton, Ohio; Alanta, Georgia; and Miami, Florida. A few of his more famous contacts included being a friend of William Jennings Bryan, a neighbor of the Wright Brothers, and sued by NCR genius, John Patterson, for \$1 million libel.

James Cox's life is summed up best by a humble quote from his 1946 book, *Journey Through My Years*, An Autobiography, "Journey Through My Years means just what it says; yet what I saw, not what I did, is the important thing...I have been privileged to observe at close range a procession of events and personalities which even I look back in awe...regarding myself as a very unimportant factor in these events".

James Cox passed away in Kettering on July 15, 1957 and was laid to rest at the Woodland Cemetery in Dayton. After his father's death, James Cox, Jr. Expanded the company into cable television and organized the newspaper operations into a private company in 1968, Cox Enterprises, Inc. After the death of James, Jr. In 1974, Cox Communications emerged with Cox Enterprises, forming one of the largest companies in the country. In 1987, James Cox Kennedy, grandson of James Cox, became chairman and chief executive of Cox Enterprises. In 1996, record revenues of \$4.6 billion were gained from the companies: 16 daily newspapers, 18 cable television systems, 13 television stations, 49 radio stations, Manheim Auctions, as well as coupons, telephones, book publishing, real estate, and newsprint operations. In 2013, Cox Media had revenues of \$1.8 billion from the following: 24 newspapers, 14 television stations, 1 local cable channel, 10 television markets, 57 radio stations, 11 radio markets, along with Valpak and Savings.com. With name changes, names within names, divisions, and purchasing and selling over the years, in March of 2020 Cox Enterprises, Inc. repurchased the Dayton Daily News, Journal News, and Springfield News-Sun, with 100% controlling interest. Still a family business, as James Cox Kennedy remains as an executive and current chair of Cox Enterprises., Inc.

From hometown farm boy, to teacher, to paper boy, to his "fantastic coverage" of the West Middletown train wreck of 1910, to a national political figure, and to a media giant, we owe or gratitude and honor to James M. Cox who brought us much locally and nationally for us to have a better life. **MT**

(Note: Jacksonburgh was spelled with an 'h' on the end, until sometime later in the 20th century.)



MADISON LOCAL SCHOOLS

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Quick Questions with Dan Baker

BY TERESA CRIM

We are still a few months from the crisp fall nights filled with touchdowns and tackles, but many Madison Township residents are looking forward to our next football season. The long awaited answer to the question of who will be leading our Mohawks to the field has been answered! Dan Baker, hailing from Perry High School, will be the Madison High School head football coach for the upcoming season. On the district website, there is a professional announcement from Coach Baker outlining his previous accomplishments and aspirations for the season, but what about the man behind the scenes? Since Coach Baker is unknown to many of our township residents, we thought it might be fun to ask him some quick questions to learn a little more about him.

Q: Since you are new to the township, Tell us about your family. My family would be my parents and my little brother. My father, Dave and my mother, Sara, who both work for Final Forms and still live in the house that I grew up in. They are both originally from Illinois. My brother, Derek, attended Ashland University and played four years of college baseball and is today a School Psychologist near Cleveland, he is recently engaged so our family is beginning to add more to it! The rest of my relatives are located in Illinois, Texas and Oklahoma.

Q: Sounds like a family that makes lots of memories. Do you have a favorite childhood memory? When our family took a trip to Disney world and stayed at the Animal Kingdom Lodge. Being able to wake up and see wild animals outside of your window was a neat experience that will stay with me forever.

Q: Obviously you are a coach, so sports are a big part of your life. Can you discuss how sports have influenced your life? Sports have taught me so many lessons in life: How to work hard, how to get back up when things do not go your way, how to wake up everyday with a goal, how to compete to be the best version of yourself. They have taught me how to win graciously and how to learn from a loss. They have provided me with a huge extended family that I can rely on for the rest of my life, from the teammates and coaches that I have had to the players that I have coached. They in general have taught me so many life lessons that I cannot list all of them but I know that they have truly made me a better person in my life.

ACT NATIONAL TEST DATES
National test dates are for the United States. If you have missed the late registration deadline for a test date, you may be able to request standby testing.

2021 TEST DATES
Test Date: June 12, 2021
Registration Deadline: May 8, 2021
(Late Fee Required) May 8-21, 2021

Test Date: July 17, 2021
Registration Deadline: June 19, 2021
(Late Fee Required) June 19-25, 2021

#GOODTOBEAMOHWAK

Q: Often people follow in the footsteps of a mentor. Is there a coach or mentor who you feel influenced you? The coaches that have always believed in me as a player and a person are the ones that have had the biggest influence on how I coach. From Coach Jamal White in High School at Lakota East in football, Ray Hamilton in Baseball and my football coach, Joe Fincham at Wittenberg. I feel that I have learned a lot of how to be a coach from being around these great coaches for the majority of my years in playing sports.

