

BROWN TOWNSHIP

ESTABLISHED 1830

Summer 2012

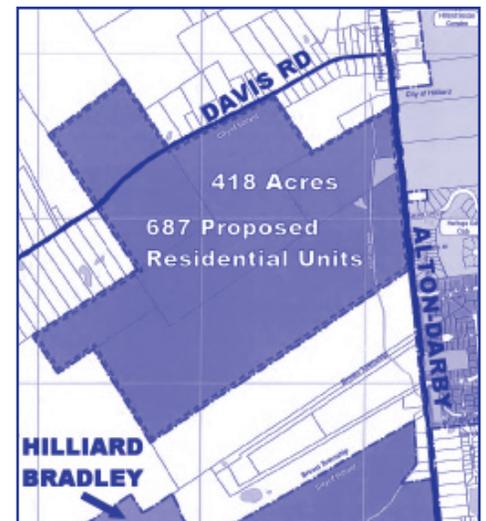
Panel Rejects Rezoning Proposal

The Big Darby Accord Advisory Panel unanimously recommended disapproval of a proposal to rezone 418.75 acres in the City of Hilliard to allow for the creation of a subdivision, called Heritage Preserve, with 387 single-family units and 300 multi-family units with 236.9 acres of open space. At its August 14 meeting, the Panel cited issues of excessive density, flood plain filling, and lack of wetland buffers in its disapproval action.

The proposal by Planned Development Co. of Ohio and Danken, LLC involves a site on the west side of Alton and Darby Creek Road opposite Heri-

tage Lakes Drive and on the north and south sides of Davis Road.

The Panel's role is to review development proposals for consistency with the Big Darby Accord and make recommendations for consideration during the approval process of the relevant jurisdiction. In this case, the City of Hilliard process would include a hearing by the Hilliard Planning and Zoning Commission and a decision by Hilliard City Council. Questions on the proposal or on the Hilliard process and scheduled hearing dates should be directed to John Talentino at 614-334-1176 or jtalentino@hilliardohio.gov



Joe Martin Reappointed to Advisory Panel



At its July 16, 2012 meeting, the Brown Township Board of Trustees reappointed Joe Martin as the Brown Township representative on the Big Darby Accord Advisory Panel. Joe has represented the township since the creation of the Panel and has served as its only chair.

A fundamental goal of the Big Darby Accord is to ensure that zoning and site development review processes are fair, consistent, and apply evenly to all portions of the planning area.

The Big Darby Accord Advisory Panel fulfills an oversight function to the review process and offers a mechanism for collaboration among the jurisdictions.

The Panel shares responsibility with the local governing jurisdiction to review and render advisory, non-binding opinions on zoning applications and site development plans in terms of conformance with the Accord. Each jurisdiction continues to be responsible for final plan approval or denial for proposals in their area.

Panel members are appointed by the jurisdictions that have adopted the Big

Darby Accord according to the following formula: Columbus – 3 appointees, Hilliard – 1, Franklin County – 2, Brown Township – 1, Prairie Township – 1, Pleasant Township – 1. An at-large member is jointly appointed by the Panel members.

The Panel meets on the second Tuesday of the month at 1:30 p.m. at the Franklin County Courthouse, 373 S. High St., Columbus, OH 43215, in Meeting Room A on the first floor. Meetings are cancelled if there are no cases to consider.

More information is available at www.bigdarbyaccord.com

Park Planning Underway for the Homestead

The Homestead has been one of the most popular family gathering places in our community for the past twenty years. The 44-acre park, located at 4675 Cosgray Road, offers a variety of facilities and amenities, including trails, reservable pavilions, an outdoor amphitheatre featuring various performances, a stocked fishing pond, playgrounds, ball courts, etc. The park is open from 9 a.m. to sunset daily.

The development of The Homestead was a cooperative effort of Washington, Norwich, and Brown townships. Recently, Washington Township Parks and Recreation Department staff, landscape architects MKSK (formerly Myers Schmalenberger), and a local committee have been engaged to create a conceptual design for a new water play area.

