

# BROWN

ESTABLISHED 1830

# TOWNSHIP

Fall 2013

## Issue 38 on November Ballot

The Brown Township Trustees have placed a fire protection levy on the November 5 ballot. Issue 38, if approved, will raise about \$411,000 annually to support fire and emergency services provided by the Norwich Township Fire Department.

Norwich Fire provides service to Norwich Township, the City of Hilliard, and Brown Township. Service to Brown Township is provided under a contract which requires that the property tax support from the three jurisdictions remain roughly equal. Norwich Township and Hilliard voters approved a similar issue on the ballot in May.

Brown Township voters first approved an 8-mill issue in 1994, followed by a 3.2-mill issue in 2004. Issue 38 represents a 4.66-mill increase. (A mill is defined as 1/1000 of a dollar. The millage rate times the taxable value of the property equals the tax levy.) Issue 38, if passed, would cost taxpayers an additional \$163 a year for each \$100,000 of property valuation.

The ballot language reads as follows:

### PROPOSED TAX LEVY (ADDITIONAL)

#### BROWN TOWNSHIP

A majority affirmative vote is necessary for passage.

An additional tax for the benefit of Brown Township for the purpose of providing and maintaining fire apparatus, appliances, buildings, or sites therefor, or sources of water supply and materials therefor, or the establishment and maintenance of lines of fire alarm telegraph, or the payment of firefighting companies or permanent, part-time, or volunteer firefighting, emergency medical service, administrative, or communications personnel to operate the same, including the payment of any employer contributions required for such personnel under section 145.48 or 742.34 of the Revised Code, or the purchase of ambulance equipment, or the provision of ambulance, paramedic, or other emergency medical services operated by a fire department or firefighting company at a rate not exceeding 4.66 mills for each one dollar of valuation, which amounts of \$0.466 for each one hundred dollars of valuation, for a continuing period of time, commencing in 2013, first due in calendar year 2014.

Brown Township voters may cast ballots at the Brown Township Hall at 2495 Walker Road between 6:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. on November 5, 2013. Voters must be registered by October 7.

In-person absentee voting will be available at 280 E. Broad St., Columbus 43215 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday between October 1 and November 1 and between 8 a.m. and noon on Saturday, November 2.

For more information, visit [boe@franklincountyohio.gov](mailto:boe@franklincountyohio.gov) or call the Franklin County Board of Elections at 614-525-3100.



# Norwich Township Fire Department Services

The Norwich Township Fire Department provides fire prevention, suppression, EMS (emergency medical services), and fire safety/prevention education programs throughout its service area, including Brown Township.

Chief Robert Kaufman leads a team of 87 full-time firefighters at three stations, including an administrative staff of five. The three stations are located to facilitate quick response time on emergency calls to any part of the service area.

Station 81 is located at 5181 Northwest Parkway, Station 82 (built and owned by Brown Township) is at 2491 Walker Road, and Station 83 at 4283 Davidson Road.

Norwich Fire is the primary provider of basic and advanced life support to the residents and visitors of the service area. The Department responds to all calls to 911 made from the service area. Depending on the situation, both a fire engine or ladder truck and a paramedic unit will be dispatched. All Fire Department personnel are cross-trained as firefighters and EMS providers. For non-emergency situations, the Department will assist when necessary, for example, if a person falls

and needs assistance.

The Fire Prevention Bureau is responsible for fire investigation, code enforcement, and public education.

It is the responsibility of the Fire Prevention Bureau to determine the origin and cause of every major fire in the service area. When a fire is determined to be arson, the Department pursues the investigation to prosecution. Collaboration with law enforcement agencies is frequently involved.

Code enforcement includes fire safety inspections, life safety inspections, and building plan review. Each commercial building within the service area receives regular inspections. Included are factories, warehouses, retail stores, nursing homes, schools, and anything other than a private residence. Fire safety inspections of private residences are offered as a public service upon request.

The Fire Prevention Bureau offers public fire safety education programs and is one of the co-sponsors of Hilliard Safety Town. Each October, the Department promotes Fire Prevention Week. Fire safety and fire extinguisher courses are also

available to local businesses. Questions for the Fire Prevention Bureau should be directed to Fire Marshal Eric Manske at 614-876-7694.

Norwich Fire Department also offers tours of the fire stations for groups, including Scouts, school groups, 4-H clubs, etc. Tour participants see equipment demonstrations, firefighters' living quarters, and the equipment bay where fire trucks and medic units are parked. Age-appropriate fire and life safety lessons are provided during the tour. Tours may be scheduled by calling Mildred Brooks at 614-876-7694.

The Department also offers special duty EMS services for events within the service area. The cost is \$50 per paramedic per hour with a minimum of three hours per paramedic. To arrange for special duty EMS services, call 614-876-7694. Information needed to process the request includes organization and contact name, location of event, services needed, and date and hours of event.

Additionally, the Fire Department will check the carbon monoxide levels in buildings and makes available activity books for children.

## Brown Township Fire Station

Norwich Township Fire Station 82, built and owned by Brown Township, opened at 2491 Walker Road in 1999. It is staffed and equipped by the Norwich Township Fire Department. Eighteen firefighters and medics are assigned to station 82, in three shifts of six each. An engine, a medic vehicle, and a grass fighter are assigned to the station.

In 2012, there were 184 total fire and EMS runs made by the Department in Brown Township, according to Chief Bob Kaufman. Station 82 made 1,637 total fire and EMS runs in 2012, out of a total of 5,009 total fire and EMS runs by the Department in 2012.

All runs in Brown Township in

2012 were made by Station 82. The medic vehicle from Station 81 assisted on 11 runs, but Engine 82 was the first responder. All firefighters are also medics and engines have the same equipment as medic vehicles.