Q: As a history teacher, there are a number of worldwide events you have studied, but on a more personal level, what is the most exciting historical event that has occurred in your lifetime? The Chicago Cubs won a World Series

Q: If you could visit anywhere in the world where would you go? Italy, all of it, there is a lot of history all over the country.

Q: Do you have a favorite place in the US? Hawaii, I have only been one time, but was an amazing trip with great sights to see and would go back and do it again.

Q: What is your favorite type of ice cream? Mint Chocolate Chip

Q: Who is your favorite pro athlete? Derrick Rose, because of his ability to battle back to great productivity despite losing multiple seasons when he was at an MVP level.

Q: Which is your favorite pro sports team? The Dallas Cowboys

Q: Wings, burgers, or coney's? Wings

Q: Truck, SUV, or car? Car

Q: Skyline or Goldstar? Skyline

Q: Kings Island or Cedar Point? Kings Island

It sounds like Coach Baker is going to be a good influence on and off the field. We thank him for taking a little time to answer these questions and letting everyone in the township get to know him a little better. Hopefully we'll have less spectator restrictions with Fall sports and everyone will be able to watch their favorite athletes and teams compete. If so, come see Coach Baker work his magic on the sidelines under Friday night lights.

LINKS

 **Facebook:** "Madison Local School Districts"

 **YouTube:** "Mohawk News Flash"

 **Website:** www.madisonmohawks.org

 **Twitter:** twitter.com/MadisonMohawks

 **Instagram:** [instagram.com/madisonmohawks](https://www.instagram.com/madisonmohawks)



MADISON LOCAL SCHOOLS

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Mohawks Helping Mohawks



Mohawks Who Care Donate Their Hair! Madison elementary students had the opportunity to donate their hair to Children with Hair Loss in Michigan, an organization that provides hair replacements to youth up to age 21.

Ten students and two staff members participated in donating their hair. A special thanks to Mohawks Amanda Young and Jodi Cole for providing the hair cutting services, and thanks to all who organized and participated in the event! Madison is hoping to make this an annual event.

WHAT IS COLLEGE CREDIT PLUS (CCP)?

College Credit Plus is Ohio's dual enrollment program that provides students in grades 7-12 the opportunity to earn college and high school credits at the same time by taking courses from Ohio colleges or universities. The purpose of this program is to enhance students' career readiness and postsecondary success, while providing a wide variety of options to college-ready students, at no or limited costs to students and families.

Interested in taking college classes?

Contact your Guidance office for more information.

Summer Opportunities Available for MLS Students

Any high school or middle school student will have access to key opportunities (e.g., advanced mathematics, physics, higher education, interventions, etc.) Elementary students will have engaging learning experiences provided by Madison teachers.

Supports will be available to help students in the summer. The Madison Local Schools District MTSS Process and Universal Screeners will be in place with our team of teachers. Supports for IEPs/Compensatory Services, Written Education Plan (WEP) adjustments, etc. will be provided by teachers who will be available for special needs support.

Madison will prioritize Literacy and Math in the elementary and standards based curriculum at all grade levels.

Our summer partners we plan to include:

- MidPointe Library System
- Butler County Historical Society
- Caesar's Creek State Park
- Five Rivers MetroParks
- Hueston Woods State Park
- Cincinnati Museum Center
- Butler County MetroParks
- Butler County Soil and Water
- Ohio State University Extension Office
- Pyramid Hill Sculpture Park
- YMCA
- Miami University
- Madison Township Fire Department/EMS
- Madison's National Honor Society
- Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden
- National Museum of the United States Air Force
- Fort Ancient Earthworks and Nature Preserve
- Cincinnati Art Museum
- Cincinnati Nature Center
- Butler County Sheriff's Office

Upcoming Dates

- May 21 Last day students and staff – last day of fourth quarter
- May 26 Last Day of School
- May 31 Memorial Day

Madison Live Streaming

Madison Local Schools has invested in live streaming equipment, including pro-level cameras, tripods and a switching/streaming console. The equipment has already been used to record or live stream several concerts and plays. In the next few months, Madison will stream the spring musical, commencement and other events.

