

BROWN TOWNSHIP

ESTABLISHED 1830

Fall 2026

Residents to Vote on Township Zoning

Issue 40 on November Ballot

On Tuesday, November 3, 2026, when unincorporated Brown Township residents head to the polls, they will be asked to vote on Issue 40, enactment of a locally administered Zoning Code for Brown Township.

The question on the ballot will read...

“This Zoning Resolution is an exercise of the police power derived from Ohio Revised Code Chapter 519. The characteristic feature of the Zoning Resolution that distinguishes it from most other police power regulations is that its regulations may differ from zoning district to zoning district, rather than being uniform throughout Brown Township. Despite this ability to differ in various zoning districts, the regulations are uniform for each class and kind of building within a zoning district. The purposes of this Zoning Resolution are accomplished by the division of Brown Township into zoning districts. Within each district, certain specified uses of land are allowed and the regulations pertaining to the development and use of the land and buildings are uniform for each class or kind of building. To the extent possible, the zoning districts as delineated on the zoning district map shall be comprehensive in nature. Where ambiguous, the zoning districts and the fixing of their boundaries shall further be determined in accordance with the land use plans as such plans may exist at the time of determination, particularly the Brown Township Comprehensive Plan.”

See frequently asked questions from recent zoning hearings on page 3.

All-Way Stop Coming to Amity & Roberts Rds.



The Franklin County Engineer's Office (FCEO) continues to work closely with Brown Township to address a crash trend observed at the intersection of Roberts Road and Amity Road.

There has been a series of crashes involving eastbound and westbound Roberts Road traffic approaching the intersection and failing to yield to traffic on Amity Road.

Previous efforts to improve safety at the intersection, including low- and moderate-cost improvements, have not been effective in reducing crashes. The efforts included trimming vegetation to improve sight distance, installing advanced warning signs and flashing stop signs. These signs were intended to increase awareness of the upcoming intersection and the requirement for Roberts Road drivers to yield to the approaching traffic on Amity Road.

Because traffic approaching the intersection on Amity Road is not required to stop, and Amity Road has a 50-mph speed limit, serious injury crashes are more likely to occur, and action should be taken to prevent the future occurrence of crashes at this location.

During October, the FCEO is planning to modify the traffic control at this intersection from a two-way to an all-way stop. This will involve the addition of stop signs on Amity Road and require all approaching vehicles to come to a stop before proceeding into the intersection.

Once installed, the FCEO will continue to monitor crashes at this intersection. If the crash trend persists, the plan is to seek safety

funding from the Ohio Department of Transportation for a future roundabout at this intersection.



Rendering of new All-Way Stop sign for southbound Amity Rd. at Roberts Rd.

The Dever Building Hall

Located at 2495 Walker Road

Is Available for Use by
Brown Township Residents

The Cost is \$50 per event

- No cost for civic groups
- Resident must be present
- No alcohol

Contact Heidi Feathers

Heidi_Feathers@BrownTwp.org

(614) 876-2133

Kindly keep all trash receptacles
off the berm of the road
so cars can pass safely.

4-H Road Cleanup

On Friday, June 19, approximately 20 members of the Morris Road Mavericks 4-H Club hit the pavement to clean up Brown Township.



Together, they covered approximately 8 miles of township roadways and picked up more than 160 pounds of trash, including a few surprising finds like car parts and golf balls.



A big thank you to everyone in the community who drove with caution and cheered on the Morris Road Mavericks while they were out hard at work keeping our township beautiful!



Franklin County Public Health Mosquito Management Plan

Read about the plan at:

<https://mosquito.myfcp.org/management-plan/>

Sign up for email spray notifications:

<https://mosquito.myfcp.org/spray-schedule-maps/>

Reach out to Zach Watson, the Community Environmental Health Supervisor for more information:

ZachWatson@franklincountyohio.gov

Beach Road Bridge Update

Many residents have asked what's actually been happening at the Beach Road bridge over Big Darby Creek — it's a township landmark and a route many of us use regularly.