The planning committee has come up with a refreshing new “nature play” concept tying into education about Big Darby Creek that will replace the water fort, toddler farm, and skating course. Research has shown that children who play in natural settings are typically healthier, happier, and more likely to appreciate the world around them. Being outdoors can reduce symptoms of attention deficit hyperactivity disorder; improve academic performance; and increase motor skills, strength, and coordination.

Water will be reintroduced into the new play area. Other natural elements like native plants, grasses, logs, sand, and rocks, along with modern play structures, will be used to create an area for physical activity, discovery, and sensory play for children of all ages and abilities.

The proposed conceptual plan will be presented to the Washington Township Board of Trustees in September for their consideration.

Contributed by Janell Thomas, Washington Township Parks and Recreation Director

Update on Brown Township Block Watch



Crime in Brown Township is down significantly from 2010 when we organized to combat crime. Police reports reveal that in 2009, there were 31 thefts or attempted thefts; in 2010, there were 26. For 2011 and 2012, the statistics below come from residents' reports, street captains' reports, Sheriff's Office notifications, and crime alerts received by email from www.crimereports.com

In 2011, 19 Block Watch alerts were sent to residents involving:

- 2 home burglaries (Alton-Darby Creek, Morris)
- 10 outside thefts – dirt bike, barn break-ins, car break-ins (Beach, Davis, Walker, Amity, Darby Knolls, Cole, Scioto-Darby)
- 1 Metro Parks – outboard motor stolen
- 2 thefts from www.crimereports.com – details unavailable (Roberts)
- 4 unsuccessful theft attempts (Roberts, Langton, Metro Parks)

Through July, 2012, 16 Block Watch alerts have been sent to residents involving:

- 6 home burglaries (Feder, Roberts, Walker, Patterson, Morris)
- 2 Metro Parks – equipment barn break-in, car break-in
- 3 thefts from www.crimereports.com (Beach, Feder, Scioto Darby)
- 2 unsuccessful theft attempts (Roberts)
- 2 barn break-ins (Morris)
- 1 theft (Creek)

As Block Watch coordinator, I recommend that residents sign up for crime alerts on the website www.crimereports.com. The site shows crime in the area you specify, e.g. Brown Township. You can scroll through the map to see crime in surrounding areas. The information clearly shows that our crime incidents now are very low in comparison to surrounding communities.

Crime in Brown Township is down because we have numerous Block Watch signs posted throughout the

township warning would-be criminals that we are watching and because we have a structure in place. To date, we have 19 streets organized with captains. The streets with captains are:

- Abbey Chase
- Adams
- Alton-Darby Creek
- Amity
- Carter
- Cole
- Darby Knolls
- Davis
- Elliott
- Golfview
- Hardwood
- Hubbard
- Jerman
- Jones
- Morris
- Patterson
- Roberts
- Spicewood
- Woodsend

There is still work to do. We need captains for streets not listed above. If you use email and have time, you would be providing a valuable service. The captains provide a crucial link by getting to know their street members and encouraging them to communicate incidents to share with the community via the coordinator. Privacy is respected when alerts are sent. If you would like to help, please send an email to brown.twp.blockwatchcoordinator.1@gmail.com. If your street is already on the list, but you would like to volunteer to help on streets where there is no captain, please let me know.

If you have not joined our Block Watch, you can do so by emailing the coordinator with your name, address, phone number, and email address. If you do not have email, contact a Trustee with your information and you will be placed on a call list.

It is important to note that our Block Watch is not a substitute for law enforcement. If you are burglarized or see something suspicious, always call the Franklin County Sheriff at 525-3333. You are encouraged to share the incident with your neighbors via your captain or the coordinator.

Contributed by Brown Township Block Watch Coordinator

Townships Reduce Cost of Local Government

(This is a summary of an article written by Matthew J. DeTemple, executive director of the Ohio Township Association, which appeared in Ohio Township News, July/August 2012, a publication of the Ohio Township Association.)

The Ohio Township Association retained Professor Wendell Cox, an expert on local government structures, to study objective data on Ohio local government and answer the question: Based upon the analysis of relevant data, would consolidation of local governments reduce the cost of local government in Ohio?

