Advisory Panel Recommends Developments

The Big Darby Accord Advisory Panel recommended approval of nearby proposed developments in Hilliard and Columbus at its December 11 meeting.

The Hilliard proposal, dubbed Alton Place, contains 148 single-family lots, 297 attached residential units, about 60 acres of commercial uses, and about 172 acres of open space on about 312 acres at the northwest corner of Roberts Road and Alton Darby Creek Road. The Panel recommended approval with a unanimous 7–0 vote. The next step in the process will be consideration by the Hilliard Planning & Zoning Commission. A final decision will be made by Hilliard City Council. For more information on this proposal, contact Hilliard Planner John Talentino at 614-334-2444 or jtalentino@hilliardohio.gov.

—Continued next page—

Block Watch News

On December 10, four Brown Township residents met with Deputy Jesse Hatfield of the Franklin County Sheriff’s Office and Trustee Joe Martin to discuss new Block Watch leadership.

A great deal of work has been done over the ten years since the Block Watch was established and new leaders want to continue the high level of service residents have enjoyed in the past.

As part of the reorganization effort, the Block Watch requests that residents who wish to continue to receive Block Watch communications provide their most current contact information. Please visit BrownTwp.org where you can update your contact information to make sure you are on the list, even if you have been receiving Block Watch communications in the past. The link appears at the top of the home page with instructions for its use. This update will speed the transition process as the new leaders update and verify the list of township residents. If you have a neighbor who does not read the newsletter, please share this information.

Thank you for making Brown Township a safer place to live.
Public Safety Summary

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

--- Advisory Panel from page 1 ---

The Columbus proposal, at 1980 Alton Darby Creek Road, contains 663 single-family units, 445 multi-family units, and 192 acres of open space on about 369 acres north and south of Renner Road, mostly east of Alton Darby Creek Road. The Panel recommended approval with a 4–3 vote and added conditions dealing with coordination of stream restoration efforts with the City of Columbus, delineation of wetlands, and maintenance of a vegetative swale. The next step in the process will be consideration by the Columbus Development Commission. A final decision will be made by Columbus City Council. For more information on this proposal, contact Columbus Planner Shannon Pine at 614-645-2208 or spine@columbus.gov.

The Big Darby Accord Advisory Panel was formed at the recommendation of the Big Darby Accord Watershed Master Plan as an advisory body to the Accord member jurisdictions on development proposals. The Panel consists of representatives of the City of Columbus, Franklin County, Brown Township, Pleasant Township, Prairie Township, City of Hilliard, and one at-large member.

--- CRASE Classes Scheduled ---

Active shooter events have happened all over the world. They can happen quickly, often before anyone realizes what is occurring.

Do you know what to do if you are caught in one of these horrible tragedies?

The Civilian Response to Active Shooter Events (CRASE) course, designed and built on the Avoid, Deny, Defend (ADD) strategy, provides strategies, guidance, and a proven plan for surviving an active shooter event. Topics include the history and prevalence of active shooter events, civilian response options, and medical issues. Attendees will also participate in interactive drills.

The Hilliard Division of Police and Norwich Township Fire Department have partnered to provide this essential six-hour interactive training course to the citizens of Hilliard, Norwich Township, and Brown Township free of charge.

This year, the course will be held on March 2, July 27, and November 9 (all Saturdays).

Those wishing to attend one of these sessions may sign up online by going to the Norwich Township website at www.norwichtownship.org and selecting the Focus Hilliard tab, then selecting CRASE Course from the drop-down menu or by calling Norwich Township at 614-876-7694.

--- Norwich Township Fire Department ---

Calls to addresses in both incorporated and unincorporated portions of Brown Township:

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Fire Calls</th>
<th>EMS Calls</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 2018</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 2018</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 2018</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

--- Franklin County Sheriff’s Department ---

Calls to addresses in unincorporated Brown Township:

--- September 2018 ---

No non-routine calls.

--- October 2018 ---

October 4 – domestic violence at an address on Alton Darby Creek Road.

Reported October 4, occurred August 11 – theft of numerous tools and equipment from a vehicle at an address on Scioto Darby Creek Road.

--- November 2018 ---

November 12 – identity fraud at an address on Walker Road.

November 17 – domestic violence and menacing at an address on Spicewood Court.

--- Hilliard Division of Police ---

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

--- September 2018 ---

No non-routine calls.

--- October 2018 ---

No information available.

