

BROWN TOWNSHIP

ESTABLISHED 1830

SUMMER 2018

Blockwatch at a Crossroads

The Brown Township Blockwatch has been operating successfully for over ten years. Blockwatch efforts have assisted in the resolution of a home burglary ring, car theft episodes, and outbuilding burglaries. More recently, the Blockwatch worked closely with the Franklin County Sheriff's Office to keep residents informed about mail thefts that occurred over the winter.

The Blockwatch is now at a crossroads. The organizers are stepping down and new leadership is needed. Technology has evolved over the past ten years and new tools may better facilitate communication and organization.

A public meeting will be held to evaluate the future of the Brown Township Blockwatch and how it can continue to meet the needs of the community. If the Blockwatch is to continue, new leadership will need to be put in place over the summer for a smooth transition.

Blockwatch Public Meeting

Date: Tuesday, July 17

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Location: Brown Township Hall
(across parking lot from the firehouse)

Needed: Volunteers to take over Blockwatch leadership



The Law of Riding a Bicycle in Ohio

National Bike Month is a celebration of bicycling held every year in May. Established in 1956, the designation encourages people to get on their bicycles and ride to work, to school, or just for fun. Bike Month is also about increasing awareness of cycling safety and whether you are a veteran of two-wheeled transport, a recreational rider, or a motorist, it is important to know the rules of the road when it comes to bikes.

Bicycles are defined as "vehicles" under Ohio law. State law allows bicycles to be lawfully operated on virtually all Ohio roads except freeways or certain limited access roadways. Therefore, cyclists who ride their bikes

on roadways are in line with Ohio law.

"Same rights, same roads, same rules" is the mantra cyclists follow. Like all states, Ohio law requires cyclists to follow the basic rules of the road when riding a bicycle on a roadway. Like any vehicle operator, a bicyclist must ride with traffic, obey basic traffic laws, stop at stop signs and red lights, and follow all traffic control devices. When following the rules of the road, a cyclist has exactly the same "right of way" as any car, truck, or bus driver.

Ohio does have a few bike-specific laws. The key "bike law" in Ohio states that a bicycle must be operated "as near to the right side of the roadway

as practicable." While the word "practicable" is undefined, the law states that a cyclist does not have to ride along the right side of the lane when it is "unreasonable or unsafe to do so." Some examples of when a cyclist may use the entire lane include when it is necessary to avoid fixed objects or parked cars, surface hazards, or moving vehicles. A big exception to the ride-to-the-right rule is if the lane is "too narrow for the bicycle and an overtaking vehicle to travel safely side by side within the lane." In such a situation, the cyclist is not required to stay to the right.

(continued next page)

The Law of Riding a Bicycle *continued from page*

Cyclists are also permitted to ride “two abreast,” meaning side by side in the same lane. Ohio law does not require cyclists to move out of the way of faster traffic.

Like all vehicle owners, cyclists must abide by certain equipment requirements when riding on the roadway. They must use a white light on the front of the bike and both a red reflector and a red light in the rear between sunset and sunrise or whenever the weather makes lights necessary. This is important since many serious or fatal crashes occur at night or when weather causes poor visibility. Some cities may have other equipment requirements written into their municipal codes. Dayton, for instance, requires all cyclists to wear helmets and to equip their bike with a bell that is audible for up to 100 feet.

Traffic law allows motorists to cross a double yellow line to pass any slower vehicle but only if the slower vehicle is traveling at less than the posted speed limit, the faster vehicle is capable of passing the slower vehicle without exceeding the posted speed limit, and there is sufficient sight distance ahead to permit the passing maneuver to

be safely accomplished, taking into account the speed of the slower vehicle.

This is not specifically a bicycle law, but rather a law that covers passing vehicles such as slower moving tractors and Amish buggies. However, it does apply to bicycles. If a motorist can follow the listed rules to pass a cyclist while crossing a double yellow line, they are free to do so.

Ohio law does not include an age limit or age requirement for riding bicycles on a roadway so children can technically ride bikes in the street. However, riders of all ages must follow the rules of the road. Parents should evaluate children’s riding abilities, educate them about cycling rules, and make sure the child can ride safely and predictably.

