

BROWN

ESTABLISHED 1830

TOWNSHIP

Winter 2012

Township Master Plan Adopted

The Brown Township Board of Trustees adopted the Big Darby Accord Town Center Master Plan on December 19, 2011 by a unanimous vote.

The Town Center Master Plan is an implementation initiative of the Big Darby Accord, the multijurisdictional watershed master plan adopted in 2006. Undertaken by four jurisdictions (Brown and Prairie townships, Franklin County, and the City of Columbus), the Town Center Master Plan establishes a specific vision for development of the Town Center and provides detailed recommendations, including level of development, infrastructure requirements, design guidelines, phasing, and implementation. The proposed Town Center is located in Brown and Prairie townships in unincorporated Franklin County, centered on West Broad Street.

Columbus City Council, the Prairie Township Board of Trustees, and the Franklin County Board of Commissioners also adopted the Plan in December.

All four jurisdictions adopted the Plan with conditions associated with stormwater management. The conditions were created by the Big Darby Accord Advisory Panel during its review of and recommendation on the Plan.

The development plan, informed by a detailed market study, provides for 3,480 for-sale residential units, 300 for-rent residential units, 300,000 square feet of retail uses, 310,000 square feet of office uses, and a 100-room hotel projected to be built in four phases between 2015 and 2044.

Plan implementation will involve property assembly, infrastructure extension, land preservation, recruitment of a master developer, and phasing as the four jurisdictional partners carry out the vision established in the Town Center Master Plan. The first step

will be creation of an organization that can contract with individuals and governments; acquire and manage real property; and issue debt for development, public infrastructure construction, and land preservation. There is currently no projected timeframe for creating such an organization.

The Town Center Master Plan can be viewed at www.bigdarbyaccord.com

By Elizabeth A. Clark, AICP, Executive Assistant to the Trustees

Fire Department Asks for Help

The Norwich Township Fire Department requests that residents display house numbers on both sides of mailboxes to make it easier for firefighters to locate residences, in the event of an emergency.

Fire Chief Robert Kaufman said the numbers should be a minimum of three inches high and made of a reflective material, posted on both sides of the mail box. Scrolled numbers and color coordinated numbers are hard to see, according to Chief Kaufman.

The United States Postal Service sells three-inch reflective numbers. Contact the Norwich Township Fire Department at 876-7694 for more information.



Annexation Agreement Proposed

The four Town Center Master Plan partner jurisdictions (Brown and Prairie townships, City of Columbus, and Franklin County) have negotiated a 40-year annexation agreement dealing with land use issues, future planning, and water and sewer services.

Among other things, the agreement memorializes Columbus' commitment to provide utility services — without annexation — to portions of the Big Darby Accord area. This was a major policy change for the City of Columbus that allowed the groundbreaking Big Darby Accord planning process to proceed cooperatively. In most other circumstances, the City of Columbus requires annexation when sewer and water services are provided.

The four jurisdictions have cooperated as partners in the Big Darby Accord Watershed Master Plan; the Town Center Master Plan; in creation of the Big Darby Accord Working Group, the Open Space Advisory Council, and the Big Darby Accord Advisory Panel; and have adopted the Big Darby Accord Revenue Program.

The annexation agreement represents a 40-year contract among the partners with four major components. The jurisdictions agree to:

- Adopt the Town Center Master Plan with a provision that, within five years of adoption, the jurisdictions will cooperatively review the Plan and make any needed revisions to the plan by mutual agreement. All four jurisdictions adopted the Plan in December 2011.
- Be guided by the implementation recommendations of the Town Center Master Plan using good faith efforts to agree on implementation strategies and expenditures and to work together to bring about a viable Town Center.
- Support the installation and use of publicly owned and operated Community-Based Alternative Sewage Treatment Systems in the Conservation Development areas designated

in the Big Darby Accord Watershed Master Plan. Such systems must be built in a manner consistent with the policies cited in the Accord. The jurisdictions also agree to work together to facilitate the installation and operation of such systems.

- The City of Columbus agrees to provide access to the City's sanitary sewer and water systems and to make those centralized services available to the Town Center Area (sewer and water) and to the Conservation Development Areas (water) without annexation. The jurisdictions agree to work together on funding methods and technical engineering plans. Subsequent utility agreements will be necessary.

The term of the annexation agreement is 40 years from the time all four jurisdictions have executed it and, with the agreement of all jurisdictions, may be

extended for an unlimited number of additional ten-year or longer periods.

In December, Columbus City Council authorized signing the annexation agreement. The Brown Township Board of Trustees, Prairie Township Board of Trustees, and Franklin County Board of Commissioners were expected to consider the agreement in February.

Annexation agreements are authorized under Section 709.192 of the Ohio Revised Code to allow municipal corporations and townships to provide government improvements, facilities, and services; promote and support economic development; and create and preserve economic opportunities.

By Elizabeth A. Clark, AICP, Executive Assistant to the Trustees

FSWCD Offers Rain Garden Help

FSWCD has extended "The Commissioners' Rain Garden Challenge" through June 30, 2012. The District can assist low-income and moderate-income residents in unincorporated Franklin County install free rain gardens on their property.

Rain gardens are a natural way to use rain water as a resource instead of a waste product. When it rains or snow melts, large amounts of water from rooftops, roads, and other paved surfaces are carried through the stormwater system directly into creeks and streams. The stormwater collects pollutants and creates flooding harmful to property owners, stream life, and drinking water. Rain gardens are an easy, cost-efficient way to slow and decrease the amount of runoff from properties into waterways. They can enhance the beauty of neighborhoods and the quality of stream water and stream life.

