

BROWN TOWNSHIP

ESTABLISHED 1830

Fall 2020

Safe Shooting Concerns

The Brown Township Board of Trustees continues to receive complaints from residents about gun noise and concerns about unsafe shooting practices in the township.

The Franklin County Sheriff's Office advises residents to call for service whenever they feel unsafe or are concerned about such behavior. A deputy will respond and investigate. The Sheriff's Office non-emergency number is 614-525-3310. In the event of an emergency, call 911.

Townships have no authority to regulate the discharging of a firearm. That authority rests with the Ohio General Assembly. For specifics, go to browntwp.org/seminar.

Because of strong interest from townships across the state, the Ohio Township Association has repeatedly introduced legislation that would allow townships some authority over the discharge of firearms, but the bills have never reached the floor of the House or Senate due to opposition from special interests.

Residents who wish to urge the Ohio General Assembly to permit townships some authority should contact State Representative Allison Russo and/or State Senator Stephanie Kunze, both of whom represent Brown Township residents. Contact information is available at www.ohiohouse.gov and www.ohiosenate.gov.

Home Value Reminder

All residential property owners in Franklin County should have received by mail from the Franklin County Auditor's Office a flyer listing their 2020 tentative home value. Ohio law requires that property values be updated every three years so they accurately reflect the current real estate market.

If you are satisfied that the tentative value is accurate: There is nothing you need to do. This value will be used to calculate your property taxes in the future.

If you believe the tentative value is incorrect or you have questions: Go to Your2020HomeValue.org to review the property information and its proposed value. Schedule an informal value review to discuss your property's value with appraisers. If you would prefer an in-person review at one of the satellite locations, you can also schedule that at the website above.

Final value letters will be mailed to those who participated in the informal process. If you still disagree with the final value, you may file a complaint with the Franklin County Board of Revision by March 31, 2021.

Franklin County Auditor Michael Stinziano may be contacted at 614-525-HOME or auditorstinziano@franklincountyohio.gov.

Newsletter Topics Sought

From time to time, the quarterly Brown Township newsletter has space for items beyond what the Board of Trustees has planned. The Board is interested in hearing from residents about what you'd like to see in the newsletter when there is extra space.

Please submit any topics of general township interest, avoiding promotion or sale of anything; endorsement or support for any candidate, issue, or legislation; and items of purely localized interest. Please send your suggestions to:

Brown Township Board of Trustees
2491 Walker Road
Hilliard, OH 43026

Items will be included in the newsletter at the Board's sole discretion. Please include your address and phone number so we can follow up, if needed. Anonymous suggestions will be discarded.



Absentee and Early Voting

The Franklin County Board of Elections announces absentee and early voting for the November 3 general election. Absentee voting by mail is safe, secure, and simple. It is a three-step process.

- Request an application or download and print your own.
- Turn in application.
- Receive ballot, mark selections and fill out ID envelope, and return ballot by deadline.

Commonly Missed Items On Forms

- Signature
- Date of birth
- Last four digits of Social Security number
- Driver's license number

Track your absentee ballot from request to acceptance using BallotTrax at www.franklincountyvotes.com.



Deadline For Returning An Absentee Ballot

Postmark by Monday, November 2, 2020 and received within 10 days of November 3, 2020.

Drop off at Board of Elections at 1700 Morse Road by 7:30 p.m. on November 3, 2020.

Make a request for an application by calling 614-525-3100 or at <https://vote.franklincountyohio.gov/Voters/Absentee-Voting>.

Early Voting

Early voting at the Franklin County Board of Elections, 1700 Morse Road, Columbus, 43229, is available on the following dates and times:

October 6–16

Weekdays only, Monday through Friday, 8 am to 5 pm

October 19–23

Weekdays only, Monday through Friday, 8 am to 6 pm

October 24

Saturday, 8 am to 4 pm

October 25

Sunday, 1 to 5 pm

October 26–30

Weekdays only, Monday through Friday, 8 am to 7 pm

October 31

Saturday, 8 am to 4 pm

November 1

Sunday, 1 to 5 pm

November 2

Monday, 8 am to 2 pm

Stream Stewardship

We do not generally think of creeks as having skin. However, the vegetation along a stream serves as its skin. This buffer protects the stream from pollution much as our skin protects our bodies from bacteria and other things that could do us harm. When we mow to the edges of streams, build close to streams, or—worst of all—pave to the top of the stream banks, we take away crucial protection from creeks—the vegetative buffers, their skin.

These buffers ought to contain a

variety of vegetation—trees, shrubs, and non-woody native perennial plants. Each kind of vegetation plays a distinct role. Among other things, they have different kinds of roots. Trees have large woody roots, while non-woody native perennials have finer, stringy roots that can extend 14 feet into the ground, in contrast to the shallow roots of turf grass. These roots help keep pollution out of our waterways and can remove pollution from the water flowing in our streams. In addition, vegetated buffers stabilize

banks, keep the creek cool, reduce algae growth, and provide food and shelter for aquatic organisms. They are more effective when they are free from invasive plants that can take over stream corridors, excluding other plants and providing limited benefits to the stream. Please keep in mind that native plants can be installed along waterways as designated landscapes. One can control what plants grow along a stream and still provide the benefits of a vegetated buffer. Stream channels themselves also play a role

in maintaining and improving water quality. Bacteria and other organisms living in the sand and gravel through which the water flows help clean water. The aeration in riffles both cleans and puts oxygen in the water. Natural processes that take place in pools remove nutrients. Vegetation growing in streams also helps improve water quality by taking up nutrients and filtering the water through their root systems.