Under state law, “bike bans” that force cyclists to use sidewalks instead of roads are prohibited everywhere in Ohio. In fact, many cities, especially Ohio’s larger cities, do not permit sidewalk cycling at all. But local laws vary widely. Some cities impose age limits or only ban sidewalk riding in defined business districts. Check your local city ordinances to see if and where sidewalk riding is allowed.

Cyclists are also not required to use

bike lanes. These lanes are typically created by local governments and are not governed specifically by state law. State law mandates only that cities may not force cyclists to use sidewalks or “sidepaths” (bike trails that are not part of the roadway). Regular road cyclists may find that bike lanes contain dangerous debris and they may use these lanes at their discretion.

Cyclists who are injured by negligent motorists often wonder what type of insurance applies to their claims. If a motorist carelessly injures a cyclist, the motorist’s auto policy would apply to pay the claim. However, cyclists are often surprised to learn that their own auto insurance may come into play, as well as their own homeowner’s insurance, health insurance, and any umbrella or excess coverage they may have. Before moving forward with any such claim it is important to consult with an attorney who can help a client go over insurance claims, equipment damage, and deal with the motorist’s lawyer and insurance representatives.

By Steve Magas, from Ohio Bar, with permission of the author.

PUBLIC SAFETY SUMMARY

Each issue of the Brown Township newsletter contains a quarterly wrap-up of public safety reports and calls in Brown Township.

Norwich Township Fire Department

Calls to addresses in Brown Township (including Brown Township addresses within the City of Hilliard):

	Fire Calls		EMS Calls	
	Incorp.	Unincorp.	Incorp.	Unincorp.
Mar. 2018	1	0	0	10
Apr. 2018	1	6	1	11
May 2018	2	3	3	9

Franklin County Sheriff's Department

Calls to addresses in unincorporated Brown Township:

March 2018

Reported March 5, occurred March 4 – domestic violence at an address on Cole Road.

March 6 - criminal mischief at an address on Morris Road.

Reported March 13, occurred between February 1 and 20 - theft and forgery at an address on Roberts Road.

March 26 – phone harassment at an address on Amity Road.

April 2018

April 10 – theft of mail from a mailbox at an address on Morris Road.

Between April 13 and 14 – menacing

at an address on Morris Road.

April 23 – menacing at an address on Walker Road.

May 2018

No non-routine calls.

Hilliard Division of Police

Non-routine calls to Brown Township addresses within the City of Hilliard:

March 2018

No non-routine calls.

April 2018

April 12 – illegal use of controlled substance at an address on Scioto-Darby Creek Road.

May 2018

No non-routine calls.

TIM WOODRUFF — A PROFILE

From a long happy marriage to his high school sweetheart, to his children and grandchildren, to the Brown Township neighbors with whom he grew up, to the lifelong friends made in the dorms and on the football field at the University of Cincinnati (UC), to his many years of membership in the Hilliard Methodist Church, Tim Woodruff's life is defined by deep and meaningful relationships.

Tim and his wife, Penny, have two sons, Eric and Mark, a daughter, Kay, and five grandchildren, Derik, Jesse, Megan, Ella, and Clara. Penny and Tim dated through college while she attended Ohio University and he attended the University of Cincinnati. They were married in December of 1966 after Penny finished college early. Tim majored in business administration with a marketing emphasis. After getting his bachelor's degree and getting married, Tim attended graduate school at UC and received a master's degree in business administration. They returned home from Cincinnati and Tim began work with Ranco, an international controls company, a career that lasted nearly 27 years, involving stints in market research, the credit department, and as a systems analyst in the IT department. The company was sold and employees downsized so Tim went to work for Miller Pavement, which was subsequently sold to The Shelly Co. where he worked until retirement in 2009. Since then, he has served as a bus driver for Hilliard City Schools, an assignment that allows him to give pop quizzes to elementary students before they get off the bus at school in the morning.