Professor Cox's report, *Local Democracy in Ohio: A Review of City, Village and Township Financial Performance by Size*, was released in June.

About 59 per cent of Ohio's population resides in cities, about 6 per cent in villages, and about 35 per cent in townships. In 2008, Ohio's local governments spent approximately \$48 billion. Municipalities spent about 21.3 per cent of that total; townships spent about 2.7 per cent of the total. The rest was spent by counties, school districts, and special districts. Townships account for 11 per cent of the local general purpose government spending (excluding counties), yet have 35 per cent of the state's population.

Townships rely primarily on local property taxes for revenue. Cities' and villages' revenue comes primarily from income taxes, but they also receive funding from property taxes. In 2007, townships collected \$214 per capita in local taxes. Cities and villages collected \$701 per capita, more than three times that of townships.

The Cox report compares the cost of Ohio's existing larger local governments with the cost of townships on a per capita basis. If Ohio's existing larger local governments are more efficient than townships, creating additional larger governments via consolidation would save money.

In 2008, local governments serving populations of 1,000 to 2,499 had current expenditures of \$204 per capita; local governments serving populations of 25,000 to 49,000 spent \$729 per capita, and cities with populations of 100,000 or more had current expenditures of \$1,249 per capita.

Smaller local governments in Ohio also levy lower local taxes per capita than larger governments. In 2008, local governments serving populations between 2,500 and 4,999 levied \$124 per capita in local taxes; cities with populations of 100,000 or more levied \$856 per capita in local taxes.

The Cox report also studied data in Ohio's metropolitan areas and found the same pattern: smaller governments in metropolitan areas spend less, collect less, and have less debt, on a per capita basis, than larger governments in metropolitan areas.

Data on Ohio's fiscal caution was also reviewed. In the history of the pro-

gram, only two townships have been identified in any level of fiscal caution, watch, or emergency. The numbers are higher for villages and cities and climb higher as entities increase in population size.

Doing away with a government entity does not reduce the miles of roads to maintain; the number of people who need police, fire, or emergency medical services; or the number of parks to maintain. Consolidation creates a larger, more expensive, more bureaucratic entity to maintain vital services.

Ohio townships now have the data to support our position – consolidation is a bad idea that would drive up the cost of local government in Ohio, make it further removed from the citizens it serves, and make it more bureaucratic.

For further information on the Cox report, contact Matt DeTemple, executive director of the Ohio Township Association, at detemple@ohiotownships.org or by calling 614-863-0045.

Complaints to the Township

In order to assure that complaints to the Township can be thoroughly investigated, complaint letters, emails, faxes, and calls must include the complaining party's name, telephone number, email address (if available), and mailing address.

This requirement is necessary to be sure Trustees or others involved in following up on complaints can communicate with the complaining party to get additional details or to explain decisions being made.

The Brown Township office ad-

dress, as well as phone and fax numbers, and Trustees' email addresses are shown below and also are available on the township website at

www.brown.twp.franklin.oh.us.

Mailing address – 2491 Walker Road, Hilliard, OH 43026

Telephone number – 614-876-2133

Fax number – 614-876-2421

Email addresses –

gary_dever@brown.twp.franklin.oh.us

pam_sayre@brown.twp.franklin.oh.us

ron_williams@brown.twp.franklin.oh.us

Brown Township
2491 Walker Road
Hilliard, Ohio 43026

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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.
- To have your newsletter addressed in your name instead of “Brown Township Neighbor,” please visit <http://www.Brown.Twp.Franklin.oh.us/newsletters.htm>.



L-R: Ron Williams, Gary Dever,
Pam Sayre, Greg Ruwe

Brown Township Administration Office

2491 Walker Road, Hilliard, Ohio 43026 876-2133

Website

www.brown.twp.franklin.oh.us

Fiscal Officer

Greg Ruwe 876-2133

Trustees

Mr. Gary Dever 876-4768

Mr. Ronald Williams..... 876-6118

Mrs. Pamela Sayre..... 878-0199

Norwich Fire Department

Robert Kaufman, Chief876-7694

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