In January, the Middle School production of “Shrek the Musical Jr.” was live streamed, and in February, the High School production of the comedy “The Internet is a Distrac -- OH, LOOK, A KITTEN!” was also live streamed. Restrictions imposed by the pandemic only allow a limited number of live audience members in the theater, so each student was permitted a limited number of tickets. With the live stream, not only were more local family and friends, able to watch the performances, but more distant family members across the country were able to watch our students perform.

All of the equipment is entry-level pro quality, and is popular with live streamers on Twitch and YouTube. The purchase of the equipment was funded in part with an \$800 donation from MASK, the Madison Association for Stage Kids. The remainder of the cost was paid for by the district.

Plays and musicals must be licensed from the publishers, and not all rights holders allow streaming or recording for later viewing on demand. The rights are complicated, cost extra beyond the performance royalties, and vary not just between publishers, but even between different shows from the same publisher. However, the publishers have been working since the spring with the rights holders to get more shows licensed for live streaming, because they knew the limitations of the pandemic would change how schools could perform shows. For example, Dramatic Publishing, a well-established script publisher for many years, had a few dozen scripts available for live streaming in April of 2020; now they have over 1500.



(TOP) SWITCHING CONSOLE



(LEFT) SHREK THE MUSICAL JR. STAGE VIEW.



(LEFT) SHREK PLAYED BY PARKER HAMRICK, (RIGHT) DONKEY PLAYED BY BLAINE SAUNDERS

Another complication is that some publishers require schools to use a particular live streaming service. Madison has had to use two different services for three different plays this year, and the rights holders do not allow us to stream for free over Facebook or YouTube.

As we move past the pandemic and can once again have large gatherings, the district will be able to continue to live stream performances and school events. This will let students' families and community members who are unable to attend, due to distance or other limitations, still view and participate in the events.

Grant Received

Madison Local Schools and the Turf Committee are proud to announce that the National Football League and the Bengals' organization have awarded Madison Local School a grant for \$133,000 toward our field turf project.

Madison anticipates that the turf project will begin this spring and be completed for the 2021 football season. As with all large projects, there are many steps to complete to start actually breaking ground; however, we are excited that with the help of some very generous donations from community members, The Yeager Foundation, Atrium Medical Center, and the NFL, we are ready to begin the process of installation!

RUMPKE

TOWNSHIP RESIDENTS

Butler County township residents should contact the following waste haulers for trash removal and recycling services:

- Rumpke 1-800-828-8171
- CSI/Republic (771-4200)
- Best Way Disposal (859) 466-1984

CHANGES COMING TO RECYCLING DROP OFF SITES

Attention Butler County residents: Beginning in 2021, Rumpke is replacing recycling units at your community drop off site with closed lid containers. This new model is designed to decrease contamination in recycling - and deter folks from placing unwanted items that contaminate recycling. Do not place bags into the recycling box - materials should be deposited without bagging items together. Cardboard Only recycling units will also be in place - look for the units with the open slots for flattened cardboard boxes.

RUMPKE SAYS: GIVE ME 5!

No. 5 Plastics - Butter tubs, Yogurt cups, Cottage cheese containers are now accepted in your curbside or drop off recycling in Butler County, and throughout the tristate region. You can even reattach the lids for recycling!

RECYCLE STYROFOAM!

Eco Development provides recycling for residents, manufacturers and retailers with styrofoam. Open to receive Monday thru Friday 9 am - 5 pm. For more information call 1-866-362-6326 or visit Eco Development's website.

Eco Development Drop Off Center
4219 US State Route 42
Mason, OH 45040

MANAGING BATTERIES:

DO NOT throw batteries in your recycling cart with other recyclables. They pose a fire hazard and cause fires at recycling facilities. Take batteries to Cohen or Batteries+ Bulbs - fees may apply. Call ahead for information.

Cohen Hamilton - 513-863-3474

Cohen Middletown - 513-425-6911

Batteries Plus Bulbs

Hamilton - 513-737-2444

West Chester - 513-491-3148

1. Safely prep batteries: bag or tape. Bag each battery in its own clear plastic bag before placing it in a storage container. Tape the terminals with clear packing, non-conductive electrical or duct tape, keeping the label visible. Batteries that appear dead may contain a residual charge and can pose a fire hazard unless they are bagged or taped. Aim to recycle batteries within six months of their end of use.
2. Store batteries in a cool, dry place. Incidents can occur when batteries are exposed to inclement or excessively hot weather. Store them in a plastic container; avoid metal

WASTE TIRE COLLECTION PROGRAM

Look for Butler County to host another tire drop off in Nov 2021.

