

# BROWN TOWNSHIP

ESTABLISHED 1830

Fall 2014

## Results of Special Trustees Meeting

The Brown Township Board of Trustees held a special public meeting on July 28 to consider results of the June community meeting, to hear results of research conducted on alternative methods of providing fire and emergency medical services, and to make decisions about moving forward on the provision of such services for township residents and properties.

Trustees reviewed the minimum baseline level of service required, approved at the June 16 meeting, which represents the level of service currently provided at Station 82. The level-of-service requirement rules out a volunteer company and a private contractor because a mutual aid agreement with other local fire companies would not be in place.

Information was presented to the Board on potential costs for Prairie Township and the City of Columbus to provide service to Brown Township. Prairie Township estimated its cost would be more than \$1.7 million per year, plus an up-front cost of at least \$700,000 for needed equipment. Columbus estimated it would cost about \$1.8 million to provide service (based on what it bills the City of Bexley for similar service). Columbus would likely not staff Station 82, but rather provide service from its existing stations.

Public comment at the meeting ranged from complaints about high taxes to

support for the service provided by the Norwich Township Fire Department.

Based on the comments received from residents and research into alternatives, the Board of Trustees unanimously voted to place a 5.12-mill levy on the November 4 ballot. This is the same millage amount as that proposed (and defeated by 9 votes) on the May ballot. After the May issue failed, Norwich Township Trustees notified Brown

Township they would suspend EMS and fire services effective in May 2015 if the funding situation were not resolved.

If the November issue is approved, it would add about \$179 per year for each \$100,000 of property valuation. If passed, the new levy would generate \$455,016 per year and the total cost of service to Brown Township residents would total \$1.1 million per year. Collection would begin January 1, 2015.

## Issue 34 on November Ballot

The Brown Township Board of Trustees has placed on the November 4 general election ballot Issue 34 to provide an additional property tax levy of 5.12 mills for a continuing period for the purpose of providing fire protection to township residents and properties.

Registered Brown Township voters may request an absentee ballot by mail or online at [franklincountyohio.gov/absentee](http://franklincountyohio.gov/absentee) or by calling the Franklin County Board of Elections at 614-525-3100.

In-person early voting is available at the new location of the Franklin

County Board of Elections, 1700 Morse Road, Columbus, 43229 Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. from October 7 through October 31, on Saturday, October 25 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., on Saturday, November 1 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., on Sunday, November 2 from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m., and Monday, November 3 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Election day voting will take place at the Brown Township Hall at 2495 Walker Road from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

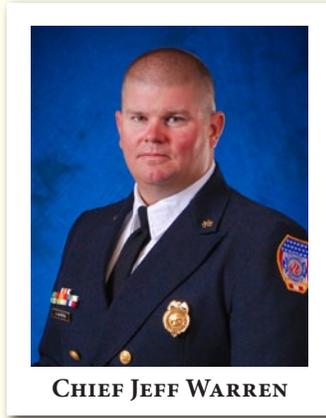
Voters should call the Franklin County Board of Elections with any questions.

# FIRE CHIEF JEFF WARREN

Jeff Warren considers it an honor to be Norwich Township Fire Chief, a position through which he wants to meet the community's needs whenever possible. The Department is service-oriented and Chief Warren intends for it to be more visible in the community.

Appointed Fire Chief on March 7, 2014, Warren has been a firefighter since 1991, beginning with the Pleasant Valley Fire Department in Plain City followed by experience with the Prairie Township Fire Department before joining Norwich in July, 1996. He was promoted to lieutenant in December 2003 and moved to the Brown Township Fire Station where he served for more than a year. Station 82, he says, "feels like home to me." He was promoted to captain in March, 2009 when he took over the Department of Safety and Training. He was promoted to battalion captain in April 2011. This position became battalion chief in January 2012. On June 1, 2013, he was promoted to assistant chief. Warren is the only person who has held all ranks in the Norwich Township Fire Department, a fact he credits to a "great set of mentors."

Born in Lubbock, Texas, Warren



was raised on the southwest side of Columbus and is a 1990 graduate of Franklin Heights High School. He completed the two-year Ohio Fire Executives Program and is now finishing a bachelor of science degree in Fire Science Administration. He is a firefighter, paramedic, firefighter instructor, and a state-certified medic instructor.

