Pulte Homes proposes to build 238 single-family homes on about 190 acres of Brown Township land – some of it already within the City of Hilliard and some proposed to be annexed to the city later this year.

The site is southwest of the Heritage Rail Trail and north of the Estates at Hoffman Farms subdivision on the east and west sides of Elliott Road.

The proposed housing density is 1.49 dwelling units per acre, with 95.2 acres of open space.

The case was scheduled for review by the Big Darby Accord Advisory Panel on May 12, with a City of Hilliard staff recommendation of “approval with conditions.” Those conditions include lowering the density to no more than one unit per acre to bring the development into compliance with the Big Darby Accord and with the Hilliard Comprehensive Plan. The Advisory Panel is charged with reviewing development proposals for their consistency with the provisions of the Big Darby Accord and making recommendations to the appropriate jurisdiction.

Two access points are proposed on Elliott Road, a vehicle connection to the subdivision to the southeast, a vehicle connection to a future residential subdivision on the north side of the Heritage Rail Trail, and a grade-separated crossing with a tunnel for the rail trail under the proposed road.

The proposal is tentatively scheduled for consideration by the Hilliard Planning Commission on June 11. Questions regarding the proposal should be directed to Hilliard City Planner John Talentino at 614-334-2444 or jtalentino@hilliardohio.gov

The Franklin County Sheriff’s Office provides a free 12-hour comprehensive female-only self-defense course with a focus on awareness, prevention, risk reduction, and risk avoidance. The Rape Aggression Defense (RAD) system is designed to provide women with self-defense education in a short period of time. Instructors are nationally certified. RAD is the only self-defense program endorsed by the International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators.

On average, 24 people per minute are victims of rape, physical violence, or stalking nationwide—more than 12 million over the course of a year. One in four women 18 and older has been the victim of severe physical violence by an intimate partner in her lifetime. More than one in three women has experienced rape, physical violence, and/or stalking by an intimate partner in her lifetime.

For more information on the self-defense course, contact the Franklin County Sheriff’s Office Community Relations group at 614-525-4507. To sign up for the course, go to http://sheriff.franklincountyohio.gov, click on Programs, then click on Rape Aggression Defense System and complete the application online.
The interior of Beve and John Crumley’s lovely Roberts Road home is adorned with physical demonstrations of their long and illustrious careers. Plaques, photographs, trophies, and letters attest to the esteem in which the Crumleys are held by those who value their extraordinary contributions to learning and service.

John Crumley, a trumpet player and teacher, was the band director at Hilliard High School for 36 years, retiring in 1995. He also worked with bands in Akron, Newcomerstown, and Ashville, for a total of 41 years in public education. He holds a bachelor’s degree in music from Kent State University and a master’s in music from The Ohio State University. He played in the 36th Army Band at Fort Huachuca, Arizona from 1955 to 1957, taking a few courses at the University of Arizona at Bisbee during his Army service.

Beve Crumley, a Newcomerstown native, holds a bachelor’s degree in education from The Ohio State University and taught in Columbus Public Schools and a private kindergarten in Ashville before moving to Hilliard. Her teaching career was on hold for a few years when their two daughters were young. When John was lured to Hilliard High school, their son was pre-school age and needed a school. Beve was the first teacher/director of the pre-school at Hilliard United Methodist Church in 1971 where she remained as director until 2002.

The Crumleys have lived at the Roberts Road address since 1969, at first using a tent camper amidst a field of poison ivy while their home was being built. The Crumleys speak fondly of the township people “who made us feel so welcome,” mentioning the Jermans and the Woodruffs, in particular. Married for 58 years, Beve and John said they have always had independent parts of their lives, but “support each other however we can.”

An indicator of the success of the independent parts of their lives is the degree to which Beve and John each contributed to the growth of their professional undertakings. The Hilliard High School band had 32 players and nine majorettes when John started. At the time of his retirement, the band was 220 players strong. Beve’s pre-school started with 30 three- and four-year olds and grew to 320 children by the time she retired.

The degree to which they support each other is demonstrated by their response to a stroke John suffered in August 2014. John credits Beve’s quick action and the professionalism of the Norwich Township Fire Department paramedics for a remarkable, almost 100% recovery. Within two months, John was back to teaching private lessons, something he has done for 61 years. He teaches almost every weekday and works with 20 instrumentalists from beginners to older ones needing some additional assistance. Undeterred by the stroke, John and Beve are now preparing for the 2015 installment of the Hilliard Community Band, which meets only in the summer and plays four concerts per season. Beve is the music librarian.

Beyond their teaching and mentoring of young people, Beve and John were involved for 38 years in an Adopt-a-Family program. Families were referred to the program by the church and Hilliard School District residents. Beve visited each family to determine needs and recruited assistance from schools, businesses, churches, and individuals. In some years, the total number of families helped reached 120.

John is a toy collector and the couple visits flea markets about once a month and toy shows two or three times a year. Other interests include gardening and spending time with their family. They have two daughters — Holli and Julie, both of whom teach at the preschool, and a son, Tim, who lives in Atlanta – as well as grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Travel has normally involved Hilliard Marching Band competitions, judging of solo and ensemble contests, and drum corps events. As a boy, John and his father traveled to model airplane racing competitions.

