

Adams Brown Counties in Transit

Written by:
Jason Francis, Mobility Manager

August 1, 2019
Volume 1, Issue 8

From the desk of the Mobility Manager

Welcome

Welcome to the eighth monthly newsletter from the Adams Brown Mobility Manager.

Each month we will feature educational articles, safety tips, upcoming events, and activities. If at any time you wish to unsubscribe, please contact the Mobility Manager, by sending an e-mail to jfrancis@abcap.net or by calling (937) 378-6041 EXT. 310.

County Fair brings awareness to underage drinking and safe roads



The Adams County Fair Mocktail event, known for its playful competition and non-alcoholic flavored drinks was deemed a success last week, as more than 300 fairgoers cast their vote for their favorite drink.

alcoholic beverages, but still want to have fun,” said Fair Board President Liz Lafferty.

In collaboration with Leadership Adams, this year’s event was focused on preventing underage drinking and keeping road ways safe from drunk drivers. “The Adams County Fair is excited to partner with Leadership Adams as they hosted the event at the fair,” said Lafferty. “It is our goal to help the Leadership Adams project of bringing awareness to underage drinking by continuing the event each year. We hope to show teenagers that you can have fun without choosing alcohol, which could have negative effects on their bodies.”

Nine local businesses and organizations joined in on the fun taste testing competition. These include the Adams County Board of Developmental Disabilities, the Adams County Regional Medical Center, the West Union Masonic Lodge, the West Union Lion’s Club, West Union Blake Pharmacy, Hazelbaker Insurance Agency, LLC., Southern State Community College, Richmond Insurance Inc., and Venture Productions.

After each vote was tallied, Hazelbaker Insurance Agency, LLC.’s mocktail drink was named the winner of this year’s event. Hazelbaker Insurance Agency, LLC., donated the winnings of \$300 back to Leadership Adams to continue their project of bringing awareness to underage drinking. The grand prize was sponsored by the Rod’s Rental Car and the Informer.

“This event was so much fun!,” said Rhonda Jones, Owner of Hazelbaker Insurance, LLC. “We faced fierce competition, but we are glad to have participated and were able to bring awareness to the issue of underage drinking.

Apple announces 'disability-themed emojis' to arrive in the fall



(NBCnews) In a move to bring “more diversity to the keyboard,” Apple released new “disability-themed” emojis Tuesday that will be available in the fall.

Users of iPhones will soon be able to send a guide dog, an ear with a hearing aid, a person in a wheelchair, a prosthetic arm and a prosthetic leg, among other new options.

“Celebrating diversity in all its many forms is integral to Apple’s values and these new options help fill a significant gap in the emoji keyboard,” the company said, unveiling the new designs ahead of World Emoji day on Wednesday.

The emojis have been in the works for a while. Apple proposed the designs last fall to the Unicode Consortium, a nonprofit that sets the standards for emojis.

The announcement has been praised by many on social media as an important moment for inclusion for people with disabilities.

“Representation matters and for those living with MS, some of whom have visible disabilities, this is an important way for them to feel included and seen,” said Cyndi Zagieboylo, president and CEO of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society.

Sharron Rush, the executive director of Knowbility, a nonprofit that works to make technology more inclusive for people with disabilities, praised Apple’s decision, calling the company “a leader among tech companies in considering the needs of people with disabilities.” Rush said she hopes Apple uses the disability-themed emojis as a “new foundation” on which to build technology that works and represents those living with disabilities.

The National Organization on Disability (NOD), a nonprofit that focuses on employment issues for people with disabilities, agrees, but added their organization is hoping for more than keyboard representation.

“These new emojis will enable one billion people with disabilities around the world to more fully and authentically express themselves,” NOD’s director of external affairs, Priyanka Ghosh, said in a statement to NBC News. “Perhaps corporate America can also seize upon these new icons to embed disability seamlessly into their everyday lexicons, enabling employees to better communicate with each other and build more disability-inclusive cultures.”

Apple also announced that along with the disability-themed emojis, users will soon be able to personalize the hand-holding couple emojis, opening up more than 75 combinations for the couple’s race and gender.

Adams County Public Library offering online help

Do you have issues using technology? Can’t figure out how to move a mouse? Looking at the Kindle you got for Christmas that’s still in the box? There’s hope! The



Guiding Ohio Online

**Basic computer skills, smart phones, tablets,
and more!**

“This project was made possible in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services and the State Library of Ohio.”