Through this program, technical advice on layout and installation is provided on-site and funds are available to reimburse the costs of compost, plants, and mulch.

This program provides an opportunity to create a garden, address stormwater is-

sues, and improve water quality in local streams.

For more information, contact Stephanie Suter at (614) 486-9613, extension 125 or at ssuter@franklinswcd.org

Information and photo provided by the Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District



Ned and Ruth Woodruff — A Profile

Ned Woodruff had a way of going after what he wanted.

After he was drafted into the U.S. Army in 1941, he aspired to be a pilot so he enlisted in the U.S. Air Force. When he was looking for a job in what might be considered mid-career, he got a political appointment and worked his way up to Chief Probation Officer for the Franklin County Common Pleas Court. And, after his four children had earned bachelor's and master's degrees, he returned to school at Xavier University in Cincinnati to pursue a master's degree in criminology and graduated in 1971 at the age of 53.

Long-time Brown Township resident Ned Woodruff graduated from Hilliard High School in 1936 and studied animal husbandry at Ohio State University, graduating in 1941. During his time at Ohio State, Ned played trumpet in the OSU Marching Band for four years and performed in the first Script Ohio. His trumpet is now displayed in a showcase at the Ohio Stadium band room. His love of music was demonstrated as a child when he and his three sisters formed an orchestra and played for various Brown Township events. Years later, he played in the American Legion band.

Ruth Woodruff, a native of Sandusky and graduate of the Oberlin School of Commerce (now affiliated with Oberlin College), met Ned in 1941 when he began working at the U.S. Department of Agriculture offices in Norwalk, where she was a secretary.

The Army soon called Ned away, but he returned to marry Ruth in Sandusky in 1943. Ned served in Texas, California, Colorado, Kentucky, and North Carolina and was serving as a glider pilot instructor ready to go overseas when World War II ended.

Apart from the first year of his life and four years in the service, Ned Woodruff lived in Brown Town-



ship all his life. Ruth has lived in the township for 67 years. The Woodruffs lived in various houses on the same farm since 1945. They raised four children, Dennis, Tim, Suzanne, and Jerry. Tim and Jerry and their spouses live nearby. Dennis and Suzanne and their spouses live in North Carolina and Cincinnati, respectively. There are five living grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. The family gathers annually in August for a family reunion which normally includes upwards of 50 participants.

A highlight of the reunion is returning to the log cabin that Tim and Ned rebuilt on the property about 15 years ago. Originally a part of the nearby Anderson farm, the rebuilt cabin now contains parts of four different cabins. Pre-school classes at Hilliard Methodist Church make annual trips to the cabin. Tim reports the building project gave him valuable time with his father while he reminisced about growing up in the area. Ned Woodruff died in 2008 just short of his 90th birthday and their 65th wedding anniversary.

After his time in the service and back in Brown Township, Ned worked for COBA for 14 years until business slowed and then, looking for a

new opportunity, received a political appointment as a Franklin County probation officer. With his master's degree in criminology under his belt, advancement came along. Ned was appointed Chief Probation Officer in 1971, a position from which he retired in 1981. Ned was also a long-time Brown Township farmer; the Woodruff family farmed from 1919 until 1963, then renting and ultimately selling the farm.

Ruth, too, retired in 1981. She had returned to work when the youngest child was in second grade and served as secretary to the superintendent of Hilliard City Schools and for 13 years as a logistics coordinator for the Agriculture Department at Ohio State University, administering U.S. Department of Agriculture grants for visiting professors.

The Woodruffs traveled extensively, including trips to Russia, Canada, Hawaii, Switzerland, Austria, Germany, Italy and the British Isles. After retirement, they spent winters in Florida.

Ned's interests included music, reading, and astronomy. He was also active in the community serving on the Scioto-Darby School District (now Hilliard City Schools) Board of Education for 12 years including as its president. He was inducted into the Hilliard High School Alumni Hall of Fame. Ned was active in the Hilliard United Methodist Church, the Northwest Franklin County Historical Society, and the Senior Center Happiness Club. Ruth, who recently celebrated her 91st birthday, remains active in Senior Center Activities.

By Elizabeth A. Clark, AICP, Executive Assistant to the Trustees

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.

Brown Township
2491 Walker Road
Hilliard, Ohio 43026

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Want to be Added to Our Mailing List or Have a Change of Address?

Please use any of the following:

- Fill out the **name, address, additions and corrections form** on the Brown Township website under “Newsletters”
- **Call** the Township Fiscal Officer (614-876-2133)
- Via **fax** to the Township Office (614-876-2421)
- Or by **mail** to the return address above.
- To have your newsletter addressed in your name instead of “Brown Township Neighbor,” please visit <http://www.Brown.Twp.Franklin.oh.us/newsletters.htm>.



Clockwise from left: Gary Dever, Ronald Williams, Pamela Sayre and Barbara Bloxam

Brown Township Administration Office

2491 Walker Road, Hilliard, Ohio 43026 876-2133

Website

www.brown.twp.franklin.oh.us

Fiscal Officer

Barbara Bloxam 876-2133

Trustees

Mr. Gary Dever 876-4768

Mr. Ronald Williams 876-6118

Mrs. Pamela Sayre 878-0199

Norwich Fire Department

David Long, Chief 876-5367

Brown Township Board of Trustees Meeting

When: 3rd Monday of every month at 7:30 p.m.

Where: 2491 Walker Road, Hilliard, Ohio

For Police, Fire and Medical Emergencies, Dial 911