



## Brown Township, Franklin County Fall 2004

### Fire and Emergency Services Levy

*by: Brown Township Trustees*

There will be a 3.2 mill tax levy for fire and emergency services on the November 2nd ballot. The passage of this levy will provide almost \$214,000 annually for Brown Township fire and emergency services. Below are some facts about fire and emergency services in Brown Township. Questions about this levy or how fire and emergency services are provided to Brown Township residents should be addressed to a Township Trustee (see back page for contact information).

- Brown has contracted for fire and emergency services from Norwich Township for over 40 years.
- 10 years ago Brown Trustees put an 8 mill levy on the ballot with the intent of building a fire station in 5 years.
- In December 1999, Station 82 opened in Brown Township to provide service to the residents of Brown Township and those in the southerly portions of Hilliard and Norwich Township. The fire station was completely paid for at that time with proceeds from the levy. Station 82 is owned by Brown Township and we contract for a level of service from Norwich Township. The mission is to give taxpayers the closest resource.
- The contract specifies that residents in Brown and residents in Norwich are to pay the same effective rate.
- The effective rate on millage goes down as the valuation of the township increases (Our 8 mill levy is now a 4.84 mill levy; Norwich's 16 mill levy is now an 8.04 levy). 3.2 mills will bring us up to what Norwich residents pay in effective rate.
- Brown Trustees have saved money to build a station, built and maintained that station for five years, while paying for contracted services with Norwich.
- Station 82 has operated with a fire truck equipped with emergency medical equipment. As of July 2004, a fully equipped \$200,000 medic was added to Station 82 to enhance service. Now, we have two ALS systems available while providing shorter response times for transport.

- The costs to Norwich Township to equip Brown Township's station with 6 firefighters/paramedics around the clock (three shifts), or 18 firefighters, is 1.75 million annually. Brown currently pays Norwich the proceeds of the levy minus any expenses related to the station or around \$340,000 on an annual basis.
- In 2003, there were 3,700 total runs from all 3 stations staffed by Norwich. Of that total, 210 runs were inside Brown Township.

## Thinking about building a pond?

**by: Lee Brown - Planner with the Franklin County Development Department**

Well-managed ponds can add beauty to a property and provide recreational opportunities. However, landowners who are interested in building a pond on their property should consider several key points before any construction begins.



This article discusses the key factors determining site suitability for ponds, as well as key issues related to pond management that landowners should know about before committing to pond ownership. The legal process for getting a permit to construct a pond in Franklin County is also discussed.

This article refers to constructed ponds that utilize a dam, embankment, or excavated area to impound water. In some cases, a pond will include both an excavated or dugout area and a dam or embankment.

## Do you have the right conditions for a pond?

To determine if you have the right conditions for a pond, you need to identify the soils and drainage patterns on your property, as well as several other issues that are summarized in the following list.

- The soils at the pond bottom, side slopes, and dam must be suitable for holding water. Clay soils are good, but soils with significant gravel are not. Soils should be tested by soil professionals by digging test holes at the proposed pond location.
- The drainage area that feeds the pond should be large enough to pond, but not too large (too much water can create water quality problems or even wash out embankments). The ratio of drainage area to pond area should not be less than 6:1 nor greater than 40:1.
- An adequate outlet must be available to remove stormwater from the pool area without causing offsite property damage.

## Does size matter?

Generally speaking, larger ponds are more cost effective and easier to manage once constructed. One important reason for this is water depth. Shallow water is troublesome because it encourages weed growth. To prevent weed problems, maintain a minimum depth of eight feet over at least 25% of pond area or minimum of six feet over at least 50% of area. Banks should be constructed with a 3:1 slope (1 foot drop per 3 horizontal feet).

## What are the legal requirements for pond construction?

The Franklin County Zoning Resolution requires that owners of all fees obtain a Conditional Use permit from the Board of Zoning Appeals. Proper planning and construction are the keys to building a pond that will meet the owner's needs whether they are primarily recreational, aesthetic or agricultural. This permit is to ensure that the proposed pond will be designed and constructed in accordance with the Franklin County Zoning Resolution. A Conditional Use permit is required prior to the construction of a pond.

