

BROWN

ESTABLISHED 1830

TOWNSHIP

Spring 2009

Break-ins in Brown Township

Pam Sayre
Brown Township Trustee

On a Friday evening in December, as we arrived home from work, my husband, who was first to arrive, noticed our back door was ajar. As he walked closer, he found he could push open the door with his finger. Inside, door trim, part of the frame and screws lay on the kitchen floor. As he carefully checked the house, he noticed the computer was missing, yet everything else seemed to be in its place. Walking back to the bedroom, he stopped when he saw that it had been completely ransacked. Knowing not to touch anything, he came back to the kitchen and waited for me to arrive.

I knew as soon as I turned into the driveway that something was very wrong. For one thing, every light in the house and outside of the house was on. For us, that was not normal. After I scanned the house, I called 462-3333 to report we had been burglarized. I have no idea why I did not call 911, other than I did not consider it a life threatening emergency. The damage had already been done, and no one was hurt.

Within 15 minutes, three sheriff cars were in our driveway. They went through the first floor of the house then, two went to the basement with pistols ready, in case anyone was still in the house. After they came back upstairs, they calmly asked us questions, made

notes, and asked us to fill out a report. They stayed and talked to us for a while to make sure we were all right and told us the best way to find our missing possessions would be to visit pawn shops. Most pawn shops now are licensed and anyone who brings in something to pawn must show identification.

As they left, they checked the nearby farm field for footprints. None were evident. This suggested that a vehicle was in our driveway that day, yet none of our neighbors saw anything. Considering the whole crime probably took less than ten minutes, it is highly probable that no one would have seen anything anyway given that our homes are not close together.

It is our duty as neighbors to notice and report anything suspicious. Several weeks later, I did that very thing. I was traveling north on Amity, and had just passed Beach Road, when I noticed an old white van backed up in the driveway of a home. I quickly called 462-3333 and reported the suspicious vehicle. By the time I was heading east on Hayden Run, I had passed the deputy who was hopefully on his way to check it out.

Please review the home security checklist on the next page to see what you can do to make you home safer. Also, be sure to give us your opinion on adding police protection in Brown Township by completing the enclosed survey card.

BROWN TOWNSHIP NEWS

On March 18, 2009, the City of Hilliard started the process of updating their comprehensive plan. The Hilliard West Subarea is adjacent to and overlays parts of Brown Township. The area also includes hundreds of acres of undeveloped township land recently annexed to and slated for development. A website has been established to track progress, obtain feedback and keep the public informed. The website address is <http://www.HilliardOfTheFuture.org>.

Hilliard's planning process will include three "subarea" meetings. The West Subarea public meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. on April 15 at the Phyllis Ernst Senior Center in Hilliard Municipal Park. All township residents are encouraged to attend!

Provide feedback to Hilliard's comprehensive plan progress on-line at their planning progress website. Take the on-line Hilliard survey at <http://www.HilliardOfTheFuture.org/TakeTheSurvey.asp>

Home Security Checklist

Use this as a guide as you check your home for safety measures. Boxes marked “no” indicate areas where you could take action to improve your home’s security. These are just some of the steps you can take to decrease the likelihood that you or your home is targeted.

Exterior Doors

- Yes No All doors are locked at night and every time we leave the house—even if it’s just for a few minutes.
- Yes No Doors are solid hardwood or metal-clad.
- Yes No Doors feature wide-angle peepholes at heights everyone can use.
- Yes No If there are glass panels in or near our doors, they are reinforced in some way so that they cannot be shattered.
- Yes No All entryways have a working, keyed entry lock and sturdy deadbolt lock installed into the frame of the door.
- Yes No Spare keys are kept with a trusted neighbor, not under a doormat or planter, on a ledge, or in the mailbox.

Garage and Sliding Door Security

- Yes No The door leading from the attached garage to the house is solid wood or metal-clad and protected with a quality keyed door lock and deadbolt.
- Yes No The overhead garage door has a lock so that we do not rely solely on the automatic door opener to provide security.
- Yes No Garage doors are all locked when leaving the house.
- Yes No The sliding glass door has a strong, working key locks.
- Yes No A dowel or a pin to secure a glass door has been installed to prevent the door from being shoved aside or lifted off the track.
- Yes No The sliding door is locked every night and each time we leave the house.

Protecting Windows

- Yes No Every window in the house has a working key lock or is securely pinned.
- Yes No Windows are always locked, even when they are opened a few inches for ventilation.

Outdoor Security

- Yes No Shrubs and bushes are trimmed so there is no place for someone to hide.
- Yes No There are no dark areas around our house, garage, or yard at night that would hide prowlers.

- Yes No Every outside door has a bright, working light to illuminate visitors.
- Yes No Floodlights are used appropriately to ensure effective illumination.
- Yes No Outdoor lights are on in the evening—whether someone is at home or not or a photocell or motion-sensitive lighting system has been installed.
- Yes No Our house number is clearly displayed so police and other emergency vehicles can find the house quickly.

