Firehouse Anniversary Celebration

You are invited to attend an open house at the Brown Township Firehouse between 2 and 5 p.m. on Sunday, August 11. The event celebrates the 20th anniversary of the construction of the Firehouse.

Stop in and talk to your Brown Township Trustees and Fiscal Officer as well as representatives of the Norwich Township Fire Department, Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District, Franklin County Public Health, Franklin County Board of Elections, and Brown Township Block Watch.

There will be Firehouse tours, information on how to maintain your home sewage system, information on Focus Hilliard (our community paramedic program), a bounce house for kids, Sparky the Fire Dog, a new voting machine that you can try out, information on rain gardens, an ice cream social and much more.

Please join us to celebrate the 20th anniversary of your Brown Township Firehouse!

Block Watch Update

In collaboration with the Franklin County Sheriff’s Office, Brown Township Block Watch continues to help keep the township a safe place to live, with the help of residents who “say something” when they “see something.”

Here are some highlights and reminders from past months:

- If you want to be part of Brown Township Block Watch, please complete the registration form on the Brown Township website at www.browntwp.org.
- Block Watch representatives will be on hand at the community open house on August 11. Please stop by to learn how to be involved with your local Block Watch.
- We still need road captains for several roads. Road captains help verify the identity of people signing up for Block Watch. A sign-up will be available at the August open house.
- A Block Watch meeting was held on May 15. Sheriff’s Deputy Cindy Forsythe, our community liaison, presented some strategic ways to keep your property safe. They include:
  - Get to know your neighbors and their habits. Look out for each other.
  - Don’t make it easy for criminal activity to occur on your property. Keep your home clear of large
Radon: The Silent Killer

Did you know that radon is responsible for about 21,000 lung cancer deaths every year? It is also the second leading cause of lung cancer overall and the leading cause among non-smokers in the United States.

Radon is a radioactive gas commonly found in rocks and soil that you cannot see, smell, or taste. It forms naturally when uranium in the soil decays. Because it is a gas, radon travels upwards through the ground to enter the lowest level of homes or buildings through cracks and holes in the foundation. Prolonged exposure to radon levels above four picocuries per liter of air significantly increases the risk of lung cancer even for non-smokers. To understand this better, prolonged exposure to four picocuries is like smoking eight cigarettes every day.

Getting your home tested for radon is the only way to find out if you have elevated radon levels. According to the Ohio Department of Health, approximately half of Ohio homes have radon levels above the recommended action level of four picocuries per liter of air. Short-term radon test kits are available at local hardware stores for $10 to $25 or you can complete a simple online request form at myfcph.org for a free test kit if you are an Ohio homeowner whose household income is below $80,500.

For questions about radon gas or testing your home, call Franklin County Public Health at 614-525-3160 or email Mike Lopinsky (radon measurer) at MikeLopinsky@franklincountyohio.gov.

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:

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Franklin County Sheriff’s Department

Calls to addresses in unincorporated Brown Township:

March 2019

March 23 – aggravated menacing at an address on Scioto Darby Creek Road.

March 24 – theft of tools and equipment from an address on Jones Road.

March 2 – burglary, theft of electronics and purse from an address on Patterson Road.

April 2019

April 11 – theft of gasoline from an address on Feder Road.

April 13 – domestic violence at an address on Patterson Road.

Reported April 16, occurred between April 14 and 16 - theft of a motor vehicle from an address on Roberts Road.

Reported April 17, occurred between April 16 and 17 - breaking and entering and theft of cash boxes and coins from an address on Walker Road.

Reported April 18, occurred on April 17 - identity fraud involving an individual residing on Scioto Darby Creek Road.

April 19 – domestic violence arrest at a location on Interstate 70.

May 2019

Reported May 2, occurred between May 1 and 2 - burglary, theft of electronic equipment from an address on Amity Road.

Reported May 2, occurred between May 1 and 2 - recovery and return of a stolen car to an address on Elliott Road.

Reported May 4, occurred between May 3 and 4 - criminal damaging of a mailbox at an address on Morris Road.

Reported May 8, occurred May 3 - criminal damaging of a mailbox at an address on Morris Road.

Reported on May 9, occurred between April 17 and May 6 - theft of a credit card and debit card from an address on Feder Road.

Hilliard Division of Police

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

March 2019

No non-routine calls.

April 2019

April 4 - possession of drug paraphernalia at the intersection of Davis and Alton Darby Creek roads.

April 11 - criminal damaging and theft of wallet, purse, cash, credit cards, social security card, and driver’s license from a vehicle at an address on Hayden Run Road.

May 2019

May 29 - criminal damaging and theft of a purse, credit card, driver’s license, and insurance card from a vehicle at an address on Hayden Run Road.
Connie and Dick Esler and their four children lived on Amity Road in 1987. They bought the six acres on Big Darby Creek in 1980 and built the house that Connie designed in 1982.

Connie was an intensive care unit nurse and in 1987 was attending Otterbein College to obtain her bachelor of science in nursing degree. We happened to wind up in the same writing class. Since we lived on the same road, it made sense to ride together to Otterbein and so began our friendship.