The following is required when applying for a Conditional Use permit for the construction of a pond:

- A registered professional engineer must design the pond.
- A pond development plan shall be submitted to the Franklin Soil & Water Conservation District for review and approval. The plan must include the following:
  - Location of principal and emergency spillway outlets
  - Location of outlet discharge points to an approved outlet
  - Location of dam and pool area
  - Proposed grade of pond and surrounding area
  - Location of soil
  - Soil stabilization plan including seeding, mulching and fertilizing data
  - Other information as needed
- The Franklin Soil & Water Conservation District shall be responsible for construction inspections to assure that pond is completed in accordance with the approved plans.

Once the Board of Zoning Appeals has approved the Conditional Use permit for the proposed pond, the applicant may then start the construction of the pond. No construction shall take place prior to the Board of Zoning Appeals approving the Conditional Use permit for the pond.



The Franklin County Zoning Resolution requires that owners of all ponds greater than 1,000 square feet obtain a Conditional Use permit from the Board of Zoning Appeals.

If you have any questions please contact the Franklin County Development Department at 462-3094 and/or the Franklin County Soil & Water Conservation District at 486-9613.

## Outdoor Burning

### *Information provided by the Norwich Township Fire Department*

Residents who wish to burn outside for any reason except grilling, must have a permit from the fire department. Permits take about 5 days. Outdoor fires without a permit can result in fines by the Franklin County Sheriff Department and/or the Ohio EPA.

The following fires require only a Norwich Fire Department permit:

- Cooking for human consumption (excludes grilling)
- Ceremonial

If the fire is for any of the following, a permit from the Ohio EPA is required before applying for a permit from the Norwich Fire Department:

- Agricultural Management
- Disposal of residential landscape waste
- Prevention or control of disease or pests
- Disposal of construction debris
- Other

Burning leaves is prohibited year round. There are also restriction as to the type and size of outdoor fires depending on location and conditions. Always call the fire department before lighting an outdoor fire.

More information concerning open burning and the permitting process may be obtained from:  
Norwich Township Fire Dept.

4164 Avery Road (near fairgrounds)  
Hilliard, OH 43026  
614-876-7694

## **The History of Brown Township**

White settlement first occurred along Big Darby Creek and then moved eastward. In addition to Jonathan Alder, who lived here for years prior to white settlement, the first settlers in the future Brown Township were the families of James Boyd, W. Renier, John Hayden, and John Patterson.

Other families who later settled the area were those of George Clover, Chauncey and Obil Beach, Adam Reese, William Walker, John and Thomas Kilgore, John Lloyd, Charles Holmes, Henry Francis, Adam Blount, James Renier, Knowlton Bailey, James Langton, Joseph Belchey, John Acton, Jacob Rogers, James Huggett, N. E. Fares and Paul Alder, a son of Jonathan Alder.

Jonathan Alder's grandson, Henry Alder, built the first frame house in the township in 1834. Henry Francis constructed the first brick house in the township and this home is still standing on the east side of Amity Road between Patterson and Beach Roads. It is likely the oldest house in Brown Township. The Daniel F. Roberts brick homestead was on the south side of Roberts Road, an Ongwaoweh trail, about midway between Walker and Alton and Darby Creek Roads. This house was demolished in 2002.

Big Darby Creek was the source of energy for the first saw mill in Brown Township built by Isaac Hayden in 1837 about halfway between the lines of Roberts Road and Morris Road. The second mill was powered by a steam engine and was used to cut timbers for the Columbus, Piqua and Indiana Rail that Reed Hilliard was constructing through the township. George Jennings later operated a sawmill at the ravine near the northeast corner of Roberts Road and Hubbard Road after he purchased the Union Seminary property here.

William Michael operated a blacksmith shop on the east side of Amity Road. This was just south of the Richard Jerman farm on the southeast corner of Morris Road and Amity Road. Dr. John Rathbun in 1839 was the first physician to locate his practice in Brown Township. In 1841 he built the second frame house in the township. Later came Dr. D. H. Welling.

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***Contributors to this township history were Ray Bradley and Sandy Andromeda.***