Franklin Soil and Water has discovered that structures installed in streams that we call stream inserts can enhance aquatic life in our waterways as well. The inserts create

gravel beds in which the water is treated. These beds also store water, maintaining stream flow in the creeks and increasing groundwater storage. Plants grow on the inserts that provide the benefits of in-stream vegetation even as microorganisms colonize material used to create the inserts, providing additional water quality treatment. The structures have been installed to reduce erosion, a major source of pollution. They can also be used to create and/or maintain pools and riffles. Streams need vegetated banks and healthy channels to keep clean. Protecting the buffers around streams provides tremendous benefits,

benefits that are magnified when those buffers are planted with native plants. When channels have been degraded by straightening, high-flow volumes, and/or erosion, stream inserts can help restore the channel and improve the water quality of the stream. Small changes outside and inside the channels of our streams can make a big difference.

*Information provided by Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District
614-486-9613
franklinswcd.org*

Norwich Fire Preparedness

Vince Papa retired on April 19, 2013, but his foresight and planning prepared Norwich Township Fire Department (NTFD) to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic outbreak. Fire Chief Jeff Warren credits Captain Papa, saying, "I was simply able to pull Captain Papa's plan off of the shelf, change the dates and the disease name, and immediately put this plan into action." The plan that Captain Papa developed required maintaining a stock of personal protective equipment (PPE) which the fire department was able to immediately begin distributing to staff. This stock of PPE ensured that our staff had sufficient PPE even as the supply chain crumbled for some time.

The Fire Department normally operates with a defined structure, which includes Administration, Code Enforcement/Fire Prevention, and Emergency Response. One of the greatest strengths of your fire department is the ability to be flexible. Immediately the staff in Code Enforcement/Prevention was reassigned to a support role for Emergency Response and Administration. This support includes purchasing PPE and disinfecting supplies to keep up with the much higher use during the outbreak. Very quickly NTFD began using an electronic reporting form to efficiently track the use and inventory of PPE.

COVID-19 has caused everyone in healthcare to dress differently for each patient encounter. Before COVID-19 most doctors, nurses, dentists, paramedics, and other first responders approached patients wearing disposable gloves for each patient encounter. Norwich Township paramedics, like all other medical professionals, now wear not only gloves but a surgical mask or respirator, gown or coveralls, and eye protection.

Firefighters pride themselves on clean stations and clean apparatus during normal times. They go to work at a clean station and clean it to pass it on clean to the next crew who cleans it and the cycle continues. Norwich Township firefighters have increased these efforts of cleaning and disinfecting from one time to multiple times a day.

Firefighters and paramedics are not immune to possible infectious exposures. Under the direction of Dr. Eric Cortez, M.D., Norwich Township Fire Department has a very specific guideline to follow if a provider has been exposed while at work or in their personal lives to reduce possibly exposing coworkers. These guidelines reflect the recommendations of the CDC and other applicable health directives. Dr. Cortez continually monitors these recommendations

and directives and has made multiple adjustments to these guidelines over the past months.

Because of the planning, administration, and implementation of these plans, you can be confident your Norwich Township Fire Department is prepared to respond to possible contagious diseases, whether it is COVID-19, seasonal flu, or both at that same time.

Information provided by Norwich Township Fire Department Bureau Chief Lamar Sweigart





Brown Township
2491 Walker Road
Hilliard, Ohio 43026

PRSRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
COLUMBUS OH
PERMIT# 5964

Brown Township Administration Office

2491 Walker Road, Hilliard, Ohio 43026
(614) 876-2133

Website

www.BrownTwp.org

Fiscal Officer

Becky Kent • (614) 446-2359

Trustees

Mr. Gary Dever • (614) 876-4768
Mrs. Pamela Sayre • (614) 878-0199
Mr. Joseph Martin • (614) 870-9601

Norwich Fire Department

Jeff Warren, Chief • (614) 876-7694

Franklin County Sheriff's Department

Emergency • 911
Non-Emergency • (614) 525-3333

Meetings are held the third Monday of every month at 7:00 p.m. at 2491 Walker Road, Hilliard, Ohio.



L-R: Trustees Pam Sayre,
Gary Dever and Joe Martin
Seated: Fiscal Officer Becky Kent

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:

	Fire Calls		EMS Calls	
	Incorp.	Unincorp.	Incorp.	Unincorp.
June 2020	2	3	0	11
July 2020	4	4	3	20
Aug. 2020	1	4	0	17

Franklin County Sheriff's Department

Calls to addresses in unincorporated Brown Township:

June 2020

June 13 - aggravated menacing, resisting arrest, and obstructing official business; seizure of package of white powder at an address on Amity Road.

Reported June 29, occurred June 23 - misuse of a credit card of a victim residing at an address on Carter Road.

July 2020

Reported July 13, occurred between July 11 and 13 - theft of a mountain bike from an outbuilding at an address on Amity Road.
July 30 - criminal damaging to a garage door latch at an address on Walker Road.

August 2020

Reported August 23, occurred between August 22 and 23 - burglary and theft of power tools and other items at an address on Jones Road.

Reported August 31, occurred August 30 - criminal damaging of a vehicle at an address on Hubbard Road.

Hilliard Division of Police

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

June 2019

No non-routine calls.

July 2020

No non-routine calls.

August 2020

No non-routine calls.