

# BROWN TOWNSHIP

ESTABLISHED 1830

Summer 2013

## Comprehensive Plan Update

The second public meeting for the Brown Township Comprehensive Plan was held on June 25. More than 100 people attended the meeting to provide input on the plan's draft goals and key policy recommendations. In addition to providing feedback at the meeting, interested individuals could complete an online survey.

County planners provided an overview of the planning process and a summary of the input that they received at the first public meeting held in December. They presented the draft goals of the plan and key policy recommendations to achieve those goals.

Meeting attendees rated their level of support for the goals and recommendations and provided suggestions for improvement. A total of 102 feedback forms and surveys were submitted. The overall response to the material presented was positive, indicating general support for the goals and recommendations.

A full summary of the results can be found on the project website at: <http://tinyurl.com/BrownPublicMeeting2Results>.

County planners will continue to coordinate with the township's Working Committee to make revisions to

the recommendations based on the feedback received. The next public meeting for the plan will be held in November, where county planners will present the draft comprehensive plan and ask residents for feedback and their priorities for implementation. Watch for announcements leading up to that meeting.

*Information provided by  
Scott T. Ulrich, Planner*

*Franklin County Economic Development  
and Planning Department  
525-7303*



# Permit Required for Some Open Burning

The Norwich Township Fire Department issues permits for open burning of bonfires, fires defined as larger than three feet in diameter and more than two feet in high. The area of such fires can be no greater than five feet in diameter and five feet in height and may not be conducted within fifty feet of a structure. Provisions must be made to prevent the fire from spreading. Permit applications are available at the Safety Services Building at 5181 Northwest Parkway. Completed applications should be returned to the Safety Services Building five days before the open burn. Permits are processed during normal business hours (8 am to 4 pm, Monday through Friday). In the event that an application is received less than five days in advance of the burn, a fee of \$5.00 will be assessed.

No open burning permit is required for small recreational fires, campfires, and outdoor fireplaces. Such fires

must be fueled by clean seasoned firewood or natural gas or its equivalent and must be no larger than three feet in diameter and two feet in height. These fires must be no less than 25 feet from any structure, with provisions to prevent the fire from spreading. Fires in approved containers (chiminea, fire bowl, metal fire pit) must be no less than 15 feet from a structure.

Some open burning is prohibited, such as that which is offensive or objectionable due to smoke or odor emissions or when atmospheric conditions or local circumstances make such fires hazardous. Open burning is prohibited when air pollution warnings are in effect. Fires may not obscure the visibility for roadways, railroad tracks, or airways. No waste generated off the premises may be burned.

Ohio law prohibits burning of the fol-

lowing materials at any time:

- Garbage or any waste created in the process of handling, preparing, cooking or consuming food.
- Materials containing rubber, grease, or asphalt or made from petroleum, such as tires, cars, auto parts, plastics or plastic-coated wire.
- Dead animals.

The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) has the authority to enforce open burning laws. Illegal open burning can result in substantial penalties. If you have questions, contact OEPA at 1-800-686-6330 or visit the website at [www.epa.state.oh.us](http://www.epa.state.oh.us). You may also contact the Norwich Township Fire Prevention Bureau at 614-876-7694.

*Information provided by the Norwich Township Fire Department*

## COUNTY MOSQUITO PROGRAM



Franklin County Public Health maintains an aggressive program to combat disease potentially carried by mosquitoes. The management plan includes surveillance, larvicide application, and spraying, as appropriate.

The Department sets 47 mosquito traps in various locations around the county from mid-May to late September. Staff counts the mosquitoes trapped, identifies species, and conducts disease testing.

Staff applies larvicide in standing water locations to kill mosquitoes before they begin to fly and cleans out catch basins and storm drains to eliminate

breeding locations.

Spraying is used to exterminate adult mosquitoes, when appropriate. Based on the results of trapping, weather conditions, and other factors, the Department may recommend spraying to the local jurisdiction. If the jurisdiction concurs, Public Health sprays specific areas. The following day, mosquito traps are set in the spray area with the objective of achieving a 60% decrease in the number of mosquitoes trapped. If that threshold is not met, spraying may be repeated.

Property owners may opt out of having their property sprayed, by com-

pleting a form with the Public Health Department.

Due to an increase in the number of mosquitoes trapped in Brown Township, Public Health sprayed in Brown Township in mid-July. Spray locations are publicized on the Franklin County Public Health Department website at [www.myfcph.org](http://www.myfcph.org).

For more information on the spraying program or with other questions, contact Mitzi Kline, Communication and Community Health Director, Franklin County Public Health at 614-525-3028 or [mrkline@franklincountyohio.org](mailto:mrkline@franklincountyohio.org).