For large quantities of tires contact:

Rumpke - 800-828-8171

Liberty Tire - 614-871-8097/614-493-6661

Rumpke New Containers



Recycling Drop Box



Cardboard ONLY Container



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BUSINESS HOURS

Monday-Friday: 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Saturday: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

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

Pandemic Reflection

By Jasmine Wilson, Student Submission

As the year of quarantine started, it was the most confusing year we've ever had. I mean having to do school online and learn all types of things for school was completely different. Not being able to see people you'd normally would during the hours of time you'd spend in a school setting was difficult. Finding out that we wouldn't have sports or any school activities was devastating because the life we used to know was already gone. Facing the fact that we couldn't live how we used to. Staying in the house or going out having to wear masks was the worst thing to experience. We've come to realize that life was not as bad as it is now. That requiring a mask above your nose is making us suffer. Only if we didn't have this happen to us, we wouldn't have noticed how lucky we actually are. Maybe it's the thought of just being able to breathe without smelling or having the mask in my mouth but I really do miss when we were free of all this. When you go to the waterpark and are not required to have a mask on, feeling the breeze on your face just makes me hope that maybe sometime soon we would be able to take these masks off.

Just seeing family or friends makes this difficult during these times of worrying. You can't visit your family because you're worried about how the grandparents will be after hanging out with you. Knowing

that you could hurt them with a virus is disappointing. Going on a vacation with your family, you have to wear a mask there too just so you don't drag the virus over to the place you landed. Once you arrive, you are only hoping that maybe some of the best restaurants aren't closed or too busy for you to get in. Maybe it is just the image of sitting with your loved ones celebrating or just in need for someone to be with. But this year has been the year that you've needed the best people by your side through it all. At one point there were times we had to panic about how life would be as it is now. Now we understand that you need the people that you can relate to through these times just to keep yourself normal.

"...we wouldn't have noticed how lucky we actually are."

I feel like most of the time we were quarantined, I slept all the time. Thinking that maybe it was just a fluke or a mistake; Just one mistake that took the world by storm. It changed our lives forever. Losing jobs, losing our education, and losing our loved ones were only the beginning of our losses. We see the year as life changing; a special event that we will tell our grandchildren one day. It will be a story that will go through our heads as long as we can remember. Not knowing that our lives were easier all before the virus came, we were not appreciative towards our pasts. When we look back at the virus taken from us, we will think that it is so relieving to have our lives back. Even if our high school years are over, it still could've been worse. Potentially schools and jobs have been getting worse due to this pandemic, but some good may come out of it. Our high school moments may have turned out to be a bummer or a disappointment, but I hope our senior year will go back to normal. **MT**



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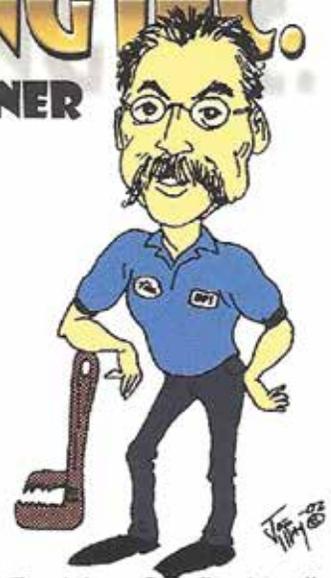
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ROAD DEPARTMENT

BY TODD DANIEL,
ROAD SUPERINTENDENT/CEMETERY SEXTON

SUMMER APPROACHES

As summer approaches here are a few things you will see going on in and around our Township this year.

This year we will be budgeting \$280,000.00 for road paving.

This will include Hetzler Rd. (Michael Rd. to Hinkle Rd.) as well as Thomas Rd. (SR 4 to Franklin Madison Rd.)

Total length 3.161 miles.

We will also be doing various culvert replacements around the township. Some of which have already been completed.

We are still actively using the crack fill program and will continue this summer treating various roads in the township. We have budgeted \$7,800.00 for this program.

BCEO PROJECTS

THIS YEAR WILL INCLUDE:

Intersection Improvement - Install Multi-Lane Roundabout, Curb & Gutter, Storm Drain age, Sidewalk.

