

BROWN TOWNSHIP

ESTABLISHED 1830

Summer 2016

High Speed Internet

You may have noticed Time Warner Cable (now Charter Communications, Inc.) has been upgrading their network in Brown Township to fiber optic cable. Once complete, Brown Township's cable service will be the most state-of-the-art in Ohio.

Time Warner recently reported to the Brown Township Trustees that residents will soon have access to more than 150 high-definition channels, 20,000 On Demand offerings, Internet download speeds up to 50 Mbps (residential), Time Warner's IntelligentHome security and home management service, the free Time Warner TV phone app, unlimited local and long distance calling throughout the United States and dozens of foreign countries, Caller ID on TV and more.

Residents will also be able to take advantage of Time Warner's enhanced DVR which features six-channel-recording and whole house DVR service that allows customers to watch recorded shows in multiple rooms. To take advantage of the new service, a cable box or digital adapter (which is a small device that allows digital signals to be displayed on TV) is required.

While the new fiber optic network does not cover 100% of Brown

Township, Time Warner estimates that this upgrade will impact almost 600 homes in most of the following areas by the end of 2016:

- Adams Lane
- Amity Road
- Carter Road
- Cole Road
- Davis Road
- Elliott Road
- Feder Road
- Golfview Place
- Hardwood Drive
- Hayden Run Road
- Jerman Lane
- Jones Road
- Morris Road
- Patterson Road
- Roberts Road
- Spicewood Court
- Walker Road
- Woods End Court

Time Warner indicated that they

are contacting eligible current and new customers through a door to door campaign. Residents can also call Time Warner's new service number (855-243-8892) to inquire about service at their exact address.

We want to thank you for your ongoing patience and cooperation with the efforts to improve cable and high speed Internet services in Brown Township. We realize these are long-desired changes and are happy to see these upgrades finally come to fruition.

Drainage—Property Owner Do's and Don'ts

Historically, townships have been plagued with drainage problems on private property, and to a lesser extent, on township roads. Brown Township is no exception because of the flat topography and the type of soils prevalent in the township.

Private drainage problems have been brought before Boards of Trustees by private property owners seeking resolution of the problem by action of the township and expecting the township to bear the cost of correcting the problem. Less frequently, drainage problems on township roads cause flooding

and erosion of the road surface.

Drainage problems result from inability of the surface water to be absorbed by the soil, natural and man-made obstructions of natural water courses, excess runoff from paved or covered land areas, damage to existing private drainage systems, and land development without proper drainage facilities.

Over the years, the legal doctrine called the "reasonable use doctrine" has come to prevail as a method of resolving surface water drainage issues.

(continued next page)

REYNOLD RAUSCH—A PROFILE

Reynold Rausch is a modest man, not inclined toward hyperbole or exaggeration. He is, however, justifiably proud of the community business he has owned and nurtured for 50 years.

The Dairy Queen in Hilliard is located in the heart of the community and has been the gathering place for kids, families, and sports teams for a couple of generations. The business has sponsored dozens of girls' and boys' baseball, softball, and soccer teams over the years. Managed by son, Steve, and daughter-in-law, Lorie, for more than 25 years, the popular business started with just two adults and seven teenagers. Now, summer employment totals about 30.

The Dairy Queen has employed many teenagers over the years and Reynold's rule was, "School first, then work, then play." The Rausches are gratified to have had many years of loyal help. Although officially retired, Reynold still finds time to check in on the business several times a week. He says he has always enjoyed working and has had the opportunity to meet great people. "Hilliard has treated us well," he said.

Born in a farmhouse in Millcreek Township in Union County in 1928, Reynold grew up and attended school in Union County. He attended parochial school at St. John's through eighth grade. At the time, each township had a high school. Union County



had 19 high schools, one in each township and one in Marysville. He attended Watkins High School. There were seven in his graduating class.