Adams County Public Library offers technology classes to all ages! Visit the library and make an appointment for a one-on-one technology help session today.

Ohio launches first wrong-way driver detector corridor

Ohio Governor Mike DeWine and Ohio Department of Transportation Director Jack Marchbanks announced recently that a first-of-its-kind system to detect and deter



wrong-way drivers in Ohio is being installed along an 18-mile stretch of I-71 in Hamilton County. It includes 92 electronic signs and 82 detection devices at 23

locations from downtown Cincinnati to Fields-Ertel Road.

When the system is activated, LED lights around the edge of several “wrong way” and “do not enter” signs begin blinking. An alert is also sent to the Ohio Department of Transportation Traffic Management Center in Columbus.

“Although wrong-way crashes are rare, they are often deadly, and I believe that investing in this new technology will reduce the number of drivers traveling the wrong way on our interstates, prevent crashes, and save lives,” said Governor Mike DeWine. “Improving our roadways to enhance driver safety is essential for improving the quality of life for people who live, work, and travel in our state, and this project is an important step forward for Ohio.”

While wrong way crashes made up only 0.01 percent of all crashes in Ohio last year, they are 40 times more likely to be deadly.

“This section of I-71 was selected using criteria that includes 911 calls, wrong-way and alcohol crashes, the

number of alcohol establishments located within close proximity, and ramp traffic volumes," said ODOT Director Jack Marchbanks.

This is the first time these detection devices have been installed as a system in the state of Ohio. Two other stand-alone devices, one on the exit from westbound I-670 to Neil Avenue in Columbus and the other on the exit from westbound SR-2 to West 28th Street in Cleveland, have been pilot tested with positive results.

"Not only do these devices add another layer to alert drivers that they're driving in the wrong direction, they allow us to capture data about where these drivers are trying to enter our highways," Marchbanks said.

ODOT has been targeting highway ramps in 16 Ohio counties: Cuyahoga, Belmont, Franklin, Greene, Hamilton, Jefferson, Lake, Licking, Lorain, Lucas, Mahoning, Montgomery, Richland, Stark, Trumbull, and Wood with additional signage, reflectivity, and striping. Over the past decade, 82 percent of the wrong way crashes in Ohio have occurred in these counties. These counties also include a high number of highway interchanges.

ODOT seeking feedback for first-ever pedestrian and bicycle plan



Recent trends in safety, demographics, and demand have spurred the Ohio Department of Transportation to develop its first-ever policy plan for walking and biking. Stakeholder and public

engagement will help ensure that policies and investments meet the needs of people walking and biking.

The Walk.Bike.Ohio plan will guide Ohio's bike and pedestrian transportation policies and investments in infrastructure and programs. It is looking at current and potential programs and policies, not at specific projects.

ODOT is engaging Ohioans through a series of stakeholder meetings and online surveys. These opportunities will help ODOT collect feedback on vision and goals of the plan as well as barriers and needs for walking and biking. It will also look at how new mobility and its associated technologies will impact how Ohioans walk and bike in the future.

"We encourage Ohioans to use active transportation, so we want to make sure those modes of travel are as safe as possible," said ODOT Director Dr. Jack Marchbanks. "We hope to get feedback from Ohioans living in all parts of our great state to help us do that."

Between 2009-2018, Ohio saw a 60 percent increase in pedestrian-related fatalities. Bicycle fatalities are up 22 percent over the same time frame. In 2018, 135 pedestrians and 22 bicyclists were killed in Ohio.

Ohio has over 1,800 miles of off-road, shared use paths. Ohio's state parks offer more than 250 miles of bike trails. There are also 3,000 miles of proposed State and U.S. Bike Routes in Ohio.

Work on the plan is expected to be complete by the end of 2020. The final report will include policy recommendations as well as an implementation plan as to how to achieve the recommendations.

Caution: Some Over-the-Counter Medicines May Affect Your Driving

Over-the-counter medicines are also known as OTC or nonprescription medicines. All these terms mean the same thing: medicines that you can buy without a prescription from a healthcare professional. Each OTC medicine has a



Drug Facts label to guide you in your choices and to help keep you safe. OTC medicines are serious medicines and their risks can increase if you

don't choose them carefully and use them exactly as directed on the label.

According to Ali Mohamadi, M.D., a medical officer at FDA, "You can feel the effects some OTC medicines can have on your driving for a short time after you take them, or their effects can last for several hours. In some cases, a medicine can cause significant 'hangover-like' effects and affect your driving even the next day." If you have not had enough sleep, taking medicine with a side effect that causes drowsiness can add to the sleepiness and fatigue you may already feel. Being drowsy behind the wheel is dangerous; it can impair your driving skills.

