

# Adams Brown Counties in Transit

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September 1, 2019  
Volume 1, Issue 9

## From the desk of the Mobility Manager

### Welcome

Welcome to the ninth 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](mailto:jfrancis@abcap.net) or by calling (937) 378-6041 EXT. 310.

### DeWine declares state of emergency in 63 counties after heavy rainfall

Due to heavy rains across Ohio in May and June, Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine has declared a state of emergency in 63 out of 88 Ohio counties, including Adams and Brown counties.

The 63 counties covered by the emergency declaration have suffered damage to roads and bridges from significant weather events in June.

June saw mild temperatures and heavy rain that saturated the ground and caused dangerous roadway damage.

The declaration will allow the Ohio Department of Transportation and local governments to access federal emergency funds to fix the road damage caused by the weather, according to DeWine's office.

The 63 counties include: Adams, Ashland, Ashtabula, Athens, Belmont, Brown, Butler, Carroll, Clermont, Clinton, Columbiana, Coshocton, Crawford, Cuyahoga, Delaware, Erie, Fairfield, Fayette, Franklin, Gallia, Geauga, Greene, Guernsey, Hamilton, Harrison, Highland, Hocking, Holmes, Huron, Jackson, Jefferson, Knox, Lake, Lawrence, Licking, Lorain, Madison, Mahoning, Marion, Medina, Meigs, Monroe, Morgan, Morrow, Muskingum, Noble, Perry, Pickaway, Pike, Portage, Preble, Richland, Ross, Scioto, Stark, Summit, Trumbull, Tuscarawas, Union, Vinton, Warren, Washington, and Wayne.

### Americans with Disabilities Act anniversary honored with area's first-ever 3D accessible parking aisle



This is an example a 3D accessible parking aisle. [Ability Center of Springfield/Eugene]

The Ability Center of Springfield/Eugene is creating the one of the first-ever 3D accessible parking aisle.

Painting on the aisle, which is situated by Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) parking spaces, creates an optical illusion of a raised barrier designed to stop people from parking on an access aisle.

The center hopes the 3D parking aisle brings awareness to the issue of parking abuse faced by people who use wheelchairs and have mobility disabilities. This innovative technique is important because 1 in 8 people have a mobility disability, making parking abuse that much more of a problem.

Painting will take place from July 26 to July 30 at the Ability Center of Eugene, 3574 Marcola Road in Springfield, Oregon. The business, which sells wheelchair-accessible vehicles, is one of only 17 dealers nationwide to add the 3D aisle.

The project also honors the anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act, which was signed into law on July 26, 1990. The ADA is a civil rights law that protects people with disabilities from discrimination in public life, school, jobs and transportation.

The 3D parking aisle is part of Drive For Inclusion, a national action movement that aims to bring together and unify the voices of those on the mobility disability spectrum in an effort to gain inclusion and better access.

For more information, visit [abilitycenter.com](http://abilitycenter.com).

### **Ohio Highway Patrol promotes school bus safety**



This month, thousands of Ohio school children will be heading back to school. For many of these students their day starts and ends by riding a school bus. The safety of the students riding to and from school and to school-sanctioned events is top priority.

From 2016 through 2018, 3,962 traffic crashes involved school buses in Ohio. During this time, four fatal crashes occurred, killing four and injuring 1,268. None of those killed were on a school bus.

“All Ohioans can help make this school year a safe one,” said Governor Mike DeWine. “School bus safety involves a commitment from motorists, parents and children.”

“Safety on the roadway is a shared responsibility by school bus drivers and motorists,” said Lt. Chesar, commander of the Marietta Post. “Motorists should always exercise caution while children are boarding and exiting school buses.”

As the buses return to the roadways, the patrol has a few reminders: motorists are required to stop at least 10 feet in front of or behind a school bus when flashing lights and an extended arm are displayed and cannot resume driving until the school bus begins moving. The patrol also reminds motorists to plan ahead and allow extra time for school bus stops.

School buses are also required to be inspected twice a year to ensure the bus is operating properly. Every bus used to

transport students is inspected before the beginning of the school year and once randomly during the year. From 2016 through 2018, the patrol performed 121,876 inspections.

For a complete statistical breakdown of school bus inspections, crashes and passing stopped school bus violations, visit

[https://statepatrol.ohio.gov/doc/School\\_Bus\\_Bulletin\\_2019.pdf](https://statepatrol.ohio.gov/doc/School_Bus_Bulletin_2019.pdf)

### **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 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.

### **Hazards That Are Most Likely To Hurt Your Tires**



Consider this: getting a spoon stuck in your tires is more of a likelihood than you may have thought.