Brown Township reached out to the Franklin County Engineer's Office for an update, and Construction Services Engineer Michael Rehfus, Jr., P.E., S.I. was kind enough to walk us through the project.



Crews reset the upper tower cap plates on the Beach Road cable-stayed bridge, June 2026.

Why the Bridge Needed Work

Over time, a slow chemical process called alkali-silica reaction (ASR), sometimes nicknamed “concrete cancer,” has caused premature deterioration of the concrete in the original structure.

The goal of this rehabilitation project is to remove and replace the affected areas using specialized repair products, essentially acting as an antibiotic and a Band-Aid for the concrete, to stop ASR from spreading and to extend the bridge's service life.

Franklin County officials describe this as a unique and complex project requiring highly specialized work, which is why the bridge has needed to close at various points — safety for both the traveling public and the work crews comes first.

What Was Done in Fall 2025

- Edge girder concrete removal and patching (the primary work activity).
- Upper stay cable remedial grouting, completed along with replacement of neoprene collars at the edge girders.
- Upper tower cap plates were removed for readjustment.



Crews inspect and reset a lower anchor cap, June 2026.

What Was Done in Summer 2026

- June 2026: Upper tower cap plates were reset.
- June 2026: Lower anchor caps were inspected, cleaned, and painted; crews backfilled around the abutments once that work was finished.
- July 2026: Polyurea waterproofing was done the week of Monday, July 6



Concrete removed to expose damaged areas

A Thank You from the County

The Franklin County Engineer's Office asked us to pass along their appreciation for residents' ongoing patience and support during construction.

This is a genuinely complex, specialized rehabilitation project, and the crews are working to protect the long-term health of a bridge that's become a real landmark for our township.

Information and photos for this article were provided by:

Michael Rehfus, Jr., P.E., S.I.
Construction Services Engineer
Franklin County Engineer's Office.

Brown Township Zoning

Throughout the process, there have been several common questions that we answer below to help inform your decision.

1) Does Brown Township already have zoning?

Yes, Brown Township currently has zoning that is administered by Franklin County. Cases go before the Rural Zoning Commission, an appointed body of five representatives from anywhere in Franklin County, which makes recommendations to the Franklin County Commissioners. The final decisions are made by the three-member board of Franklin County Commissioners.

2) What would this resolution do?

The proposed Brown Township Zoning Resolution would transfer zoning administration from Franklin County to Brown Township.

A new Planning & Zoning Commission and a Board of Zoning Appeals, consisting of residents of unincorporated Brown Township, would make decisions on zoning and variance requests. An administrator would be hired as an employee of Brown Township to assist in this work.

3) Why was the proposed Zoning Resolution developed?

During the 2024 Comprehensive Plan process, one goal identified by residents was to increase local control of land use decisions.

To work toward this goal, the Brown Township Trustees made the decision to develop a Brown Township Zoning Resolution that would be administered by local residents appointed to the Planning & Zoning Commission and Board of Zoning Appeals.

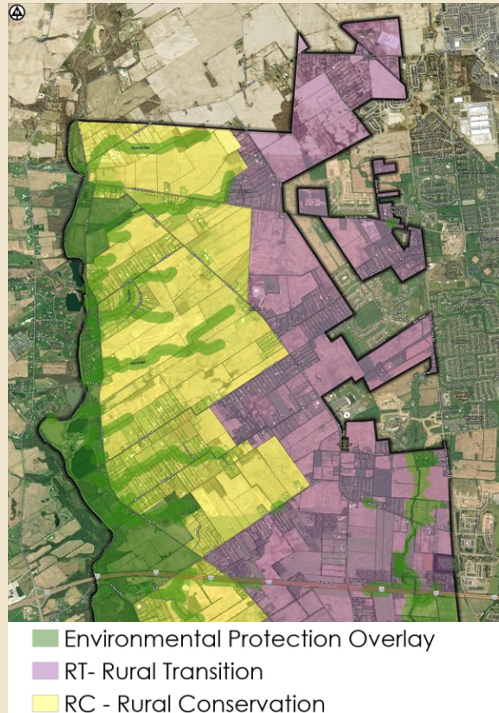
4) How was the Zoning Resolution developed?

