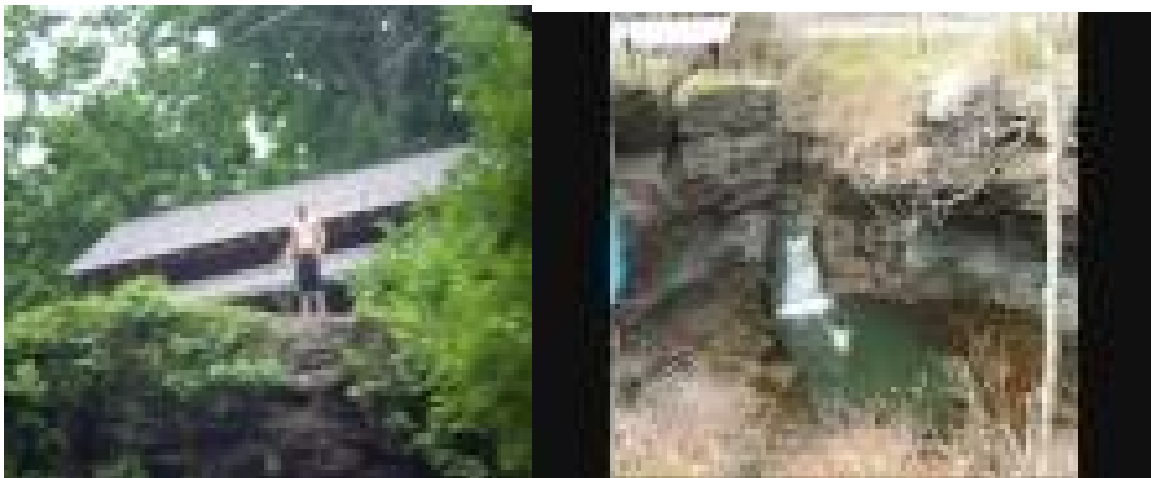




PRESS RELEASE

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SUMMERTIME FUN COULD BE DANGEROUS



[Lancaster, Ohio, July 12, 2011] Fairfield County Sheriff Dave Phalen emphasizes the importance of summertime fun and the dangers associated with swimming. A number of drowning and near-drowning incidents across the country since Memorial Day have been reported. The media have reported 48 drowning and 75 near-drowning incidents in 35 states and territories. With such a high number of individuals drowning and near-drowning, it is important to protect the areas we see as potential problems in the county.

Rock Mill Bridge is a wonderful landmark for Fairfield County, but it could easily become a dangerous place to be. “It is an extremely dangerous adventure when people are jumping from the rocks above the swimming hole,” stated Phalen. Perhaps the biggest misconception about jumping off the rocks is that the diver is cushioned by the water below—this could not be further from the truth. When leaping from a cliff or rock that is over 70 feet high, a diver hits the water at over 46 mph, regardless of his or her body weight. Such high speeds make the point of contact feel more like a brick wall. Sheriff Phalen stated the Bloom Township Fire Department has responded to several serious calls to Rock Mill Bridge on individuals injured from jumping and falling in this area. Both agencies and the community are concerned about the incidents at the bridge. Sheriff Phalen encourages visiting the beautiful county parks, but if you choose to go swimming and jumping off the rocks you will be cited by his deputies for criminal trespassing (M4), which is punishable by up to 30 days confinement and a \$250 fine.