Chief Warren and his wife, Dannette, were high school sweethearts. He was a football player and she was a cheerleader. They were married on October 10, 1992, just months after she graduated from high school. The Warrens have three

daughters: Emily, 20, who works at Nationwide while completing a degree in public health administration at Columbus State, Megan, 19, an all-OAC softball player and junior at Wilmington College majoring in criminal justice, and Kara, 17, a softball player at Grove City High School.

Chief Warren's goals with the Norwich Township Fire Department are to enhance fire and injury prevention initiatives and prevention of prescription and illegal drug abuse and to engage the community more directly, particularly young children. He said he is doing his best to move from defining staff as firefighters and toward identifying them as emergency responders, which more accurately represents their role. He has initiated counseling for firefighters who face the daily trauma of the job.

While considering it a bit immodest, Chief Warren says his favorite part of the job is when "people come in and say thank you. The appreciation of people we have helped means a lot to all of us."

Please join the Brown Township Board of Trustees in welcoming Fire Chief Jeff Warren to the top job.

## Discharging Firearms in Brown Township

Recently, township residents have expressed concern over firearms being discharged in the area. Sheriff Zach Scott would like to remind residents that, although it is not illegal to discharge a firearm on one's property, there are circumstances that are unsafe and would make discharging a firearm illegal. The following list is taken from the Ohio Revised Code.

### To discharge a firearm legally, one must:

- Be on one's own property or have permission from the property owner and ammunition rounds must be confined to that property.
- Be of legal age to own or possess a

firearm (21 for a handgun, 18 for a shotgun).

- Not have been convicted of or currently charged with a felony.
- Not have been convicted of or charged with domestic violence.
- Not fire upon or over a roadway.
- Not fire near (within 100 yards unless on own property) or at a house, park, school, church, inhabited dwelling, or property of another.
- Not be intoxicated.
- Possess a current concealed-carry permit to conceal a firearm.

Townships can impose rules restricting firearm discharge.

### Below are important safety tips:

- Children should be supervised by an adult.
- Check the area before firing to ensure the area is clear of people, animals, and hazardous material.
- Those considering purchasing or using a firearm should take a firearms safety course.
- Never point a firearm at a person.
- Always assume the firearm is loaded.
- Always wear safety equipment such as eye and ear protection.
- Never fire at night or in conditions resulting in poor visibility.

*Contributed by Franklin County Sheriff Zach Scott*

# Recycling Location a Success

Brown Township residents and others who bring materials to the recycling dumpsters at the township hall prevent about 180 tons of material a year from going into the Franklin County landfill, according to J.D. Compston, Environmental Programs Manager for the Solid Waste Authority of Central Ohio (SWACO).

SWACO collects materials from these dumpsters every day of the year, averaging about 1,000 pounds of recyclables a day. In 2013, SWACO collected about 10,000 tons of recyclables a year overall. SWACO's collections fell with the advent of the City of Columbus' curbside recycling program to a level that is expected to stabilize this year at about 9,500 tons per year.

Compston urges recyclers to observe the guidelines about what is and is not



recyclable. The following items are accepted in the recycling dumpsters at the township hall.

## Plastic

All plastic bottles #1-7. Labels and caps do not need to be removed. Please rinse all containers.

## Glass

Clear, brown, green, and blue glass bottles and jars in which food and

beverage products are packaged. Labels do not need to be removed. Please rinse all containers.

## Paper

Newspaper with ad slicks, magazines, phone books, brown grocery bags, frozen food boxes, "junk" mail, chipboard, corrugated cardboard, and office paper.

## Carton Containers

Gable-top containers and/or paperboard containers containing items such as milk, juice, fabric softener, egg substitute, soup, stock, and broth. Please rinse all containers.

## Metals

Aluminum beverage cans, steel and tin cans, aluminum foil, and empty aerosol cans. Labels do not need to be removed. Please rinse all containers.

## Remember to Vote on November 4<sup>th</sup>

### 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 5.12 mills for each one dollar of valuation, which amounts to \$0.512 for each one hundred dollars of valuation, for a continuing period of time, commencing in 2014, first due in calendar year 2015.

- FOR THE TAX LEVY
- AGAINST THE TAX LEVY

**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>.



*Trustees 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.BrownTwp.org](http://www.BrownTwp.org)

**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**

Jeff Warren, Chief ..... 876-7694

**Brown Township Board of Trustees Meeting**  
**When: 3rd Monday of every month at 7:00 p.m.**  
**Where: 2491 Walker Road, Hilliard, Ohio**

**For Police, Fire and Medical Emergencies, Dial 911**