The average EMS response time in Brown Township in 2012 was 5 minutes. The average fire/service run response time was 7 minutes and 30 seconds. Runs that involve traveling on I-70 can take a longer period.

Brown Township residents frequently drop in to Station 82 with questions or with minor health issues, such as getting a blood-pressure check. Statistics are not kept on these visits.

## Pam Sayre Appointed Trustee

Pam Sayre has been appointed Brown Township Trustee to replace Ron Williams, who resigned in August.

Pam previously served as Trustee, beginning in 1988. She resigned at the end of 2012 because of changes in the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System, but has maintained her keen interest in township affairs, serving on the Brown Township Comprehensive Plan Working Committee.

When Trustee Williams unexpectedly left the Board, Pam found herself interested in serving again.

Her appointment was effective September 23. Trustees Gary Dever and Joe Martin welcome her back.

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*Prepared by Elizabeth A. Clark, AICP  
Executive Assistant to the Brown Township Board  
of Trustees*

# Ron Williams Steps Down

Freed from the responsibilities of elected office and from the demands of maintaining a home on an acre of land, Ron Williams looks forward to more golf, more fishing, volunteering more time at Upper Arlington Lutheran Church, and most of all, spending more time with his wife, Sandy. After nearly 36 years of dedicated service, Ron has resigned as Brown Township Trustee. His resignation was effective August 25. Ron and Sandy decided it was time to downsize in preparation for retirement in several years. They put their house on the market and it sold very quickly.

First elected in 1977 and re-elected eight times, Ron has been dedicated to the interests of township residents ever since.

The Williams family moved to Brown Township from Columbus when Ron was 5. He and his twin brother, Don, and a now-deceased brother were raised in Brown Township and graduated from Hilliard High School.

Ron graduated from The Ohio State University in 1973 with a bachelor's degree in agricultural economics and immediately began pursuing the work that he loved. He leased land from Brown Township property owners and farmed up to 1500 acres from 1974 to 1990. "It's not everyone who gets to do what they love," Ron said.

When the economic realities of farming on land owned by others set in, Ron turned to work with Miller Pavement and True Seal, businesses owned by Pete Miller. He has worked in the paving industry since, now employed by The Shelly Company.

Ron and Sandy have two sons, Heath and Mike. Mike and his wife, Annie, live in Circleville and have two children, 6-year-old Brody and 3-year-old Adelaide. Heath and his wife, Jennifer, live in Powell and have two sons, Connor, 3, and Maxton, 1. Ron's mother, Hazel Williams, lives in South Charleston.



Ron and Sandy, married 40 years, have moved to a condominium in northeast Franklin County where large family gatherings will occur in a little less space than in their spacious Brown Township home.

Ron said he ran for trustee in the first place because he "wanted to help people. I was farming and in the community all day every day and thought I could be helpful to the township."

Speaking of his many years as a Trustee, Ron said his proudest accomplishment is the construction of the Station 82 Firehouse at 2491 Walker Road. The Firehouse and the property upon which it rests are owned by Brown Township. Norwich Township Fire Department operates and equips the station. Dedicated in 1999 under a contract with Norwich Township, the Firehouse "is probably the most expensive, biggest thing we did. It improved response times and made service more accessible to Brown Township residents," he said.

His favorite aspect of serving as a Trustee was maintaining the township roads and keeping them snow-free. In his early days when the Township had only one snowplow operator, Ron would sometimes ride along to help the driver when long shifts were needed.

Annexation of Brown Township property into adjacent municipal jurisdictions has been a challenge as long as Ron was a Trustee and he points to the challenge of keeping the Big Darby

Accord moving forward in the future. "The Big Darby Accord is the most difficult thing we've done. In Brown Township, there are a lot of people who own small areas of land and a few people who own a lot of land. It is difficult to balance the interests of all the property owners, but it is necessary. You have to have the vision for everyone. Zoning and planning never seem to have everybody on the same page, but planning is a must," Ron said.

As a part of his duties as Brown Township Trustee, Ron has long been involved with the Franklin County Township Trustees Association and is president at the present time. "The Association does a lot of good. More people need to be involved," he said. He was also the longest-standing member of the District Three Public Works Integrating Committee which prioritizes Franklin County projects for Ohio Public Works Commission funding.

When asked about advice for his successor, Ron said, "You have to learn what you can do and what you can't do. You have to learn the ropes and learn to appreciate the limitations of being a Township Trustee in Ohio. You need to find your niche." He said it is time for new blood and for other leaders to step up and be involved.

In summing up his time as Brown Township Trustee, Ron said, "I've tried my darndest to be fair and equitable to everyone who lives here and to keep Brown Township moving toward the future."

His colleagues on the Board of Trustees and the residents of Brown Township would surely agree that his 36 years of outstanding service are testament to his commitment to the Township.

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*Prepared by Elizabeth A. Clark, AICP  
Executive Assistant to the Brown Township  
Board of Trustees*

Brown Township  
2491 Walker Road  
Hilliard, Ohio 43026

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- 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>.



*L-R: Greg Ruwe, Gary Dever,  
Pam Sayre and Joe Martin*

**Brown Township Administration Office**

2491 Walker Road, Hilliard, Ohio 43026 ..... 876-2133

**Website**

[www.brown.twp.franklin.oh.us](http://www.brown.twp.franklin.oh.us)

**Fiscal Officer**

Greg Ruwe ..... 876-2133

**Trustees**

Mr. Gary Dever ..... 876-4768

Mrs. Pamela Sayre ..... 878-0199

Mr. Joseph Martin ..... 870-9601

**Norwich Fire Department**

Robert Kaufman, Chief ..... 876-7694

**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**