According to a new national survey of auto service professionals, this common kitchen utensil is a potential hazard – albeit one of the more unusual ones – likely to damage your tires if you're not careful about where you're driving. The four tires on your car are the only thing connecting your vehicle to the road, and they also affect everything from handling to braking, playing a critical role in your safety. Given their part in keeping you safe, it's worth taking the time to take care of your tires – especially when there are so many (potential) hazards to look out for.

The study from Cooper Tires conducted by Auto Service Professional magazine couldn't come at a better time: Nearly 100 million Americans are expected to have taken

a family vacation by year's end, according to a recent AAA Travel survey, with upcoming spring and summer road trips topping many of their plans.

With so many Americans on the road all year long – whether for a family vacation or their daily commute to work – tire damage is an unfortunate reality. According to the study, some of the most common causes of tire damage are running over something, such as a curb (72 percent), nails (70 percent), or potholes (39 percent). Other common causes of tire damage are more easily preventable, such as driving with bald tires (48 percent) and driving on a tire with low air pressure (44 percent). It's probably why checking tire pressure, rotating your tires and paying attention to the Tire Pressure Monitoring System (TPMS) light are the top tips from auto service professionals on proper tire maintenance.

And the one location you probably most want to avoid when driving? Construction zones, which are no doubt behind so many tires being punctured by spikes, wrenches, screwdrivers and pliers.

Drivers need to contend with various road challenges throughout the year. In the winter, the top two sources of tire damage are potholes (72 percent) and unseen hazards hidden under that fresh blanket of snow (59 percent), which can be anything from cracks in the pavement to debris that has fallen off trucks. In summer, underinflated tires are the most common offender (88 percent), leading to overheating.

“The four tires on your vehicle are the only parts to come in contact with and keep you connected to the road,” notes Jess Egerton, director of brand development at Cooper. “That’s why, for safety and performance reasons, you have to properly care for, maintain and inspect them.”

That means:

- Checking tire inflation on a regular basis. Operating a vehicle with even just one tire underinflated by 8 psi can reduce the life of a tire by 9,000 miles and increase fuel consumption by 4 percent.
- Replacing tires when worn to 2/32 inches tread depth anywhere on the tread face.
- Visually checking tires for things such as missing valve caps, uneven tread wear and any foreign objects that could mean serious problems should

they become even more deeply embedded while driving? But back to those more unusual hazards.

Pieces of toys. Porcupine quills. Pork chop bones. Spoons. It's anyone's guess – including the service professionals who recounted finding them jabbed in tires – how they got there.

“Auto service professionals have pulled a lot of unusual things out of tires over the years,” says Greg Smith, publisher of Auto Service Professional magazine. “But, really, it might surprise people to know that a lot of tire damage is simply due to poor maintenance and wear and tear.”

### **Advice for Parents of Teen Drivers: How to Have the Car Talk**

Giving a 16-year-old their first set of car keys can feel like one or both of you just went skydiving without a



parachute. As a parent, you're relinquishing a certain amount of control when your child climbs behind the wheel. And that can be terrifying.

Car accidents are the number-one cause of death among teens in the U.S., so when it comes to driving, the majority of parental fears are warranted. It's also important to remember to communicate the seriousness of the sudden responsibility.

To help make that conversation a little easier to navigate, here is a road map of important points:

- Seatbelt – Teenagers are more likely to shuffle through their iPod in search of a suitable playlist before they think about putting on their seatbelt. Be clear that fastening your seatbelt should be the very first thing you do before keys are even in the ignition.
- Texting – There are enough distractions outside of the vehicle, so explain the importance of paying strict attention to the road at all times. Cell phones, music and passengers can be huge distractions, especially texting on your cell. Every

second a teen takes their eyes off the road could be an opportunity for a terrible accident.

- Drinking and driving – Make it known that no one under the age of 21 should be drinking. But teens will be teens, so emphasize the necessity of always having a designated driver. Make sure they understand it's never too late to call for a ride home.
- Defensive driving – New drivers should be hypersensitive to all surroundings, since they're still developing basic skills and habits. Teach teenagers to watch out for other drivers and be aware of their reactions to avoid collisions.
- Penalties – Discuss the fines associated with tickets, share a personal experience you had getting a ticket and sitting in traffic court. Let them know they will be responsible for any monetary repercussions or other consequences.
- Roadside emergencies and maintenance – Go over what to do and whom to call in an emergency. Do they have roadside assistance and insurance information readily available? Make sure they know not to lose that information—it's best to always keep it in the car. Introduce them to basic car maintenance, too, by taking them along for regular oil changes, tire rotations and inspections. That way, they can start scheduling their own appointments when necessary.