Choosing and Using Safely - You should read all the sections of the Drug Facts label before you use an OTC

medicine. But, when you know you have to drive, it's particularly important to take these simple steps:

First, read the "active ingredients" section and compare it to all the other medicines you are using. Make sure you are not taking more than one medicine with the same active ingredient. Then make sure the "purpose" and "uses" sections of the label match or fit the condition you are trying to treat.

Next, carefully read the entire "Warnings" section. Check whether the medicine should not be used with any condition you have, or whether you should ask a health care professional whether you can use it. See if there's a warning that says when you shouldn't use the medicine at all, or when you should stop using it.

The "When using this product" section will tell you how the medicine might make you feel, and will include warnings about drowsiness or impaired driving.

Look for such statements as "you may get drowsy," "marked drowsiness will occur," "Be careful when driving a motor vehicle or operating machinery" or "Do not drive a motor vehicle or operate machinery when using this product."

Other information you might see in the label is how the medicine reacts when taken with other products like alcohol, sedatives or tranquilizers, and other effects the OTC medicine could have on you. When you see any of these statements and you're going to drive or operate machinery, you may want to consider choosing another medicine for your problem this time. Look for an OTC medicine that treats your condition or problem but has an active ingredient or combination of active ingredients that don't cause drowsiness or affect your ability to drive or operate machinery.

Talk to your healthcare professional if you need help finding another medicine to treat your condition or problem. Then, check the section on "directions" and follow them carefully.

Here are some of the most common OTC medicines that can cause drowsiness or impaired driving:

Antihistamines: These are medicines that are used to treat things like runny nose, sneezing, itching of the nose or throat, and itchy or watery eyes. Some antihistamines are marketed to relieve cough due to the common cold. Some are marketed to relieve occasional sleeplessness.

Antihistamines also can be added to other active ingredients that relieve cough, reduce nasal congestion, or reduce pain and fever. Some antihistamines, such as diphenhydramine, the active ingredient in Benadryl, can make you feel drowsy, unfocused and slow to react.

Antidiarrheals: Some antidiarrheals, medicines that treat or control symptoms of diarrhea, can cause drowsiness and affect your driving. One of these is loperamide, the active ingredient in Imodium.

Anti-emetics: Anti-emetics, medicines that treat nausea, vomiting and dizziness associated with motion sickness, can cause drowsiness and impair driving as well.

"If you don't read all your medicine labels and choose and use them carefully," says Dr. Mohamadi, "you can risk your safety. If your driving is impaired, you could risk your safety, and the safety of your passengers and others."

Please visit, [Over-the-Counter Medicines and Driving](#), for the audio and slide presentation for more about driving and OTC medicines and with practice looking at Drug Facts labels.

Reducing Motor Vehicle Theft

In 2017, more than three-quarters of a million vehicles were stolen in the United States—and nearly half of those thefts were due to driver error. Vehicle theft is a multi-billion-dollar crime, with the cost of stolen vehicles coming in at nearly \$6 billion in 2017 alone. 75.4% of



those vehicles were automobiles.

Summers prove to be the worst season for vehicle theft. A motor vehicle is stolen every 40.9 seconds in the

United States.

The top 10 stolen vehicles in calendar year 2017: Honda Civic, Honda Accord, Chevrolet Silverado, Toyota Camry, Ford F150, Nissan Altima, Toyota Corolla, Ford F250, Ford Ecoline, and Honda CR-V. Top 10 States for most vehicles stolen in calendar year 2017: California, Texas, Florida, Washington, Illinois, Georgia, Colorado, Missouri, Ohio, and Arizona.

Use common sense when parking and exiting your vehicle:

- Take your vehicle's key; do not leave it in or on your vehicle.
- Close and lock all windows and doors when you park.
- Park in well-lit areas if possible.
- Never leave valuables in your vehicle, especially if they can be seen from outside the vehicle.
- Thieves want vehicle parts and valuable items, too.

Radios and wheel covers aren't the only popular stolen vehicle parts thieves take. They want whatever sells, from the mandated labeled parts to those that aren't. Some of the most popular vehicle parts or valuable items stolen from vehicles include doors, engines, transmissions, air bags, radios, GPS units, cell phones, iPads, laptops, and purses.

