

BROWN TOWNSHIP

ESTABLISHED 1830

Spring 2025

Proposed 2025 Permanent 5.2 mill Fire Levy

Information provided by the Brown Township Board of Trustees

On May 6, 2025, Brown Township voters will be asked to approve Issue 15, a 5.2-mill permanent fire levy. Brown and Norwich Townships have an agreement stating that their residents will provide roughly equal levels of funding (millage) rates to fund the Norwich Fire Department, which operates out of Station 82 on Walker Road, as well as other locations.

The levy is the primary funding source for maintaining fire and emergency services in the township. Levy revenues are supplemented by EMS billing and grants but the property taxes raised through the levy provide the lion's share of the department's funding.

Levy funding ensures the continued availability of fire suppression, emergency medical services (EMS), rescue operations, community outreach and education, and hazardous materials response. Without this funding, the township faces the risk of reduced services.

Over time, increasing costs outpace property tax revenue, which is basically held to the dollar amount it raised when the levy was voted in (2014 in this case). New development increases this amount, but it also increases costs.

The department has felt the overall effects of inflation. The price of emergency vehicles and specialized equipment have been an especially hard hit.

Most importantly, the cost of recruiting and retaining qualified firefighter/

paramedics has, and continues to, increase greatly in response to inflation, because of the increased competition for qualified personnel among fire departments throughout Central Ohio, and because development in the area requires increases in the number of personnel, as well as the amount of equipment.

- In 2014 Norwich employed 87 firefighters, today there are 103.
- A fire engine in 2014 cost \$470,000, the same fire engine today will cost \$1,200,000
- Total expenses in 2014 were \$12,371,528 compared to \$21,223,464 in 2024

The Brown and Norwich Township trustees have agreed that it is time to secure an increased level of funding for the fire department. Following the approval of Norwich's levy in March 2024, Brown Township is proposing this levy to secure its part of the additional revenue.

Visit Browntwp.org for links to the Franklin County Auditor's website and to check your eligibility for the Homestead Exemption website.

To calculate your proposed additional annual cost, use the following formula:

**Proposed Additional Annual Cost =
Auditor's Appraised Value x
0.35 x 0.0052**

Additional cost for residential homes valued \$350,000-\$700,000 Auditor's appraised value.

2024 Auditor's Appraised Value	Taxable Value	Daily Cost	Weekly Cost	Monthly Cost	Annual Cost
\$350,000.00	\$122,500.00	\$1.75	\$12.25	\$53.08	\$637.00
\$400,000.00*	\$140,000.00	\$1.99	\$14.00	\$60.67	\$728.00
\$450,000.00	\$157,500.00	\$2.24	\$15.75	\$68.25	\$819.00
\$500,000.00	\$175,000.00	\$2.49	\$17.50	\$75.83	\$910.00
\$550,000.00	\$192,500.00	\$2.74	\$19.25	\$83.42	\$1,001.00
\$600,000.00	\$210,000.00	\$2.99	\$21.00	\$91.00	\$1,092.00
\$650,000.00	\$227,500.00	\$3.24	\$22.75	\$98.58	\$1,183.00
\$700,000.00	\$245,000.00	\$3.49	\$24.50	\$106.17	\$1,274.00

Additional cost for Homestead Exempt residential homes valued \$350,000-\$700,000 Auditor's appraised value.

2024 Auditor's Appraised Value	Taxable Value	Daily Cost	Weekly Cost	Monthly Cost	Annual Cost
\$350,000.00	\$113,750.00	\$1.62	\$11.38	\$49.29	\$591.50
\$400,000.00*	\$131,250.00	\$1.87	\$13.13	\$56.88	\$682.50
\$450,000.00	\$148,750.00	\$2.12	\$14.88	\$64.46	\$773.50
\$500,000.00	\$166,250.00	\$2.37	\$16.63	\$72.04	\$864.50
\$550,000.00	\$183,750.00	\$2.62	\$18.38	\$79.63	\$955.50
\$600,000.00	\$201,250.00	\$2.87	\$20.13	\$87.21	\$1,046.50
\$650,000.00	\$218,750.00	\$3.12	\$21.88	\$94.79	\$1,137.50
\$700,000.00	\$236,250.00	\$3.37	\$23.63	\$102.38	\$1,228.50