Engage in this conversation often to drive these points home and help teens make good decisions.

### **Connected Nation Ohio Rebooted: The Next Phase in Connecting Ohioans to Broadband**

(GLOBE NEWSWIRE) -- Connected Nation Ohio (CN Ohio) is starting a new phase in its mapping, technical assistance, and analysis later this spring through funding from Third Frontier. Since 2008, CN Ohio, a local subsidiary of Connected Nation, has worked to raise awareness and identify ways to expand access to high-speed internet (broadband) to



millions of people across the Buckeye State.

“Ohio leaders have long recognized the importance of connecting every Ohioan and have been committed to tech planning throughout the state,” said Tom Ferree, Chairman & CEO, Connected Nation. “We are proud to be a part of that history of hard work and are excited about this next phase. It is clear that Gov. Mike DeWine, Lt. Gov. John Husted, and Ohio legislators are taking action and have committed to work together for a common and important goal— ensuring all Ohio families and businesses have access to the opportunities and resources broadband can provide.”

Approximately 2.4 million Ohio households have either no high-speed internet service or have only one choice. Rural areas are hit the hardest. Only 86% of rural Ohioans have access to broadband speeds defined by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) as 25 mbps download and 3 mbps upload. These are minimum requirements and are good for a single user or multiple users with light use. It also allows for some video streaming.



Third Frontier is providing one million dollars in funding to CN Ohio for one year. The non-profit will use those funds to map current broadband coverage, provide technical assistance, and present analysis with a new site of maps that will be available in late 2019.

“Ohio has not released maps that identify broadband availability and speeds since 2017. That’s a huge gap in research, especially when you consider how quickly the technology is evolving,” said Sandy Oxley, Executive Director, CN Ohio. “We need to know where there is digital disparity—where families, businesses, agricultural sectors, and whole communities are being left unserved or underserved. It’s both a social and economic issue for the Buckeye State. Having broadband means accessing government, healthcare, and educational resources and it means a positive economic impact that measures not just in the millions but in billions of dollars.”

Reaching full broadband coverage in Ohio would generate an estimated \$1 to \$2 billion, conservatively, and up to \$6.6 billion in economic benefits over the next 15 years. In addition, the telehealth cost savings annually per facility are \$27,209 area.”

Businesses and consumers can provide that input at [connectednation.org/Ohio](http://connectednation.org/Ohio). They can also find regular updates and news about broadband expansion efforts and funding opportunities in the state and across the country.

### **Don't Make These Mistakes after a Collision**



In the U.S. alone, there are 10 million car accidents every year, and the tense moments following a car accident, even a minor one, can be scary and stressful for everyone involved.

Drivers and passengers can feel confused and unsure of what to do. Even the most experienced and seasoned drivers can make basic mistakes after they have been involved in a traumatic event.

Simple, avoidable mistakes could cost you time and money, or lead to personal, medical and legal issues.

Here are some of the most common mistakes to avoid after a collision:

- **Fleeing the scene:** Leaving the scene of an accident could land you in serious legal trouble. You may be in shock, but the most important thing to do is stay where you are.

Check on your passengers, and once you exit your vehicle, check with the other driver involved in the accident.

Try to remain calm and wait for law enforcement to arrive on the scene. If it is safe to do so, use your cell phone to take photos of your vehicle to document the damage that resulted from the accident while you wait for police.

- **Not reporting the accident:**

Even if it's just a minor collision, always report the accident to the police. Never let someone convince you to avoid calling the police.

If you decide to make a claim with your insurance company later on, or if you decide to pursue a legal claim, not reporting the accident could hurt your case.

- **Exchanging too much information:** Do not share your driver's license or who was at fault with the

other driver; however, share this information with the police along with your current insurance.

Always exchange contact information with the other driver, get contact info from any witnesses, and obtain full insurance details from other drivers involved in the accident.

Make sure accurate information is included in the police report, and ask for a copy of the report to edit any incorrect information.

- **Failing to get medical advice:** You may think that you were lucky enough to escape injury, but you should always get a medical checkup after a car accident, especially if you hit your head.

Remember, only a medical professional can rule out possible head trauma and other serious injuries.

- **Having your vehicle repaired at just any shop:** You might have to make a decision on-the-spot as to where to have your vehicle repaired. Don't make a panicked decision when it comes to your safety.

### **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 169<sup>th</sup> Brown County Fair will be held on September 23<sup>rd</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> 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.