Beve and John were inducted together into the Hilliard Hall of Fame for their commitment to learning and service. John has been honored by Kent State University as an outstanding educator.

At 84 and 79, John and Beve Crumley embody service to others. And they are going strong. The Hilliard Community Band will play at the Norwich Band Stand at 2 p.m. on the Fourth of July. Come enjoy the music and say hello to this remarkable couple.

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.
The Franklin County Township Trustees Association has appointed Brown Township Trustee Joe Martin to serve as a member of the Ohio Public Works Commission Integrating Committee for Franklin County. Franklin County (District 3) is one of 19 public works integrating committee districts in Ohio.

The committee is responsible for evaluating requests for financial assistance from the state infrastructure fund for projects in Franklin County and making recommendations on projects for funding to the Ohio Public Works Commission director.

Committee members are to consider repair and replacement needs, age and condition of the system to be repaired or replaced, possibility of revenue generation of the project, importance of the project to the health and safety of the citizens of Franklin County, project cost and consistency with guidelines, effort and ability of the local jurisdiction to assist in financing the project, availability of other funds, overall economic health of the local jurisdiction, planning adequacy, and any other relevant factors.

The committee is also charged with creating a subcommittee to represent the interests of villages and townships and to review and select capital improvement projects for the Ohio small government capital improvements commission for consideration.

By statute, the District 3 Integrating Committee is made up of two members appointed by the Franklin County Commissioners, two by the Mayor of the City of Columbus, two by the other municipalities in Franklin County, two by the Franklin County Township Trustees Association, and one private sector member appointed by the other members of the Committee.

Current members (and alternates) are:
- Franklin County Engineer, Dean Ringle (Project Engineer, Ted Beidler)
- Franklin County Commissioner, John O’Grady (Deputy County Administrator, Erik Janas)
- Columbus Director of Public Service, Tracie Davies (Deputy Director, Jennifer Gallagher)
- Deputy Director of Columbus Public Utilities, Ann Aubry (Assistant Director of Columbus Public Utilities, Pamela O’Grady)
- Hilliard Director of Public Service, Clyde Seidle (Grandview Director of Public Works, Darryl Hughes)
- Westerville Director of Planning and Development, Karl Craven (Gahanna City Engineer, Robert Prietas)
- Brown Township Trustee, Joe Martin (Franklin Township Trustee, Timothy Guyton)
- Plain Township Fiscal Officer, Bud Zappitelli (Mifflin Township Fiscal Officer, Nancy White)
- The private sector member was to be appointed at an early May meeting.

As gardeners and homeowners throughout Ohio rev up their lawnmowers and get out their spades for the 2015 season, probably the last thing on their minds is the toxic algae bloom that shut down Toledo’s water supply last September.

But they are interconnected, said Pam Bennett, Ohio State University Extension horticulture educator and director in Clark County and statewide Master Gardener Volunteer Program coordinator.

“The algae issues in Lake Erie and Grand Lake St. Marys that people have been hearing about are related to nutrients that aren’t used by plants and end up washing into the watershed,” Bennett said. “Homeowners can do their part by knowing inputs and outputs – knowing what fertilizer to put into their soil to get the maximum output without guessing.”

“There’s an old saying, ‘Don’t guess, soil test,’ and that still applies today.”

Even people with small lawns and gardens contribute to algae problems if they over fertilize or if they leave fertilizer granules on sidewalks or
driveways where they can easily wash into waterways, Bennett said. “It all adds up,” she said. “You might think, ‘My little patch is no big deal.’ But everybody’s patch adds up to a lot.”

Farmers test their soil every few years or even annually, Bennett said, because they don’t want to put too much fertilizer on their land—which would waste money and harm the environment. But most home gardeners don’t soil test unless there’s a problem, she said.

“Home gardeners don’t normally think about soil testing up front, but if you want to get the most out of your plants, do a soil test so you know specifically what to add for what you’re growing.”

Many Ohio soils don’t need additional phosphorus or potassium to grow the typical grass, flowers, or vegetables, she said. “If you put it on and it’s not needed, it’s just a waste.”

Bennett recommends soil testing at least once to get a baseline. “That way you know what nutrients it already contains, its pH, and other information helpful for a successful lawn and garden.”

A proper soil test is done at a lab, Bennett said. At-home kits available at garden centers “will give you a fairly decent analysis, but a commercial lab will give you an exact evaluation and a much more accurate reflection of your soil. You get what you pay for.”

Fees for basic tests run from about $10 to $25 and will give information on pH, phosphorus, calcium, potassium, and magnesium, although some labs’ basic tests include more information. Additional fees might be charged for specific test for things like organic matter or lead.

“If you have an older home that may have had lead-based paint that flaked off and got into the soil, that’s one extra test you might consider getting,” she said.

OSU Extension offers a fact sheet on soil testing, available at go.osu.edu/soiltest. OSU Extension is the outreach arm of The Ohio State University’s College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences.

“The first thing to do is determine what you’re going to be growing,” Bennett said. “You note that on the form you submit with your soil sample and the results will let you know what the soil requires for what you are growing.

Questions on soil testing and results can be directed to: mastergardener.osu.edu/ask

Information provided by OSU Extension Pam Bennett at 937-521-3860 or bennett27@osu.edu