Wayne Madison Road at Trenton Road
Contract Cost: \$2,407,635
Federal Funds: \$1,368,311
State Funds (OPWC): \$1,039,324

PAVING:

Elk Creek Road (Trenton City limits to Howe Rd)
Howe Road (Elk Creek Rd to Trenton Franklin Rd)

ODOT PROJECT IN PROGRESS:

SR 73/Jacksonburg Road intersection improvements
Work Category: Intersection Improvement (Safety)
Est. Const. Cost: \$2,940,000
Begin Construction: Summer 2020
End Construction: Summer 2021

ODOT PROJECT 2022

Currently in development: S.R. 122 Bridge Rehabilitation



WORK CATEGORY:

Bridge Preservation
Est. Const. Cost: \$3,980,000
Begin Construction: Spring 2022
End Construction: Fall 2022

I would like to go back to December 3, 2014. On that date the recount was made official. By a 2 vote margin the first road levy in Butler County I'm aware of was passed in Madison Township. This like many other levies are fixed. In that they are restricted in the amount of money they can generate. Ours was capped at \$250,000.00. At that time that was the amount the trustees felt we needed to recover because of the local government funding being taken away at the state level. Had our community not passed that levy at that time we would be in a terrible position today. Don't get me wrong it is not easy using fixed money to address needs that have inflated. Example: In 2014 we could pave a mile of road for \$58,000.00 today it will cost us \$88,500.00 an increase of 52%. This is one example of the challenges local governments face but we are meeting it head on.

I would again like to thank the people of Madison Township for caring enough to provide the necessary resources to maintain what we feel are safe and acceptable roads. **MT**

Dr. Paul Jennewine, MD

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Woodsdale History

WHERE IS FLENNER'S CORNER?

In this day and age the phrase “Flenner’s Corner” means little, but once it was the local focal point to travelers asking directions and stopping to rest or purchase goods. Flenner’s corner took its name from a general store that stood on the northeast corner at the junction of Hamilton-Middletown Road, also known as Dixie Highway/State Route 4 and Liberty Fairfield Road.

The store was opened by John Flenner in 1850.

John Flenner was the last of ten children and when his father passed away, he took over the family farm at age 18. He then married Mary Jane Peak in 1840 and together they bought all the interests of the farm from family in the estate. John and his bride remained living on the homestead and John’s mother resided with them.

John’s farmland extended from the Great Miami River to what is now Route 4.

Not only was John busy with the farming and raising a large family, he also was running the General Store. John took on

a partner with store and it later became known as Flenner’s & Hughes. Hughes later sold his part of the store to a man named Gardner who dealt with the grain industry. Gardner later moved in 1872 to Hanover Township, what is called McGonigle.

Although through the years and with changes of partners, Flenner no longer had involvement in the general store yet it was still known for many years as Flannery’s corner.

A number of businesses have been located at Flenner’s Corner through out the years and many changes have occurred. Now cars stop at red lights and zoom past going on about their busy lives. When in the 1800’s this was a wild untamed area with wild animals wondering the land and Indians traveling and hunting in the area.

In years to come, this area might possibly become even more modern and ever changing, leaving no trace of the yesteryears.

You may visit Library.cincymuseum.org to find additional Butler County history. **MT**

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GARDENING

By Roxanne Mantz

8 TIPS TO GET THE MOST OUT OF A SMALL VEGETABLE GARDEN



1. Plant Things You Cannot Buy Easily.

Eliminate things like onions that you can buy locally and instead plant Rainbow Swiss Chard. This is a relative to the beet. Unlike traditional beets, which produce finger staining roots, Chard instead produces big, tender leaves and crunchy stalks.

2. Grow Up.

You can save space and by training plants such as melons, cucumbers and squash to grow up instead of out. A small trellis works wonders. This saves space and makes your garden look fuller.

3. Look for Compact Varieties of your Favorite Plants.

Some plants can become monstrous. You can get the same yield of fruit by purchasing the smaller versions or Dwarf versions of your favorite plants. This will even give you added space to plant additional herbs.

4. Practice Succession Planting.

This means plant one thing, harvest it, and then plant something else in its place.

5. Plant Varieties with Shorter Growing Time.

This allows you to do more succession gardening. Practice planting a week apart that way you can harvest your vegetables at a slower pace without feeling rushed or losing over ripe vegetables.

6. Do Not Take Seed Spacing too Seriously.

If you follow seed spacing from each packet of seeds you purchase it limits your harvest. It can be a balancing act, but you can plant close together, yet still leaving room for growth. Tomato plants, however, are one plant that you need to allow for growth.

7. Practice Companion Planting

Some plants grow well together, and some plants can impede the growth of another. Plan your garden to make the most of beneficial relationships. For example, you can grow radishes with carrots, as your radishes will harvest long before your carrots roots start to really develop. Planting lettuce under tomato plants can act like a natural mulch and the leaves of the tomato plants can be shade for the lettuce on hot summer days.

8. Use Containers

Container planting is a great way to extend your garden space. Just remember to keep them well watered. Containers are great for things that tend to take over a garden like, mints, lemon balm and Jerusalem artichokes. The yield may not be as big in a pot, but it's worth it to keep these plants contained. *MT*



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