

# Reflections



Dr. Stanley Goodman has been retired as a pediatrician for almost 20 years but that has not stopped him from caring about people and providing advice to young doctors.

Dr. Goodman moved to Fairfield in January 1962 and still resides in his Suwanee Drive home that was one of the first houses built on the street. He became the city's first medical doctor and opened his first office at Holiday Drive and Hicks Blvd.

The "button man" has he became known to thousands of children in Fairfield, Fairfield Township, Hamilton and the surrounding area, also served 20 years on the Fairfield School Board.

Dr. Goodman has also served as a board member of the Fairfield Historical Society for many years and has been known to bring some interesting artifacts to



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## Save the Date >>>

**October 3, 7 pm - Don Bennett**  
- Don share's his life as the long-time chief of the Fairfield Fire Department.

**November 7, 7 pm - Pete Groh,**  
part 1 of Pete's best memories of his 80 years as a Fairfield Township and City resident. (Part 2 will be held at the March, 2018 meeting)

**December 2 & 3, 1-5 pm - Open House at the Elisha Morgan Mansion @ Gilbert Park, Ross Road.** Free admission and activities.

Fall 2017

The official publication of the Fairfield Historical Society

# Cornerstones

*Building on the Past, Present and Future of the City of Fairfield and Fairfield Township*

## FHS Snapshots



Before there was Mercy Hospital, the Benzing family owned this large parcel of land across the street from their home on Mack Road adjacent to what is today, Cincinnati Financial. Located at the very top of the photo is the Yearly Orchard property and the future expansion of the Wildwood community.

This photo was taken in the mid 1970's after it was announced that Mercy Hospital would be constructing a hospital in Fairfield to serve the growing population of the city and the northern Hamilton County area.

South Gilmore Road stopped here at Mack Road and wasn't extended until after the hospital became a reality.

## Miami U., Fires and Reflections of 80 Years on Tap for Fall Programs

Dr. Curtis Ellison, Professor of History Emeritus and Director of the Culligan History Project, is featured at the September FHS meeting discussing the history of Miami University in the Civil War era called "Crossroad of Conflict: Oxford, Ohio and the Civil War Era." Dr. Ellison promises to reveal a Fairfield connection to this era of Miami history.

Fairfield Fire Chief Don Bennett is scheduled for the October 3 meeting. He became the city's first full-time fire chief in 1984 and officially retired late last year. Due to his vast experience with the city and the loss of several key members of the department due to retirement, Chief Bennett was reappointed by city council. He will share stories about the fire department over the years.

The November 7 meeting showcases one of Fairfield's last farmers, Pete Groh, who will speak about his 80 years as a resident of Fairfield Township and the city and when Rt. 4 was a two lane road and most of the township didn't have indoor plumbing.



Chief Don Bennett

You are cordially invited to the  
16th Annual Elisha Morgan  
Holiday Open House  
Saturday & Sunday  
December 2 & 3  
1-4pm



**Our Feature Story >>> 200th Anniversary of the Elisha Morgan Mansion**

This past summer, the Friends of Elisha Morgan and the City of Fairfield hosted a gathering of relatives for former owners of the historic home to celebrate the building's 200th anniversary. In the late 1970's, the home was targeted to be torn down. In 1980, the city purchased the home and adjoining land to develop a park. The Friends of Elisha Morgan was established in 1984 under the name Gilbert House Restoration Committee. The name of the group was changed in 1990. With the efforts of Bob and Helen Wessel and Howard and Judy Dirksen working under the Friends of Elisha Morgan, the house was placed on the National Register of Historic places.



Elisha Morgan Mansion through the years



In 2000, the State of Ohio awarded a historical designation through the state's historical marker program. The Four Seasons Garden Club began their annual holiday open house that continues today. In 2006, the Fairfield Historical Society began meeting regularly in the mansion. The following year, Libby Head and Lois Kingsley developed the Heritage Gardens. By 2008, extensive research was completed by Diane Mahoney and Jim Schwartz of the Friends of Elisha Morgan documenting the descendants living the home from its circa 1817 beginnings through the 1980's. In 2008, Milli Suermann organized the first Sunbonnet Days celebration that held annually each August.

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Village Green Park

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**Ercel Speaks**

with former Journal-News Columnist Ercel Eaton



**Beautiful Fairfield**

Since illness has kept me inside for quite some time, the result has been a nice surprise when I was able to move about again. I have gotten reacquainted with my hometown all over again.

Fairfield is such a beautiful place to live! I don't drive, so I have plenty of time just to look: going out Tylersville Road, for instance. Of course, summertime has painted the earth around us for maximum pleasure: green corn blades pushing their way along road sides and highways, while across a street a plush field of soy beans glistened in the summer sun.

A friend from northern Kentucky who visits our family for special occasions always talks to me about how nice our neighborhood is. I must admit it has grown up and changed as our family (we moved here about half a century ago). Our daughters were born in Fort Hamilton Hospital and have spent their lives with their own precious family here.

It's nice when roots go deep.

I know about roots, because I was born in a stone home on Polls Creek in south eastern Kentucky about eight or nine decades ago. Talk about a place: mountains that towered above little kids' heads; a glistening creek that offered enough rocks to tiptoe across to our grandparents' house.

They had a radio. We didn't at that time. But I remember how safe I felt with tall hills in front and back of our house, which my father built of stones quarried from those Appalachian hillsides. It was a sturdy home. Everywhere I looked was beauty: a sparkling creek, wonderful blue and white skies framing it all.

I was allowed to climb as far up those slopes as I desired. We moved away from the mountains when I was 15 and out of high school. By the time my husband and I had two daughters I found myself with a job on a newspaper. A work I enjoyed (that's true-enjoyed it.) I learned the people of Butler County were (are) wonderfully wise, friendly and welcoming.

I learned a lot from the hundreds of stories I wrote over more than 40 years and became a dedicated resident of Fairfield; the girls went to schools here and became lovers of this town too. While I followed the roads of this county on my assignments and met so many lovely people a lot of my aging roots grew in my heart for the folks here as well.

I can't stop without writing here my favorite greeting when I called on a Mr. Sturgill and his wife somewhere out in the county. He open the door when I knocked and said, "Come in. I used to work with your father!" Since my father was deceased at that time, I feared I would faint. I would love to get in touch with Mr. Sturgill, again, talk about our childhood and take a beautiful ride down Tylersville.



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Fairfield, Ohio 45014

