

BROWN TOWNSHIP

ESTABLISHED 1830

Winter 2021

Broadband Expansion Proposed

Passed in 2020 by the Ohio House of Representatives was a bill to create a residential broadband expansion program aimed at bringing reliable, high-speed internet to the approximately one million Ohioans lacking it.

House Bill 13, which failed to receive action by the Ohio Senate, was to provide grants to support construction of last-mile broadband infrastructure to unserved or underserved areas of the state. Competitive grants were to be available to broadband providers (phone, cable, wireless, or satellite-based) to cover the broadband funding gap, defined as the difference between the total cost of a broadband expansion program and the maximum amount of money a provider determines is cost effective to invest in a project. \$20 million in state funding was to be available to providers through June 30, 2021.

The bill defined an unserved area as lacking access to any internet options or one with access but at speeds of less than 10 megabits per second (mbps) download or 1 mbps upload. An underserved area was defined as one with access but at speeds between 10 mbps download/1 mbps upload and 25 mbps download/3 mbps upload or an area where construction will be completed within two years to provide access at those speeds. Maps are available at <https://connectednation.org/>

ohio/mapping-analysis.

While competitive state grants were to be available only to providers of the service, one of the bill's sponsors, Representative Rick Carfagna pledged to continue to work on the issue of affordability to consumers.

The bill was to create a Broadband Expansion Program Authority within the Ohio Department of Commerce

to monitor the effectiveness of the grant program and to provide recommendations on the state's overall broadband policy. The Ohio Department of Commerce was to administer the grant program.

To receive future consideration, a new bill would need to be introduced in the next session of the Ohio General Assembly, convening in January.

Baird Becomes Chief

Dave Baird has been named chief of the Norwich Township Fire Department, effective January 4. He succeeds Chief Jeff Warren, who will remain with the department.

He "never dreamed it would be an option," he said, but when the opportunity presented itself, he was eager to pursue it.

An area native, Chief Baird grew up in Prairie Township, attended Brown Elementary School, and graduated from Hilliard High School in 1995. He then attended the University of Toledo for two years before deciding on firefighting as a career. He attended Tolles Career and Technical Center for his firefighting education.



He began work with the Norwich Township Fire Department in 2002 after working for the Pleasant Valley, West Jefferson, and Jerome Township departments.

Chief Baird and his wife, Andrea, have been married for 18

years and have three children—Jacob, a junior at Hilliard Darby High School, Ava, in eighth grade at Heritage Middle School, and Noah, a fourth-grader at Hoffman Trails Elementary School.

The Brown Township Board of Trustees welcomes Chief Baird to his new role and extends thanks to Chief Warren for his work over the past few years and especially for his commitment to effective communication.

Prairie Oaks Adds Swift Tower

The new structure rising above Prairie Oaks Metro Park is a chimney swift nesting tower designed and built, as an Eagle Scout project, to help protect chimney swifts and encourage them to thrive and to bring additional biodiversity to the park.

Swifts are incapable of perching and can only cling vertically to surfaces. They build nests of twigs and saliva stuck to a vertical surface, almost always a human-built structure, typically a chimney.

This new amenity comes amid a pandemic-driven explosion in attendance at Prairie Oaks. In 2020 through August, Prairie Oaks had 617,000 visitors compared to 389,000 in 2019, a 59% increase. During the same period, the Metro Parks park system had 9.6 million visitors, a 30% increase over the 7.4 million in 2019.



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 both incorporated and unincorporated portions of Brown Township:

	Fire Calls		EMS Calls	
	Incorp.	Unincorp.	Incorp.	Unincorp.
Sept. 2020	1	4	2	21
Oct. 2020	2	3	2	8
Nov. 2020	0	11	1	13

Franklin County Sheriff's Department

Calls to addresses in unincorporated Brown Township:

September 2020

Reported September 7, occurred between September 6 and 7 – misuse of a credit card from an address on

Patterson Road.

Reported September 22, occurred between September 10 and 20 – aggravated menacing at an address on Morris Road.

Reported September 29, occurred September 24 – theft of a yard sign from an address on Elliott Road.

October 2020

Reported October 10, occurred between October 9 and 10 – theft of yard signs from an address on Davis Road.

October 10 – domestic dispute at an address on Walker Road.

Reported October 23, occurred October 18 – passing a bad check at an address on Scioto-Darby Road.

Reported October 25, occurred October 19 – open dumping at an address on Roberts Road.

Reported October 27, occurred between October 30, 2019 and October 27, 2020 – theft of practice pad and drumsticks at an address on Morris Road.

November 2020

Reported November 7, occurred between October 17 and November 7 – theft of a bicycle from a garage at an address on Walker Road.

Reported November 18, occurred between September 11 and October 23 – theft of cash from an address on Amity Road.

Reported November 22, occurred November 21 – violation of a protection order at an address on Morris Road.