--- November 2018 ---

No information available.
Preservation of Historic Barns

Barns are as American as apple pie—emblematic of our agricultural heritage and rural character. But around the United States, many older and historic barns are deteriorating and disappearing, threatened by changing farming practices, urban sprawl, and the complexities in maintaining these unique structures.

Whether you own a barn or simply enjoy seeing them on the landscape, consider how you can help preserve them.

Here are ten ways to save an older or historic barn in your area:

Learn about the structure's significance
How important is the barn? Is it unusual? Is it an important representative of a type of barn? Is it an architectural or visual landmark? Research the property's history at https://savingplaces.org/10-on-Tuesday-10-tips-for-finding-clues-to-your-homes-history/ for tips on how to uncover the barn's story.

Understand the specific threats to the barn
Typical obstacles include safety concerns, financial issues, encroaching development, farm consolidation, and change of ownership. If the owner is unavailable, collect information from neighbors, colleagues, and other likely sources.

Gauge community support
What kind of support exists for preservation of the barn? Identify stakeholders and see how they can help and what they are willing to do. Talking to the owner, assisting with repairs, finding a new owner, and providing expert consultation or financial assistance are some of the ways community members can help save a barn.

Find fellow “barn people”
Public educational programs are a great way to connect with others interested in barn preservation. Programs can include local lecture series, hands-on workshops at barns that need repair, and barn tours.

Connect with the National Barn Alliance
The National Barn Alliance (http://barnalliance.org/) is a nationwide, non-profit organization coordinating efforts to save America’s historic barns. They offer a wide array of barn preservation resources on the website, in addition to newsletters, conferences, barn tours, and meetings. This is a direct way to connect with barn enthusiasts around the country.

Look into state and local barn preservation programs
Most offer education materials and technical help, recognition programs, and in some cases, financial assistance. Many also help conduct survey programs and advocate for barn preservation. The Ohio History Connection (ohiohistory.org or 614-297-2300) may be able to point you in the direction of a program working in this area.

Analyze the structure's viability
Barns are often proposed for demolition when they are vacant or under-used and if repair seems too expensive. Work with the owner to get an independent assessment of the barn’s condition and to explore repair or reuse alternatives. Alternative uses can include a switch in agricultural enterprise (dairy barn to seed storage, for example), commercial uses (markets and supply centers), and public uses (clubhouses, theaters, conference centers).

Use appropriate preservation tools
Conduct research to determine if local regulations (zoning or preservation regulations, for example) affect property or a future adaptive reuse. Investigate what financial or technical incentives are available that could help save the barn.

Conduct barn surveys and seek out historic designation
Historic resource surveys (https://savingplaces.org/10-steps-to-establish-a-local-historic-district/) help you document significant building types, record an area's agricultural history, pinpoint threats, and articulate what has been lost. This information can be used to push for historic designation and listing on local, state, or national registers. Such listings can unlock regulatory and promotional perks as well as trigger financial incentives, such as tax credits or grant eligibility.

Get eyeballs on your project
Publicly identifying a barn as threatened, such as its inclusion on an endangered list, can help draw attention to the issue. Coverage can also be gained by inviting reporters to barn rehabilitation events for first-hand visuals and interviews. Another method is to pitch feature articles about an area’s unique barns to the local newspaper.

Information provided by the National Trust for Historic Preservation
Tips For Your Yard

Keep whole leaves in your garden bed and under trees as natural fertilizer and to protect small creatures that overwinter in leaves, including next year’s butterflies. Move leaves on a plastic tarp from lawn areas to garden or wooded areas.

Bats have an undeserved bad reputation. Don’t be afraid of them unless you are an insect pest because bats eat insect pests.

Clean the bird house. Empty nest materials. Use a soft, stiff brush on the outside with hot soapy water. Rinse well and dry completely. If there are black smudges from dampness on the sides, scrub with a solution of one part vinegar to ten parts water. Thoroughly rinse and dry.

Birds shed their tattered summer feathers to grow warmer plumage for winter. Feathers are made of protein so birds must consume high-energy foods to grow them. Plant native plants that provide nuts, seeds, and fruit. Use bird feeders to supply suet and black oil sunflower seeds.

Count the leaves before you pull out poison ivy because beneficial native Virginia creeper turns red at the same time, but has four or five leaves, not the three of poison ivy.

If spring flowers bloom in the fall or winter due to warm weather, clip buds off to conserve the plant’s energy. Blooming takes a lot of energy from the plant and a second bloom will have detrimental effects in the long run.

Remove bagworm sacks from your trees, put them in soapy water, and discard them in the trash.