At the same time, Olen Corporation had been acquired by Kokosing Construction and the small “borrow pit” (sand and gravel excavation pit) adjacent to Big Darby Creek began to expand into a limestone quarry without the required zoning. An attorney who owned property nearby, Charles Bendig, asked the Franklin County Zoning Officer at the time, Jack Reynolds, what the process was for rezoning the land. Coincidentally, at the advice of another attorney, I also called Jack for the same reason. Jack quickly put us in touch with each other.

Mr. Bendig sent out flyers to residents on Amity Road stirring up the pot for the rezoning hearing on August 5. Then he backed out of leading the charge due to bad publicity within his firm and dumped the responsibility to responding to concerns from the residents and doing all the research for the hearing on me.

Naturally, I bent Connie’s ear and she quickly offered to help. When I say help, I really mean that she came to my rescue. This was 1987 before there was any internet. So we made many trips down to the courthouse, across the street to the map room, and to OSU to interview a hydrogeologist. We hired an attorney, received phone calls from residents from dawn to dusk, made copies of relevant material, and delivered flyers to residents township-wide. We spoke at meetings throughout the rezoning process and trespassed on quarry property. We trespassed to observe how the pit was kept dry by pumping 10,000 gallons of water per minute from the aquifer into the Darby.

Needless to say, this dominated our entire summer. Through all of it, Connie was the consummate professional. She rose to every occasion. She was able to organize and plan as well as speak eloquently to groups of angry residents, the press, and quarry management. She never lost her cool. She was one of the most talented and courageous people I have ever met.

Connie lost her battle with breast cancer on May 2 at 72. She was a graduate of Brookhaven High School, 1964; Chicago Wesley Memorial Hospital School of Nursing, 1967; and Otterbein College, 1990, summa cum laude. She was another hero of the Darby and its watershed. Please think of her as you enjoy Darby Bend Lakes in Prairie Oaks Metro Park.

Pam Sayre

Please note: Others that helped us include the Luxes, the Tholens, and the Ruwes, as well as the Huggett and Bradley families, to name a few.

NTFD Works to Prevent Falls

At the end of 2018, personnel in the Norwich Township Fire Department noticed a significant increase in the number of emergency calls for falls and decided immediately to become more proactive in preventing slips, trips, and falls though the community paramedic program known as Focus Hilliard.

Focus Hilliard personnel began to identify those calls and follow up with people in their homes to assess trip hazards such as throw rugs or electrical cords that might cause a problem. They asked questions about medication and about any new onset of illness. They helped people become more aware of resources available to them such as lift chairs and grab bars. An agreement with LifeCare Alliance allows that agency’s staff to install assistive devices in people’s homes. Focus Hilliard is connected to various community social service agencies to provide needed assistance.

A partnership with The Ohio State University allows Focus Hilliard staff to follow up on stroke patients. And a relationship with Doctor’s West Hospital notifies Focus Hilliard of patients being discharged with a Hilliard-area zip code so that follow-up can occur.

Begun in 2015, Focus Hilliard is now staffed by six firefighters (two per shift) and a social worker, who is funded by National Church Residences.

The goal of Focus Hilliard is to provide interactive opportunities that develop and foster a safer community and positively influence the quality of life in the Fire Department service area. Focus Hilliard programs, tailored to meet the needs of the community include safety education for new parents, child car seat installation by appointment, fire safety courses for all ages, CPR/AED courses, a specialized care registry, in-home fire safety inspections, outreach to new residents, and personal in-home social care.

For more information or to access Focus Hilliard services, call 614-876-3320 or go to focushilliard@norwichtownship.org.
Recently, national publications have published stories about disruptions in residential recycling across the United States due to China’s restriction on the import of recyclable material. This sudden change in policy by China has caused stress on the recycling industry across the United States and the world.

It is important for Franklin County residents to know, however, that recycling is alive and well in central Ohio. Virtually all residential recycling collected in Franklin County is processed at the Rumpke recycling facility in Columbus. Fortunately for our communities and residents, Rumpke sells 98% of the material it handles to domestic buyers, some in Ohio and others throughout the Midwest. Unlike some other waste/recycling companies, Rumpke is not dependent on China or other foreign markets for the material that they collect and sell. As a result, residents should be confident that the recyclables that they put at the curb are not being landfilled but are being recycled.

Central Ohio is better off than many other locations. Unlike some areas that are experiencing a reduction in recycling services, Rumpke is actively seeking additional recyclables at the Columbus facility and has made significant investments in the facility within the last few months to improve the efficiency of processing. SWACO recently completed an economic impact study indicating that more than 370 businesses in the region are part of the recycling industry, employing an estimated 5,000 workers with a payroll of about $235 million.

Challenges remain for central Ohio. China’s policy has pushed the value of some materials lower. We are seeing some increase in the cost of collecting and processing material, although not as dramatic as in other parts of the country. The quality of the recycled material has become more important. To address this, SWACO has initiated a “Recycle Right” campaign to educate residents about what can and cannot be recycled. We encourage residents to learn more by visiting RecycleRight.org.

Recycling in central Ohio is alive and well and working together, we are confident that it will continue to grow.

Ty Marsh, Executive Director, Solid Waste Authority of Central Ohio
614-801-6407
www.swaco.org