Reynold served in the United States Air Force during the Korean War from 1949 to 1953. He was stationed at Spangdahlem Air Base in Germany for two years. Upon his return he reconnected with a large group of friends who had played baseball and softball together before the war. He was particularly interested in reconnecting with a young woman named Beth. He called her and a year later they were married. Reynold and Beth Rausch have now been married for 61 years. Beth worked at the Dairy Queen for more than 20 years.

Reynold and Beth also have two daughters, Karen and Barbara. Karen lives in Cincinnati and has two adult sons, Michael and Nick. Barbara and

her husband, Kevin Fogal, live in Dublin and have an adult son, Tyler.

Reynold helped to start the Hilliard Chamber of Commerce and has been a member of St. James Lutheran Church for more than 40 years. He was also active in Kiwanis and the American Legion.

The Rausches moved to Brown Township in 1975. Reynold said, "I was born and raised in a rural area and Brown Township is still pretty rural. We have a nice neighborhood." He also commented that the Brown Township Trustees have done a good job and "have spent our tax money wisely." He was especially articulate about the 2014 fire levy. "We were obligated to pass the levy to pay our fair share to Norwich Township so we would get protection," he said.

The Rausches have traveled to Europe to visit the town where Reynold was stationed in the Air Force and visited their daughter and son-in-law in Japan for a month, touring Tokyo and the Hiroshima memorials.

And, asked about his favorite Dairy Queen treat, Reynold answered, smiling, "The blizzards!"

This is one of an occasional series of articles on noteworthy Brown Township residents. If you have a suggestion for a future profile, please let us know.

(Drainage from page 1)

The "reasonable use doctrine" provides that no landowner shall unreasonably increase or decrease the flow of surface water drainage onto adjoining lands or unreasonably alter the natural water course. Additionally, the Ohio Revised Code provides that, "No person shall wrongfully obstruct any ditch, drain, or water course along, upon, or across a public highway or divert any water from adjacent lands to or upon a public highway."

The roles and responsibilities of property owners in drainage issues include:

- Property owners are responsible, at their own expense, for cleaning and maintaining ditches and natural water courses on their land and for provid-

ing for the free flow of drainage across their property.

- A landowner must take private legal action to correct drainage problems when the problem is caused by an adjoining property owner's action. The township is not responsible for correcting private drainage problems. Townships are responsible only for roadside ditching to maintain township roads.
- A property owner may petition the county commissioners to build a new township ditch to address drainage problems with the cost to be apportioned between area landowners.
- If flooding of a township road results from a landowner's failure to maintain the water courses on his or her

property, the township is required by law to order the offending landowner to clean the water courses and to remove obstructions. If the landowner fails to do so within five days, the township can enter the property and provide for the cleaning with the cost assessed as a lien on the property.

For questions about drainage on your property, an adjoining property, or roadways in the township, contact the Franklin County Drainage Engineer at 614-525-3030.

This article contains excerpts from an article in the July/August 2016 issue of Ohio Township News.



Watershed Still Clean 10 Years After Group Formed

Ten years ago, a group of governments, nonprofit groups and concerned citizens got together and decided that one important waterway in central Ohio was worth saving.

At the time, the Big and Little Darby creeks were two of the highest-quality waterways in the Midwest, making them an inviting home for a variety of insects, fish and other aquatic life.

But Columbus was starting to grow quickly, and the creeks and their tributaries were at risk of becoming polluted. So the group decided to work together to protect the watershed.

Fast forward to this spring, the 10th anniversary of the Big Darby Accord, a formal agreement that limited development around the Big Darby Creek watershed to 10 percent of the total land.

The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources have been studying the health of fish, insects and mussels in the Darby, in part to see how those protections are working for the creeks.

Early reports show that, in many respects, the accord has been a success. Some endangered fish species have been brought back from near-oblivion, and water quality appears strong. But by other measures, including the population of mussels, a key healthy-water indicator, there is still work to do.

James Lee, an EPA spokesman, said an EPA report that will be completed this year will identify pollution issues in the Darby watershed and recommend ways to further protect the creeks.