If you are a victim of vehicle theft, follow these steps:

- Contact police immediately to file a stolen-vehicle report. You will need a copy of the police report and/or a case number to provide to your insurance company. You may also be asked to provide the following information:
- License plate number;
- Make, model, and color of your vehicle; and
- Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) and any identifying characteristics.
- Contact your insurance company to file a claim within 24 hours of your vehicle being stolen.
- If you find your vehicle before authorities do, contact the police and your insurance company immediately.

Ohio State Fair turns down bright lights, sounds

Visiting the state fair is a treat for most families and children, but the lights and noises can be overwhelming.

The Ohio State Fair in Columbus is staging a "sensory-friendly" event on one morning this month, turning down the lights and making for a quieter experience. It's the first event of its kind at the fair, according to a representative. "We're making multiple efforts to make sure that the fair



is inclusive and welcoming to all of our audience," Ohio State Fair spokeswoman Alicia Shoults said.

"The fair can be a little overwhelming

for some. If we're able to make some adjustments to turn down the lights and sounds and make the fair a little friendlier for those with sensory-processing disorders, that's an easy step for us to take to make a difference in the community."

Sensory issues can affect some people with autism-spectrum disorders. Bright lights and certain sounds, smells and tastes can be uncomfortable, and so can being touched.

The fair partnered with the Ohio Center for Autism and Low Incidence, an organization that serves families and those who work with children and adults with autism-spectrum disorders and low-incidence disabilities, which include hearing and visual impairments.



People who attend the fair on the sensory-friendly morning, July 31, can ride the rides without flashing lights or music and can visit a quiet room if they need a break from it all.

A sensory quiet room will be staffed with "people who understand autism and other developmental disabilities," said Shawn Henry, executive director of the Ohio Center for Autism and Low Incidence.

"Maybe it's too overwhelming at some point" at the fair, Henry said. "There are fidgets and different activities. It's quiet, and it's cool. It should be an area for them to allow

their sensory system to calm. "The organization is also providing sensory kits that include physical objects to help people cope with tactile, visual and auditory problems.



Featured photo from the Facebook page of Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities. Stated caption below:

“Carmen comes to the Ohio State Fair every year- This year, she can “stay as long as she wants” thanks to our wheelchair charging stations! #Accessibility: #OhioFindItHere”

Families can also look at provided social narratives that explain what goes on at the fair, with lots of photos, for children to understand.

"We're trying to help families be prepared prior to walking into that door," Henry said. "It's a two-way street to build capacity at the fair but also help the family prior to leaving their home."

For people with physical disabilities or other impairments, there will be more charging stations for wheelchairs, Henry said. Those who are visually impaired can use glasses with a camera connected to an earpiece, through which a person relays information about their surroundings. This allows the person to explore the fair independently.

A few other state fairs have made similar efforts to accommodate guests. The New Mexico State Fair is offering a sensory station for its entire run this year. And last year, the Texas State Fair offered sensory-friendly mornings once a week.

Fairgoers will have access to first-then boards, which give them a visual way of going from something they aren't so interested in doing to something they really want to do. It's a visual system, with photos, words or icons, that can serve as a schedule when they're at the fair.

Waiting in lines can be a daunting, abstract thing for some people on the autism spectrum. Families can print out wait cards for children to hold while they're in line for a ride.

Families can also look at provided social

Henry said other fairs and community events have contacted the center for help with their own work.

"I think the future holds a lot of promise around the hospitality industry being able to open its doors when you have good examples like this at the fair," he said. "I think it will be the most accessible fair in the nation.



Transit Humor

- I didn't want to believe my father was stealing from the transportation department. But when I got home, all the signs were there.
- I'm in a band called "Transportation". We're going places.
- How are cars most likely to get flat tires? At forks in the road!

Local Happenings

The 2019 Adams County Coordinated Public Plan meetings will be held on August 13th and October 8th at 2 PM at the Adams County Job and Family Services building, located at 482 Rice Dr., West Union, OH 45693.

The 2019 Brown County Coordinated Public Plan meetings will be held on August 14th and October 9th at 2 PM at the Adams Brown Community Action Partnership building, located at 406 West Plum Street, Georgetown, Ohio, 45121.

The 169th Brown County Fair will be held on September 23rd – 28th in Georgetown, Ohio.

“Walk with a Doc” is the third Saturday of the month. Join Drs. Bryan Grooms and Sarah Gerlach on the third Saturday of each month for “Walk With a Doc” at the Adams Lake State Park. No age limit or experience necessary! In the case of bad weather, the walk is moved to the MEAC in Manchester.