Security When Away From Home

- Yes No At least two light timers have been set to turn the lights on and off in a logical sequence, when we are away from home for an extended time period.
- Yes No The motion detector or other alarm system (if we have one) has been activated when we leave home.
- Yes No Mail and newspaper deliveries have been stopped or arrangements for a neighbor/ friend to pick them up have been made when we go away from home for a period of time.
- Yes No A neighbor has been asked to tend the yard and watch our home when we are away.

Outdoor Valuables and Personal Property

- Yes No Gate latches, garage doors, and shed doors are all locked with high-security, laminated padlocks.
- Yes No Gate latches, garage doors, and shed doors are locked after every use.
- Yes No Grills, lawn mowers, and other valuables are stored in a locked garage or shed, or if left out in the open, are hidden from view with a tarp and securely locked to a stationary point.
- Yes No Every bicycle is secured with a U-bar lock or quality padlock and chain. Bikes are always locked, even if we leave them for just a minute.
- Yes No Firearms are stored unloaded and locked in storage boxes and secured with trigger guard locks.
- Yes No Valuable items, such as television, stereos, and computers have been inscribed with identifying number approved by local police.
- Yes No Our home inventory is up-to-date and includes pictures. A complete copy is kept somewhere out of the house.

Help Brown Township Stay in Compliance

All communities that have a storm drain system are required to apply for a permit from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to discharge storm water (rain runoff or snow melt) into streams and rivers. The new permit for January, 2009 to January, 2014 has just been issued. There are six "minimum control measures" that Brown Township must follow in order to be in compliance and not degrade the local rivers and streams.

For two of these measures, we are dependent on you, our township residents for assistance. The Ohio EPA must also consider them important because they are the first two requirements in the permit! The first minimum control measure is Public Education and Outreach on Storm Water Impacts. The second is Public Involvement/Participation.

How can you, as a resident of Brown Township, help your township trustees

and staff follow these regulations? Get involved! Do you volunteer with a Boy or Girl Scout troop, religious youth group, neighborhood or homeowners association, or community service organization? For your next service project, please consider a stream-side cleanup, tree planting, anti-litter or no-dumping campaign, or.... Be creative! Are you a master gardener? Maybe you can teach a class in composting so neighbors don't toss yard waste down the bank of a nearby stream. Are you an expert baker? Hold a bake sale with your friends at a community event and donate the profits to the township for one of these water quality service projects.

We all benefit from clean and healthy streams and rivers. You can help both Brown Township and the natural world by getting involved. For more information, call Mary Ann Brouillette at Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District (486-9613, www.franklinswcd.org).



When It Rains... It Drains!

10 Things we can do to prevent stormwater runoff pollution:

- Conserve water — stop outdoor faucets and hoses from dripping
- Never dump anything down storm drains to tiles
- Pick up after your pet
- Sweep up driveway litter instead of hosing it into a drainage ditch
- Use fertilizers & pesticides sparingly — consider a professional applicator
- Plant gardens in bare spots to better absorb runoff
- Direct rooftop runoff into grass or gardens
- Check your cars for leaks (and fix them)
- Wash your car at the car wash
- Compost your yard and organic waste

Remember: What runs on the ground affects the local streams and creeks. What soaks into the ground might show up in your drinking water!

Recycling Bins Are Back In Business!

In the fall of 2008, the parking lot, between the firehouse and the Township Hall, was completely re-done to facilitate better drainage.

Providing a stronger base for the heavier vehicles, such as the fire truck, the trash hauler and the snow removal truck, that use the lot on a regular basis, was also a prime concern.



It quickly became evident that the recycling bins would need to be moved from the back lot to the front lot after the project was completed. So, please note you will find the recycling bins next to the trash bin that is for fire department use only. Please be mindful of the following when using the recycling bins:

Please cut all cardboard boxes into pieces before placing the items into the bin. This will save room and allow for more recycling materials to be placed in the bin before pick-up.

Do not place recyclables between the bins. All recyclables must be inside the bin. Thank you for your cooperation.

Want to be Added to Our Mailing List or Have a Change of Address?

Please use any of the following:

- Fill out the **name, address, additions and corrections form** on the Brown Township website under "Newsletters"
- **Call** the Township Fiscal Officer (614-876-2133)
- Via **fax** to the Township Office (614-876-2421)
- Or by **mail** to the return address above.



Clockwise from left: Gary Dever, Ronald Williams, Pamela Sayre and Barbara Bloxam

Brown Township Administration Office

2491 Walker Road, Hilliard, Ohio 43026 876-2133

Website

www.brown.twp.franklin.oh.us

Fiscal Officer

Barbara Bloxam 876-2133

Trustees

Mr. Gary Dever 876-4768

Mr. Ronald Williams 876-6118

Mrs. Pamela Sayre 878-0199

Norwich Fire Department

David Long, Chief 876-5367

Brown Township Board of Trustees Meeting

When: 3rd Monday of every month at 7:30 p.m.

Where: 2491 Walker Road, Hilliard, Ohio

For Police, Fire and Medical Emergencies, Dial 911