An ODNR report is complete. Scientists working on behalf of the department found more than 2,000 mussels representing 28 species. They found dead and weathered shells from four additional species, and compared their findings with a study conducted

in 1996 to see how the creeks' mussel population had changed.

Mussels live a long life compared with other creek animals, and one of their functions is to filter water through their bodies. That makes them sensitive to pollution and other changes in water quality.

Because of those things, they are considered key indicators of a waterway's health. A thriving mussel population generally means a thriving river. Dwindling or dying mussels can indicate a water way in trouble.

"Fish can move miles; mussels can move feet," said Anthony Sasson, freshwater conservation manager with the Nature Conservancy of Ohio. "Until humans came along, that wasn't much of a problem. But we're changing the landscape so much."

The ODNR report shows that in the nearly 20 years since the last mussel survey, development has changed conditions in the streams. The scientists found near-empty mussel beds in places where the same species had flourished in 1996.

Scientists have conducted four mussel surveys there in the past 30 years. There is no firm census that counts the number of mussels there, though scientists who study them say they believe populations are thriving.

For reasons that are still unclear, the percentage of common mussel species, such as spikes, is getting larger. At the same time, scientists are finding fewer endangered species, including the northern riffleshell, a mussel that has struggled nationwide.

"It looks like the rare species are becoming more rare," Sasson said. "Overall, it's harder to find some of the ones we used to find."

The Darby, a state and nationally

designated scenic river, is home to 37 species of endangered or rare fish and mussels. More than 100 fish species have been noted there.

No large dams block the streams, though one small, lowhead dam does limit fish movement. The land around the watershed has been largely protected because of the accord, and also because of two 2006 measures by the Ohio EPA that helped manage construction activity and water runoff in the watershed.

Sasson said there are other measures state and local governments could take to protect the Darby, starting with removing the lowhead dam about 1 mile downstream of U.S. Route 40 in western Franklin County.

Tom Watters, curator of molluscs at the Ohio State University's Department of Evolution, Ecology and Organismal Biology, led the first three Darby mussel studies. He said even with the decline in rare mussels, he is optimistic about the Darby's overall health.

"Certainly every river system every place, not just those in Ohio, have taken it on the chin," Watters said. "But if I was a mussel, I would want to live in Ohio, because I think we have the strictest rules and the most money put into conservation."

"In terms of the mussels, we have more species than we thought we did. And when you talk about the rare species, I'm not sure if the drop in their percentage is due to the fact that they're becoming rarer or that the common species are becoming more common and ...pushing them off to the side."

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Jeff Warren, Chief • 876-7694

The Brown Township Board of Trustees Meeting is held the third Monday of every month at 7:00 p.m. at 2491 Walker Road, Hilliard, Ohio.



L-R: Fiscal Officer Greg Ruwe and Trustees Gary Dever, Pam Sayre and Joe Martin

Community Backyards Program

The Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District promotes stormwater education with a focus on rainwater harvesting and infiltration. Keeping rain where it falls and using it as a resource keeps watersheds healthy and safe.

Rebates on rain barrels, composting bins, and program-approved native plants and trees are being offered to Franklin County residents who register to be a City of Columbus GreenSpot member.

To find out if you qualify for these rebates, call 614-486-9613.

Extra Deputy Assigned to Patrol Area

The Franklin County Sheriff's Office has assigned an additional deputy to help patrol Brown Township.

Deputy David Maynard will be in Car 10 and will help cover areas of Brown, Norwich, and Washington townships within the Sheriff's Office's jurisdiction. He will be on duty from 3 p.m. to 11 p.m. daily except Thursday and Friday.



ROAD WORK AHEAD

Several township roads are scheduled for work this summer and will likely occur in August or September.

Carter Road

will see repairs, resurfacing, and berm rebuilding.

Morris Road

will receive repairs including shoulder repairs at the S-curves.

Spicewood Court

will be seal coated.