Hilliard Division of Police

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

September 2020

September 1 – criminal damaging and theft from a vehicle at an address on Hayden Run Road.

October 2020

No non-routine calls.

November 2020

No non-routine calls.

UNION SEMINARY

Did you know the roots of Wilberforce University, the nation's oldest private historically black university owned and operated by African-Americans, were planted here in Brown Township? This exciting story begins with the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church. AME Church is an offshoot of the Methodist Episcopal Church founded in 1816 in Philadelphia. It was founded to allow families of African descent to worship without interference. From its inception, the AME Church was vocal in its support of education for its followers. All types of education, religious and secular, were encouraged.

In 1844, the Ohio chapter of the AME Church appointed a committee to select a site in Michigan for a seminary to educate young men for the ministry. In 1845, the committee reported back to the Ohio chapter that as they did not have the funds to travel to Michigan. They instead located a site twelve miles west of Columbus and two miles north of the National Road in what is now Brown Township. The site contained 172 acres of land at a sale price of \$1,720.00. At the chapter's direction, the land was obtained through an agent, Major J. Wilkenson, who raised a down payment and purchased the land.

According to the notes of the Ohio Conference, the purpose was to establish a seminary of learning, on the manual labor plan, for the instruction of the youth of the AME Church, both male and female, in the various branches of literature, science, agriculture, and mechanic arts, and also for those young men who may desire to prepare for the ministry. The manual labor plan was a common plan used at that time. It meant students of the school would also perform manual labor, usually agricultural or mechanical, in addition to their studies. This plan was intended to make educational opportunities more widely available to students with limited financial means.

The chosen site was a narrow strip of land located north of the current Roberts Road running east from Darby Creek.

A preamble and a constitution for



the seminary were written and a board of thirteen managers, nine trustees, one secretary, one treasurer, and the principal Rev. Davis were appointed. In 1847, a petition was successfully presented to the legislature of Ohio to give Union Seminary a charter. Another committee was formed to draft a course of studies.

Some difficulty in recruiting students and their families to the new school was encountered. There was little employment for parents of the students in the area as the seminary was located twelve miles from the closest town of any size (Columbus) and there was little work to be found locally from the "thrifty white farmers" of the area. (Quote taken from History of the AME Church Vol. I by Donald Payne.)

A sawmill was erected on the property and at least four buildings were put up on the land in the area between the present Amity Road and Hubbard Road. One building was "36 feet x 18 feet, with the first story 9 feet tall and the second 8.5 feet tall, having two rooms on the first floor for teaching purposes and four rooms with a hall on the second floor." (History of the AME Church Vol. I.) The cost of this building was \$725. A church and at least two other buildings were constructed on the land as well.

In 1850, Francis Ellen Watkins (better known now by her married name of Francis Ellen Watkins Harper) arrived from Boston to become the first female teacher at the seminary. She taught there for two years but "contrary to her expectations, her adopted home and

calling not proving satisfactory, she left the state" moving to Pennsylvania. (Quote taken from The Underground Railroad by William Still.) Francis Ellen Watkins went on to become a prominent abolitionist, writer, orator, and lecturer. The first of many books she wrote was *Forest Leaves* which was published while she was teaching in Ohio. (From The Early History of Brown Township by Ray Bradley and Sandy Andromeda.)

Little is known about the number of students who attended the seminary. In 1854, the Ohio chapter of the AME Church reported there were thirteen students at the seminary during the past year, declared its condition a favorable one, and the farm under good cultivation. However, the seminary struggled to attract students, probably due to its distance from any source of employment.

In 1863, the college that is now Wilberforce University was purchased by the AME Church. The Union Seminary property was sold and the proceeds, faculty, and pupils merged into the larger university (from *The Legacy of African Methodism in the Third Episcopal District*, Columbus Metropolitan Library digital collections).

An application is being processed to acquire an Ohio historical marker in Brown Township to celebrate this little known yet important piece of our history.

By Mary Hamm
Norwich Township resident



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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: Trustees Pam Sayre,
Gary Dever and Joe Martin
Seated: Fiscal Officer Becky Kent*

Salt Application Tips

Salt before the ice forms

It's always easier to prevent than de-ice. Salt applied before a storm that is likely to produce a layer of ice is easily more effective than salt applied after, on top of the ice.

Use the minimum amount of deicer or anti-icer

It's only supposed to break the bond to make shoveling easier.

Check the temperature

If it's really cold outside, and the ice is already set on the ground, your salt may not

work, so applying more won't help. Each type of salt has a different temperature range. For sodium chloride (the most common salt), anything below 20°F the salt will be less effective. Most salts stop working completely at 15°F (Minnesota Pollution Control Agency).

Less can be more

Use a hand-held spreader to help apply a consistent layer across the surface. A successful rate for rock salt is about a handful per square yard. Excessive use is wasteful, increases costs, and has an environmental cost.