Brown Township’s Neighborhood Watch program is having a positive effect on crime in the township, based on recent statistics.

Instituted in late 2010, after a rash of break-ins prompted a township-wide meeting with the Franklin County Sheriff’s Office, the Neighborhood Watch is organized and functioning.

Deputy Sheriff Zach Scott (now Sheriff Scott) and Deputy Sheriff Michael D’Errico spoke to the meeting of about 100 township residents on November 18, 2010. The deputies emphasized the importance of neighbors watching out for neighbors, calling the Sheriff’s Office in the event of any suspicious activity, and exchanging contact information with neighbors.

For Brown Township, the deputies suggested one coordinator and captains for individual streets. The coordinator would recruit captains who would then urge their neighbors to become involved. Many township residents have been contacted and about 300 households are being notified of crime or suspicious events through the Neighborhood Watch program.

In the early years, the coordinator’s primary focus has been to expand membership and enlist captains, sometimes as many as three per street. At newsletter deadline, the following streets had been organized with one or more captains: Abbey Chase, Adams Court, Alton-Darby Creek, Amity, Carter, Cole, Darby Knolls, Davis, Golfview Place, Hardwood, Hubbard, Jerman, Jones, Morris, Patterson, Roberts, Spicewood, Hardwood, and Woodsend.

Neighborhood Watch members who live on streets without captains are receiving information directly from the coordinator until a captain can be found. These include Elliott, Feder, Langton, Scioto-Darby Creek, and Walker. A few streets remain to be organized. Residents are urged to become involved and, if possible, to volunteer to become a captain. Captains are important, according to the coordinator, because they know their street members best and members feel comfortable sharing information with the captain who then can involve the coordinator and/or the Sheriff’s Office, as appropriate.

The coordinator receives crime alerts in several ways:

- www.crimereports.com This website is available to all residents to view. Residents can sign up to receive email alerts and are encouraged to do so. Brown Township crime information is maintained by the Franklin County Sheriff’s Office.
- Communication from captains and residents.

To assure that those coming into the township know that Brown Township has an organized Neighborhood Watch program, signs have been placed at 30 locations throughout the township. The objective is to assure that would-be criminals are aware that residents are organized and watching.

(continued next page)
CCW Permit Requirements

The Franklin County Sheriff’s Office provides the following information on acquiring a permit necessary to carry a concealed weapon (CCW).

Appointments are available every five minutes from 7 a.m. to 2:45 p.m. To schedule an appointment, go to sheriff.franklincountyohio.gov, look under the Services tab, and click on Concealed Carry Permit. The process in the office at 410 S. High St., Columbus, will take about ten minutes. You will be contacted later to pick up your permit.

An applicant must:
• Be at least 21 years old.
• Have completed an eight-hour Ohio Concealed Carry course through a shooting range, sporting goods store, gun shop, or a class from a certified instructor OR provide a current military ID validating active duty or provide an honorable discharge (DD214) from the last ten years of service.
• Have an original certificate of competency or prior equivalent documentation.
• Complete the application (available on the website), print it, and bring it to the appointment along with a passport size (2”x2”) color photo taken within the last 30 days, a valid passport or driver’s license, training certificate, and fee.
• Submit to a fingerprint background and NICS background check. Fingerprints will be electronically scanned or inked and rolled onto a card.
• Pay the non-refundable fee in exact cash, cashier’s check, or money order.
  – $67 new
  – $50 renewal
  – $37 emergency
  – Additional $24 for FBI background check, if not an Ohio resident for the last five years.

The Franklin County Sheriff’s Office has announced a pilot program in which deputies who volunteer for the program will carry naloxone (brand name Narcan), an emergency treatment for known or suspected opioid overdoses. The decision was made because law enforcement officials sometimes arrive at the scene of an overdose before Fire or EMS personnel. Prompt treatment is critical in dealing with the opioid epidemic in the community.

The Norwich Township Fire Department has carried the drug for more than 25 years. All engines, medics, and the ladder truck are supplied as well as the EMS SUV used by the EMS supervisor.

Naloxone blocks the opioid receptors in the brain and reverses the symptoms of an opioid overdose. Naloxone works only in the case of opioids, not other drugs.

The Sheriff’s Office held its first training session in July for the pilot program and joins dozens of law enforcement agencies around the state and nation who carry the drug. As part of the training, deputies learned the signs of an overdose and what to do before, during, and after administration of naloxone.

In partnership with Franklin County Public Health, volunteer deputies received 25 naloxone kits which include a nasal atomizer allowing deputies to administer a dose via a nasal passage.

Narcan can also now be purchased without a prescription at some area pharmacies including CVS, Kroger, and Walgreens and is usually covered by private insurance or Medicaid. Southeast Healthcare Services, Inc. (614-225-0990, extension 1119), Mount Carmel Outreach Clinic (614-546-4200), and CompDrug (614-586-1590) are community organizations that offer Narcan at no charge for individuals in need.

Opioids are most often used medically for pain relief by attaching to receptors in the brain. The “opioid effect” blocks pain, slows breathing, and has a calming and depressing effect.
Periodically, the Brown Township Board of Trustees receives complaints about high weeds or nuisance vegetation on property within the township. Townships in Ohio have the authority to control and remove from private property junk, weeds, high grass, and vegetation.

The process begins with an inspection of the property by a township employee who documents the condition with a narrative and photographs. This information is presented at a meeting of the Board of Trustees. In order to set in motion the removal of the junk or nuisance vegetation, the Board passes a written resolution ordering the property owner to abate the nuisance and order the removal within seven days. The Board then notifies the property owner of the order to abate and indicates that a failure to do so within the timeframe will result in the Township’s entering the property and removing the nuisance. Costs incurred by the Township in such removal will be entered onto the tax list and duplicate as a lien on the property. The costs will then be borne by the property owner through the tax bill and the money returned to the Township General Fund.

A subsequent nuisance determination on the property within twelve months sets the process in motion again, but with a four-day time period to abate the nuisance.

A separate process exists to control and remove any growth of noxious weeds, wild parsnip, wild carrot, oxeye daisy, wild mustard or other harmful weeds. If such vegetation is found on private property in the township, the Board of Trustees notifies the owner to cut or destroy the weeds or demonstrate to the Board why there is no need to do so. If the property owner fails to comply, the Board will cause the weeds to be removed at the Township’s cost, for reimbursement from property taxes paid by the property owner. A different process, involving consultation with the county extension agent and soil and water conservation district, is used in situations involving property that is not privately owned.
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

School Zone Safety

The Franklin County Sheriff’s Office reminds drivers to slow down in school zones. When the 20 mph light is flashing and a patrol deputy catches a driver speeding, the driver will receive a citation and will be required to appear in court.

Some reminders:

- Don’t pass a school bus that has stopped and has activated its warning flashers, indicating a child is getting on or off the bus.
- If the bus is stopped on a divided roadway or a roadway with four or more lanes, the only traffic required to stop is the traffic traveling in the same direction as the school bus.
- Vehicles must stop for a stopped school bus even if the extended stop sign on the bus is not displayed.
- The school bus violation citation requires a court appearance and cannot be paid before arraignment.
- Don’t speed in a school zone. A citation is written whenever a motor vehicle operator is observed to exceed the posted speed limit.
- If the 20 mph school zone sign is displayed and flashing, or during restricted times, a driver caught speeding will be cited.