* Median Home Value for Brown Twp. In 2024 was \$416,700 according to the Franklin County Auditor

The Community Speaks

Brown Township Survey Results

Brown Township recently conducted a comprehensive survey to gather opinions from residents about the community's identity, priorities, and future development. The survey, open from January 13 to March 10, received 315 responses, providing valuable feedback for township planning efforts. The results will help guide ongoing efforts to formulate policies regarding land use, services, and other issues. Below is a summary of the results:

TOWNSHIP IDENTITY

Residents were asked to describe what sets Brown Township apart from other communities. The three most common responses were the township's rural feel (76.85%), access to natural resource amenities (69.77%), and proximity to big-city resources (63.34%). When asked if Brown Township has a well-defined character, respondents provided an average score of 3.72 out of 5, suggesting that while there is some sense of identity, it may not be strongly established.

Nearly all respondents supported limiting housing and land development to safeguard the creek from pollution and habitat destruction.

PROTECTING DARBY CREEK

Nearly all respondents supported limiting housing and land development to safeguard the creek from pollution and habitat destruction. While most residents viewed the creek as a defining natural feature, they were divided on its role in economic development through tourism and recreation.

Respondents' leading concerns were preservation of rural lands (62.5%) and protection against further annexations (62.5%).

PRESERVATION OVER EXPANSION

Respondents' leading concerns were preservation of rural lands (62.5%) and protection against further annexations (62.5%). Another major concern was enforcing the Big Darby Accord (55.45%). When given the opportunity to describe the township in a few words, the most common responses were "rural," "open," "space," "country," and "peaceful."

The most critical issues for unincorporated residents included quality of life (2.85/10), public services (3.13/10), and zoning (3.2/10).

FROM UNINCORPORATED RESIDENTS

The majority of survey respondents (237 out of 315) lived in unincorporated Brown Township, with 62.78% residing there for ten or more years. Nearly all (98.2%) agreed or strongly agreed that the township is a desirable place to live, though opinions were split on whether it has become more desirable over the past five years. Unincorporated residents rated police and fire services (4.52), parks and open spaces (4.5), and agricultural uses (4.52) highly. However, concerns emerged around traffic (3.13) and the availability of retail and personal services (3.71). The most critical issues for unincorporated residents included quality of life (2.85/10), public services (3.13/10), and zoning (3.2/10). Meanwhile, housing affordability (5.86/10) and access to amenities (6.41/10) were considered less important.

Multi-use paths and trails (45.33%) and parks (45.22%) were also popular options.

DEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING

When asked about development, unincorporated residents strongly favored

protected open space (72.89%), followed by no additional development (52.44%). Multi-use paths and trails (45.33%) and parks (45.22%) were also popular options. Housing preferences reflected a desire for low-density development, with 5+ acre lots (most popular option) and 1-5 acre lots receiving strong support.

Unlike their unincorporated counterparts, they were less opposed to development but still preferred larger lot sizes (5+ acre lots, 4.41; 1-5 acre lots, 4.39) over high-density housing.

FROM INCORPORATED RESIDENTS

A smaller portion of respondents (71) lived in incorporated Brown Township, with most (69.24%) having moved there within the past six years. Over 89% agreed or strongly agreed that the township is a desirable place to live, generally expressing views of schools (4.48), police and fire services (4.43), and parks and open spaces (4.27). (They were less enthusiastic about community character (3.77) and local identity (3.84).) These residents' biggest concerns were quality of life (3.2/10), public services (3.3/10), and school access and quality (3.56/10). Annexations/high-density development (5.47/10) and high-speed internet service (5.42/10) were considered lower priorities. Unlike their unincorporated counterparts, they were less opposed to development but still preferred larger lot sizes (5+ acre lots, 4.41; 1-5 acre lots, 4.39) over high-density housing.

Stay tuned for further updates and opportunities to share your thoughts

Brown Township has launched a Comprehensive Plan Update process to address rural preservation, township development and land use practices.

Residents can follow the committee's work at:

<https://VerdantsPlanning.com/browntwp>

Trustee Dever Passes



Trustee Gary Dever

We, along with the entire Dever family, mourn the loss of our long-serving trustee and colleague, Gary Dever. Mr. Dever passed on Friday, March 21st, at his home. He was a life-long resident of Brown Township and served his community as Trustee for 47 years. He was a trusted friend, mentor, and father-figure to many.