# RURAL BACKYARD CONSERVATION

Brown Township is a lovely place to live, especially in the spring and summer with frequent bird and butterfly sightings, streams to wade in, and beautiful flowers and trees to enjoy. There are many ways for a homeowner to help keep Brown Township beautiful. For instance, many bird species feed insects to their young, even if they are seed-eaters as adults. A healthy bird population requires a healthy insect population which requires a wide diversity of native plants. Many nurseries carry plants native to Ohio, or their cultivars, which can provide both beauty and wildlife habitat. An added benefit is that native plants are adapted to Ohio's climate and soils and rarely need chemicals or additional watering after they are established.

Another way to improve wildlife diversity, including aquatic animals, is to plant along streams on your property. This creates streamside habitat that is a favored home for many species. Trees will improve fish habitat by shading the water and keeping it cooler. Planting along a stream can also slow the loss of property to stream bank erosion. Turf grass grown to the edge of a drainage ditch or stream cannot withstand the forces of water erosion; longer-rooted native grasses or shrubs and trees with their interwoven network of roots do a better job of holding the soil in place. You can maintain views by interspersing trees with openings for flowering shrubs or warm-season grasses and wildflowers.

Remember to read and follow the label when applying fertilizer to turf grass. Extra fertilizer washes into the stream, wasting money and causing excessive algae growth. Another source of excess nutrients in streams is septic systems past their maintenance due-date. Holding tanks need to be pumped every three to five years depending on size and use. Leach fields must be protected from cars or having additional runoff directed to them, as from a home downspout. Aerator systems need to be inspected yearly and the electricity kept on. An

aerator with no electricity simply pipes human waste to the nearest stream.

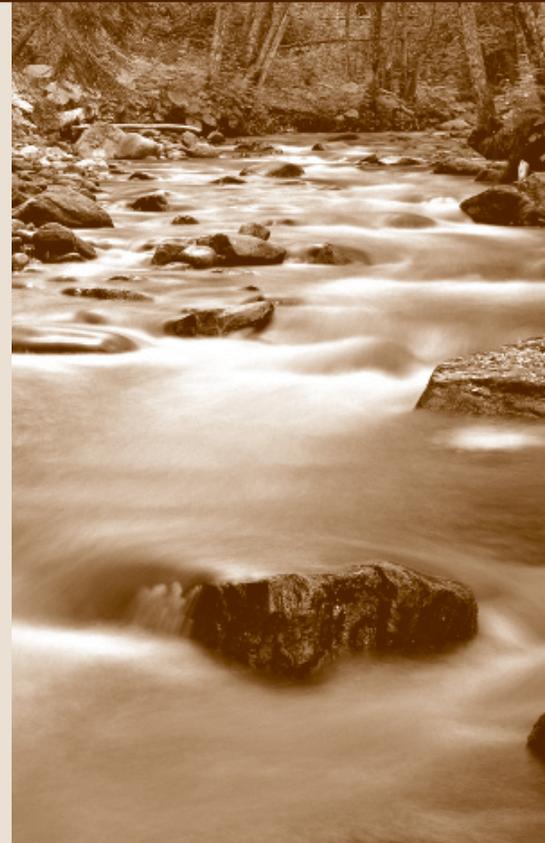
Owners of horses, llamas, and other large animals should have a manure plan to ensure that a hard rain will not carry manure to a nearby drainage ditch or stream. Many horse owners are unsure of how to handle animal waste responsibly. Considering that an average horse produces eight tons of manure in a year, an inexperienced owner can quickly become overwhelmed with the task.

For more information on any of these topics, contact Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District at (614) 486-9613.

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*Information provided by Mary Ann Brouillette, Communications Specialist*

*Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District*



## Household Hazardous Waste Collection

The Solid Waste Authority of Central Ohio (SWACO) continues its household hazardous waste collection on the following schedule:

Weekly from noon to 6 p.m. on Wednesdays and Fridays and from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Thursdays, SWACO is open at 645 E. Eighth Avenue in Columbus.

Special collections this fall are scheduled on September 7 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Westerville Service Department, 350 Park Meadows Road, and on October 19 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Grove City Service Center, 3262 Ventura Boulevard.

The following items are accepted: lighter fluid, old gasoline, propane, cyanides, drain cleaners, fluorescent

bulbs, fire extinguishers, smoke detectors, thinners, polishes, used oil, strong chemicals, bleach, insecticides, mercury/nicad, turpentine, kerosene, vehicle batteries, pool chemicals, household cleaners, anti-freeze, lithium batteries, adhesives, gasoline mixed with oil, oil-based paint and spray paint, acids and caustics, rat poison, lawn chemicals and fertilizers, and propane tanks 20 pounds or smaller.

NOT accepted are latex paint, computers, tires, appliances, needles, trash, asbestos, medical waste, ammunition, and propane tanks over 20 pounds.

For more information, contact SWACO at 614-871-5100 or at [www.swaco.org](http://www.swaco.org)

Brown Township  
2491 Walker Road  
Hilliard, Ohio 43026

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## 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>.



*L-R: Gary Dever, Greg Ruwe,  
Joe Martin and Ron Williams*

### 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

Mr. Ronald Williams..... 876-6118

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**