Tim speaks fondly of growing up in Brown Township because of the quiet, serene rural atmosphere, swimming in Big Darby Creek, and



horseback riding. Growing up on a farm, he says, taught him the value of rising early, working hard, and being responsible and dependable. "My values were set from my experiences in Brown Township," Tim says. Tim and his older brother, Dennis, both received full athletic scholarships to UC to play football. A highlight of their time there was the occasion when they started together in the rivalry game against Miami University. During his college playing days, Tim was named to the Missouri Valley Conference All-Academic Team.

Another recurring theme in Tim's life is construction, which he learned from a home remodeler his parents originally hired to build a porch. He has built decks and porches and additions for friends and family; he built his own house on Roberts Road, and about 15 years ago, with his father; built a log cabin in the woods on the property. The cabin is 16 feet by 16 feet, complete with an upstairs bedroom. He speaks of his gratitude at having the opportunity to work on that project with his father largely because it deepened their already close relationship through the many stories his father

told during the construction process. Free materials for the cabin came from myriad sources including a partial log cabin on the former Anderson property, a disassembled log cabin discovered during a trip to Urbana, logs from a friend, and large rocks from another trip to Urbana. He is, of course, still in touch with some of those benefactors. The cabin was the site recently for his granddaughter's high school graduation party and a few years ago the site of Tim's 45th high school class reunion. He graduated from Hilliard High School in 1963, "a very close class," he says.

Tim is past president and past vice president of the Hilliard Historical Society. He organized the 50th anniversary celebration of the Society in 2016 with a fundraising event to honor past All-American athletes from Hilliard with the construction of a bell tower.

Additionally, to commemorate the anniversary, a history of the Society and of Hilliard was published that year. Tim wrote the sections on the history of the Hilliard Historical Society and the history of downtown old Hilliard. The bell tower is located at the Hilliard Historical Village in Weaver Park.

For the past few years Tim and Penny have traveled with friends from high school to a condo on Fort Myers Beach, to New Orleans, to Civil War battlefields, and to national parks in the west. Reflecting on his life in the township, Tim says, "It's the people that make Brown Township special."

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



Brown Township
2491 Walker Road
Hilliard, Ohio 43026

PRSRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
COLUMBUS OH
PERMIT# 5964

Brown Township Administration Office

2491 Walker Road, Hilliard, Ohio 43026
(614) 876-2133

Website

www.BrownTwp.org

Fiscal Officer

Greg Ruwe • (614) 876-2133

Trustees

Mr. Gary Dever • (614) 876-4768

Mrs. Pamela Sayre • (614) 878-0199

Mr. Joseph Martin • (614) 870-9601

Norwich Fire Department

Jeff Warren, Chief • (614) 876-7694

Franklin County Sheriff's Department

Emergency • 911

Non-Emergency • (614) 525-3333

Meetings are 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

New Library Branch Opens

Columbus Metropolitan Library opened its new Hilliard branch on June 21. Located at 4500 Hickory Chase Way, it replaces a branch at 4772 Cemetery Road.

The new branch is located in what was originally intended to be a two-story community center of the Hickory Chase development. The 86-acre Hickory Chase site, initially slated to be a residential community

for seniors, fell into foreclosure in 2009 and remained unfinished.

At about 63,000 square feet, the new branch will be the largest in the system, roughly triple the size of the old Hilliard branch. It features two floors of library space, a larger children's area, a larger homework help area, a ready-for-kindergarten area, a café, more meeting rooms and community gathering space, and more parking.

Township Hall Available to Rent

The Brown Township Hall, located across the parking lot from the Fire Station at 2491 Walker Road, is available to rent to Brown Township residents.

Rental fee is \$50 per use. Qualifying non-profit groups pay \$50 per use for one to five days a month, \$100 for use for six to ten days a month. Civic organizations pay no fee.

Execution of a Brown Township Hall Rental Agreement is required and covers township policies governing the use of the Township Hall.

Those wishing to rent the Township Hall should contact Barbara Hoover at 614-876-2133 or barbara_hoover@browntwp.org.