Arrangement details can be found on the Tidd Funeral Home website:

<https://TiddFuneralServices.com/obituaries>

Cards may be sent to:

**The Dever Family
c/o Brown Township
2491 Walker Road
Hilliard, OH 43026**

The Brown Township officers,

*Joe Martin, Trustee
Pam Sayre, Trustee
Becky Kent, Fiscal Officer*

There will be more information about Mr. Dever in the Summer newsletter.

Brown Township Nature Preserve

Walk the Quarter Mile Loop

An area behind Station 82 that was once farmed is now a nature preserve. Trustee Sayre and Fiscal Officer Kent met with Donnie Knight of the US Fish & Wildlife Service in 2023 to conceptualize how a farmed area owned by the Township behind the fire station could be turned back into a prairie. Early in 2024, Donnie developed a conceptual plan of prairie grasses, wildflowers, a vernal pool, and a walking trail for all to enjoy. Earthcraft



Companies, LLC, is making it come to life. Earthcraft created a 1300 foot trail that begins and ends from the back parking lot. Four loops is a mile. Earthcraft is in the process of adding a play space for children (as a gift) and will be planting the prairie grass and wildflowers that we are all eager to see. The vernal pool is full with evidence of visiting creatures. Please visit the new nature preserve located off of the back parking lot at Station 82, 2491 Walker Road, and take a walk.

Recycling Center Tour - Transportation Provided

Wednesday, April 16th

Mark your calendars and RSVP to attend a tour of Rumpke's new recycling facility. Rumpke's new facility is the biggest and the most state-of-the-art in North America!

We will meet at the Brown Township Hall at 5:00pm.

5:00-5:45pm: Arrive at the Township Hall and enjoy pizza, pop, and a short presentation by SWACO.

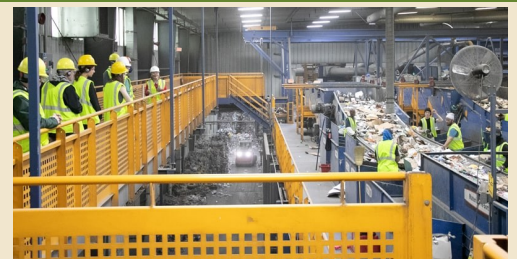
6:00pm: Bus departs Brown Township.

6:45pm-7:45pm: Tour hosted by Jak Heffron from Rumpke

8:30pm: Bus arrives back in Brown Township

If you would like to participate, please call the office by April 7th at **614-876-2133** and leave a detailed message.

A head count will help SWACO know whether a van or bus is needed, and how much pizza and pop to provide.



**RSVP by April 7th
Ages 10 and up are welcome**



Brown Township
2491 Walker Road
Hilliard, OH 43026

PRSRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
COLUMBUS OH
PERMIT# 5964

Brown Township Administration Office

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

Website

www.BrownTwp.org

Fiscal Officer

Becky Kent • (614) 446-2359

Trustees

Mrs. Pamela Sayre • (614) 582-0191

Mr. Joseph Martin • (614) 309-8879

Norwich Fire Department

Dave Baird, Chief • (614) 876-7694

Franklin County Sheriff's Department

Emergency • 911

Non-Emergency • (614) 525-3333

Public meetings are held the third
Monday of every month at 7:00 p.m.
at 2491 Walker Rd., Hilliard, Ohio



L-R: Trustees Pam Sayre and Joe Martin
Seated: Fiscal Officer Becky Kent

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

DEC 2024	1	4	8	22
JAN 2025	5	9	2	23
FEB 2025	3	4	4	19

Franklin County Sheriff

Calls to addresses in Brown Township:

December 2024

No calls reported.

January 2025

1/12 - Car vandalized on Scioto & Darby Creek Rd.

February 2025

2/22 - Vehicle stolen and recovered on Spicewood Ct.

Hilliard Division of Police

Non-routine calls to addresses in Brown Township:

December 2024

No calls reported.

January 2025

No calls reported.

February 2025

No calls reported.

Medication Disposal

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