Brown Township Trustees hired Verdantas Planning to facilitate the development of the new Zoning Resolution.

Seven residents of unincorporated Brown Township were appointed to a new Planning & Zoning Commission.

Those members, along with additional applicants, worked with Verdantas in monthly meetings over the course of almost a year to develop the code.

Existing Franklin County code and the code of other local townships were reviewed. The proposed Zoning Resolution is the result of combining and adapting those resources into a single code that the Planning & Zoning Commission felt was right for Brown Township.



5) How was the map developed?

The Zoning Resolution includes a map that splits Brown Township into "Rural Transition" and "Rural Conservation" zoning classifications.

The basis of the map came from the 2024 Comprehensive Plan Future Land Use Map that indicated areas of "Low Density" and "Very Low Density." Some minor changes were made by the Planning & Zoning Commission primarily to eliminate areas where the dividing line would have bisected individual parcels.

The "Rural Transition" zone roughly correlates with the "Low Density" area shown on the Comprehensive Plan, while the "Rural Conservation" zone corresponds to the "Very Low Density" classification.

6) If passed, does the Zoning Resolution prevent future annexations?

No, the Zoning Resolution will have no impact on the ability of neighboring municipalities to annex Brown Township land if it is requested by the landowner.

7) Where can I read the text of the proposed Zoning Resolution?

Visit the Brown Township website to read the text and view the map. The links can be found on the homepage under Township Zoning.

<https://BrownTwp.org>

Visit the Verdantas Planning website for more details, including working group meeting materials, educational materials and timeline.

<https://VerdantasPlanning.com/browntwpzoning>

A message from:



Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District

Stormwater Awareness

Stormwater Awareness Week is Oct. 1-7. What will you do this year? Plant a native plant? Clean up a local storm drain? Check out activity suggestions at <https://franklinswcd.org/>

A big shout-out to our friends at **Brown Township and Prairie Township** who have signed resolutions recognizing the importance of Stormwater Awareness Week in their communities!



Township Trustees sign a resolution recognizing Stormwater Awareness Week in Brown Township.



L-R: Trustee Pete Marsh, Fiscal Officer Becky Kent, Trustee Pam Sayre, Trustee Joe Martin.

Brown Township Administrative Offices

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

Officers

Pam Sayre, Trustee • (614) 582-0191
Joe Martin, Trustee • (614) 309-8879
Pete Marsh, Trustee • (419) 575-1137
Becky Kent, Fiscal Officer • (614) 446-2359

Website

www.BrownTwp.org

Norwich Fire Department

Dave Baird, Chief • (614) 876-7694

Franklin County Sheriff's Department

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

Regular public meetings

Third Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m.
Upstairs Meeting Room of Firehouse
2491 Walker Rd., Hilliard, Ohio



Brown Township
2491 Walker Road
Hilliard, OH 43026

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE

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

JUN 2026	3	11	7	21
JUL 2026	2	7	6	18
AUG 2026	3	15	6	18

Franklin County Sheriff

Calls to addresses in Brown Township:

June 2026

6/9- Theft and Criminal Damaging or Endangering occurred on Jones Rd.

6/24- Misdemeanor theft occurred on Cole Rd.

July 2026

7/5- Theft occurred on Feder Rd.

August 2026

No criminal or theft incidents occurred in Brown Township

National Prescription Drug Take Back Day

10am - 2pm

October 24, 2026

Kroger at 4656 Cemetery Road, Hilliard

Hilliard Division of Police

Non-routine calls to addresses in Brown Township:

June 2026

No calls reported.

July 2026

No calls reported.

August 2026

No calls reported.

Medication Disposal

Dispose of unused medication in the red disposal station inside the main entrance of the Joint Safety Services Building located at 5181 Northwest Parkway, Hilliard, which is next to the Franklin County Fairgrounds.